

Kingston, Rhode Island - Douglas L. Kraus

The Kingston station carried on its operation in essentially the same way as in past years with no changes in the number of nets or their locations. Banding was carried on from August 6 to October 28, with 23, 7 and 10 days of banding activity, respectively, for the months August, September and October. A total of 371 birds of 53 species were banded in 577 net hours, for a B.P.N.H. x 100 of 64.4 this year compared to 89.6 for last year. This is probably the poorest banding year for the effort that I've put in to date. Almost no true migrants were encountered and the number of local birds was considerably diminished. Six chats with four in the last half of October were the exceptions. Several locally breeding species seemed generally reduced, but most importantly, the ratio of immatures to adult birds seemed considerably less. The following table presents data on immature/adult ratios for the three species most commonly banded at this station.

	1973			1974		
	imm.	adult	imm./ad.	imm.	adult	imm./ad.
Yellowthroat	66	10	6.6	26	16	1.6
G. Catbird	83	10	8.3	65	11	5.9
Blue-winged Warb.	26	9	2.9	11	9	1.2

The Yellowthroats and Blue-winged Warblers were almost entirely banded in August and can be considered the local population floating around the east side of Kingston. For the Yellowthroats, more adults were captured (including returns from previous years) in 1974 than 1973, but the number of immatures was very much lower. Blue-wings showed a drop in the number of young nearly as great as for Yellowthroats, while the Catbirds followed this trend but to a lesser degree, perhaps because more of the latter are not reared locally and are less subject to local conditions. A possible explanation lies in the gypsy moth spraying that covered most of this area except my 80 acres, which I asked not to be sprayed. I believe that the nesting birds on my land were fairly successful, but those on adjacent areas may have had poor nesting success, perhaps resulting from the spraying program.

In general, weather in the fall of 1974 appeared not to favor migration and doubtless contributed to the low banding totals. Winds were unfavorable in August, and generally mediocre weather prevailed on those days in September and October when banding was conducted with the exception of October 27, when a modest flight occurred. There were no rarities or new species for the station, and few other events of particular notice.

Block Island, Rhode Island - Elise Lapham

The Block Island station carried on as usual with no change in placement of nets and little change in other particulars. In all, 2484 birds of 81 species were banded in 2003 net hours, giving a B.P.N.H. x 100 figure of 124. Our efforts this year resulted in a larger number of birds banded than in any year since 1970 without much increase in the total number of banding days or net hours, indicating that the fall migration on Block Island was at least average and perhaps better than most.

No great Autumn storms took place during the banding period but fairly constant NW winds from October 1st on brought birds to the island. It was a particularly good fall for warblers. As usual, Yellow-rumped Warblers were the largest number banded, 605, with 824 more netted but released without bands. Catbirds next at 359 were 189 more than last year and Red-eyed Vireos seem to be on the increase again. After our peak year of 376 in 1970, they dropped to 51 in '71, 75 in '72, 110 in '73 and 176 in '74. A few other interesting comparisons between 1974 and 1973 follow.

	1974	1973
House Wren	36	10
Long-billed Marsh Wren	4	0
Hermit Thrush	84	43
Swainsons Thrush	60	43
Gray-cheeked Thrush	7	20
Golden-crowned Kinglet	98	126
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	81	21
Solitary Vireo	7	1
Tennessee Warbler	21	7
Nashville Warbler	16	4
Cape May Warbler	4	13
Blackpoll Warbler	42	25
Swamp Sparrow	52	35
Song Sparrow	75	57

We were notified by the Fish and Wildlife Service that two of our birds were recovered elsewhere. A Yellowthroat banded in September '68 was found dead in Cocoa Florida, and a Catbird banded on May 9, 1974 was caught at Manomet on June 2nd. We had one foreign retrap; a catbird banded in the fall of '73 by Mrs. Andrews on Nantucket, chose this island last spring.

The weekend of October 12th, NEBBA held its annual meeting on Block Island and for three days our banding station was ably staffed by various NEBBA members and officers which was fun and instructive for us.

