

The word for September was "rain". The first 10 days were warm or hot and humid, without rain, but several tropical depressions or hurricanes were forming in the south. For the next several weeks one after another moved north up along the coast, bringing us a series of damp, cloudy, and rainy days. On September 13th, there were five separate storms identified off the southeastern and Gulf coasts. Not all of them affected our weather, of course, but several did, and one, Ginger, waited patiently for three weeks to bring us her remaining rain on October 2. During most of September, then, our weather originated in the south instead of the the west or northwest as is more usual. So not one cold front worthy of the name moved through during the entire month; and therefore, there was no build-up of waves of migrating birds. The birds migrated anyway, of course, but in scattered small groups. Our banding totals were consistantly poor throughout the month.

By the end of the first few days in October, we saw the last of the tropical storms and began to get a west to east movement of weather systems. The banding improved somewhat; there were four or five good days during the month, with a peak on October 6th (58 birds) and another somewhat lower one on the 13th. On the 6th I was banding as the barometer was falling; just after I furlled the nets a thunderstorm began, accompanying the passage of a cold front. It was 10 to 15° cooler for the next two days, but too windy to band. On the 9th the number of birds was fairly good, and the 13th produced better numbers in the cold air following the front of October 11. For the next 10 days we had clear and warm weather, but gradually becoming more hazy and polluted as the air stagnated. Banding was poor again during this period. On the 23rd, the number of birds caught suddenly increased as a cold front approached from the northwest; over an inch of rain associated with that front began early on the 24th and cleared the polluted air.

In both 1970 and 1971, the best fall banding days have been those just prior to the passage of a cold front, rather than following the front as reported from other (especially coastal) stations. This year, however, there were few major cold fronts, and therefore, waves of migrating birds were disappointing. The very poor September weather kept the number and variety of warblers way below 1970. Although the number of net hours was up almost 26%, the number of warblers decreased by almost 40%, from 200 to 123 (22 species in 1970 vs. 15 this year).

Towhees were also less abundant this year; we caught 45 in 1970 and only 11 this year. The warbler which decreased the most was the Ovenbird, from 33 to 18. Species which increased included Cedar Waxwings (from 2 to 35), Chickadees (from 30 to 44), and Red-eyed Vireos (from 8 to 19). The *Hylocichla* thrushes increased from 49 to 78 (greatest increase was in Hermits), and the Kinglets increased from 6 to 32. Flycatchers remained about the same (38-34). 18 species remained the same or within two birds of last year. Three new species for the station were added: Philadelphia Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, and Boreal Chickadee.

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Valerie M. Freer

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