



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

**EBBA ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 27-28, 1992**

**KELLER CONFERENCE CENTER
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA**

EXCERPTS FROM COUNCIL AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Treasurer's Report: Recent dues increase will help offset the reduced income because of lower interest rates on EBBA's savings accounts.

1993 Meeting Site: A number of sites had been investigated. Council selected *Watson Homestead Conference and Retreat Center in southern New York State near Painted Post and Corning*. Reasonable rates in a rural setting. Meeting will be held April 2, 3, & 4, 1993.

Memorial Grant: Recipients of the \$250.00 awards: *Devon L. Graham*, University of Miami, for a study, "Movement Patterns and Habitat Use of Two Frugivorous Bird Species in the Atlantic Lowland Forests in Costa Rica" and *Randall Moore*, George Mason University, for a study, "Stopover Ecology of Fall Migrants on the Barrier Islands of the Virginia Coast Reserve."

Net Committee: Committee chairman Gale Smith reported that over 800 nets were sold in the past fiscal year and that net prices are the same as last year. Some nets were on sale at the meeting.

Editor: Robert Pantle, NABB editor for EBBA, made an appeal for feature articles and for sketches and black and white photographs for the journal.

Nominations: Nominating Committee presented the following slate for the coming year: President - Barbara Ross; First Vice President - Judith Bell; Second Vice President - Tom Mutchler; Third Vice President - H. David Leake; Secretary - Robert McKinney; Treasurer - Donald Mease; Editor - Robert Pantle; Councilors for Class of 1995: Mary Forness, Mark Johnson, Elaine Mease, and David Hauber. Also, Chris Rose was nominated to fill the term of councilor, class of 1993, vacated by Barbara Ross who was nominated for president. There were no nominations from the floor. Secretary was asked to cast one vote for the nominations. Motion passed. Outgoing President Gerald Lahr made an appeal for volunteers to help on committees and to serve when asked to be an officer or councilor.

Honorary Member: *Hannah Suthers* was given honorary membership status in recognition of her many years of service to the association.

Workshops Presented:

Dan Brauning, Avian Diversity in Pennsylvania: Results of the Breeding Bird Atlas
Jeff Hoover, The Effects of Forest Patch Size on Wood Thrush Reproductive Success
Shirley Fonda, Rehabilitation of Wild Birds
Susannah Graedel, EBBA's Cooperative Banding Project
Oriane Williams, Constant Effort Mist Netting, Banding and Point Counts During the Breeding Season: A Workshop on the Operation of MAPS Stations
Robert Leberman and Robert Mulvilhill, Using Molt to Age Passerines
Gale Smith, All About Mist Nets

Papers Presented:

Margaret Brittingham, Population Dynamics of Blue Jays: 23 Years of Banding at a Bird Feeder
Judy Wink, Nesting Behavior of the Great Horned Owl
Ron Rohrbaugh, Jr., Nest-box Use and Reproductive Success of American Kestrels in Southeastern Pennsylvania
George Hall, Neotropical Migrants at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory
Ralph Bell, Additional Migrants at AFMO
Michael Carey, Sexual Variation in Nestling Care in Field Sparrows
Oriane Williams, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS): Results of the First Three Years (1989-1991) of the Program

Banquet Program:

Chandler S. Robbins, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland

Approximately 100 people attended the meeting which was one of the best ever. Our deepest gratitude to the Program Committee and especially Susannah Graedel for a job well done.



Susannah Graedel Chairperson



Gerald Lahr (outgoing president)



Roy Slack coordinating paper session



**Ralph Bell presenting a paper
on Additional Migrants at AFMO**

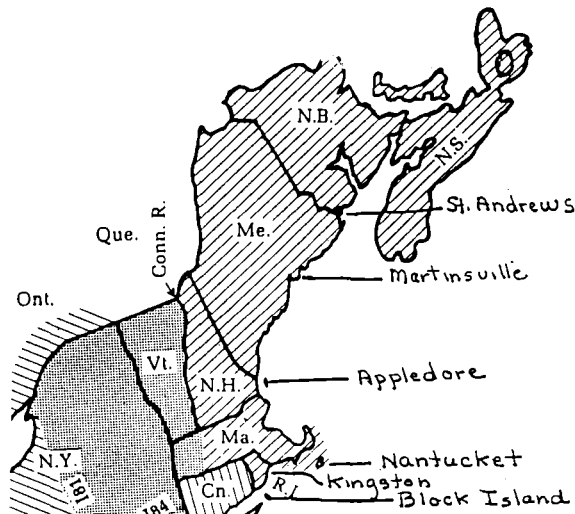
EBBA ANNUAL MEETING 2-4 APRIL 1993
WATSON HOMESTEAD
AT
PAINTED POST, N.Y.

IF YOU WISH TO PRESENT A PAPER OR WORKSHOP,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I

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(**CORRECTION** to Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I, *N. Am. Bird Bander* 16:2, pg. 51, Table 1, Different Species, 1990, for Nantucket, MA, should read 57; pg. 53, first line under Nantucket, MA, should read, "In 1990, the Nantucket station . . .")

We welcome two new stations to the AFR I report: **St. Andrews** in New Brunswick, Canada, which extends our range of coverage nearly 135 miles NE; and **Martinsville, ME**, which is Margery Plymire's new (and hopefully cat-free!) station near Port Clyde. Both are valuable additions on the northern side of our reporting range.

The good news is that every station reported better results in 1991 than in recent years. Hurricane Bob provided considerable excitement but few rarities. Both Appledore and Nantucket reported on the defoliation caused by salt spray from the hurricane's back half. Many stations commented on the extraordinary apple/cherry/berry crop.

In general, warblers were down at most stations with the exception of Common Yellowthroat, which made everyone's "top ten" list. Gray Catbird numbers were improved as were the figures for Red-eyed Vireo at several stations. There was some improvement also in flycatcher numbers—Traill's Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher did particularly well at Appledore.

Beginning in fall 1992, AFR I will be part of a cooperative project with the other four AFR regions in which 22 migration species will be analyzed for dates of arrival, departure, and peak numbers. What eventually should emerge are patterns of the timing, duration, and structure of migration for these species at all AFR stations.

Finally, I have served as interim coordinator of AFR I after the untimely passing of Mickie Mutchler. Tracey Dean of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, has agreed to serve as permanent AFR I coordinator beginning fall 1992. AFR I reports may be sent to her at Brandy Cove, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada E0G 2X0. Reports from new stations are always welcome.

Table 1. Fall 1991 Region I Summary

	St. Andrews NB, Canada	Martinsville Knox Co, ME	Shoals Lab Appledore Is ME	Kingston RI	Nantucket MA	Block Island RI
First Day- Last Day	4 Aug-26 Oct	6 Aug-8 Oct	16 Aug-21 Sep	6 Aug-31 Oct	1 Sep-5 Oct	3 Aug-16 Oct
Days Operated	28	43	36	73	27	36
No. Nets Used	5-14	14-17	6-10	2-4	4-16	1-9
Total Net Hours	716	3646	2894	948	2347	2539
Largest Daily Catch	60	40	102	19	79	165
Date of Lrgst Catch	28 Sep	29 Sep	02 Sep	19 Oct	04 OCT	14 Oct
Birds Banded 1990	137	44	1257	505	541	1079
Birds Banded 1991	534	376	1465	573	886	1419
Diff. Species 1990	30	16	66	52	57	75
Diff. Species 1991	55	39	69	59	79	69
Birds/100 NH 1990	60	20	42	49	24	21
Birds/100 NH 1991	75	10	51	60	36	56

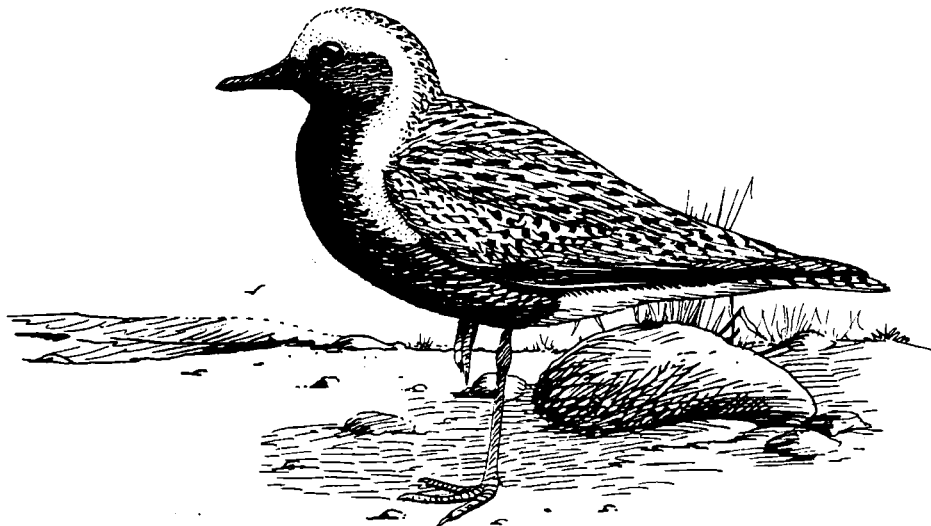


Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1991.

St. Andrews NB Canada	Martinsville, Knox Co, ME	Shoals Lab Appledore Is ME	Kingston RI	Nantucket MA	Block Island RI
46 WTSP	68 MYWA	194 REVI	93 GRCA	147 MYWA*	433 GRCA
31 NAWA	48 SOSP	158 NOWA	90 WTSP	91 GRCA	289 MYWA
31 MYWA	38 COYE	110 COYE	56 COYE	63 SOSP	109 GCKI
31 COYE	26 GCKI	102 AMRE	40 AMRE	51 COYE	65 REVI
30 MAWA	22 BCCH	74 TRFL	26 BCCH	50 BCCH	50 RCKI
29 REVI	13 BTNW	72 SOSP	22 BWWA	37 AMRO	39 BTBW
28 AMRE	11 BAWW	70 GRCA	20 BAWW	34 GCKI	35 WTSP
27 RCKI	11 MAWA	44 WIWA	20 MYWA	27 AMRE	32 EAPH
25 BCCH	11 OVEN	42 YBFL	15 NOCA	23 REVI	29 SOSP
18 BAWW	10 NOWA	39 YWAR	14 SCJU	21 PIWA	26 COYE
	10 AMRO	39 MAWA			

* An additional 339 released unbanded.

St. Andrews **450-0670**
New Brunswick, Canada
Tracey Dean

The St. Andrews Banding Station began operations on a limited basis in summer 1989. Grant money from the Baillie Memorial Fund enabled us to establish two sites, about ¼ mile apart, at the end of the St. Croix River estuary, and to become fully operational for fall 1991.

Old, overgrown pasture surrounded by mixed vegetation hedgerows and tall windbreaks of typical Boreal forest trees make up the habitat. The scruffy fields and wooded edges provide good low vegetation, ideal for catching passerines. White spruce, trembling aspen, white birch, balsam fir, and speckled alder dominate the upper storey along with the occasional apple tree, while common shrubs include dogwood, blackberry, willow,

and spirea. Grasses, ferns and a variety of flowering plants provide the ground cover.

The fall migration along the coast is much more productive than the spring, despite thick morning fogs which sag the nets and make them more visible. Between August and October, 534 birds of 55 species were banded. The best day was 28 September when 60 birds of 19 species were caught in just seven nets. The greatest diversity of warblers, ten species in all, occurred on 21 September. It is hard to choose highlights at such a young banding station, but new species included Field Sparrow, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow Palm Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Eastern Phoebe. Two rarities were documented—a Yellow-breasted Chat (HY-F) on 23 August, after the "almost hurricane," and an adult Carolina Wren on 7 August.

Recaptures are always interesting and 28 birds banded in previous years were caught again in 1991. Seven of these were seen originally in 1989 including the only Blue Jay and both of the Boreal Chickadees banded that year. Four of ten Veerys banded in 1990 returned but only one of seven catbirds. There were no foreign retraps or recoveries in 1991.

Public education is an important part of bird banding. People attending courses at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre gain an understanding of the banding process and the place of birds in a healthy environment. Close to 100 people visited the station in 1991, including high school students, teachers, and adult nature groups from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, New Brunswick, Maine, New York, and Delaware.

Plans for 1992 include continuation of the regular banding and adding point counts to the MAPS project. Anyone visiting the St. Andrews area is welcome to visit the station.

Martinsville

435-0691

Knox Co., ME
Margery Plymire

This station has moved some 2.2 miles northeast of an earlier location at Port Clyde, ME, where an increasing number of neighborhood cats made netting unsafe. Limited banding began here in October 1990. It is an ocean-side station, as before, but with a greater variety of habitat than the Port Clyde site.

Fall banding began on 6 August 1991 continuing for 22 days that month, 16 days in September and five in October. Fourteen nets were run on most days with a maximum of 17.5. Thirteen days were lost to rain and/or high winds, including 19 August when, with a forecast of winds in excess of 100 mph, the entire station was dismantled in anticipation of the approach of Hurricane Bob. Much of the following day was lost as well, as poles were reset and soggy nets stretched and unfurled, an operation greatly facilitated by having every pole mounted on a firmly embedded steel reinforcing rod. (A luxury I never enjoyed on the rocky ledges at Port Clyde.)

Nets were run mostly in the mornings, as moderate-to-brisk westerly or southwesterly onshore winds typically arise in the afternoons.

Following extended drought conditions in early-through mid-summer, weather in August was unusually hot and humid with three days of rain, including the aforementioned hurricane, and no observable cold fronts. There seemed to be a strong out-flight on the night of 15 August, but no correspondent influx. An advertised cold front 22-23 August did not appear to reach the mid-coast, but the biggest day of the month occurred, nonetheless, on 24 August when 28 new birds were captured. A line of vigorous thunderstorms passed to the south of this location 28 August and a sharp cold front arrived overnight 31 August-1 September, bringing a flurry of weakened birds. Even birds perceived as local (i.e., repeats) were noticeably stressed by the abrupt change and new birds were tired, weak, and apparently hypothermic.

Ten days were lost to unsuitable weather in September and netting was limited on some days by standing water. Unsettled weather continued into October and the station was closed for the season on 9 October.

In all, 376 new birds were captured with a season average of 10.31 birds/100 net hours (8.98 in August, 11.63 in September, 15.16 in October). There were 74 repeats and three returns. Of 39 species, 16 were represented by just one individual. Biggest days were 29 September with 40 new birds (22 MYWA), 28 September with 29, 24 August and 8 October with 28. On only one other day were as many as 20 new birds encountered. Best birds were a Golden-winged Warbler on 22 August and a green morph Pine Siskin on 23 August. Taken as a whole, the season was quite discouraging, but there is much to suggest that the migration may have gone elsewhere.

Shoals Marine Lab

425-0703

Appledore Island, ME
David Holmes
Sara Morris

The Shoals Lab Banding Station operated from 16 August until 21 September in fall 1991, with nets

open dawn to dark every day the weather allowed. We lost all day 19 August to Tropical Storm Bob, much of 20-21 August also due to rain. We also lost time to showers or squalls on 18 and 31 August, 5, 15, 19, and 20 September. Nets were run in the usual locations and our outer nets were run for a more-or-less normal proportion of the time we were in operation.

Conditions on the island seemed the most favorable in several years. The cherry/berry crop was excellent. The fall web worms crashed to a quarter or less of their previous three years' numbers. "Bob" caused no real wind damage—top gusts were only 70-75 mph; but since the back half of the storm carried no rain, the high winds really whipped up ocean spray so all the leaves on plants which were open to the northwest were coated with salt. The 24 hours before the next rain was enough to "burn" them thoroughly. The leaves turned brown immediately and most had dropped by about 15 September. The morning after "Bob" was dead calm with a totally flat ocean and no hint of an interesting bird.

Our total bandings and birds-per-net-hour figures were a bit better than the disaster of last year, but not nearly as good as we had hoped for. The whole month I was on the island, there was not a single calm night. An occasional dusk or dawn might be calm, but the general rule was breezes of at least 10 mph. My recollection is that we would get a lot more birds on calm nights, but I haven't gone through our weather records for confirmation. We had only one day of over 100 birds, the lowest in any season of over five days since 1982.

Special birds included the first Island records for Virginia Rail and Lawrence's Warbler, our second Merlin and Marsh Wren, third Prothonotary Warbler, and fifth Golden-winged Warbler. Notable for their absence were Solitary and Yellow-throated Vireos. Traill's Flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, and Yellow-breasted Chats set new season highs. Red-eyed Vireos came in greater numbers only in 1983. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Northern Waterthrushes, and Magnolia and Wilson's Warblers came through in more normal numbers than last year's dismal catch and so did Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers after last year's unusual highs. Our residents (Yellow Warbler, Common Yel-

lowthroats, and Song Sparrows) appeared in normal numbers after three years of startling increases. Did the dry summer (before "Bob") limit productivity?

We enjoyed 11 old friends (returns), had no foreign birds, and no notifications of our birds being recovered elsewhere. Frustrating was the at least five individual Lark Sparrows that did not get caught. Fascinating was our first correctly identified Hoary Bat.

As always, our station is open to all people on island, and we do semi-formal demonstrations for most classes and day groups.

Our banding assistants included Mary Wright, Rozzie Holt, Marilyn McKenna, Karen Nielsen, and Debra DeRosier.

We were able to band for a full month in spring 1992 (the most ever) and expect to be banding as usual in the fall.

Kingston, RI
Douglas Kraus

412-0713

Nets were operated daily for the first four hours of the morning between 6 August and 31 October, weather permitting, and intermittent netting in November and December was performed. The birds/100 net hours for August, September, and October were 57, 49, and 54, respectively, as compared to the ten-year averages for these months of 52, 47, and 79. August and September were about average, but October was 31% below its ten-year average. From 20 October to the end of the month, very few birds were netted or seen in the area. There were six days in October when it was too windy or too wet to net; there were three similar days in September and two in August.

For the birds handled, the ratio of immatures to adults was 486 to 78, or 6.2 to 1 with 38 unknowns.

There were no cold fronts that produced notable numbers of bandings. There were nine days on which two or fewer birds were banded. The number of catbirds banded bounded back to 93 from last year's low of 54. There were 48 returns and 103

repeats, but no significant captures or bandings.

A catbird wearing band #0891-79414 was netted on 23 June 1991 by Dr. William Eddleman during a breeding bird atlas of an area about 1.1 mile SSE of my station. This bird was banded by me on 14 November 1990 when I picked it up stunned under a window of my house. It weighed 38.3 grams and mouth color indicated that it was from a very late brood. Because of the late date and its light weight, I doubted then that the bird could survive the winter. From then on into mid-March, I saw or heard a catbird nearby occasionally. I think that the bird may not have migrated at all.

Nantucket, MA **411-0700 & 411-0701**
Edith Andrews

In 1991, the Nantucket Station operated almost daily from 1 September through 5 October at the Mothball location (411-0700) for 27 days using four to 16 nets. At this location, 688 birds were banded during 2347 net hours of operation. An additional 23 shorebirds were banded on the shore of the pond nearby. The Ice Pond Lot location (411-0701) was in operation for nine days from 8-24 October with 175 birds banded in 104 net hours. Here, 339 Yellow-rumped Warblers were released unbanded.

In all, there were 276 recaptures. Of these, ten were returns, the most notable being Common Yellowthroats—one, banded as an AHY-F on 1 September 1986, and another banded as an AHY-M on 2 September 1987. Of all birds banded, 94% were hatching-year birds.

An immature Red-tailed Hawk caused quite a bit of excitement at the Mothball Station by hanging around the net lanes, keeping an eye on nets and banders. One morning it was seen on the ground near one of the nets with a catbird in its talons. It flew off with this, leaving a pile of feathers and a pellet. We dissected the pellet and found the legs and feet of a small bird which resembled those of a Cape May Warbler. After a couple days, we succeeded in capturing the hawk in a bal-chatri trap using a mouse for bait. After banding, measuring, and examining this magnificent bird, we released it on the site. However, it continued to haunt the net

lanes, so we chased it until it finally left the area.

Winter storms, the Turpentine Beetle and, finally, Hurricane Bob have changed the character of the Mothball woods. The ocean is eating away the bank on the south side and has taken cottages and trees in its wake. Then came Hurricane Bob with gusts of 90 mph, breaking branches of live trees and toppling dead ones. Wind laden with salt spray stripped the shrubs of leaves and berries, and even the needles of the salt-resistant Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) sustained damage. The pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) was virtually destroyed. In spite of the devastation, migrant passerines congregated on their way south when we had NW cold fronts. Undoubtedly, the geographical location of this site plays a part in migration. The woods are situated on the edge of a barrier beach where pond meets ocean. The original pines were planted circa 1930. Young pine trees are springing up east of the original grove. These are resistant to the beetle, and we have shifted some of our nets to take advantage of the expanding habitat. All things considered, 1991 was a better banding year than 1990.

Block Island, RI **411-0713**
Elise Lapham

Banding on Block Island during fall 1991 was a happy surprise after the disastrous spring total of only 340 birds, the lowest in 24 years of banding. We netted 1419 new birds, an increase of 340 over 1990.

The weather during most of September shifted between sunny days and those of fog and rain. A north wind on 21 September and a four-day west wind beginning on the 28th brought in large groups of migrants. There were also good northwest winds in October, usually lasting just single days and swinging back to south or southwest. Both months were unusually warm.

Gray Catbirds, our most common species, totaled a record 433. We had one of our periodic influxes of kinglets, especially Golden-crowns with 109. Eastern Phoebe made our "ten-most-common" list for the first time. On the other hand, Common Yellowthroats declined from 59 in 1990 to only 26.

The warbler migration was disappointing. Most of our more expected species were uncommon. We netted only three Blackpoll Warblers (though George Hall at Allegheny Front had a 45% increase over his ten-year average), no Cape May Warblers, one Northern Waterthrush, five Ovenbirds, and six Black-and-White Warblers.

No foreign retraps were caught. Our best return was a Common Yellowthroat banded in 1986 as an adult which has been back five times.

Although the 69 species was our second lowest and down from 75 in 1990, we netted some interesting individuals. A Clay-colored Sparrow on 2 October, seen by over 15 visiting birders, was new for this station and, according to the Bird Banding

Laboratory, only the second one banded in RI. We also banded our first intergrade flicker on 27 September. It had three reddish primaries and two reddish tail feathers, all symmetric. The Marsh Wren and the two Pine Warblers were simultaneously seen by birders during the RI Audubon Weekend.

Although we didn't band them, there were unusual visitors to the Island after Hurricane Bob on 19 August: Black-necked Stilt; White Ibis (an immature which stayed until October); Purple Gallinule; Black Skimmers.

Although we get fewer birds than when we first began banding here, Block Island is still an interesting place to band.

