

MID-WINTER VACATION
By William E. Savell

We spent two delightful days on Jekyll Island, Georgia, where we made final arrangements with the Jekyll Island Authority for banding privileges on the island. We were shown some very interesting locations for netting lanes by Mrs. Carl Masters who is keenly interested in nature and birding in particular. While strolling one of these areas, we surprised three resting deer. There are many wild turkeys on the island also. Both creatures may prove problems to banders with nets.

From there we went to the Okefenokee Swamp Park where we spent the day, continuing from there to St. Augustine, Florida, where we stayed six days. We thought the Matanzas River section very interesting and devoted a great deal of time to an area near Marineland between route ALA and the ocean, a distance of about a mile, where the live oakes give way to the scrub palmettos. The section was alive with birds of a goodly number of species, of which the myrtle warbler predominated. Large numbers of blue-gray gnatcatchers were observed. The white-eyed and red-eyed vireos were common along with catbirds, towhees, thrashers, etc. If we can get our permit extended to include Florida, I would like to try some spring-time netting/banding at this location. Good sites, relatively well protected from the March winds are available in places isolated from the general public and should prove very productive. It seems to me some of the Operation Recovery birds might be intercepted. The area is still unspoiled by the chain saw and bulldozer and is a beautiful natural wilderness.

From St. Augustine we migrated to Georgia where we visited India's sisters in Atlanta and Murrayville. In Atlanta we were fortunate in obtaining two excellent photographs of the pileated woodpecker on a suet feeder. Other photographs included the bluebird, cardinal, brown-headed nuthatch and purple finch. Thirteen species were noted feeding on this particular suet feeder, and I was rather surprised to see a large number of myrtle warblers feeding all day long.

Banding at both Georgia locations fell below other year's totals due to curtailed activities due to photography, weather and a shorter visit, but in spite of everything results were gratifying.

Back in Pleasantville we continue to find large numbers of grosbeaks, having banded 1,125 thus far this winter.

152 East Adams Avenue, Pleasantville, New Jersey

