

Mist nets were used from May 15th to June 15th and from September 1st to November 1st. The nets contributed the largest number of species taken from 32 to 67. They were tried in various locations and were much more successful in sheltered areas. Seed traps were less successful this year than before. Several factors contributed to this: 1. The pattern of agricultural crops, in surrounding areas, was less favorable. 2. The crop of wild seeds and fruits was abundant in the area because of good growing conditions all summer. 3. The weather remained high until after the first of November, when banding was discontinued. No hard frosts and no heavy movements of sparrows had taken place. 4. The number of chipmunks about the traps was larger because less time was devoted to removing them.

Results to date seem to justify a more intensive effort and a standardization of procedures so that comparisons between seasons will be more meaningful. Health permitting, I may try this in 1972.

Leroy C. Stegeman

FRIENDSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The fall of 1971 was the third year of fall migration study at the Friendsville, Pa., station. Six nets were used for an average of four hours daily. Netting was done on 46 days using the period from Aug. 5 to October 30. Total net hours: 1224; with 528 new birds of 57 species banded. This year three of the nets were moved to a new section of lanes, one to a lane surrounding a large pond and two to lanes in a large vegetable garden. These nets captured 84% of the total number of birds banded. The five most numerous birds trapped were: Chipping Sparrow, 91; Myrtle Warbler 68; American Goldfinch, 64; Song Sparrow, 43; and Eastern Phoebe, 24. Three new species were banded: Palm Warbler, 2; Rusty Blackbird, 2; and Cape May Warbler, 2.

At this station an obvious absence of Ovenbirds, White-throated Sparrows and Black-capped Chickadees was noted. Possibly this is a result of the net changes.

As this is only the third year of comparable studies made for this inland station it is hard to analyze the collected data and make any positive conclusion. It does appear that the general direction of the movement of birds through this station is from southwest to northeast, possibly to the Susquehanna River and its tributaries and then southward. It also appears that the agricultural practices in the area have a great influence on the numbers and species captured.

This has been a warm, calm fall with very little frontal activity and no strong winds. Days with the largest daily totals of captured birds were September 7, 21, 26, 30, October 1, 2, and 19. The largest number of species banded on a day was 11 on September 21.

Claire E. Gottschall

ELLENVILLE, NEW YORK

Banding operations at this station this fall were kept as nearly the same as in 1970 as possible. The same number of nets were used (10) on the same number of days (36) in the same net lanes (see EBBA NEWS 34 (2): 97-98 for description). The nets were set up for about four hours a morning every second or third day. The total number of net hours was close to 1970: 1207 vs. 1293 this fall; but the total catch was down from 700 last year to 567 this year.

In addition to that basic banding plan, two or three nets were operated by Frank Fish in scrub willows bordering Cape Pond, some 600 yards to the southwest of my netting area. His nets were in use in the morning on most days between August 24 and September 25. His species and numbers were similar to those of the upper lanes, with one exception - he caught twice as many Cedar Waxwings, reflecting the fact that they were still nesting in the vicinity of his net lanes.

The following figures (and the remainder of this report) include results from both areas:

	1970	1971
Birds banded	700	705
Net hours	1207	1530
Birds/100 NH	58	46
No. of species	65	58

The most abundant species was the Catbird (84); other common birds were White-throats, Chickadees, Song Sparrows, and Yellowthroats.

The weather was recorded from several sources: a recording barometer, N.Y. Times weather maps, and daily notes on temperature, cloud cover, rain, wind, etc. It was hoped that approaching cold fronts could be anticipated so that no waves of migrating birds would be missed, but the weather did not cooperate this year. The first cold front passed through on August 11, dropping the temperature about 15 degrees. Banding was fairly good on the 10th and 11th, just prior to the passage of the front. (Little did we guess that we would not catch as many birds in a day again until early October, more than seven weeks later!) Another weak cold front passed on August 22 with no appreciable effect on banding. It was too windy to band on the 23rd, and the cooler air on the 24th and 25th brought only a few birds. August had begun with three or four days of rain; on the 27th tropical storm Doria began to affect us and we had over five inches of rain to end the month in the same way. For the entire three months we were never able to check the nets without wearing boots, as the lanes never dried out.

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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