

The following species were found to be more abundant this year than last: winter wren (30 vs.13), robin (89 vs.53), wood thrush (52 vs.38), magnolia warbler (a new maximum of 64 after last year's record 52)

The recaptures are summarized below.

	Repeats	Returns	Total
September	147	37	184
October	125	12	137
Total	272	49	321

Noteworthy among the returns was the recapture of a Swainson's thrush which had been banded a year earlier as an HY-U. The bird's recapture history is interesting. All four captures in both years took place within 200 yards of one another.

Date	Time	Net Lane	Wing	Chrd, mm.	Fat	Class	Weight, g.	Age
9/25/71	1000	Road Ext.	97		0		27.7	HY
9/16/72	0850	Road Ext.	96		0		28.3	AHY
9/23/72	0705	Dike	97		1		31.2	AHY
9/30/72	1000	Dike	-		3		40.2	AHY

No foreign-banded birds were recaptured this fall. In the past year notification was received from the Fish & Wildlife Service on the recovery of the following birds banded at Vischer Ferry. A brown creeper banded by Merritt as an HY U on 10/23/71 was captured and released by Mrs. Marion Metcalf on 4/22/72 at Plainfield, Vt. In addition, a foreign-banded yellow warbler caught this spring by both Merritt and myself, and which from its repeat record appeared to be a local breeder, had been banded in May, 1971 by Darrell Ford at Fire Island Research Station, near Fire Island Coast Guard Station, Suffolk County, New York. Among my birds which were recaptured elsewhere were a black-capped chickadee banded on 8/26/67 as an HY U, and which was recaptured on 9/21/68 and 5/1/71, was captured after striking an object and released on 1/22/72 at Latham, N.Y. about four miles east of Vischer Ferry. A robin banded as an AHY on 10/19/1969 was trapped and released by Mrs. Erma Fisk on 1/29/72 at Homestead, Fla. One of my spring-banded warbling vireos banded on 5/22/70 was struck by a car and killed on 5/2/72 at Elm Grove, W.Va. In all likelihood this was a local breeder which was returning to its breeding grounds when killed. This bird was about 400 miles southwest of Vischer Ferry at the time of its recovery. The Florida robin recovery was about 1300 miles slightly west of south of Vischer Ferry, and represents the second longest distance recovery of the station recorded to date.

BANDERS- Robert P. Yunick - all dates
 Will D. Merritt, Jr. - all dates except 9/15-16
 Rita and Robert J. Pantle - all dates except 9/29-30 and 10/14-15
 James C. Covert III - all dates

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT- All concerned appreciated the opportunity to band the area, and thank the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for permission to use it; and for the Department's assistance in mowing part of the area

--Robert P. Yunick

ELLENVILLE, New York

The Ellenville Station, described in earlier reports (EBBA News 34:97-8 and 35:69-70) is clearly only a very average place in which to catch migrating birds. No geographical feature causes birds to be concentrated here, so the catch is small; but every season produces some new species and some very interesting banding. The 1972 fall season included many days of low numbers of birds, a few extremely dull days, and just 10 days of exciting banding. Frank Fish and I operated up to 14 nets on 66 days between August 6 and October 28 for a total of 2463 net hours. We banded 1031 birds (42 birds per 100 net hours - less than the 46 and 58 birds per 100 net hours of the last two years). We did catch 71 different species - the best ever.

August banding was slow and fairly even, yielding only an average of 13 new birds per day. September was even slower at first. Although our nets were set every day, we banded less than 10 birds a day on 13 days. But on the 21st, the warblers started to come, and for the next 10 days, banding was excellent. The biggest days were September 23 and 24, when we caught over 151 new birds, mostly warblers. A clear night, a full moon, dropping temperatures, and the first light frost on the morning of the 23rd were undoubtedly factors, as was the impending rain on the afternoon of the 24th. Banding was good through October 2, but it diminished after that, and remained poor through October. Our effort was not as consistent in October, and we ended the month with no new birds caught on October 25 and 28.

The warblers were the most outstanding features of the fall. We banded more than twice as many as in any other year, and over half of our total number of birds were warblers (550 out of 1031) Myrtle Warblers topped the list at 156, followed by 109 black-polls (neither had been in our top five before). We had an excellent variety of warblers - 23 species, including mourning, orange-crowned, and our first parulas. Other new species for this station were a gnatcatcher and a winter wren.

Comparison of this years totals with previous years' showed some substantial differences in numbers. The *Hylocichla* thrushes were notably down - 25 as compared with 78 and 49 the last two years (the greatest decrease was in Swainson's thrushes). Only 21 white-throats were banded. As a matter of fact, even though our net-hours increased by 60 percent over 1971 and by 100 percent over 1970, many species decreased in number (with

the notable exception of the warblers). Flycatchers, kinglets and vireos remained about the same levels as in 1971.

We have become what could be called "opportunistic" banders. Each year we have plans to study a species or two which were common before; our plans seem to assure that that year we will catch very few of that bird. So we have had to remain flexible and we study whatever species presents itself in good numbers. In 1972 we were able to learn a great deal about plumages of immature warblers. We have also been tabulating the adult-immature ratios for several of our most common species so that we might be able to determine what the normal ratios are over a period of time. We continue to record as much weather information as possible in order to study its effect on migration. This year, we experimented with all-day netting and found that, as we expected, we caught very few birds between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. We were surprised, however, at the numbers of birds caught after 3:30 on several days, so we may do more late afternoon netting in the future.

All banding was done by Frank Fish and myself, with assistance from Mildred Fish. --Valerie M. Freer

Binghamton, New York

This is the third year this station has participated in the Atlantic Flyway reports although good records exist for four years.

Operating conditions were the same as in other years so will not be redescribed.

This year, nets were up 16 days in August (starting August 1st), 19 days in September, 11 days in October and two in November (ending November 4th), making 48 days in all.

I found myself confused by the early August banding as I felt almost 100 percent of the birds banded were my own summer residents. None had any fat and all were species that nest here. On August 18th I got what I felt reasonably sure were true fall migrants. I would very much like advice and comment on this.

A total of 798 birds were banded. To compare their numbers with other years I have prepared the accompanying chart covering the past four years for those species of which I have netted 15 or more individuals in any one year. The five most commonly banded birds were: whitethroated sparrow 106, catbird 77, yellowthroat 51, purple finch 48, song sparrow 38. This year is the first time in the last four years that the red-eyed vireo and the black-capped chickadee have not been on this list. The catbird is the only one that has been on the list every year of the last four. The yellowthroat, purple finch and song sparrow

all appear on this list for the first time in the four years.

The chart indicates significant declines this year in the following species: black-capped chickadee, robin, swainson's thrush, red-eyed vireo, cape-may warbler, blackpoll warbler and slate-colored junco. Significant increases this year occurred for Nashville warblers, magnolia warblers, yellowthroats, purple finches, rufous-sided towhees and field sparrows.

The thing that impresses me most about this chart is the great amount of variation all species seem to exhibit from year to year. The figures for the catbird are perhaps the most stable. I presume the weather influences this considerably and this year the serious floods and heavy rains in June must have made a difference. However, in my case, I must also consider the fact that seven years ago the farm on my northwest line between me and the Susquehanna River, was sold to developers so instead of fields, we now have rows of houses. The land on the other three sides of my 50 acres is still undisturbed.

My greatest interest in the fall migration was once again the age-ratio of the migrants. Once again, my station had a decided preponderance of HY birds despite its being an inland station- an inland station within two miles of the Susquehanna River, however, which must be considered a very conspicuous north-south geographical feature. Of 798 individuals banded, 532 or 66 2/3 percent were HY, 144 or 18+ percent were AHY and 122 or 15+ percent were of unknown age. A chart accompanies this report that shows the age-ratio for those species of which I captured 19 or more individuals. Only the myrtle warbler had over 50 percent HY. All of the rest- except the purple finch of which 81 percent were U - had more HY birds than anything else. This is the fourth year in a row that my records have shown this same condition.

I had one new bird this year - a Lawrence Warbler - not only new for my station but also new for my life list (see page 101-102, this issue. Editor).

High days were August 26th (26 birds), September 19(33), September 27(56), October 3(43 birds), October 6(43 birds) and October 11(32 birds).

All banding was done by me, or my sub-permittee, Rick Marsi, under my direct supervision. --Harriet Marsi

(The first table, entitled "Numbers of Birds banded over a four year period of several significant species" has been omitted due to its length. Also, the author has described the content of this table rather well in the text. The second table follows. Editor)