

The following table compares each month of banding for the fall of 1972:

Month	No. of days	New birds	Re-turns	Re-peats	Spe-cies	Net-hours	Birds/100 net-hrs.		
							New	Returns	Repeats
Aug.	30	469	46	113	55	11,603	4	0.4	1
Sept.	12	328	11	75	55	4,817	7	0.2	2
Oct.	14	818	44	143	55	5,188	16	0.8	3
Nov.	8	269	45	68	31	1,240	27	3.6	5
Total	64	1,884	146	399	88	22,848	8	0.6	2

The high number of returns in October-November consisted mostly of Song and White-throated Sparrows. During August-September returns were mostly residents.

Appreciation is extended to all who assisted with the operation of the station, especially Phil Campbell, Keith Langdon, Dave Holmes, Marge Koester, Helen Meleney and Bill Oberman.

#### Baltimore City, Md. (301 Oakdale Road) - Janet Ganter

Fall migration banding at 301 Oakdale Road began on August 19 and continued until October 26, 1972, for a total of 40 banding days. This is a one-woman-back-yard station, now in its second year, and located approximately 5 miles from the center of downtown Baltimore. The nets are strung along the boundaries of tall mulberries and maples and an 8 to 20-foot hedge.

Weather on netting days was generally fair with mild temperatures and little wind. The netting locations were much the same as 1971, except that one of the 4 nets used was placed as an "L" using a 3rd pole in the corner of the rear yard. This net produced the Sharp-shinned Hawk at 8:00 A.M. on October 15; the temperature had dropped into the low 40's during the night and the morning was clear and quite windy. I did not own a wind gauge at the time.

There were 166 new birds of 31 different species banded in 834 net-hours. This was very much the same result and the same effort as in 1971. There were more Pokeberries available and drip baths were located 8 to 10 feet from each net; but still

averaged out to 19 birds per 100 net-hours, the same as last year. The interesting increases were: Hermit Thrush up from 7 in 1971 to 23 in 1972, and White-throated Sparrow up from 9 to 25. Ruby-crowned Kinglets decreased this year to 7 whereas a high of 51 were banded in 1971. Too many holes in my nets?

#### Towson, Md. (913 Ellendale Dr.) - Marion Glass

From September 1 through October 31, banding was carried on for the first time at this location in Baltimore County. The 5½-acre property is located on the Loch Raven watershed and contains 1 cleared acre with two dwellings; the balance of the property is deciduous woods (Tulip Poplar, Oak, and Beech) with a recently dug spring-fed pond, resultant stream which flows toward Loch Raven, and a small clearing containing a barn and paddock area. The property is wedge shaped with the front being the narrow end and typically suburban. The back fans out and adjoins the city-owned Loch Raven Reservoir property, so that we are adjacent to varied habitats found from this higher elevation down to the pine woods and fields at the edge of the lake.

During September, 3 nets were experimentally placed in different areas of the back yard, which contains several fruit trees, a cultivated evergreen border down one side, a large forsythia hedge down the other, and the woods across the back. Through September 30 there were 51 birds representing 23 species in 316 net-hours (16 per 100 net-hours). During October we eliminated the back yard nets and used only a new net lane cut through a weed patch (predominantly Pokeweed and Giant Ragweed) at the edge of the woods, plus occasionally one parallel to it at the edge of the same patch. From October 1 through 31, 307 birds representing 41 species were banded in 279 net-hours (110 per 100 net-hours). The total species for both months was 51. White-throated Sparrows (76) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (71) were by far the most frequently netted species, with Slate-colored Juncos (26) and Cardinals (24) next. The warblers banded were Black-and-white, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Ovenbird, Yellow-throat, Wilson's, Canada, and American Redstart.

"Damsite," Chestertown, Md. - Dorothy A. Mendinhall

The "Damsite" Banding Station is located within a one hundred fifty acre private sanctuary. It has a mile of Chesapeake Bay frontage, a sixteen-acre fresh-water lake, and a small man-made wildfowl resting pond surrounded by fields of lespedeza for small game and birds. Almost every native tree, vine, bush, weed, flower, etc. flourishes throughout the area.

Ever since 1959 the same net lanes have been in use in selected locations. NEBBA has supplied nets of Types ATX, HTX and FTX (mesh sizes 24 mm, 30 mm, 36 mm); the number in use varies from 8 to 50.

We banded more birds in 1972 than 1971 but fewer species; we had a comparable number of days in operation: same lanes, same nets and pretty much the same people assisting.

Month	No. of days	New birds	Re- turns	Re- peats	Spe- cies	Net- hours	Birds/100 net-hrs.		
							New	Returns	Repeats
August	10	151	10	20	37	1,236	12	0.8	1.6
Sept.	29	1,254	13	187	88	12,785	10	0.1	1.5
Oct.	22	3,317	7	259	75	10,464	32	0.1	2.5
Total	61	4,722	30	466	104	24,485	19	0.1	1.9

As usual the station served as a teaching and demonstration center for Junior Nature Clubs, Scouts, Schools, Garden Clubs, former banders, etc. The September 5 demonstration topped them all, as we were fortunate to net 29 species including 13 species of warblers. What more could you ask for! And who can claim a Broad-winged Hawk flushed into a net by accident, or a net laden to the ground with grackles just as your assistants were leaving for a business engagement. And in addition, a Western Wood Pewee added to the Damsite roster.

As for the "old timers," a Cardinal banded in 1966 returned for the third time; a White-throated Sparrow banded in 1969 also returned for the third time, and a Tufted Titmouse was netted for the twelfth time since he was banded in 1968.

We missed our previous high counts of Myrtle Warblers and Purple Finches. The peak day count was down from 546 on October 28, 1969 to 370 on October 26th. However, this allowed us to do

more detailed studies on eye, mouth and gape colors; molts, plumage condition; tail patterns; wing shapes of flycatchers-- all this in addition to weighing all birds and skulling when indicated.

Weatherwise we had too many hot days and I can recall only one cold morning. We had our usual problems with predators-- caught a turtle "red handed" so to speak and closed nets twice because of Sharp-shins and a Pigeon Hawk. Thus ends our 14th year of Operation Recovery and related studies at Damsite.

Irish Grove Sanctuary, Marion Station, Md. - Mrs. Richard D. Cole

Banding was limited to 10 days in September and 21 days in October, with a 60 percent decrease in net-hours from the autumn of 1971. We used an average of 11 nets per day. All birds including repeats and returns were routinely skulled, measured, and weighed. In comparing banding totals with the previous year, no important change was noted that could not be explained by the reduction in netting effort and changes in placement of the nets.

Month	No. of days	New birds	species	Net- hours	New birds per 100 net-hours
Sept.	10	156	33	558	28
Oct.	21	1,419	49	1,706	83
Total	31	1,575	61	2,264	70

Three species, the Catbird, Yellowthroat, and American Goldfinch, made up half of the birds banded at this station in September. No major influx of migrants occurred on any of the September days the station was in operation.

Myrtle Warblers first arrived on October 8 and literally took over the station on October 14 and dominated the catch for the rest of the month. Myrtles constituted 72 percent of the total October catch. On October 14, the day most birds were banded, the nets had to be closed at 9:30 a.m. because a banding demonstration had been planned and no other help was available.

Perhaps the most unusual occurrence was an influx of Tufted Titmice during the period October 12-15, with 9 individuals banded on October 13. Tufted Titmice normally are not found along the edge of the marsh and no more than 2 per year have been captured in any prior season. A House Finch on October 22 was only the second banded on this Sanctuary; the other was on October 24, 1970.

Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton Co., Va. - Frederic R. Scott

The Virginia Society of Ornithology sponsored the tenth consecutive year of its fall banding station at Kiptopeke Beach during 1972. As shown in the accompanying tabular summary, most measurements of the operation declined from 1971, including species totals, net birds trapped, total net-hours, and trapping efficiency. The last item dropping from 72 to 62 new birds per 100 net-hours. There were 546 repeats, 14 returns, and 2 foreign recoveries.

Two things obviously contributed to the decline in banding results. First, the station was in operation only 44 days versus the 51 days or more of recent years, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel was knocked out of commission on September 20 for about two weeks, thereby depriving the banders-in-charge of assistants from nearby Norfolk and Hampton areas. As a result, net-hours had to be reduced to a level manageable by a smaller work force. At this station peak trapping efficiency is attained by the ability to take full advantage of the big flights that might occur on the average of once every week or so. This means having enough assistance on hand so that a maximum number of nets can be kept open.

The weather was probably as reasonable as one could expect. Rainfall was above average for the period, forcing frequent closing of nets, but nets were closed all day only once (Oct. 6). Compensating for this, there was more than the normal frontal activity, with nine cold fronts moving through during the six weeks. High winds were frequently a problem, forcing closure of exposed nets or rendering them totally ineffective. On September 21, for example, nearby Norfolk recorded sustained winds of 45 m.p.h. as a low-pressure area moved northward up the coast.

Most species totals were lower than in 1971. This was particularly true of the winter residents, such as the Hermit Thrush, kinglets, and the various winter fringillids, since the station closed 9 days earlier in 1972 than in 1971. Myrtle Warbler totals, in fact, dropped from 3,236 in 1971 to 1,637 this year. Some other decreases included Swainson's Thrush, from 140 (1971) down to 108 (1972); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 218 to 149; Red-eyed Vireo, 158 to 118; and Blackpoll Warbler, 97 to 34. Note that for the second year in a row the Gray-cheeked outnumbered the Swainson's Thrush. It will be interesting to observe whether or not this seeming aberration develops into a long-term trend. Increases in species totals included Sharp-shinned Hawk, 22 (1971) to 45 (1972), a record high; Traill's Flycatcher, 27 to 36; Least Flycatcher, 7 to 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6 to 34; Black-and-white Warbler, 139 to 176; Tennessee Warbler, 15 to 28; Nashville Warbler, 17 to 34, another record high; and American Redstart, 1,226 to 1,706. Note that the hawks were caught without benefit of special net sizes or net sets, and only a small fraction of those that hit the nets were actually caught and banded.

Peak flight days occurred on September 10 (325 birds trapped) and 23 (468) and October 1 (367), 9 (904), and 14 (754). Forced closing of the nets, because of weather conditions or inadequate help, occurred on several other flight days, notably September 5, 15, and 20. All of these flights were associated with the passages of cold fronts. On the flights of October 9 and 14, Myrtle Warblers made up the bulk of the birds trapped and comprised 53% and 75%, respectively, of the totals. The only other time one species made up such a large proportion of a big flight was on September 10 when the 170 American Redstarts trapped comprised 52% of the day's total. Unusual birds for this station included a Bewick's Wren on October 9 (third station record), a Warbling Vireo on September 22 (fourth station record), a Prothonotary Warbler on September 6 (fourth station record), and a Lark Sparrow on September 13 (second station record). The only species not previously trapped here was a Marsh Hawk on October 3. The two foreign recoveries were an American Redstart (1270-63620) banded at Amityville, N.Y., September 23, 1972, by A. J. Lauro and retrapped here October 4 by Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (762-53645) banded at Cape May, N. J., October 8, 1972 by W. S. Clark and retrapped here October 10 by W. P. Smith.

Station operation in 1972 was essentially the same as in prior years. Up to 41 mist nets were used, and only minor changes were made in net locations. Weather and work load permitting, nets were opened before dawn and furlled in mid or late afternoon, although on a few very slow days the nets were closed in the early afternoon. In general, one licensed bander was in charge of the station for a week at a time. These were Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr., C. W. Hacker, Mrs. Betty Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F. R. Scott, and W. P. Smith. Backing up these were 71 other banders and assistants, without whose help the station would have shown much poorer results. The final editing and tabulation of the field records were performed by W.P. Smith.

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COVERAGE OF REGION VI WILL BE POSTPONED TO THE WINTER 1974 ISSUE SINCE THIS ISSUE BECAME LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED.

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HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN. Volume six.

By Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley.

Oxford University Press, New York, 1971. Pp. 245. \$17.50.

With the appearance of volume six of the Handbook, the work is half completed (volume five has not yet appeared). This volume treats 209 forms from the Cuckoo-Shrikes to the Babaxes. Eight color plates serve as illustrations. The same general format and subject headings appear as in previous volumes. These volumes contain a vast accumulation of ornithological knowledge and are major reference works which anyone with a broad interest in ornithology will find of great interest.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF CEYLON

By G. M. Henry

Oxford University Press, New York, N. Y. Second Edition.  
1971. Pp. 457. \$9.00

The island of Ceylon, located off the southern tip of India, is actually a detached portion of the South-Indian peninsula. Thus many of the birds of Ceylon also are found on the Indian sub-continent although the island has been geologically isolated from the sub-continent for a period of time sufficient to permit numerous new subspecies to evolve. However, the author feels that many of the endemics native to Ceylon represent the remaining members of a relic fauna whose parent stock died out long ago on the mainland. In any event, this fine book covers the 397 species and subspecies of the birds of Ceylon with special emphasis upon their field identification.

The arrangement of the species and subspecies accounts follows an older British sequence rather than the Wetmore sequence which is more familiar to most Americans. Nevertheless, the species accounts give much useful information on description, range, habitat, and related aspects of the birds. Although the book is not a field guide as we know it, it contains 30 plates of which 27 are in full color, and 136 pen and ink sketches. All of the illustrations were prepared by the author himself. The color plates are extremely well done and very attractive and are an important feature of the book. The sketches also are well done and supplement the species illustrated in color. A map of the geography of Ceylon on the inside covers, along with a glossary of terms and a systematic list of the birds treated, add to the value of the volume. Bird-banders having an opportunity to visit Ceylon certainly will find this book a required part of their field equipment. It is a major contribution to the ornithological literature of that island country.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman