

"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.