

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.

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