

Salisbury, N.Y.

The banding station is located in Salisbury, N.Y. (430-0744), on the property of LeRoy C. Stegeman. The traps and nets are operated along old stone fences and in fields in an abandoned agricultural area which is in the weed and shrub stage of succession.

During 1973 six nets were used for the following periods:

May 11 to June 6th. from 6:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

September 11 to November 1st. 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Seed traps were used from May 3 to June 6th. and from September 11 to November 1st. Some of the single cell traps were used near the house and the rest along the fence rows. These traps were baited with a mixture of medium-sized scratch feed, sunflower seeds, and millet seeds.

Total number of birds banded in 1973	1559 including 72 species.
Total number of birds banded in 1972	1642 including 67 species.
Total number of birds banded in 1971	2491 this was the largest number of birds taken in one year. It included 67 species.

In 1973 I had about 40 repeats of birds banded from 6 months to 3 years earlier. There is nothing unusual in these records to report. During the year I had three returns.

Several cold fronts during the month of October moved the sparrows and the height of their migration was from the 9th. to the 20th. of the month. The heaviest day was October 17th. when I banded 124 birds; these were mostly white-throats and white-crowned sparrows.

The most numerous birds banded during 1973 were the following:

White-throated Sparrow	302
White-crowned Sparrow	165
Song Sparrow	226
Dark-eyed Junco	118
Common Yellowthroat	111

New species for the station were the following:

Yellow-breasted Chat only one on September 13.
Black-billed Cuckoo one on September 20
Blackpoll Warbler on June 1st.

The number of species in the area is considerably greater than the number banded and a more intensive program might be in order if I can find the time and energy. I count this years efforts as worthwhile however and at this time I am planning to continue banding again next year.

-- LeRoy C. Stegeman

Ellenville, N.Y.

Fall 1973 produced a rather average migration at the Ellenville location as compared with the previous three falls. Frank Fish operated four nets from August 1 through September 15; I was unable to participate before August 21, when I added six nets in the locations described in previous AFR reports. (Although net locations are unchanged, the clearing and draining of swamplands bordering on one side of the banding area undoubtedly had an important effect on the banding operation.) Nets were in use mornings only on 51 days from August 1 to October 27, with the greatest effort made in September.

Our total of net hours was the lowest to date, and our resulting catch was also low as shown in the following summary:

	1970	1971	1972	1973
No. of new birds banded:	700	705	1031	528
Total Net Hours:	1207	1530	2463	1116
Birds per 100 Net Hours:	58	46	42	47
No. of Species:	65	58	71	61

It would seem that the strong decline in the total number of net hours and birds caught should be reflected in a corresponding decrease in the numbers of each species, but two species actually increased over any earlier year. More Magnolia Warblers (22) and Cedar Waxwings (40) were banded than in any other fall.

The greatest decrease in numbers of individuals occurred in the warblers, especially in Blackpolls and Myrtles. The following data indicate, however, that 1972 was clearly an unusually good year for warblers here, and that 1973 was merely average:

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Myrtle Warbler:	16	18	156	15
Blackpoll Warbler:	6	6	109	6
Black-throated Green:	6	3	37	8
All warblers:	199	123	550	176
Warblers per 100 Net Hours:	16	8	22	16

The brown thrushes continued to decline - only 21 were caught this fall as compared to 78 in 1971. Gray Catbirds have also decreased at this station: 84 in 1971, 67 in 1972, and only 28 in 1973. Towhees have decreased from a high of 45 in 1970 to 6 in 1973, and Swamp Sparrows have almost disappeared from this station due to the draining of the wetlands adjacent to the banding areas.

A number of species have been remarkably consistent in numbers over the four fall seasons. The Least Flycatcher, Song Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Dark-eyed Junco have remained at very nearly the same numbers in spite of the variation in net hours. Two new species, Eastern Kingbird and Sharp-shinned Hawk, were added to our station list.

Rainfall throughout August, September and October was below normal, and temperatures were above average. Weather systems moved in the usual west to east pattern, and there was only one hurricane from the southeast (affecting our weather very little). The best banding day in August was on the 28th, in the midst of a heat wave and evidently not associated with frontal activity. The high heat and humidity continued through the first week of September. The 8th, 16th, and 28th of September were fairly good banding days; a series of weak fronts moved through, bringing cooler weather and a little rain, but no spectacular waves of birds. The peak day in the very dry month of October was on the 4th, possibly associated with the falling barometric pressure as a cold front approached. Banding was poor after the 13th; early morning frost on the nets after the 20th made it worse.

There has been little variation in the most abundant species at this station. Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and Gray Catbirds have been in the top five or six every year except 1972 when they were topped by Myrtle and Blackpoll Warblers.

All banding was done by Frank Fish and myself, with assistance from Mildred Fish.

-- Valerie M. Freer

Binghamton, N.Y.

This is the fourth year this station has participated in this fall banding program.

Net arrangements were the same as in former years - 8 long nets (four $1\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh and four $1\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh) strung along the contour of a northwest-facing hillside that was once pastureland but has now grown up to thornapple. A farm pond lies about 100 feet downhill of the net lane. At the bottom of the hill - about a quarter of a mile from the net lanes - a housing development has been in construction all four years covered by these reports.

This year's banding operations started August 21st and were carried on 8 days in August, 15 days in September and 15 days in October, ending October 31st.

Nets were functioning in general from 6 a.m. through 10 a.m. when too few birds got caught to make banding worth while. Occasionally rain shortened the hours and on one notable instance birds kept coming in in such numbers that the nets stayed unfurled till 3:30 p.m.

In August my best banding date was the first day I had the nets up - August 21st when 26 birds of 11 species were caught.

During the latter part of August and early September our weather was characterized by persistent heat. Temperatures were over 90° in the daytime and not below 70° at night. An accompanying Bermuda High accentuated the condition. I am sure it must have influenced bird migration.

After the heat wave, September settled down to what is normal for this banding station - warm days and cool nights. This condition produces early morning valley fog which often lasts till 8:30 a.m. I am sure this has an effect upon the banding but since it is a constant factor occurring each year I am not usually concerned about it. This year, however, the condition extended well into October so it is worthy of mention.

My best banding dates in September were the 17th when 43 birds of 19 species were banded and the following day when 33 birds of 18 species were banded. On September 27th 32 birds of 16 species were banded and on September 30th 37 birds of 17 species were banded.