

McKEE-BESHERS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (Hughes Hollow), Montgomery Co., Md. - Paul and Joan Woodward

This table summarizes the results of our fourth consecutive year of fall migration banding. One net was added to our standard 10-net set-up, but all comparisons made with 1972 exclude birds caught in this net.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Number of days	1	13	20	16	4	54
Net-hours	155.8	1718.7	2237.3	1561.8	367.3	6040.9
Species	17	41	58	56	24	87
New birds	89	446	751	601	308	2195
Returns	22	60	31	27	14	154
Repeats	0	53	58	62	36	209
New birds/100 net-hrs	57.1	25.9	33.6	38.5	83.8	36.3
Returns/100 net-hours	14.1	3.5	1.4	1.7	3.8	2.6
Repeats/100 net-hours	0	3.1	2.6	3.9	10.6	3.5

In early and mid-August, we netted almost entirely resident birds. After the cold front of Aug. 21, a steady trickle of migrants began and we maintained a fairly constant average of 55 birds/day until Nov. 2 when we caught 200 birds, mainly goldfinches and Robins. Monthly capture rates for new birds in 1972 and 1973 were as follows:

Month	Birds/100 NH		Percent change
	1972	1973	
August	13.8	20.4	+48
September	21.6	29.1	+35
October	58.9	34.6	-41

The August increase was the result of large numbers of breeding birds, especially Catbirds and Wood Thrushes, and suggests that residents left the area early in 1972 and/or produced fewer young because of flooding by Agnes. The September increase was the result of large numbers of transient flycatchers, thrushes, and warblers. October, normally our best month, was disappointing. Sparrows were scarce (or late), and we caught almost no Purple Finches (136 in 1972).

	Birds/100 NH*			Percent of total birds captured			
	1972	1973	change	1972	1973	1972	1973
Flycatchers	1.1	1.7	+54	3	5	36	69
Thrushes (excl. Robins)	1.9	3.2	+68	4.6	10	67	67
Warblers	6.2	7.8	+26	18	25	63	78
Sparrows	9.7	4.5	-54	28	14	62	66

\*Warblers and sparrows were calculated using total net-hours for the fall; thrushes, net-hours between July 28 and the end of October; and flycatchers, net-hours between July 28 and Oct. 23.

Notable increases in 1973 were recorded for the Acadian Flycatcher, Catbird, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted and Canada Warblers, redstart, and goldfinch. Species that decreased appreciably were Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Slate-colored Junco, and White-throated and Song Sparrows. The most common of 22 returning species were Song Sparrow (23), Catbird (21), and Indigo Bunting (19).

"Adventure," Potomac, Montgomery Co., Md. - Margaret T. Donald

Fall of 1973 saw the first full-scale banding at Adventure. Banding here is part of a program of wildlife documentation in a nature study area in a future stream valley park in suburban Montgomery County. The study tract is a wooded stream valley with adjacent slopes. Watts Branch crosses the tract from east to west; 100 yards to the north is a county road, beyond which are 12 acres of meadow crossed by two natural hedgerows in draws, and 2 acres of second-growth woodland on a ridge. The major hedgerow and the crest of a ridge are oriented basically NE-SW; regular daytime migration is observed following this leading line.

The number of nets varied from 15 to 25. The most unusual bird was a Bewick's Wren. A large number of Cedar Waxwings (132) reflected a good grape crop. Early dates included a Purple Finch on Sept. 12 and a Myrtle Warbler on Sept. 20. Late dates were recorded for Ovenbird on Oct. 24, and Swainson's Thrush on Oct. 27.

A first group bird-banding demonstration was given for Junior-high students from an area school, and many individuals and small family groups visited the roadside "headquarters" of the banding project. Participating in station operation were: Morrill B. Donald, Harriet S. Gilbert, Ernest G. Meyers, John K. Vance (sub-permittees), and Pixie Christie, John R. Norvell, J. William Oberman, Lutie Semmes, and Edgar H. Smith.

WOODEND, Montgomery Co., Md. - Peter Pyle

Woodend is a 40-acre wildlife sanctuary located in Chevy Chase, Md. It has a great variety of habitats including fields, woods, brush, and a floodplain area adjacent to Rock Creek Park. A creek flowing through the property runs into Rock Creek.

We set up 10 nets along the creek in the floodplain area. The main purpose was to study the birds utilizing this area, but we also participated in A.F.R. The following table compares the statistics of the five months.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Number of days	5	25	19	10	1	60
Net-hours	349	2601	2225	1297	120	6592
Species	13	32	47	36	11	71
New birds	87	434	499	191	34	1245
Returns	--	--	--	1	1	2
Repeats	12	103	87	36	20	258
New birds/100 net-hrs	24.9	16.7	22.4	14.7	28.3	19.9

Overall, 89.5% of the birds were young, indicating a good nesting season. Family composition was as follows:

Family	Number	Species	Percent of total
Flycatchers	21	6	1.7%
Mimids	418	3	33.6%
Thrushes (excl. Robin)	144	5	11.6%
Vireos	24	2	1.9%
Warblers	195	20	15.7%
Sparrows	37	4	2.9%

We experimented with a six-meter aerial net 30 ft. up in a grove of locusts. In 319 hours of use, it caught 42 birds of 24 species including Philadelphia Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and ground-dwellers such as Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

#### PISCATAWAY PARK, Bryans Road, Md. - M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz

The Piscataway Park Banding Station was moved 2 miles south this year because of potential public use pressure in the old area. The new location is in Charles County on the Potomac River. Fifty to 65 nets were operated, mainly on weekends. There was a noticeable lack of cold front activity and the station was closed a month earlier than in previous years.

Most of the resident breeding species--Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Carolina Wren, Red-eyed Vireo and White-eyed Vireo--increased in numbers this year after a very successful nesting season. All breeding species appear to be recovering from the destruction of Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

Three of the 82 species banded were new for the park: Yellow-throated, Chestnut-sided, and Mourning Warblers. The low percentage of HY sparrows and Hermit Thrushes is most likely a result of the early closing of the station.

All birds were fully processed and data were collected on correlation of skull ossification with accepted plumage ageing characteristics, on Carolina Wren eye color, and retention of juvenile wing coverts in thrushes. Special thanks to all who assisted, especially to Tim Manns, Ranger, National Park Service.

#### LAUREL, Md. - Chandler S. Robbins

At Robbins Nest, above the Patuxent River gorge, 5 or 6 nets were operated daily before and after work and 7 nets all day on weekends, in the first attempt to sample fall migration here on a daily basis.

The purposes of the study were: (1) to see if short daily periods of netting can detect the major migratory movements recorded at nearby stations in continuous operation; (2) to develop correction factors to compensate for the difference in catch between all-day netting and dawn and dusk netting; (3) to record weight changes of migrants, both during the day and during the fall season; (4) to get arrival dates of wintering White-throated Sparrows; (5) to see to what extent the Munsell Soil Color Charts can be used to age common fall migrants; and (6) to participate in cooperative studies on age ratios, on dependability of plumage characters for ageing thrushes, and separation of Gray-cheeked from Swainson's Thrushes by sinuation of the 6th primary.

My dawn and dusk netting periods did detect the major flights, but because the midday catch was so much less than at dawn and dusk, I had a weekend bias that deemphasized the flights that came on weekends. Because the relationship between net-hours and the daily catch is not linear (that is, doubling the net-hours in a day does not double the catch in a back yard situation), the dawn and dusk netting on weekdays cannot be compared with the all-day netting on weekends by using the usual birds-per-100-net-hour computation. I found that birds divided by the square root of the net-hours gave a better comparison; but I hope that with a larger sample of data I can find a formula that will give an even better fit.

By comparing morning and evening weights I found that HY Catbirds gained an average of 0.87 g per 11-hour day, and HY Swainson's Thrushes, 1.36 g. Extreme weight gains were 7.6 g in 10 days by a Veery and 4.9 g in 11 days by a Catbird. The average weight of new birds banded in September increased by 0.16 g per day for the Catbird and 0.12 g per day for the Swainson's Thrush.

The Munsell charts were disappointing; most eye colors do not match the color of any chip in the book, and the differences we need to detect are often less than the differences between adjacent chips.

#### BALTIMORE CITY, Md. (301 Oakdale Road) - Janet Ganter

Netting locations were the same as the past two years. The 4 nets were strung along the boundaries of my somewhat overgrown back yard about 5 miles from mid-town Baltimore.