

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

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Banding activities in Region V in 1975 were similar to those of 1974. The stations at Woodend and St. Michaels were discontinued, but a new station 5 miles south of St. Michaels was opened at Bellevue by Henry Armistead. For the locations of the various banding stations in Region V see the map in the 1974 report (*North American Bird Bander* 1:75-82).

As in the past several years, the great majority of the birds banded were caught at the three full-time stations: Adventure in the Potomac Valley near the fall line, Damsite on the east shore of Chesapeake Bay, and Kiptopeke at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. At these three stations, 17,244 birds were banded during the 1975 fall season; this is 77% of the regional total of 22,315 birds.

A comparative summary of the banding results for each station in 1975 and 1974 is shown in Table 1. Most stations were in operation from late August through late October or early November. The most productive banding periods were 13-16 Sept., 28-30 Sept., 16-20 Oct. and 26-28 Oct. Comparing only those stations that were operated both years, the number of birds banded per net-hour of effort declined 20% from 1974 to 1975. Myrtle Warbler captures declined sharply at Kiptopeke and Damsite, but doubled at Adventure (where there was an 11% increase in net-hours). The greatest change of all was the drop in number of American Redstarts captured at Kiptopeke, a decrease of 1,420 birds (52% decrease) in spite of a 7% increase in banding effort. At Damsite, where there was a 10% decrease in banding effort, Ruby-crowned Kinglets almost doubled.

Summarizing for the Region as a whole, the White-throated Sparrow was the commonest bird captured in the mountains, with the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in second place. The Myrtle Warbler was the commonest bird at the fall line stations, with White-throated Sparrow in second place. Thrushes were outstanding (30% of all birds banded) at the Round Bay station, which is located on an estuary on the west side of Chesapeake Bay. The three Maryland stations on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake (Damsite, Bellevue and Irish Grove) had little in common, because of major differences in habitats sampled, but Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Song Sparrow rated high at two of the three stations. At Kiptopeke, Myrtle Warbler remained in first place despite a drop of more than 40% in number of individuals captured. American Redstart remained in second place, but Ruby-crowned Kinglet replaced Yellowthroat in third place. More comments regarding increases or decreases in various species follow, in the individual station reports.

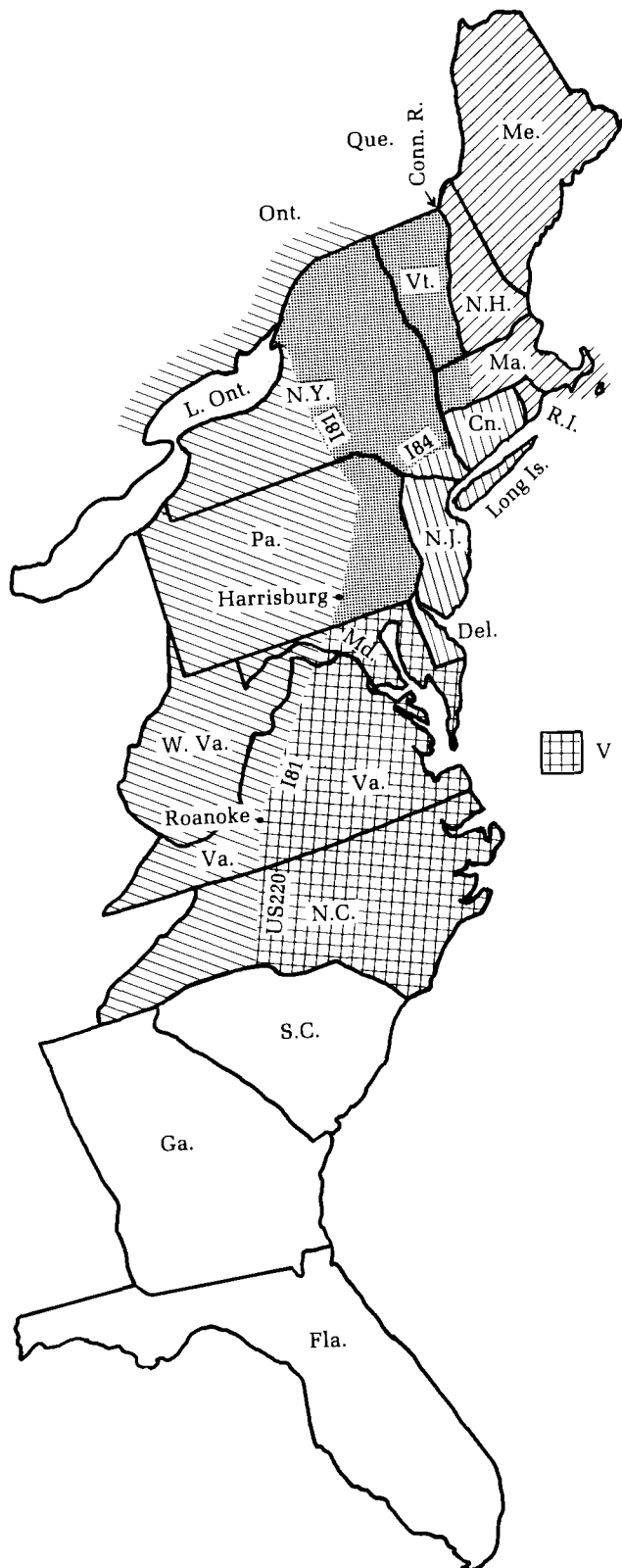


Table 1. Region V Summary, 1975 vs. 1974

| Station | Pleasant Valley Md. | Eckhart Md. | Adventure Md. | Laurel Md. | Val. L. Md. | Ellend. Towson Md. | Round Bay Md. | Dam-site Md. | Belle vue Md. | Irish Grove Md. | Kiptopeke Va. |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Extreme Dates '75 (1974) | 9/8-10/24 (9/9-10/23) | 8/23-11/2 (9/15-11/9) | 8/15-11/2 (8/22-11/1) | 8/23-11/7 (9/8-11/30) | 8/16-10/27 (8/11-10/29) | 8/28-10/23 (9/2-10/31) | 8/23-11/23 (9/1-11/2) | 9/1-11/26 (8/18-10/31) | 8/31-11/1 | 9/6-10/20 (8/23-10/18) | 8/30-10/26 (8/31-11/3) |
| Peak Days 1975 | 16 Sept. 22 Sept. 30 Sept. | 17 Oct. 16 Oct. | 20 Oct. 18 Oct. 19 Oct. | 26 Oct. 6 Sept. 25 Oct. | 22 Oct. 15 Sept. 1 Oct. | 7 Sept. 10 Sept. | 4 Sept. 13 Sept. 14 Sept. | 27 Oct. 18 Oct. 28 Oct. | 28 Sept. 29 Sept. 26 Oct. | 19 Oct. 20 Oct. 22 Sept. | 29 Sept. 3 Oct. 21 Oct. |
| Total Days '75 (1974) | 19 (21) | 14 (14) | 68 (70) | 49 (66) | 36 (38) | 33 (35) | 30 (14) | 56 (47) | 27 | 13 (10) | 58 (60) |
| Species '75 (1974) | 67 (66) | 49 (53) | 94 (84) | 47 (53) | 59 (57) | 53 (60) | 66 (62) | (83) | 66 | 51 (35) | 95 (102) |
| New Birds (1974) | 655 (675) | 505 (666) | 3,451 (2,862) | 290 (466) | 463 (588) | 281 (529) | 1,642 (733) | 3,923 (2,675) | 555 | 579 (232) | 9,870 (15,600) |
| Net-hours (1974) | 3,140 (2,040) | 1,624 (2,007) | 19,770 (17,817) | 1,494 (1,884) | 1,563 (1,669) | 694 (1,301) | 6,970 | 14,344 (15,976) | 864 | 938 (566) | 20,328 (19,009) |
| New/100nh (1974) | 21 (32) | 31 (33) | 18 (16) | 19 (25) | 30 (35) | 40 (41) | 28 | 26 (30) | 64 | 62 (41) | 49 (82) |
| Most Common Species in 1975 | Tenn W 67 Swain T 56 Catbird 55 R. King 55 Wht-thr 44 | Wht-thr 145 R. King 53 BkChick 52 Field 34 Junco 32 | Myrtle 664 Wht-thr 302 Swain T 269 Red-e V 155 Catbird 149 | Wht-thr 42 Catbird 32 Swain T 27 R. King 16 Hermit 16 | Catbird 55 Robin 54 Mocker 44 Redst 32 R. King 28 | Wht-thr 29 Red-e V 22 Swain T 21 R. King 100 N. Oriole 11 | Swain T 193 Wood T 176 Wht-thr 153 Veery 100 Oven 94 | R. King 545 Wht-thr 287 Junco 153 Hermit 150 G. King 138 | Myrtle 59 Yellthr 51 R. King 45 Swain T 38 Song Sp 29 | Myrtle 226 Catbird 58 Yellthr 48 Swamp 47 Song Sp 30 | Myrtle 2,509 Redst 1,320 R. King 696 Yellthr 634 Bt Blue 478 |
| Most Common Species in 1974 | Swain T 86 CapeMay 51 BdChick 45 | Junco 134 Wht-thr 127 Field 48 | Wht-thr 414 Myrtle 303 Song Sp 205 | Wht-thr 125 Catbird 39 Swain T 31 | Catbird 79 Mocker 61 Wht-thr 57 | Red-e V 54 Wht-thr 52 Magnol 35 | Wht-thr 122 Swain T 90 Wood T. 61 | Myrtle 332 R. King 278 Wht-thr 242 | | Myrtle 110 Yellthr 28 Song Sp 15 | Myrtle 4,286 Redst 2,740 Yellthr 944 |

For the third consecutive year, all cooperating banders in this Region (members of the Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group) made a special effort to age by skulling as many as possible of the birds that they captured, so that age ratios of the more common species could be compared from station to station and from year to year. Age ratio details for 1973 and 1974 were published on page 77 of the 1974 report; the 1975 summary is given in Table 2 of the present report. The high percentages in the Kiptopeke column are typical for a coastal station, but are so different from those of the inland stations that they were not used in the Pooled Percent; neither were the small samples from the mountain stations. (Starting in 1976 the mountain stations will be transferred to Region IV as announced in *North American Bird Bander* 1:140.)

In 1975, five additional species of warblers were added

to Table 2 because so many more of these particular species were banded this year. Note especially the high percentage of hatching year Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers in 1975. These spruce-fir forest birds apparently are benefiting from the abundance of spruce bud-worms in eastern Canada, and many banders in the regions to the north of us have commented on their spectacular increase. In both 1974 and 1975 there is some hint of a progressive increase in percentage of HY Slate-colored Juncos from west to east; but for most species age ratios are fairly uniform among the various non-coastal stations.

In contrast to the very high percentage of HY Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers, the proportion of HY Common Yellowthroats has remained very low all three years. Is it possible that young yellowthroats are

Table 2. Percentages of HY birds in 1975.

| Species | 1975 Sample | Pooled Percent ¹ | | | Towson | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| | | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | Eckhart | Adventure | Laurel | area | Round Bay | Damsite | Bellevue | Kiptopeke |
| Carolina Wren | 120 | 87 | 79-83 | 84-87 | | 78-84 ² | (92) ³ | | 84-90 | 87 | | 77-82 |
| Gray Catbird | 339 | 77 | 83 | 86-87 | | 90 | 97 | 92 | 66-69 | 75-77 | | 93 |
| American Robin | 257 | 70-73 | 86-88 | 71-82 | | 67-90 | (36-43) | 91 | 60-74 | 71 | | |
| Wood Thrush | 338 | 84-88 | 84 | 83-91 | | 65-78 | | (83-91) | 85-94 | 94 | | 100 |
| Hermit Thrush | 308 | 73 | 75-76 | 68-70 | (73) | 65-71 | (71) | | 75 | 66-67 | | 99 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 767 | 79 | 73-75 | 75-76 | | 68-70 | 74 | 81 | 77-79 | 85 | 63 | 95 |
| Veery | 310 | 61 | 62-63 | 65-66 | | 60 | | 69-77 | 71-73 | 64 | | 87 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 332 | 82 | 83-84 | 57-58 | | 48-49 | | 78 | 62 | 64 | | 93 |
| Black-and-white Warb. | 185 | | | 77 | | 75 | | | 63 | 84 | | 94 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 185 | | | 88-89 | | 76-80 | | | 91 | 94 | | 93 |
| Cape May Warbler | 94 | | | 92 | | | | | (100) | 92 | | 95 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 182 | 84 | 70 | 84 | (71-79) | 81-84 | | 83 | 82 | 90 | (73) | 94 |
| Black-thr. Blue Warb. | 216 | 85 | 61 | 75-76 | | 69-76 | | (40) | 76 | 84-86 | (67) | 94 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 942 | 85 | 79-80 | 68-69 | | 66-68 | | | 64 | 73 | 69 | 95 |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | 173 | | | 86-88 | | 84-87 | | 93 | (90-95) | 88 | | 88 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 116 | | | 80 | (50) | 76-79 | | | 38-54 | 88 | | 93 |
| Ovenbird | 411 | 65 | 81 | 77-79 | (100) | 73-76 | (86) | 88 | 68-72 | 83 | (70) | 97 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 179 | 66-67 | 57 | 48-50 | | 55-58 | | | (27-33) | 42-44 | 51 | 89-90 |
| Canada Warbler | 191 | 78-80 | 70-73 | 68-69 | | 64-67 | | 74-78 | (68) | 69 | | (100) |
| American Redstart | 333 | 79 | 77-78 | 70-71 | | 66-68 | | 71 | 60-63 | 78-79 | 65 | 94 |
| Cardinal | 255 | 77 | 80-81 | 68-71 | | 60-66 | (80) | 96 | 68-73 | 78 | | |
| Slate-colored Junco | 299 | 81 | 71 | 78-79 | | 70-72 | | 80 | | 80 | | 92-94 |
| White-throated Spar. | 936 | 59 | 73-75 | 54-55 | | 46-49 | 62 | 83 | 62-63 | 54 | (31) | 91 |
| Song Sparrow | 161 | 72 | 68-73 | 66-68 | | 60-64 | | (73) | | 62-69 | 72 | (94-100) |

¹Excluding coastal (Kiptopeke) and mountain (Pleasant Valley and Eckhart) stations.

²When one or more birds were of undetermined age, a range of percentages is given.

³Percentages based on 10 to 19 birds are enclosed in parentheses. No percentages were computed when sample size was less than 10.

less efficient foragers, are carrying less fat, and are just small enough to slip between the mesh of 1½-inch nets while a higher percentage of the adults that hit the nets are captured? How many banders have kept separate capture rate data for yellowthroats in nets of different mesh sizes?

If we compare the pooled age ratios for 1974 and 1975 in Table 2, it appears from the low percentage of HY Red-eyed Vireos, Myrtle Warblers, American Redstarts, Cardinals, and White-throated Sparrows in 1975, that the 1975 breeding season may have been a poor one for these species — at least in the areas from which the Maryland-Virginia migrants originate. Checking the seasonal totals for Region V's largest station, Kiptopeke, we find that all five of these species declined sharply in the 1975 banding totals. This is a remarkable coincidence in view of the fact that Kiptopeke figures were not even included in the pooled age ratios! If seasonal totals for the other large stations are examined, however, we find just the opposite. At Adventure, 4 of the 5 species, all but the White-throat, were caught in larger numbers in 1975; and at Damsite all but the Myrtle Warbler were taken in larger numbers in 1975 than in 1974. In other words, the stations that provided the greatest input into the pooled age ratios caught an increased number of those species for which reproduction seemed to be poorest! We are awaiting a logical answer to this enigma.

Since Region V is the last one to report, it may be appropriate to try to detect a few trends based on all five reports. Editor Nadia Mutchler has very kindly provided advance copies of the other regional summaries for this purpose. In view of the lack of correlations in the previous paragraph I feel obliged to restrict my comments to those few species for which the banders are in general agreement over a wide area.

Black-capped Chickadees staged a major flight in all five regions; everyone who mentioned this species commented on its abundance. With them came nuthatches; several people commented on the Red-breasts, but strangely enough, nobody commented on White-breasts — perhaps because they are too commonplace.

Thrushes, in general, showed an increase, and so did kinglets. With widely divergent comments on Red-eyed Vireos, it would be folly to guess their status.

Warblers provoked a great deal of comment in all regions, with more assertions of increases than of decreases. The only species to elicit a unanimous vote from 5 or more stations were the Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers, which apparently had a phenomenal year. Every station except Kiptopeke reported a good season for American Redstarts. On the contrary, every commenting bander except Mrs. Donald at Adventure reported a major decline in Myrtle Warblers.

Pleasant Valley, Bittinger, Garrett County, Md.

Kendrick Y. Hodgdon

Pleasant Valley is on a high plateau with an average elevation of 2600 ft. Our banding area is near Lake Cunningham which is part of the University of Maryland 4-H Camp complex. Some of our nets are near a large swamp.

We had a big migration of Black-capped Chickadees this fall. In addition to the 42 banded at this station, Mrs. Malec banded 25 in one day using four nets at her home in LaVale.

Our returns included American Woodcock on 30 Sept. 1975 (banded by us on 11 Sept. 1974), a Field Sparrow that returned on 30 Sept. 1975 (banded by us on 30 Aug. 1974), a Black-capped Chickadee on 1 Oct. 1975 (banded 19 Sept. 1972), a Field Sparrow banded 1 May 1974, and a Chipping Sparrow banded as an HY bird on 16 Sept. 1974.

Pleasant Valley banders were: Kendrick Y. Hodgdon, Director; Dorothea Malec, Compiler; John B. Willetts, and Elyse Harmon.

Piney Mountain, Allegany County, Md.

John B. Willetts

During the second year of banding at my residence in Western Maryland, I used sixteen nets.

The 505 birds of 49 species included 17 warbler species. September banding was restricted by the opening of school and associated activities and frequent visits to the Dolly Sods station in West Virginia. On 17 Oct. we had sudden showers and I had to close nets at 10:30 a.m. on what would have been an all-time record day.

I noticed a definite decrease in migrating warblers and a large increase in most sparrows (especially Field and White-throated), but a very large decrease in White-crowned Sparrows. Owing to the large numbers of White-throated Sparrows, I started keeping records of juvenal eye color retention as related to degree of skull ossification. There was a large increase in Black-capped Chickadees, a decrease in Swainson's Thrushes, but an increase in Hermit Thrushes. Returns: Tufted Titmouse 4, Black-capped Chickadee 3, Field Sparrow 2. My thanks to Bill Devlin, my sub-permittee, for his help in all aspects of banding.

Adventure, Potomac, Montgomery Co., Md.

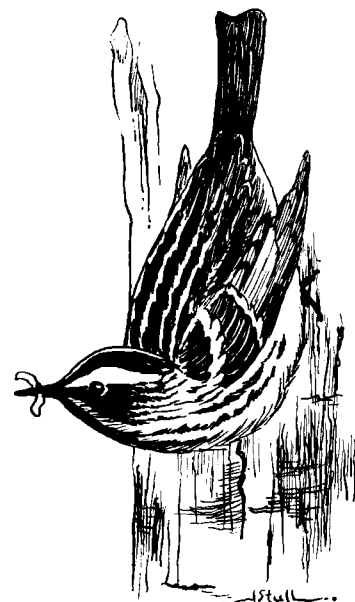
Mrs. Margaret T. Donald

Banding at Adventure in 1975 again sampled three types of habitat: mature floodplain woods, hedgerows in an open field, and second-growth woodland on a ridge. Two nets were added on the floodplain (in a spring seepage area) and two nets were added on the ridge, but, in the absence of planted food strips, nets were not run in the open field.

The station was in operation from dawn to dusk, every day from 15 Aug. through 2 Nov., with the exception of rainy days and one five-day period (29 Sept. thru 3 Oct.). Total net-hours increased 10.96% over 1974. All of the increase occurred in August, with 16 days of banding in 1975 compared with 10 in 1974, and 23½ nets used in August 1975 vs. 15 in 1974. Birds banded increased by 20.6% over 1974, with the increase concentrated in September.

August and September were cooler and October warmer than normal, with the weather pattern reflected in relative percentages of the various families banded. Thrushes increased from 11.3% of birds banded in 1974 to 17.0% in 1975 (up from 329 to 600 birds), and warblers increased from 25.3% to 40.3% (up from 739 to 1427 birds). Fringillids decreased from 36.8% to 20.7% (down from 1074 to 732 birds), perhaps reflecting both the warm October and a later than normal sparrow migration. Major shifts in individual species included decreases in White-throated Sparrows (414 to 302) and Song Sparrows (205 to 72), and increases in Swainson's Thrushes (176 to 269), Red-eyed Vireos (111 to 155), Myrtle Warblers (303 to 664), Canada Warblers (29 to 103), Tennessee Warblers (6 to 50), and Bay-breasted Warblers (7 to 62).

New species for the station included Common Crow, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, and Blackburnian Warbler. Of special interest were the 27 species of warblers banded. The most exciting bird of the season was a 'baypoll' (hybrid Bay-breasted/Black-poll Warbler) banded and photographed on 10 Sept. 1975.



The first foreign recapture for Adventure was a Myrtle Warbler on 19 Oct., originally banded 9 May 1975 near Bellona, New York, by M.J. Lerch. Records for the 1975 fall season include 84 returns of 16 species. Of these, 10 were originally banded in 1972, the first year of operation (3 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 titmice, 2 Carolina Wrens, 2 Cardinals, and 1 White-throated Sparrow); and 18 were banded in 1973 (1 Carolina Chickadee, 2 titmice, 1 robin, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 2 Cardinals, 1 goldfinch, 8 White-throated Sparrows, and 2 Song Sparrows).

Early dates included a Swainson's Thrush on 29 Aug., Purple Finch on 7 Sept., and Evening Grosbeaks on 22 Oct. Late were a Black-and-white Warbler on 24 Oct., and a catbird on 31 Oct.

Participating in station operation were: Sub-permittees Gloria H. Aiken, Morrill B. Donald, Harriet S. Gilbert, Ernest G. Meyers, John R. Norvell, J. William Oberman, Lutie G. Semmes, Edgar H. Smith, John K. Vance, and William W. Wendell; and Assistants Elizabeth Allen, John Bains, Pixie Christy, Sarah Davidson, Andrea Diss, Dave Fallow, Delores Grant, Marsha Hankin, Lois Hawken, Minette McCullough, Marty McDonald, Ann Mitchell, Susan Moran, Robert Mullen, Grace Sims, Billy and Joann Wendell, and Jim Wilkinson.

Laurel, Prince Georges County, Md.

Chandler S. Robbins

Robbins Nest is located on the fall line one-half mile below Rocky Gorge Reservoir. During the fall migration, about 8 nets are run on the upper part of the 3 acres (edge of the lawn, the garden, under the Virginia Pines, and the upper edge of the mature oak woods that drop 80 feet to the Patuxent River). Foul weather on weekends, combined with commitments away from home, severely restricted this season's operation. August banding was limited to the weekend of the 23-24th. In September, all-day netting was conducted on the 6-7th and 20-21st, and this was supplemented with before- and after-work banding on 16 other days. October banding also was limited to 4 whole days and parts of 16 others.

Of the 9 White-throated Sparrows banded (or returning) in the period 1-20 Oct., 33% were HY; the percentage rose to 54% (of 24 birds), 21-31 Oct., and 65% (of 20 birds) in November (repeats not included).

The oldest returns were a White-throated Sparrow banded as HY on 5 Dec. 1970 and a Tufted Titmouse banded as HY on 11 Dec. 1971. A summer resident female Robin (*T. m. achrosterus*), 772-06961, was still here on 4 Oct., molting its 10th primary; some of my summer resident Robins winter in Texas and Mexico and this is my latest capture of a known summering bird. Also late was an HY Wood Thrush banded on 3 Nov.

Robins, Hermit Thrushes, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were more common than in 1974, but White-throats were scarcer. No baiting was done in either year during the fall migration.

301 Oakdale, Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Janet Ganter

Banding at 301 Oakdale was very light in September-October 1975. Nets, usually only two, were used on 11 days in September and 18 days in October. I banded 101 birds of 25 species in 275 net-hours (37 per 100 net-hours) from 3 Sept. 30 Oct. In 1974 I banded 133 birds of 35 species in 412 net-hours (32 per 100 net-hours).

The most common species banded were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (19), White-throated Sparrow (19), and Hermit Thrush (10). My most unusual bird was a male Scarlet Tanager displaying a few flecks of red on the neck, breast, and rump on 10 Sept.

Valley Lane, Towson, Baltimore County, Md.

Mrs. Gladys H. Cole

This station was operated for part of all of 12 days in August and 20 days in September. August bandings totaled 116 birds in 298 net-hours (39 per 100 net-hours); September totaled 226 birds in 976 net-hours (23 per 100 net-hours).

The most birds were banded in the least net-hours on 9 Sept. (20 birds of 11 species in 24 net-hours). The first transient species were banded on 16 Aug.: Black-and-white, Yellow and Canada Warblers and American Redstart.

Ellendale Drive, Towson, Baltimore County

Mrs. Marion Glass

This station is located adjacent to a reservoir watershed and contains one cleared acre, deciduous woods of Tulip Poplar, oak and beech, and a small spring-fed pond.

Banding was carried on mostly during the mornings of 5 days in August, 17 in September, and 11 in October. A total of 281 birds of 53 species were caught with 3 to 6 nets in use.

In comparison with 1974, net-hours were down by about half and so were the number of birds caught. Taking this into account there were noticeable increases in thrushes and orioles, and a decrease in wrens and warblers.

New species for the station were Black-capped Chickadee and Saw-whet Owl. Thanks to Barbara Ross for all her help with this station's activities.



Round Bay, Crownsville, Anne Arundel County, Md.

Danny Bystrak

The Round Bay Banding Station used a maximum of 30 nets and caught an average of 33 birds per 100 net-hours in September and 22 in October. The poorest day was 28 Sept. when 17 birds per 100 net-hours were caught; the best was 4 Sept. with 48.

Thrushes were checked to see if buffy covert marks agree with skull ossification. Of 118 HY's checked, 31 (26.3%) did not have buffy covert marks. Of 28 AHY's checked, 3 (10.7%) showed covert markings; but these were distinctly different from the buffy spots of young birds. They were closer to white in coloration and extremely small, being restricted to only the very tip of the coverts. All Veeries checked (59 HY's, 26 AHY's) showed agreement between coverts and skull.

Overall, there seemed to be more birds around than in the previous two years. The number of warbler species and the numbers of each caught were unprecedented.

The most noticeable difference was an almost complete lack of Cedar Waxwings this year, contrasting sharply with the past two years. Some interesting late birds were a Chestnut-sided Warbler and 2 Canada Warblers on 1 Oct., Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 19 Oct., Nashville Warbler on 13 Oct., Ovenbird on 19 Oct., Veery on 13 Oct., Swainson's Thrush on 26 Oct., and Wood Thrush on 27 Oct.

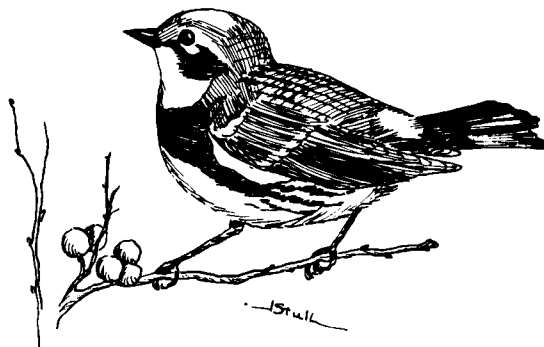
Damsite, Chestertown, Kent County, Md.

Mrs. Dorothy A. Mendinhall

The Damsite Station operated 17 days in August, 22 in September, and 26 in October, using from 6 to 27 nets set in the same lanes as in previous years: along the Bay bank, lake bank, hedgerow, garden and the mixed forest area. Food was abundant and the migration pattern was a week or more early, evidenced by a marked increase in numbers compared to the past four years. Birds per 100 net-hours for 1971 through 1975 were 9, 12, 8, 8, and 17.

The increase in birds netted was probably a result of the good weather. Except for five days of rain that forced suspension of operations, we had favorable winds from NW, NE, N & W in September. There were only 8 days out of the 22 when wind exceeded 15 mph; on other days the wind ranged from 4 to 7. Storm Eloise flooded some of our net lanes and also buffeted many Black-throated Blue Warblers; many arrived too weak to process. September temperatures ranged from 64° to 78° in 1975, compared to 65° to 88° in 1974. The berry supply was excellent, but there were very few insects: almost no caterpillars and a scarcity of wheelbugs, walking sticks and praying mantis.

We operated one additional day in a new location, when a special privilege was granted us to try our hand at shorebird banding on the Tenneco Chemical Company's



settling ponds. This was a true test of a birder's ability to cope with extreme difficulties in a horrible habitat. Great credit goes to Margery Plymire and Jim Gruber who managed beautifully except on one occasion when my decision as Master Permittee was needed. After successfully extracting a badly tangled dowitcher, I proceeded to need "rescue," having slipped and plunked into the sludge. Luckily I had read somewhere that one should wear boots and to be safe I had added my sailing rain pants. What a picture for a camera buff!

This was the best September in nine years: Totals banded in September from 1967 to 1975 were 528, 1140, 574, 1004, 783, 1254, 1307, 706, and 1638.

Two of three Blue-winged Warblers were believed to be hybrids. One keyed out to be a Brewster's — Form 2 in Wood's Manual. The other questionable one was photographed for verification. Four Barn Owls in a nest on Eastern Neck Island were banded as nestlings at the Refuge Manager's request; this served as a demonstration of banding procedures for members of a conservation youth corps summer work camp.

The oldest birds recaptured were a Cardinal (6 yrs.), a Downy Woodpecker (5 yrs.), and a Chipping Sparrow (4 yrs.). These were presumed to be resident or locally breeding birds.

New birds for the Station were: Short-billed Dowitcher, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper (excellent slide of this bird). Other interesting species were: Whip-poor-will, Worm-eating Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. We caught all five species of brown thrushes on 29 Sept.

Banders were D.A. Mendinhall, Margery Plymire, Jim Gruber. Others who aided in tending nets and keeping records were: Dorothy Schwatka, Ed Mendinhall, Hilda Kane. Jim Gruber shared the banding two days.

Bellevue, Talbot County, Md.

Harry Armistead

Banding was conducted on 12 days in September, 14 in October and 1 in November at Rigby's Folly; up to 11 nets were used. The longest continuous netting period was 3-12 Oct. The best flight days were 8 Oct. (168 per 100 net-hours), 26 Oct. (138), and 3 Oct. (124).

Irish Grove Wildlife Sanctuary, Marion Station, Md.

Mrs. Gladys H. Cole

Nets were operated on 8 days in September, primarily in the latter half of the month when mosquitoes were on the wane. An average of 5 nets were run per day for the first 6 days, and 15 and 17 nets on the last two. Total bandings for the month were 197 birds of 34 species in 408 net-hours. The relatively large catch per net-hour is related to the small number of nets in use, in prime locations, and should not be interpreted as a huge increase in the bird population.

Birds banded in the largest numbers in September were: Gray Catbird 47, Common Yellowthroat 43, Am. Redstart 25, House Wren 10, and Indigo Bunting 10. Two Bay-breasted Warblers banded on 28 Sept. were a new species for the Irish Grove Sanctuary list. October banding was limited to five days: 11-13 and 19-20. As usual, Myrtle Warblers (226) comprised more than half of the month's catch — 59 percent this year. Swamp Sparrow was second with 47 individuals banded. We banded the same number of Lincoln's Sparrows as juncos — one of each.

The most surprising catch was a male Wilson's Warbler captured by hand by ringer Herbert Axell of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who was visiting from England. The best banding days were 29 and 22 Sept.

David A. Micklos of Salisbury State College wrote a 19-page research paper based on 5500 Myrtle Warblers banded at Irish Grove in the fall seasons of 1969-1972.

Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton Co., Va.

F.R. Scott

The Virginia Society of Ornithology's banding station was in continuous operation for 58 days, 30 Aug. to 26 Oct. In this thirteenth year of operation, and as in 1974, up to 43 mist nets (about 30-mm mesh) were used from dawn to mid or late afternoon as weather and personnel permitted.

The station is on a bluff overlooking Chesapeake Bay with all but three of the nets being on flat ground on top or at the foot of the bluff. About half of the nets were in second-growth mixed woods, and the others were on the woodland-farmland edge, along a hedgerow, and in a myrtle thicket on the upper part of the beach.

Numerical results, as shown in Table 1, were lower than in 1974. This was judged to be the result of: (1) fewer strong cold fronts in 1975; and (2) the late arrival of the bulk of winter residents, with peak numbers of many species delayed until after the station's closing date.

Total new birds banded were down 37% from 1974, well over half of which can be accounted for by the reduction of Myrtle Warblers and American Redstarts (see Table 1). Most species were scarcer, including virtually all winter residents except the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Other species in notably lower numbers were Gray Catbird (618 in 1974 to 311 in 1975), Red-eyed Vireo (279 to

117), Nashville Warbler (71 to 20), Cape May Warbler (125 to 76), and Ovenbird (558 to 250).

Species in higher numbers than in 1974 included Sharp-shinned Hawk (51 to 87), Winter Wren (62 to 80), Swainson's Thrush (234 to 347), Gray-cheeked Thrush (184 to 214), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (659 to 696), and Bay-breasted Warbler (49 to 78). The Sharp-shin, Winter Wren, Ruby-crown, and Bay-breast totals for 1975 were 13-year record high counts. The 245 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded on 3 Oct. set an all-time day's record for this species here. Other interesting daily highs were 24 Sharp-shins on 2 Oct., 25 Winter Wrens on 21 Oct., 74 Gray-cheeked Thrushes on 29 Sept., 65 Black-throated Blue and 27 Bay-breasted Warblers on 3 Oct., and 180 Common Yellowthroats on 29 Sept. No really rare birds were captured this year, a Blue-winged Warbler on 14 Sept. being perhaps the most unusual.



There were three foreign retraps. Two HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded at Cape May Point, N.J., by W.S. Clark on 6 and 21 Oct. 1975, were recovered here on 20 and 24 Oct., respectively, by Roger and Dorothy Foy. One HY Blackpoll Warbler banded at Waite Hill, Willoughby, Ohio, by Annette B. Flanigan on 17 Sept., 1975 (that last repeated there on 1 Oct.) was recovered here on 24 Oct., also by the Foy's. This last is apparently only the second long-range direct recovery of a Blackpoll (see Flanigan, *Inland Bird Banding News* 48: 186-188, 1976). In addition, one HY Sharp-shinned Hawk banded here on 15 Oct. 1975 by the Sydney Mitchells was recovered in April 1976 at Lac Megantic, Quebec, near the New Hampshire and Maine border. Of the 19 returns from previous years, 13 were permanent residents, five were probably summer residents, and one, a Myrtle Warbler, was probably a winter resident.

As is typical for a coastal banding station, age breakdowns were generally 90% HY or higher for known transient birds. On the low side were Veeries and Bay-breasted Warblers, with 87% and 88% HY, respectively.

Licensed banders in charge of the station for various periods of time were Mrs. J.P. Church, Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Foy, C.W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F.S. Schaeffer, F.R. Scott, and W.P. Smith. Assisting these were over 130 other banders and helpers whose aid was vital to the success of the operation. The initial editing tabulation of the daily field sheets was done by W.P. Smith.