

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

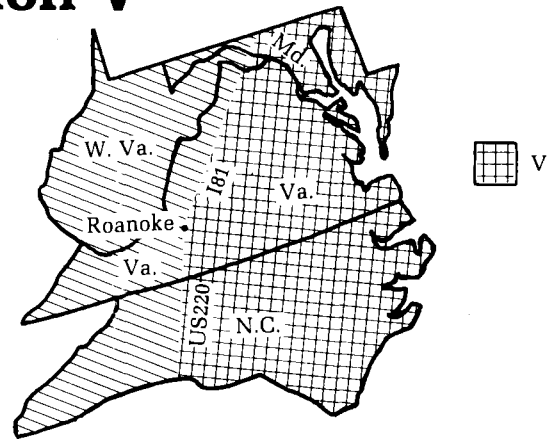
Chandler S. Robbins, Coordinator
7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, MD 20707

One new station was added to the Region V roster in 1981: Bestgate in the Annapolis suburbs. We also have a summary from Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore City, a station that had not reported since 1977.

The total regional effort of 82,282 net-hours was surpassed only in 1980. Although the total net-hours of operation decreased only 10.8% from 1980, the number of birds banded dropped 15.8%. The greatest decrease in birds per 100 net-hours (-56%) occurred at Gulf Breeze, Florida. Inspection of the last two lines of Table 1 shows that only modest changes occurred at other stations. Comparing the 14 stations that reported in both 1980 and 1981, the birds per 100 net-hours decreased from 40.31 to 38.20.

The ten species banded in the largest numbers in Region V are shown in Table 2. As usual, the Yellow-rumped Warbler was far in the lead, with more than twice as many individuals as any other species. American Redstart and Gray Catbird were in second and third place. The Kiptopeke station has an overpowering influence on the species composition for the region. This is partly because they band the most birds (and chalk up the second-highest net-hours), and partly because their top three species, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat, rank much lower in relative abundance at the inland stations. Excluding the Kiptopeke totals, the three most commonly banded species were Swainson's Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Gray Catbird. Of the ten species in Table 2, the American Redstart was the only one to change by more than 21% from 1980, after correcting for the 10.8% decrease in net-hours. The redstart increased by 50%.

This was the ninth year that the stations in Region V collaborated in a study of age ratios of banded birds during the autumnal migration. An effort is made to age all birds captured, but there are some individuals of most species that are reported as of unknown age. Because the unknowns cannot be ignored for fear of distorting the age ratios, these ratios are computed two ways: first assuming all unknowns are adults, then assuming they are all young. The true ratio of birds



captured lies somewhere between the limits given, probably closer to the upper limit than the lower.

In past years, the inland Maryland stations were compared with Kiptopeke and with the southeastern states. This year, for lack of percentages from Kiptopeke and too small a sample from the Southeast, the comparison is limited to inland stations in Maryland. The 1981 percentages are compared in Table 3 with those for the preceding four years. Similar figures for 1973-76 can be found in NABB (2:81, 3:67). Some interesting characteristics of several species are beginning to emerge from these age ratios. With very few exceptions these tables have been limited to species with a sample of at least 100 aged individuals. The exception this year was the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — the first time any flycatcher has come close to the 100 mark; note the very high percentage of HY birds. By contrast, the Blue Jay, a long-lived species, has maintained a low HY ratio in the few years with a large enough sample. Among the thrushes, the Veery has consistently lower HY ratios than its relatives. Wood Thrushes seem to have reached a low reproductive rate in 1977, but have fared better the last two years. Gray Catbirds have risen from 77% HY birds banded in 1973 to about 90% the past two years. Mockingbirds have remained consistently high. Red-eyed Vireos have maintained low HY ratios. Since 1976, Magnolia Warblers have alternated between high and low percentages — always greater than 71% or less than 60%. Black-throated Blue Warblers are extremely variable, and this year for the first time, more adults than immatures were banded, suggesting a poor breeding season somewhere north of Maryland.

Table 1. Region V Summary

	Adventure MD	Sandy Spring MD	Laurel MD	Patuxent MD	Stevenson MD	McDonogh MD	Cylburn MD	Towson MD
Days of operation	78	38	75	80	32	36	23	26
Number of nets used	28	46	12	33	18	13	7	8
Total net-hours	24790	4117	2914	8853	1327	2148	265	637
Largest daily catch	153	197	36	150	45	154	43	32
Birds banded, 1981	3358	3138	477	3731	514	1915	288	316
Birds banded, 1980	4895	6158	630	3571	2582	1585	47	554
Different species, 1981	87	89	52	95	58	82	32	41
Different species, 1980	93	94	61	86	92	81	13	57
Birds/100 n.h., 1981	14	76	16	42	34	89	109	50
Birds/100 n.h., 1980	19	58	16	52	48	96	109	64

The other common warblers have remained relatively stable in age ratios over the 9-year period, with Common Yellowthroats retaining their reputation for being the species with the most consistently low HY ratio. Sparrows as a group, with the notable exception of White-throats, have had higher HY percentages than warblers; and this year the White-throats reached a new high, about 14 percentage points above last year. House Finches have now become common enough to claim a permanent place in the Maryland table; note the very high proportion of HY birds captured!

In comparing the HY ratios for Region V with those for Region II (NABB 7:127), and limiting comparisons to those species for which 100 or more individuals were banded in 1981 in each region, note that four species had almost identical ratios in both regions: Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, and White-throated and Song Sparrows. Ratios for the other five species, however, were very different, with the percentages of HY birds much higher in Region II for the Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat, and the percentage of HY Dark-eyed Juncos much lower up there (eastern Pennsylvania to Vermont). The reader is presented the challenge of explaining these differences. It would help if similar percentages were available from other regions.

Adventure, Potomac, Montgomery Co., MD 390-0771
Mrs. Margaret T. Donald

In 1981, as in previous years, we operated from dawn to dusk, 15 August through 31 October. Total net-hours decreased by 2% from 1980, while the number of birds banded — 3358 banded plus 74 returns (87 species) — decreased by 31% from the all-time high year of 1980 — 4895 plus 64 (93 species). There were, however, 27% more birds netted than in the low year of 1978.

September was relatively cooler than October, without a clear wave of migration. Peak days were widely scattered. The high day of the season came early, on 17 September, with 153 individuals of 27 species. Other days of more than 100 birds banded were 26 September and 19 and 25 October. Warblers and other early migrants decreased after late September, yet later migrating species did not seem to begin their movement until late in October. During the three-week period between 26 September and 19 October, the average daily catch was only 51 birds.

Relative percentages by family showed a slight shift from 1980 to 1981 with a decrease in thrushes (25% to 20%) and an increase in fringillids (18% to 25%). Swainson's Thrush was again the most common species, though the total of 349 individuals represents a 55% decline from 1980's 791. All thrush species declined from the previous year except Veeries, which were up from 51 to 83 individuals. As in 1980, Purple Finches continued high (108).

Red-eyed Vireos declined 57% from 201 in 1980 to 86 in 1981, their lowest season total since 1973. There has not been any significant change in habitat at Adventure to account for this sudden decrease. Blackpoll Warblers, a few of which are normally trapped each year, were completely absent.

Highlights of the season included: the morning on which a Saw-whet Owl and an American Woodcock were netted on the same round; two Broad-winged Hawks (15 and 20 September); and the morning spent acquainting Crown Prince Hitachi of Japan with American migrants and our banding program.

Two birds with unusual plumages were: an albinistic Yellow-rumped Warbler with a white head and neck; and an erythristic White-throated Sparrow with the normal yellow of the lores replaced by intense orange.

John Goodin won first place in the Zoology Division of the Montgomery County, Maryland, Science Fair, and an Honorable Mention from the U.S. Navy for a project (analyzing several years of Adventure banding data) titled "Bird Migration and Temperature."

Participating in station operations were: Subpermittees Richard Bray, Morrill Donald, Ives Hannay, Manuel Lerdau, Minnette McCullough, Dave Mehlman, Charlotte Pryor, Lutie Semmes, Ed Smith, and John Vance; and assistants Bryan Aptekar, Pixie Christy, Dermot Cooper, Molly Cornell, Steve Cosson, Barbara Dowell, Neal Fitzpatrick, John Goodin, Loretta Haggard, Linda Hollenberg, Pamela Howard, Jane Huff, Rosemary Jagus, Ruth Kleib, Stella Koch, Henry Louis, Willem Maane, Lisa McKelvie, Ann Mitchell, Susy Strange, Carol Waldman, Bill Wendell, and Tom Zimmer. Report prepared by Charlotte Pryor.

Sandy Spring, Montgomery Co., MD 390-0770
John S. Weske

The Sandy Spring banding station was in operation intermittently during the 1981 fall migration, and totals dropped

Table 1. Region V Summary

	Parkville MD	Annapolis MD	Sandy Point MD	Aberdeen MD	Damsite MD	Kiptopeke VA	Jekyll Island GA	Gulf Breeze FL
Days of operation	45	47	20	32	45	62	9	44
Number of nets used	3	8	17	5	45	49	18	4
Total net-hours	538	3048	1221	1090	10655	19128	851	700
Largest daily catch	8	74	88	50	157	641	293	28
Birds banded, 1981	124	883	668	589	1546	12595	858	335
Birds banded, 1980	92	—	1095	284	1993	11888	1237	608
Different species, 1981	34	69	61	47	77	97	46	52
Different species, 1980	20	—	66	39	93	97	48	73
Birds/100 n.h., 1981	23	29	55	54	14	66	101	48
Birds/100 n.h., 1980	24	—	44	45	17	59	87	110

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1981

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Patuxent	Stevenson	McDonogh	Cyburn	Towson
Gray Catbird	271*	789*	32*	199*	27*	134*	21*	29*
Swainson's Thrush	349*	113	61*	216*	13	97*	10	97
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	73	81	6	381*	6	7	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	89	87	1	316*	2	39	8	3
Yellow-rump Warbler	287*	151*	9	20	8	140*	0	0
Ovenbird	134*	43	26*	157	16	35	5	7
Com. Yellowthroat	46	108	9	173	23*	49	0	8
American Redstart	67	39	13	106	1	13	0	5
White-thr. Sparrow	242*	320*	62*	197	4	28	98*	38*
Song Sparrow	118	241*	3	48	119*	235*	14*	12

*One of the 5 most common species at this station in 1981

sharply from the record levels of the previous year. The 3,138 new birds banded during 4,117 net-hours on 38 days represented declines from 1980 of 49%, 61%, and 48%, respectively. Returns totaled 65 individuals of 19 species.

The average number of nets was 28, with more than 31 used on only four days. Nets were normally kept open from daybreak until mid or late morning. The capture rate was 0.762 birds per net-hour vs. 0.577 last year. This is a record-high rate for the six-year history of the station, but it probably does not indicate a genuine increase in bird traffic. It seems more a result of our tendency to close down earlier in the day than in past years, especially when the action was slow. This year's capture rate per day was very close to last year's (82.6 vs. 84.4 birds).

The days of operation were spread quite evenly over the period from 14 August to 27 November, providing a fairly balanced sample of the migration. Thus, the four most common species of 1980 remained the same in 1981; see Table 2. Dark-eyed Junco scored fifth, replacing Swainson's Thrush by a small margin.

An immature Gray Catbird that we banded on 12 September wasted little time in heading south and was recovered in north-central Florida on 14 October 1981. Worth noting also is a recovery from an earlier year: an immature male Indigo Bunting banded at Silver Spring on 25 September 1979 was trapped in Cuba the following January.

Species banded for the first time this season were the Golden-winged Warbler and Hairy Woodpecker. Our net lanes are in rather open, thickety, abandoned orchard, but because a substantial stand of mature forest grows within 100 m of some nets, it is surprising not to have had the woodpecker before. By the same token, we are still waiting for our first White-breasted Nuthatch. American Woodcock, a species captured in each prior season, eluded our nets this year.

The banders were Nancy and Stuart MacClintock, who operated the station about three-fourths of the time, and John S. Weske. Assisting throughout the season was Steve Smith. Others who aided were Tony Futcher, Linda Hollenberg, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Lucy MacClintock, Ann Mitchell, and Steve Whitcomb.

Laurel, Prince Georges Co., MD 390-0765
Chandler S. Robbins

Nets were operated at this suburban backyard station before and after work during the week, and all day on as many weekends as possible, from 23 August to 30 November. A trip

to Spain interrupted banding in mid-September and accounted for the drop in both species and individuals banded. This also explains the 66% drop in Gray Catbirds, which was by far my most common species last year. As in past years, no netting was done within 15 m of the bird feeders, and no traps were baited until the nets were removed in December.

White-throated Sparrows (9) and Carolina Chickadees (7) accounted for half of my returns. The oldest returns were a 6-year-old White-throated Sparrow and a 7-year-old Carolina Chickadee. The only species banded in unusually large numbers were American Robin and Black-throated Blue Warbler. A Red-shouldered Hawk and a Golden-winged Warbler raised the species total for this station to 112.

Three birds remained here long enough to increase their weight by more than 30%: an HY female Black-and-white Warbler arrived on 29 August with a weight of 11.2 g and was last captured on 5 September with a weight of 17.1 g. It took an HY Ovenbird 24 days to increase from 20.8 g to the 28.2 g that it weighed when last caught on 13 October. A Swainson's Thrush, on the other hand, went from 36.5 g to 48.1 g between 10 and 14 October. Other heavy-weights were Hairy Woodpecker, 74.4 g; Blue Jay, 103.2 g; Gray Catbird, 46.4 g; Wood Thrush, 64.1 g; and White-eyed Vireo, 15.0 g.

St. Timothy's School
Stevenson, Baltimore Co., MD 392-0764
Barbara Ross

Banding on the St. Timothy's property this autumn was somewhat different from the previous two autumns. Jim Stasz, who had run the station before, could no longer do it. As a result, I changed the banding locations to be more convenient to me and to the groups of school children who came for the Irvine Natural Science Center programs. I also ran a third to half fewer nets. As a result, one-fifth as many birds were banded as in 1980 and one-seventh as many birds as in 1979. The question is: was this a result of the change in location and number of nets, or was the season different this year?

The weedy vegetable garden and some corn field edges were maintained. A new stream bed area closer to the school was used instead of the previous, less accessible stream bed. The old location was a bowl in a hilltop, which created a broad valley and a large, wet area with low vegetation (i.e. Spice-bush and Joe-Pye-Weed), thickets, and swampy plants (i.e., Skunk Cabbage and Turtle Head). This old location was a less disturbed area surrounded by some mature trees such as White Oak, Hickory, and Tulip-tree and with a good stand of

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1981

	Parkville	Annapolis	Sandy Point	Aberdeen	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Jekyll Island	Gulf Breeze
Gray Catbird	11*	70*	80*	162*	40	495*	0	43*
Swainson's Thrush	5	25	13	3	98*	116	0	10
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	8*	3	32*	11	118*	165	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	3	10	7	7	39	110	12	23*
Yellow-rump Warbler	0	63*	81*	0	78*	4859*	0	0
Ovenbird	1	24	26	2	64*	389	7	6
Com. Yellowthroat	8*	4	101*	60*	29	1056*	114*	9
American Redstart	2	6	61*	9	19	2077*	78*	40*
White-thr. Sparrow	4	199*	6	83*	238*	182	0	0
Song Sparrow	16*	37	6	36*	19	67	0	0

*One of the 5 most common species at this station in 1981

Table 3. Percentage of hatching year birds in Maryland

Species	1981					
	sample	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	92	—	—	—	—	88-92
Blue Jay	130	—	52-68	—	—	60-64
Carolina Chickadee	187	—	—	—	74-78	64-75
Northern Mockingbird	176	92	—	—	84-87	90-94
Gray Catbird	1842	80	85	84	89-90	90
American Robin	160	69-87	78-79	79-80	80-81	80-84
Wood Thrush	236	66-76	71-78	76-78	85-89	81-89
Hermit Thrush	132	67-70	81	73	78-79	74
Swainson's Thrush	970	61-63	79-80	74-76	75	74-75
Veery	178	51-56	71-72	54	63	61-62
Red-eyed Vireo	580	67	78-80	79	79	66-67
Magnolia Warbler	580	55-56	70-71	55	74	57-59
Black-thr Blue Warb	405	73	68	—	88	48-50
Yellow-rumped Warbler	820	75-77	71	69-70	62-63	70-72
Ovenbird	501	67-68	79-80	79-80	78-79	68-70
Common Yellowthroat	589	59-60	64-66	63	69	62-66
Canada Warbler	143	—	67-68	—	73	73
American Redstart	318	62-64	71	70-71	68-69	62-65
Northern Cardinal	580	65-67	67-68	75-76	77-78	73-80
Indigo Bunting	162	—	—	77	89-90	78
American Goldfinch	228	45-52	65-70	—	53-54	73-75
Purple Finch	167	—	—	—	51-53	72-78
House Finch	388	—	—	—	86-87	73-75
Rufous-sided Towhee	168	—	66	69-70	82-83	78-80
Dark-eyed Junco	308	66	74-75	73	71	79-81
Field Sparrow	293	68-80	79-80	77-81	77-78	69-84
White-thr. Sparrow	1218	61-64	57-59	62	56-57	70-71
Swamp Sparrow	101	70-75	—	63-65	63-64	60-61
Song Sparrow	856	75-82	81-84	80-81	80-82	82-84

mature Beech trees. The new area had a faster running stream with steeper banks, and was at a lower elevation. This created a narrower valley which was in a more disturbed area and was covered extensively with 12- to 25-foot Cork trees, an introduced species. There were also mature oaks, mainly Chestnut Oak with some White, Scarlet, and Black Oaks, and Hickory and Tulip-tree. The result was a higher canopy and a more closed-in aspect.

The station was run from late August until the end of October, from sun-up until noon, depending on the bird activity. Glenda Weber and Jim Stasz were banders. Bill Hillgartner, Chris Fastie, David Thorndill, Ray Weber, Carl Alessi, Pete Webb, Elliot Kirshbaum, and Eddy Boyd were helpers. Eleven banding demonstrations were given.

Many thanks to the Irvine Natural Science Center for their help and support, and thanks to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property.

McDonogh School

McDonogh, Baltimore Co., MD 392-0764

Bob Jarboe

After the first week of September, banding at McDonogh was confined largely to weekends, except for occasional backyard banding before classes during the week. An increase of 31% in the net-hours over 1980's effort resulted in 21% more birds banded, with three more species banded this year than last. Returns were down slightly (39, 23 of which can be considered true migrants), but included a male American Kestrel, originally netted but retaken (twice) on Bal-chattris — the second time with a recently banded female. Other returns were two Hooded Warblers, one of which had for two years looked every bit a female but now had acquired a complete hood and bib, although the latter was dusky. Among the new species banded this migration were the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Orange-crowned, Yellow and Prairie Warblers, and Vesper and Tree Sparrows.

Assisting in our best operation since the station began in 1978 were subpermittee Robert Lyon, students Mike Beyer, Tom Svolo, Scott Hartlaub, Marty Frame, Gian Alece, Tanya Harper, and assistants Brenda Jarboe and Dick Beyerl. Special thanks to members of the Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group, whose presence at the October workshop required that Vesper Sparrows and an Orange-crowned Warbler show up; also to Dave Harley and Fred Gross for lending us their bird-attractive gardens.

Notable increases for 1981

Species	1981	1980	1979
Gray Catbird	134	95	
American Robin	29	3	
Swainson's Thrush	97	28	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	140	92	43
Indigo Bunting	51	28	46
House Finch	327	102	57
White-crowned Sparrow	36	4	
Song Sparrow	235	156	182

Notable decreases for 1981

Species	1981	1980	1979
Red-eyed Vireo	39	62	21
Common Yellowthroat	46	60	35
Northern Cardinal	17	33	14
Dark-eyed Junco	44	155	11
White-throated Sparrow	28	57	22

Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD 392-0763

Michael J. Baker

Birds were mist-netted and banded during the fall migration at Cylburn Arboretum in north-central Baltimore. The effort was made for the twelfth year in a row, but was accomplished on a more regular basis than before. Banding began on 25 August and ended on 24 November.

Twelve-meter 1½ in. mesh nets were used in three areas of the park. Nets were shifted closer to the bird feeders as the weather became progressively colder. The station was normally run from daybreak until mid-day, or longer when many birds were captured. The best days for banding were when the sky was overcast with low clouds. The birds seemed to stay closer to the ground and, hence, the capture rate increased, sometimes dramatically.

The banders operating at Cylburn were Barbara Ross, Glenda Weber, and Michael J. Baker. Kind assistance was provided by Marion Glass.

Towson, Baltimore Co., MD 392-0763

Mrs. Gladys H. Cole

I did most of my banding early in the morning, usually closing at 10 or 11 a.m. to go to work. I banded a few full days on weekends.

Birds were not feeding on my fruit and berries as they have in past years. There was a great deal of wind, too. I saw very few warblers and thrushes. A Sharp-shinned Hawk arrived in the middle of October and stayed. Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were late coming to my place this fall.

My first thrill was getting 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches in September, and my biggest thrill was banding 11 Cedar Waxwings and 5 Pine Siskins from two nets between 7:30 and 11 a.m. on 4 November. I counted 50 Cedar Waxwings and 200 Pine Siskins that morning around my Siberian Honeysuckle bush. There were still berries on the shrubs.

I gave banding demonstrations to adult groups as I've been doing every year.

Parkville, Baltimore Co., MD 392-0763

J. J. Schreiber, Jr.

I completed my sixth year of fall banding at this backyard station. An increase of 39% in net-hours over 1980 accounted for a 34% increase in captures.

There was an increase of 70% in species banded when compared with 1980, 34 vs. 20, including nine species of warblers, a high for the station. Kinglets were up. New birds for the station were Northern Waterthrush and Black-throated Green Warbler, bringing the station species total to 60. Age processing of all birds resulted in a distribution of 75.8% HY, 14.5% unknown, and 9.7% adult. A Song Sparrow that returned on 19 September 1981 was at least five years old.

Bestgate, Annapolis, MD 385-0763

Patricia Vanorny Melville

This year marked my first serious attempt at fall banding at

this location. Located about half a mile northeast of the city line, the banding site consists of about 60 acres of mature hardwood timber and abandoned fields that have grown over with multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and sumac. During August I generally ran five nets in the field and three in the woods. During the remainder of the season I set the nets mostly along the edge of the woods. I banded almost exclusively on weekends and holidays from 1 August through 29 November.

In the early part of August I was inundated by large numbers of recently fledged Northern Mockingbirds and Gray Catbirds, along with a fair number of Song Sparrows. In September the numbers of birds banded decreased, while the number of species, especially warblers, increased. The banding totals jumped dramatically from 188 in September to 288 in October and, not unexpectedly, were dominated by White-throated Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Of special note was a very young Cedar Waxwing caught on 18 October. White-throated Sparrows also dominated the totals for November, comprising 63% of the 187 birds banded.

Special thanks are due Robert A. Melville for his assistance and John C. Barber for his advice.

Sandy Point State Park, MD 390-0762

Wayne Klockner

This year, the station was in operation for fewer days than in 1980. Also, because of changes in recreational use of an old field formerly supporting nets, four nets were moved from their 1980 locations. This resulted in less old field coverage and more hedgerow and forest coverage, which may explain the significant drop in the total number of Common Yellowthroats banded. August was much slower this year than last year, with the first wave of migrants arriving in the second week of September. New species for the station included Blue-winged Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Early arrivals were a Swainson's Thrush on 17 August (the same arrival date in 1980), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 15 August. A Nashville Warbler on 17 October was somewhat late.

I thank Tolly Peuleche and Charlie Davis for assistance at this station.

Damsite, Chestertown, MD 391-0761

Dorothy A. Mendinhall, James G. Gruber

Damsite operated from 19 August to 8 November. Nets were in the same places as last year. Both the number of net-hours and new birds were down from 1980 as a consequence of operating fewer days this year.

A major movement of birds through Damsite was detected on 9, 11, and 12 October when 136, 157, and 135 new birds were banded, respectively. The interesting birds this year were 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Saw-whet Owl on 8 November, Lincoln's Sparrows on 21 and 24 September, a Connecticut Warbler on 12 September, and a Mourning Warbler and 2 Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrushes on 11 October.

Many thanks go to Floyd and Zachary Parks, Joe McCann, Kriste Steinhauer, Lucy David, Ted McSorley, and Kim Jones, who stopped in and helped when they could.

Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton County, VA 370-0755
F. R. Scott

This banding station, sponsored for the nineteenth consecutive year by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, ran continuously for 62 days during the fall of 1981. As shown in Table I, total new birds banded increased 6% over 1980 with 5% fewer net hours. Banding efficiency increased from 59 to 66 new birds per 100 net-hours.

Kiptopeke continues to be Yellow-rumped Warbler paradise, and this year the species represented 39% of all new birds trapped. The bird is so overwhelmingly common here after early October, in fact, that the number trapped is not so much a function of the number of birds present in the area as it is a reflection of the number of station personnel available and the patience of the banders. Given adequate help and — of course — a suitable reason for doing so, it would not be difficult to double or triple the number of this species trapped.

There were relatively few notable contrasts with previous years. *Empidonax* flycatchers were in relatively low numbers, but this may only indicate that a large part of these migrants passed through prior to the opening of the station on 1 September. The 116 Swainson's Thrushes were 73% above the 67 trapped in 1980, giving some hope that the low populations of the past three years may be improving. Veery numbers were also higher, with 257 trapped this year versus 181 in 1980. Other good counts well above those of recent years included 206 Magnolia Warblers, 389 Ovenbirds, and 178 Northern Waterthrushes. Birds considered unusual that were trapped and banded included a Bewick's Wren on 28 September, a Warbling Vireo on 9 September, a hybrid Brewster's Warbler on 14 September, and a Golden-winged Warbler on 20 September.

Of the 9 returns from previous years, 4 were permanent residents and 5 probable summer residents. These last were a 2-year return on a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3 White-eyed Vireos, and a Common Yellowthroat. The 6 foreign retraps were all direct recoveries of HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded in New Jersey. One of these was a "same day" recovery, the details of which will be published elsewhere.

Ten licensed banders ran the station for varying periods of time. These were John Buckalew, Jim Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy, Charles Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, Wyatt Murphy, F. R. Scott, and Walter Smith. About 70 others assisted the banders during the fall and contributed significantly to the results. Walter Smith again served as resident bander for most of the project and also compiled the initial tabulation of the daily field sheets.



Jekyll Island, GA 310-0812
Doris Cohrs, Terry Moore

In 1981, we operated the Jekyll Island station earlier than in preceding years, from 12 through 19 September. This change made station operation rather tricky because of high temperatures (high 80's and low 90's). Total net-hours were down considerably because we were forced to close nets at mid-morning most days and not reopen them until late afternoon when the temperature had moderated somewhat. Mid-day netting was out of the question.

Our first 5 days could have better been spent somewhere else! During that time we banded only 82 birds. The lowest catch was nine birds on the 16th. On those quiet days we spent a good bit of time on the beach where Terry Moore helped us with shorebird identification. Some of us even found life birds, including Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which are not at all common on the Georgia coast.

New species were Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Prothonotary, Black-throated Green, Kentucky, and Golden-winged Warblers Bobolink; and Summer Tanager, bringing our four-year total to 82. Palm Warblers made up almost 50% of birds banded. There were no returns this year and only nine repeats. Our most productive day was the 19th, when we banded 292 birds.

The station was operated with assistance from the following subpermittees and helpers: Jeannine Angerman, Donna and Patrick Brisse, Don Cohrs, Fairman Cumming, Caroline Krueger, Frank McCamey, Peggy Moore, Dave and Phyll Reynolds, Brian Ritchie, Mary Ann Vernocy, and Anne Wyand.



Gulf Breeze, FL 302-0871
Mrs. Lucy Duncan

The Gulf Breeze banding station operated as in past years. However, we were astounded by the paucity of birds. Cold fronts approached northwest Florida as usual, but fizzled out or went stationary until after the fall banding season. Indeed, numbers of wintering passerines were greatly reduced all along the coast of Alabama and northwest Florida as is evidenced by Christmas Bird Count data for 1981. In the predawn hours after weak frontal passages many birds were heard flying high overhead. On several occasions, by dawn's first light, I observed small birds 100-150 feet up flying west or WSW. Invariably, I prepared for a big banding day only to net a meager handful of birds. In previous years under those circumstances I have netted good numbers of small birds.

One minor fallout of migrants materialized on 3 October — the same morning that two large unleashed dogs destroyed three of the four nets. Usually we band through the first week of November, by which time winter residents have arrived. However, those species normally here in large numbers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows, were notably absent. In fact, not one of either species was banded! The questions therefore arise — did these migrants bypass Gulf Breeze, or did they not move so far south this winter?