

1976

## Atlantic Flyway Review – Region V

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1976) "Atlantic Flyway Review – Region V," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 1 : Iss. 2 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol1/iss2/13>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

---

# ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW — Region V

*Edited by Chandler S. Robbins*

Region V welcomes two mountain stations to its ranks (Pleasant Valley and Eckhart), but regrets the closing of the McKee-Beshers, Piscataway, and Aberdeen stations. The thirteen stations that operated during the autumn of 1974 from the Allegheny Plateau to the Atlantic Coast gave the best sampling to date of the passerine migration through the Middle Atlantic States.

A regional tabular summary similar to those of previous years (*EBBA News* 34:242; 35:210; 36:274; 38:32-33) is presented in Table 1. Although more than half of the 27,210 birds banded in 1974 were captured at Kiptopeke, I wish to stress the importance of the smaller stations in monitoring the less spectacular but more typical migration at the inland and bayside sites. Only by having many stations, sampling different habitats and all of the major physiographic regions, is it possible to get a valid cross-section of the migration and study such topics as consistency of age ratios among stations, year-to-year variations in abundance, and certain influences of weather conditions on the migration.

At first glance the peak days in Table 1 seem to vary too much among stations to show any consistency. On closer inspection, however, you will note that all the stations that were in daily operation had one or more of their three best days on Sept. 22, Oct. 1, and/or Oct. 19.

Species composition showed much similarity between years at each station, but varied greatly from one station to another. For example, at each of the five coastal plain stations the three species most commonly banded in 1973 were among the top five species at the same station in 1974. Most of the other stations showed a shift in one or two species from 1973 to 1974, largely because of a decrease in Hermit Thrushes, Cardinals and White-throated Sparrows. Although no two stations had the same combination of three commonest species in either year, Myrtle Warblers were consistently high at the stations east of Chesapeake Bay, and Catbird and White-throat ranked high at stations along the Fall Line. The continued high ranking of the Cape May Warbler at Pleasant Valley in western Maryland was a surprise to banders in other parts of the Region.

All of the cooperating banders (members of the

*Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group*) made a special effort to age all birds by skulling. We hope to learn how consistent the age ratios for the common species are among the various stations, and to study any differences in age ratios across the Region. As expected, the percentage of immature (HY) birds was consistently very high at the Kiptopeke station, which samples the coastal flight, but was fairly uniform at the other stations (Table 2). In order to make a comparison between 1973 and 1974, a pooled percent of HY birds was obtained by adding together all the immature birds from the non-mountain, non-coastal stations and dividing the sum by the total number banded. When there were a few unaged birds in a sample, a range of percentages was computed showing the extremes obtained by considering all unknowns first as adults, then as immatures. If any station had a large number of unknowns of any species the entire sample from that station was omitted. Although samples of fewer than 10 birds of a species were not used for computing percentages for an individual station, the small samples as well as the large ones contributed to the pooled percent.

The sample size given in Table 2 shows the number of birds used in computing the pooled percent. It includes a few birds banded at substations that are not shown in Table 1, but excludes all samples that contained too many unaged birds. Hence, it gives only a rough indication of the numbers of birds banded each of the two years.

A perusal of Tables 1 and 2 and of the station reports that follow shows: (1) that no one species showed a dramatic increase or decrease at all participating stations; (2) several species, especially Winter Wren, Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue and Myrtle Warblers, Ovenbird, and White-throated Sparrow showed considerably more increases than decreases; others, including Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Swainson's Thrush, American Redstart, Cardinal, and American Goldfinch, showed more decreases than increases; and (3) there was no consistent correlation between the increases in birds banded and the change in age ratios from 1973 to 1974; but most of the species that decreased showed a decline in percentage of HY birds (the notable exception being the Cardinal).

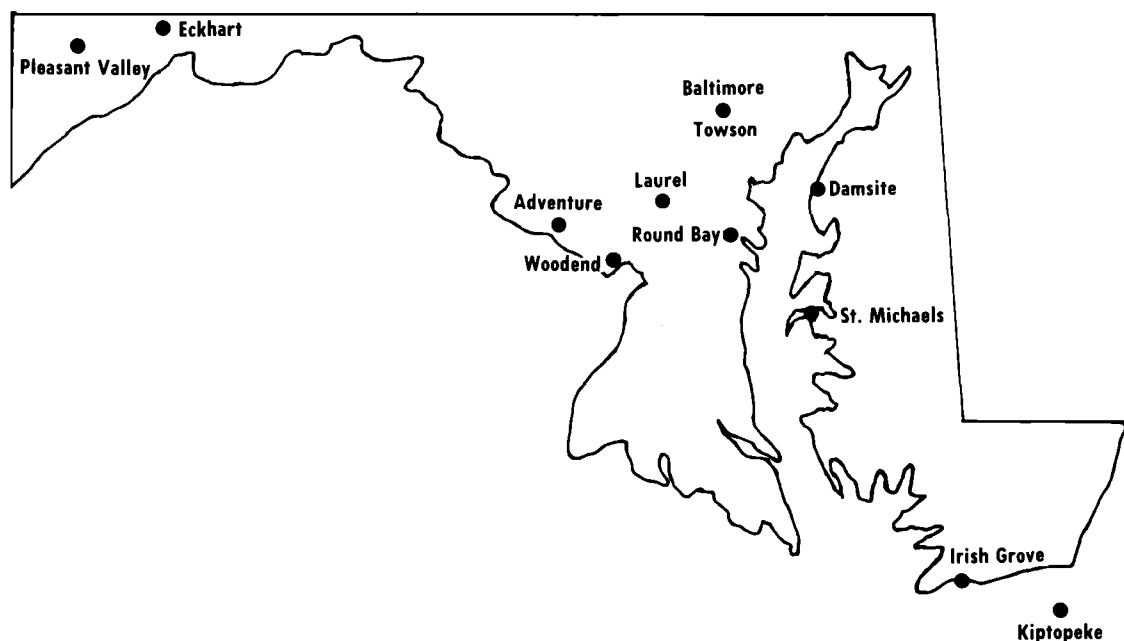


Table 1. Region V Summary, 1974 vs. 1973

Station	Pleasant Valley Md.	Eckhart Md.	Adventure Md.	Woodend Md.	Laurel Md.	Oakdale Balto. Md.	Val. L. Towson Md.	Ellend. Towson Md.	Round Bay Md.	Damsite Md.	St. Michaels Md.	Irish Grove Md.	Kiptopeke Va.
Extreme Dates '74 (1973)	9/9-10/23 (9/10-10/26)	9/15-10/20 —	8/22-11/1 (8/12-11/16)	7/19-11/16 (7/26-10/28)	9/8-11/30 (8/23-11/26)	8/3-10/30 (8/3-10/26)	8/11-10/29 (8/18-11/14)	9/2-10/31 (9/3-10/31)	9/1-11/2 (8/25-11/4)	8/18-10/31 (8/13-10/31)	9/8-11/30 (9/6-11/24)	8/23-10/18 (9/13-11/18)	8/31-11/3 (9/1-10/21)
Peak Days 1974	Sept. 17 Oct. 9 Oct. 3		Oct. 19 Oct. 11 Oct. 18		Sept. 22 Oct. 20 Sept. 15	Aug. 31 Sept. 5 Sept. 7	Oct. 26 Sept. 15 Oct. 1	Sept. 16 Sept. 22 Oct. 3	Oct. 26 Sept. 29 Sept. 28	Oct. 1 Sept. 25 Sept. 22	Oct. 5 Oct. 19 Nov. 23	Oct. 13 Oct. 12 Sept. 19	Oct. 1 Oct. 8 Oct. 19
Total Days '74 (1973)	21 (21)	11 —	70 (75)	67 (54)	66 (68)	35 (50)	39 (46)	35 (38)	14 (29)	47 (56)	44 (38)	10 (13)	60 (51)
Species '74 (1973)	66 (62)	52 —	84 (80)	70 (64)	53 (82)	35 (54)	58 —	60 (54)	62 (63)	83 (93)	52 (43)	35 (37)	102 (98)
New Birds (1973)	675 (510)	532 —	2,862 (1,824)	1,451 (1,124)	466 (448)	133 (253)	601 (479)	529 (546)	733 (1,085)	2,675 (3,384)	721 (380)	232 (343)	15,600 (7,584)
Net-hours (1973)	2,040 (250)	1,599 —	17,817 (16,461)	8,448 (5,470)	1,884 (2,157)	412 (899)	1,825 (1,306)	1,301 (1,216)	(3,672)	8,829 (15,976)	2,500 (450)	566 (870)	19,009 (16,645)
New/100nh (1973)	32 (28)	33 —	16 (11)	17 (21)	25 (21)	32 (28)	33 (37)	41 (46)	(30)	30 (21)	28 (84)	41 (39)	82 (46)
Most Common Species in 1974	Swain T 86	Wht-thr 108	Wht-thr 414	Catbird 237	Wht-thr 125	Magnol 12	Catbird 83	Red-e V 54	Wht-thr 122	Myrtle 332	Wht-thr 137	Myrtle 110	Myrtle 4,286
	Cape May 51	Junco 72	Myrtle 303	Wht-thr 171	Catbird 39	Catbird 11	Mocker 65	Wht-thr 52	Swain T 90	R. King 278	Myrtle 109	Yellthr 28	Redst 2,740
	BkChick 45	Field 49	Song Sp 205	Myrtle 131	Swain T 31	Redst 11	Wht-thr 57	Magnol 35	Wood T 61	Wht-thr 242	Cardinl 73	Song Sp 15	Yellthr 944
	Myrtle 42	R. King 46	Swain T 177	Redst 64	Robin 22	Swain T 10	Redst 30	Oven 31	Waxwing 61	Junco 131	Junco 40	H. Wren 10	R. King 659
	Tenn W 41	Towhee 20	Catbird 123	Robin 57	Magnol 20	R. King 9	Robin 28	R. King 28	Cardinl 48	Bt Blue 119	Catbird 38	Swamp 9	Catbird 618
Most Common Species in 1973	Cape May 83	—	Wht-thr 217	Catbird 356	Catbird 61	Hermit 31	Wht-thr 51	Wht-thr 74	Wood T 152	R. King 369	Cardinl 118	Myrtle 118	Redst 2,164
	Swain T 52	—	Waxwing 132	Robin 134	Wht-thr 43	Redst 26	Catbird 32	Hermit 50	Swain T 149	Myrtle 298	Myrtle 28	Song Sp 37	Yellthr 656
	Wht-thr 27	—	Swain T 100	Cardinl 91	Swain T 33	Wht-thr 23	Cardinl 28	Swain T 41	Wht-thr 145	Junco 292	Catbird 25	Swamp 33	Myrtle 440

**Table 2. Percentage of HY birds, 1973 and 1974**

Species	Year	Sample size	Pooled % <sup>1</sup>	Adventure	Woodend	Laurel	Balto-Towson	Round Bay	Damsite	St. Michaels	Kiptopeke
Carolina Wren	1973	171	87	82	—	(93) <sup>2</sup>	—	—	91	—	—
	1974	99	79-83 <sup>3</sup>	80-84	—	—	(94)	(64-71)	75-80	—	—
Catbird	1973	557	77	84	(78)	81	90-91	84-92	77	—	—
	1974	548	83	88-89	73	96	95	—	78	92-95	87-90
Robin	1973	121	70-73	—	74-94	82	—	61-80	68-73	—	—
	1974	175	86-88	—	85	77-82	90	80-85	(90)	89-92	—
Wood Thrush	1973	341	84-88	—	76-81	(69)	(75-94)	90	93-97	—	—
	1974	122	84	—	—	—	—	89-92	73	(75-92)	79-100
Hermit Thrush	1973	292	73	75	—	(86)	82	74	76	—	—
	1974	258	75-76	74-75	87	(58-63)	—	78-80	66	90	96
Swainson's Thrush	1973	550	79	79	61	79	65	84	86	—	—
	1974	468	73-75	72-77	89	61	45	82-83	70	76-79	97
Veery	1973	195	61	65	—	—	75-85	65	60	—	—
	1974	115	62-63	(56-61)	—	—	—	84	69	—	87
Red-eyed Vireo	1973	267	82	79	86	—	—	84	93	—	—
	1974	277	83-84	79-81	76	—	85-90	96	84	(100)	96
Magnolia Warbler	1973	242	84	70	—	(88)	94	79-84	91	—	—
	1974	267	70	46	91	80	75	—	78	—	92-93
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1973	127	85	77	(33)	—	—	—	90	—	—
	1974	285	61	52	—	—	81	—	74	—	95
Myrtle Warbler	1973	414	85	94	—	—	(91)	—	89	—	—
	1974	773	79-80	68-69	90	—	—	—	86	88-97	94-95
Ovenbird	1973	222	65	85	—	78	91	55-63	81	—	—
	1974	299	81	73	—	65	78-79	79	86	62	96-97
Yellowthroat	1973	141	66-67	65	(73-82)	—	66-69	—	60	—	—
	1974	141	57	56	—	—	58	—	56	—	82-83
Canada Warbler	1973	144	78-80	71	—	—	(62)	(100)	78	—	—
	1974	122	70-73	62-69	—	—	74	—	(69)	—	96
American Redstart	1973	348	79	64	(88-94)	(92)	90	(83)	81	—	—
	1974	250	77-78	60-63	88	—	79	—	83	(83)	95
Cardinal	1973	390	77	(69-76)	63-72	(69)	83	83	67	—	—
	1974	276	80-81	75-77	—	81	85	69	84	88-90	—
American Goldfinch	1973	271	61	70	—	—	—	—	73	—	—
	1974	139	57	42-45	—	—	75	—	100	—	—
Slate-colored Junco	1973	351	81	55-56	—	—	—	—	87	—	—
	1974	271	71	49-50	—	(57)	(85)	—	77	90	95-97
White-throated Sparrow	1973	599	59	57-60	—	57	68	56-59	71	—	—
	1974	1284	73-75	58-61	91	—	82	—	76	85-89	93
Song Sparrow	1973	326	72	76-83	—	(94)	60	—	74-75	—	—
	1974	350	68-73	59-67	80	(81)	83	—	83	(100)	—

<sup>1</sup>Excluding coastal (Kiptopeke) and mountain (Pleasant Valley and Eckhart) station.

<sup>2</sup>Percentages based on 10 to 19 birds are enclosed in parentheses. No percentages were computed when sample size was less than 10.

<sup>3</sup>When one or more birds were of undetermined age, a range of percentages is given.

*Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Migratory Non-Game Section, Laurel, Maryland 20811*

**Pleasant Valley, Bittinger, Garrett Co., 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. There is a large swamp near some of our nets. Banding was conducted on 12 days in September and 9 days in October. The most numerous birds banded by months were: **September:** Swainson's Thrush — 60, Cape May Warbler — 49, Tennessee Warbler — 38, Myrtle Warbler — 34, Gray Catbird — 25, Black-capped Chickadee — 22; **October:** White-throated Sparrow — 38, Swainson's Thrush — 26, Black-capped Chickadee — 23, Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 20, Song Sparrow — 15.

Cooperators were Dorothea Malec (compiler), J. B. Willetts, and Elyse Harmon.

**Eckhart, Allegany Co., Md —  
John B. Willetts**

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 20 I operated 15 nets on five days in September and six days in October. This was my first year of banding at my new home on top of Piney Mountain in Eckhart, just outside of Frostburg. The species caught in highest numbers were White-throated Sparrow — 108 (54-59% HY), Slate-colored Junco — 72 (63-65% HY), Field Sparrow (77-81% HY), Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 46 (too many birds of unknown age to compute age ratio), and Rufous-sided Towhee (80% HY). Fifteen species of warblers were caught. Of special interest was a Saw-whet Owl banded on Oct. 19.

**"Adventure", Potomac, Montgomery Co., Md. —  
Margaret T. Donnal**

Fall of 1974 surprisingly produced for Adventure a 57% increase in total birds banded with a mere 8% increase in net-hours. Contributing to the increase in productivity were better coverage of the second-growth woodland on the ridge, and the presence of three planted food strips between the hedgerows in the meadow.

Increased totals were most evident in the fringillids with White-throated Sparrows up to 414 (from 217 in '73), Song Sparrows with 205 (78 in '73), goldfinch with 95 (up from 20), and junco with 74 (up from 37). Other major increases occurred in the thrushes, with 176 Swainson's Thrushes (up from 100), the vireos, with 111 Red-eyed Vireos (56 in '73), and the warblers, with 60 redstarts (up from

28), and an astonishing 303 Myrtles (as contrasted with 69 the year before).

August and September were relatively warm and uneventful, with activity concentrated around cold fronts in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of October. Relative percentages banded by major family groups reflect this late fall movement, with fringillids 37.7%, warblers 25.6% (thanks to the Myrtles), and thrushes 11.5% of total birds banded.

Of special interest were 5 woodcock, our first Saw-whet Owl, 24 species of warblers including a late Golden-winged Warbler on Sept. 23, a Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush on Oct. 10, a total of 16 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 14 Lincoln's Sparrows, and 11 White-crowned Sparrows (a new species for Adventure). An interesting return was a Myrtle Warbler on Oct. 11, 1974, originally banded Oct. 18, 1973.

Assisting with station operation were: Sub-permittees Morrill B. Donnal, Harriet S. Gilbert, John R. Norvell, J. William Oberman, Edgar H. Smith, and John K. Vance; Assistants Gloria H. Aiken, Lutie G. Semmes, William W. Wendell, John Baines, Chip Bonde, Olin Browne, Pixie Christy, Dave Fallow, Marge Koester, Minette McCullough, Marty McDonald, Helen Meleny, Jannie, John, Anne and Laura Norvell, Bill Semmes, Joann and Billie Wendell, Claudia Wilds, Jim Wilkinson.

**Woodend, Montgomery Co., Md —  
Peter Pyle**

Nets were operated between July 19 and Nov. 16 for the second fall at Woodend. The same 10½ nets as last year were used, plus 6 new nets erected on Aug. 20 in a very productive area in adjacent Rock Creek Park. Table 1 summarizes the 1974 season.

**Table 1. Banding summary by month in 1974**

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Days	8	17	20	16	6	67
Net-hrs. (nh)	417	2970	2661	1880	520	8448
Species	11	30	39	46	26	70
New birds	33	214	440	608	156	1451
Birds/100nh	7.9	7.2	16.5	32.3	30.0	17.2
Repeats	10	49	72	61	29	221
Returns	5	18	11	11	4	49

Table 2 compares 1973 with 1974. Only the 10½ nets that were operated during both years are used in the table. The "total" column includes July and November.

**Table 2. Comparison of 1973 and 1974 captures**

	Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Total	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
Net-hrs. (nh)	2601	2150	2225	1597	1297	1128	6592	5101
Species	32	14	47	33	36	37	71	54
New birds	434	106	499	197	191	201	1245	575
Birds/100nh	16.7	4.9	22.4	12.3	14.7	17.8	18.9	11.3
Repeats	103	32	87	50	36	41	258	157
Returns		8		7	1	8	2	31

The large decrease in August and September was due primarily to the fact that the creek which ran along the net string last year dried up. A large increase in Myrtles and sparrows accounted for the slightly higher totals in October.

Although I am not in a good position to speculate, according to the comparison of '73 and '74 totals, about the variations of numbers from year to year, Table 3 shows some of my changes and might imply something.

**Table 3. Comparison of selected families and species**

	1973	1974	%chg*		1973	1974	%chg*
Flycatchers	21	14	-48.1	Catbird	403	237	-50.1
Thrushes	144	137	-25.7	Robin	141	57	-68.6
Vireos	29	47	+27.3	Myrtle	9	131	+1039.0
Warblers	195	452	+80.4	Cardinal	103	35	-73.5
Fringillids	165	377	+78.4	White-thr.	23	171	+479.0

\*Indicates percent change in birds/100 net-hours.

Species caught in highest numbers in 1974 were: Gray Catbird, 237 (73% HY); White-throat, 171 (91%); Myrtle, 131 (90%); Am. Redstart, 64 (88%); Am. Robin, 57 (85%); Magnolia, 50 (91%); Song Sparrow, 49 (80%); Swainson's Thrush, 46 (89%); Red-eyed Vireo, 44 (76%); and Hermit Thrush, 41 (87%).

A general decrease was noted, both in numbers and percentages of young, of the nesting birds of the area. Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Cardinal and Rufous-sided Towhee all showed a decrease from last year.

The 6-meter aerial net, in 528 hours, caught 62 birds of 27 species including Philadelphia and Solitary Vireos, Black-throated Green and Wilson's Warblers, and an AHY White-throated Sparrow on Aug. 28. The White-throat is believed to have summered in the area.

Five new species were caught this fall: Broad-winged Hawk (Sept. 7, 9), Connecticut Warbler (Sept. 15, 29, Oct. 4), Lincoln's Sparrow (Oct. 12), Solitary Vireo (Oct. 12), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (Oct. 19).

## Laurel, Prince Georges Co., Md. — Chandler S. Robbins

From 4 to 8 nets were operated before and after work from Monday through Friday and all day on weekends. The September catch was greater than in 1973 (24 vs. 19 new birds banded per 100 net-hours), but the October results showed a slight decrease (28 vs. 30). The percentage of HY birds for the five commonest September species combined (Catbird, Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, Am. Redstart and Swainson's Thrush) was 86% as compared with 84% for these same species in 1973.

After correcting for differences in net-hours, the Winter Wren, Magnolia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow were up by more than 50% from 1973, while the Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Cardinal were down by more than 50%.

One immature Swainson's Thrush had an almost completely ossified skull as early as Oct. 7, and the earliest completely ossified Hermit Thrush was caught on Oct. 18. Some Hermit Thrushes with narrow pale tips to the secondary coverts proved to be adults; but in each case where the pale tip extended up the shaft of the feather the bird proved to be an immature (incompletely ossified skull).

The longest period of stay for a transient was by an Ovenbird that gained only 1.6 grams in 13 days. Limited progress was made on the following projects: ageing Winter Wrens by barring on alula and 7th primary, Cardinal wing and tail molt, ageing thrushes by secondary coverts, sexing Magnolia Warblers, identification of Empidonax flycatchers, weight change of repeats, weight as a function of time of day, and classifying eye color with Munsell color chips.

## Baltimore, Md. — Janet Ganter

Four nets were operated in the same net lanes I have used in prior years at 301 Oakdale Road in Baltimore City. All birds were checked for skull ossification. Eighty percent of my August birds were judged to be HY, and 82 percent of my September birds were HY (if I ignore 4 birds of undetermined age). There were too many unknowns in October to calculate the percentage of HY birds.

In 4 days in August I banded 32 birds in 85 net-hours (38 birds/100 net-hours). The September and October totals are compared with my two previous years in the following table.

	1972		1973		1974	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
New birds	70	76	94	145	66	35
Net-hours(nh)	365	195	469	415	224	103
Birds/100nh	19	39	20	35	25	34

A Hooded Warbler and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak were new birds for this station.

**Towson (Valley Lane), Baltimore Co., Md**  
**Gladys Hix Cole**

In August and September the two commonest species at this station were Catbird and Mockingbird, and in October the two commonest were White-throated Sparrow and Mockingbird. The number of new birds banded per 100 net-hours was 22 in August, 30 in September, and 70 in October. On the best day, Oct. 26, I caught 45 birds (including 36 White-throats) in only 29 net-hours.

**Towson (913 Ellendale Drive), Baltimore Co., Md.**  
**— Marion Glass**

From Sept. 2 through Oct. 31 banding was carried on for all or part of 35 days. The most notable change from our banding in 1973 was the decrease of thrushes. From 158 thrushes of 6 species in 1973 we went to 33 thrushes of 5 species in 1974. The increase in vireos was interesting — from 5 Red-eyed Vireos in 1973 we went to 54 in 1974. Also we had first bandings for this location (now in its 3rd year) of 4 other vireos — White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Solitary and Philadelphia. Total vireos, 5 in 1973, 10 in 1974. Both Ovenbirds and Magnolia Warblers more than doubled in 1974 over 1973, and the total number of warblers almost doubled from 108 of 18 species to 201 of 19 species.

Although there has been some change in neighboring woods with the removal of heavy undergrowth in approximately 1 acre and light undergrowth in 2 acres, there has been no change in our 5½ acres nor in the watershed behind us. How much if any of the above changes in numbers and species of birds is due to this is a question.

**Round Bay, Anne Arundel Co., Md. —**  
**Danny Bystrak**

This station on tidal Manderes Creek was operated only 14 days in 1974 as compared with 29 days in 1973. Because of the drastic reduction in coverage, only limited comparisons were made. See Table 1 for the statistical summary and Table 2 for a summary of age ratios.

**Damsite, Kent Co., Md. —**  
**Dorothy A. Mendinhall**

It is difficult to make any comparison with previous years, as the 1974 fall migration banding effort at Damsite was curtailed in several ways. We were short of help, so were not able to keep nets open on a 24-hour basis; we opened for the most part at 0630 or 0700, and furred nets between 1700 and 1800. One major advantage of this schedule was a dramatic reduction in net damage from dogs, deer and raccoons; only one flying squirrel was captured. It follows, however, that no owls, caprimulgids or woodcock were banded.

Delayed shipment of ATX 36 mm nets limited the operation until late in the season, and the large proportion of small mesh nets in use (24mm and 30mm) may have been responsible for the apparent low numbers of some species. Captures for the 3-month period, August through October consisted of warblers, 36.2%; sparrows, 17.7%, kinglets, 13.8%; thrushes, 7.5%; flycatchers, 3.7%; other species, 21.1%. The available nets were located where they could be handled most efficiently by the available personnel, and some very productive net lanes were out of use for much of the season.

The generally mild weather appeared to delay migration in some species, and abundant food may have dispersed the birds to some extent. On the whole the migration seemed unhurried with little pressure on the birds. Flights of thin birds arrived on several dates, but only on Oct. 18 did we see birds that were pushed to exhaustion. On that date, nets had to be closed at 0830 in order to use all personnel to process the early flight speedily. Demonstrations were given to various groups during the season, and a workshop held at Damsite on Aug. 25 by the Middle Atlantic Bird Banding Group was well attended.

The substantial decrease in both species and individuals is largely a result of the greatly reduced total net-hours in 1974.

A Sora banded on Oct. 3 was a first for Damsite, and other highlights for the season were an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and on Sept. 15, a Connecticut and a Mourning Warbler in hand together.

As usual the credit for the success of the Damsite Banding Station goes to the many interested visitors who challenged us to live up to the compliment paid us by a Chief at Patuxent, who said our banding station was the finest in the state, if not in the country. So my thanks to:

*The Resident Staff:* Margery Plymire and Edward Mendinhall; *Visiting Banders:* Jonnie Fisk and Lina Whiteside; *Part-time Assistants:* Gordon & Betty Hackman and Susan Ross; *Apprentice Sub-Permittee:* Jim Gruber; and numerous others who stopped by to observe, photograph and learn to be helpful. We welcome them all back and anyone else who can spare some time in August, September and October 1976. Write: "Damsite" R.D. 2, Chestertown, Maryland 21620, or telephone 301-778-0826

# **St. Michaels, Talbot Co., Md. — Jan Reese**

In 1974 the nets were set up in the same five acres used the previous six years; some of the same net lanes were employed and the berry and seed crop was excellent as usual. The nets were opened on weekends and about half the weekday evenings during September and November. Some good migrant activity and nocturnal birds may have been missed. Nevertheless, most of the species totals should be generally comparable with previous years. The 1974 fall totals far exceeded any previous seasonal total for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Am. Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Field Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Appreciable decreases occurred in Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Am. Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Cardinal, White-crowned Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. The most significant difference was in the Cardinal. In previous years Cardinals have constituted 25 to 30 percent of all birds captured in a given month. This consistency continued in September 1974 (31%), but dropped to only 6 percent of the total in October-November 1974. There were 20 percent fewer Cardinals captured in 1974 (73) than in 1973 (91).

All HY thrushes captured and aged (79), except Am. Robin, had buffy shafts or tips on some of the secondary wing coverts. These markings ranged from broad tips to subtle shaft markings on only one wing.

Of 99 Myrtle Warblers sexed, 69 percent were males. This seems like an unusual ratio. Though warblers were generally up in species and numbers, the Northern Waterthrush was not cap-

tured or seen all fall. I have found Blake's "Warbler tail spots" (see MTAB 9 or EBBA News 29(2):54-55) an interesting approach to warbler identification and his sketches are especially helpful in handling some of the most confusing fall warblers. In 1974, however, I handled a Bay-breasted and a Blue-winged Warbler that had white in the outer tail feather somewhat different than that sketched by Blake. A very late Black-throated Blue Warbler was captured on Nov. 3. This was an HY bird and is an extreme departure date for the State.

One of the primary purposes of this banding effort has been the study of Cardinal remige and rectrice molt. With several hundred samples compiled during the past seven years, we will try to summarize, evaluate and make available the findings in the coming months.

The St. Michaels banding station results are summarized in the table below.

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Totals
Days operated	16	15	13	44
Species captured	30	36	20	52
New birds captured	126	346	249	721
Birds repeating	20	55	53	128
Returns after 90 days	7	4	10	21
Total captured	154	405	312	870
Total net hours	841	936	773	2550
New birds/100 net-hrs.	15	37	32	28

One Cardinal return was originally banded in the fall of 1968. Of the other returns, 18 were local breeding birds, 2 were wintering White-throated Sparrows and all had been originally banded in the fall of 1973.

Joanne Parulis, David Krantz, Lucille Harrison and Alice Jones participated in the operation of this station.

# **Irish Grove Wildlife Sanctuary, Marion Sta., Somerset, Md. — Gladys Hix Cole**

Banding was limited to 3 days in late August, 2 days in September, and 5 days in mid-October. The capture rate in birds per 100 net-hours was 45 in August, 22 in September, and 53 in October. Myrtle Warblers made up 47% of all birds banded. A White-winged Scoter that landed in a soybean field during a heavy fog and was unable to take flight was a new species for the Sanctuary banding list.



**Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton Co., Va. —  
F. R. Scott**

The twelfth year of this banding station's operation ran for 60 days: from Aug. 31 to Oct. 27 continuously, plus Nov. 2 and 3. The numerical results shown in the accompanying table were the best yet, and the station had the highest netting efficiency since 1970. Mostly responsible for this was the series of good cold fronts that passed through the area at regular intervals. The cold weather starting Oct. 1 was particularly effective in turning the migration on, and the station averaged 379 new birds per day for October; many of these were winter residents, which began arriving in numbers much earlier than in 1973. Only once was the station closed all day due to rain, on Sept. 6. There were 1344 repeats, 21 different returns, and one foreign retrap.

With a record total of 15,600 new birds banded, it could be predicted that there would be numerous record seasonal totals of individual species. Some of the more interesting of these, compared with the previous highest numbers, were Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 42 (vs. 29 in 1970); Winter Wren, 62 (vs. 33 in 69); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 342 (vs. 228 in 69); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 659 (vs. 327 in 69); Solitary Vireo, 16 (vs. 10 in 71); Tennessee Warbler, 129 (vs. 29 in 68); Nashville Warbler, 71 (vs. 34 in 72); Myrtle Warbler, 4286 (vs. 3325 in 68); Ovenbird, 558 (vs. 290 in 70); and American Redstart, 2740 (vs. 2164 in 73). Palm Warblers, paradoxically, had their lowest total since 1966 (when the station ran only 37 days), with 113 banded. Unusual birds for this station included Saw-whet Owls on Oct. 20 and 21, a Yellow-throated Vireo on Sept. 16, Warbling Vireos on Sept. 17 and Oct. 20 (very late), and a Golden-winged Warbler on Sept. 12.

All of the 21 returns were considered permanent or summer residents, with one possible winter resident (a Song Sparrow trapped on Oct. 27). Of most interest among the returns were 5 different White-eyed Vireos, one each from 1968, 1970 and 1971, and 2 from 1972 (one banded in the spring). The foreign retrap was a Myrtle Warbler (122-09431) originally banded as a U-U at Fire Island Light, N.Y., on Oct. 6, 1971, by T.H. Davis, Jr., and trapped and released here as an AHY-F on Oct. 12 by W.P. Smith. In addition, a Myrtle Warbler (1330-95966) banded here Oct. 20, 1974, by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy was recovered near Swansboro, N.C., on Dec. 9, 1974, by W.R. Collins.

Some effort was made to examine the primary

feather situations on thrush wings. From those examined, the following totals were obtained:

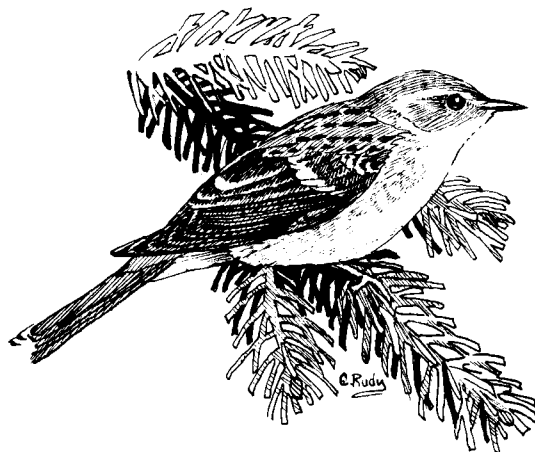
	Primaries Sinuated <sup>1</sup>		
	7,8	6,7,8	5,6,7,8
Veery	2	103	
Swainson's	105		
Gray-cheeked		93	
Hermit			55

<sup>1</sup>Numbered from inside out.

It was particularly difficult to make a decision on some of the sixth primaries on Veeries, and so our data on this species should be used with care.

Age breakdowns obtained were particularly interesting. Typical warblers included 98% HY for Tennessees, 95% for Black-throated Blues, for Myrtles and for American Redstarts. Blackpolls were lower at 91%, as were Northern Waterthrushes at 92%. Thrushes were similarly spread out, with 96% for Hermits and 97% for Swainson's, but with 88% for Gray-cheeks and 87% for Veeries. Age ratios were not consistent day to day and varied quite a bit. Redstarts, for example, had 99-100% HY birds on some good days, whereas on Sept. 8 we recorded 37AHY birds versus 49 HY, or 57% HY.

Station operation was essentially the same as in previous years with up to 43 mist nets in use as weather and personnel permitted. Licensed banders in charge of the station for varying periods of time were Mrs. J.P. Church, Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Foy, C.W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F.R. Scott, and W.P. Smith. These were aided by over 100 assistants, without whose help the results would have been much less impressive. The editing and tabulation of the daily field sheets was again done by W.P. Smith.



---

## Who are we?

*Erma J. Fisk*

Since we are now joined with our WBBA friends on the West Coast, I thought they might like to know something about us. This is a hasty analysis, started in a midnight hour when I became bored with averaging wing lengths and finished between bandings of an influx of Myrtle Warblers, so the statistics may not be as accurate as George Jonkel and Jay Sheppard like on their schedules (but possibly as accurate as they get). Riffing through our names I found:

We are a diverse group. We live or band from Alaska to Louisiana, from New Brunswick to Cuba and Puerto Rico, from Nantucket to Hawaii, Japan, Malay, and Thailand. (I know four who didn't report that they have banded in Belize and Trinidad also.) Out of our 322 (plus or minus) members\* surely H. Elliott McClure must lead with 465 species and 40,500 individuals. Who makes out his schedules — transports his notebooks? Approximately 47 of us are on the Atlantic Coast, 45 in New England, 132 from the eastern inland (I don't know where all those New Jersey towns are; some of them may be coastal), 23 are elsewhere scattered from Tennessee to California. These figures are the least accurate, but my eyes "squidged" — I got tired.

We are well educated: 75 of us list Ph.Ds, 166 other degrees, 241 total out of 322. We have 71 professions (I've lumped some and some didn't say). The largest number are or have been in the teaching profession (75). This doesn't include those who educate at their banding stations, lecture,

write, etc. We have 31 admitted housewives (not necessarily "backyard" banders), 21 students with degrees up to doctoral candidates. Only 14 of us claim to be retired; I doubt these are just sitting around. Our eldest admitted member is 80-81 by now. Our farmers (4) grow bees, sheep, and Christmas trees. We run zoos, computers, grocery stores; work at museums, nature centers, libraries, airlines, and the Navy. We design ships, paint, photograph, and cure people. We list one each among other professions — air conditioning, repairman, anaesthesiologist, architect, auditor, banker, city planner, dentist, flavor chemist, golf course superintendent, horticulturist, immunologist, land developer, metallurgist, oceanographer, pathologist, physicist, postmaster, railroad conductor, security guard, surgeon, and veterinarian. We manage. We consult. We are doing special studies on 89 species: from Puffins, guillemots, Everglade Kites, Sandhill Cranes, Clark's Nutcrackers, bitterns, crows, bulbuls to the more readily available raptors, House Finches, chickadees, and juncos. 35 of us have names that begin with M. Our happiest name is Allegra. 86 of us belong to NEBBA, 73 to IBBA, and 22 to WBBA.

17101 SW 284th St., Homestead, FL 33030

*Received in March 1976 — EBBA*

\**Ed. Note:* Numbers were drawn from the membership directory of *EBBA NEWS*: Vol. 38 (2 & 4) 1975. Of the 628 members, noted in Council Minutes (*EBBA NEWS* 38 (4)) only 352 (by actual count) responded to the survey taken in 1974.

---

## Attention: Pennsylvania banders

*Subject:* Information regarding privileges granted by a Pennsylvania Bird Banding Permit.

*To:* All holders of a Pennsylvania Bird Banding Permit.

*From:* Glenn L. Bowers, Executive Director

This bird banding permit authorizes you under the Pennsylvania Game Law, to capture, band with a leg band, and release immediately at the same location, all migratory birds except endangered species and others which are restricted on the permit itself.

You are permitted to record weights and

measurements only if this can be done at the capture sites.

You may salvage dead birds if you put them in a place of safekeeping, and report them by phone or in writing to your District Game Protector within 36 hours after they come into your possession.

Additional special use permits are required if marking is to be done in any other way, including dye, streamers, collars, etc. Additional permits are required if blood samples are to be taken, telemetry equipment attached, or holding of live birds is necessary for any purpose.

*Pennsylvania Game Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Harrisburg, PA 17120 (717-787-3663).*

## International shorebird surveys 1976 Canadian Wildlife Service Manomet Bird Observatory

In 1974, shorebird survey schemes were initiated in eastern Canada by the Canadian Wildlife Service and in areas of the eastern U.S. by the Manomet Bird Observatory. A principal objective of these schemes has been to identify and document areas of major importance to shorebirds in eastern North America. With our estuaries continuing to come under pressure from an increasing number of development proposals from a wide variety of sources, it is most important that our knowledge of shorebirds' use of these areas is greatly improved to assist in predicting the environmental impact of proposed schemes and in designing appropriate conservation measures.

It is clear that some estuaries are of critical importance in the yearly cycles of many species of shorebirds, which use them as important feeding and resting areas where they put on large amounts of fat prior to the long trans-oceanic migration to wintering grounds in South America. Owing to the large geographical area involved, one of the only ways of obtaining regular, coordinated information concerning shorebirds has been to request the assistance of volunteer observers, who have adopted a local area which they have surveyed for shorebirds once every two weeks during the southward autumn migration. The results of these surveys to date have been most useful and participants have succeeded in making a valuable contribution towards the conservation of a very important segment of bird life in North America.

In 1975 the survey scheme was extended to cover as much of the eastern coast of North America as possible as well as the Caribbean Islands and northern South America. In 1976 we wish to extend the scheme as much as possible in these areas, and to include coverage in the winter and spring periods where appropriate. We hope that you may be willing and able to assist in this project. It would involve adopting a good shorebird location or 'study area' in which you could count or accurately estimate the numbers of shorebirds once every 10-14 days during autumn (*early July until mid October*) or spring migration periods, or at monthly intervals during the winter (*November to March*). Regular coverage of a given area is highly desirable, although occasional counts from other areas, especially during peak migration periods, would be very welcome and worthwhile, e.g. counts from shorebird areas that you might make

during the course of a vacation. Areas could be covered on an individual basis or as a group project.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you are able to assist us, or know of any other competent birders who might, we should be grateful if you could contact one of the following:

*For areas in Canada:* Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3.

*For areas in U.S.A., Caribbean Islands and South America:* Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345.



### Editorial credit

Format for NABB issues 1 and 2 has been prepared by Fred Schaeffer, the retiring editor. All credits for the EBBA portion should be assigned to him.



### Who is . . . ?

#### A Note from the Editor

Do you know who I am, who Ted Beckett is, or any of the other officers and Councillors? I am including the first of a series here which will be titled: *Who Is*. It is intended to acquaint everyone with the Officers. Since I have no information on any of the others, here's my story.

I am married with three grown children. Tom, my husband, is an orthopedic surgical assistant. His avocation, other than his ridge raptor banding station, is the reconstructive surgical repair surgery on birds, mainly the raptors. We share our home with injured birds of all kinds. I originally came from Folcroft, Pennsylvania, a small town southwest of Philadelphia. Although a bio-chemist by training, I became interested in wildlife through children and turned to intense study of birds 10 years ago. Besides being the co-compiler of the Christmas Bird Count locally, I have been involved as a nature counsellor with both Boy and Girl Scouts. My main interest: House Finch population variations and feather color study. **M. Mutchler**

---

## In Memoriam:

*Jane P. Church*

Arthur Fast, who died at the age of eighty eight in Arlington, Virginia, on 21 February 1976, was born in Hillsboro, Kansas on 6 July 1887. His father and grandparents were members of a German Mennonite community which had emigrated, first to Russia in the mid-nineteenth century, then to America, both times in search of religious and political freedom. A widower, he is survived by one son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

His degrees included a law degree at the University of Kansas and, later, a Master of Laws at George Washington University. He joined the U.S. Internal Revenue Service when it was formed and worked for it until his retirement in 1953. At that time he was Assistant Head, Appeals Division, with a reputation for having been highly successful in getting settlements which obviated the necessity of going to court and which were fair to both parties. He had served on the Board of Deacons of the Rock Spring Congregational Church, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and The Audubon Naturalist Society of the Mid-Atlantic States, and on the EBBA Council from 1952 to 1963.

In 1946 Arthur, then in his late fifties, obtained his banding permit and joined EBBA. When Evening Grosbeaks reached Virginia en masse, Arthur was determined to band as many as possible. Through the years he kept track of all the grosbeak bandings and recoveries in Virginia and published several articles in *The Raven* on this subject. He was exceptionally agreeable about giving talks to local groups and appeared on various Washington television stations to demonstrate banding techniques. He eagerly welcomed visitors at his Arlington home station and was well-known for his annual luncheon for the local chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Many times, fifty or sixty members would be present, all competing for space at the back windows to see the astonishingly large numbers and variety of birds attracted to his suburban yard's traps and feeders. He sparked the interest of banders-to-be, and we are, one and all, grateful to him for his many kindnesses and thoughtful, careful instruction.

Arthur served the various ornithological organizations well. He gave freely of his time and know-

## Arthur H. Fast



Arthur H. Fast (photo by Harry Goodwin, Washington, D.C.)  
©The Washington Post

Permission to use this photograph gratefully acknowledged.

ledge, particularly in those tedious and time-consuming matters which required tax advice. He was truly impartial as I have good cause to know. When I was chairman of our nominating committee in the early 1960's, his term on the council was expiring. It had been, until then, the practice to ask those members of Council whose terms were expiring to serve again, thus giving EBBA the same leadership year after year. Our committee felt we should introduce new blood, even if it meant a few hurt feelings for those men and women who had so well served previously. I sounded him out, because we were friends, and awaited his answer with no little trepidation. He stated instantly that all organizations need new ideas and councillors and said that his only regret at not being asked to stand for election again would be that he would miss the pleasure which serving EBBA had provided.

A just and fitting epitaph was written by William Pepper who said in a letter sent after Arthur's death: "He really did more than his share of the work of EBBA for many years."

*Janelia Farm, Ashburn, VA 22011*