

1979

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

North American Bird Bander

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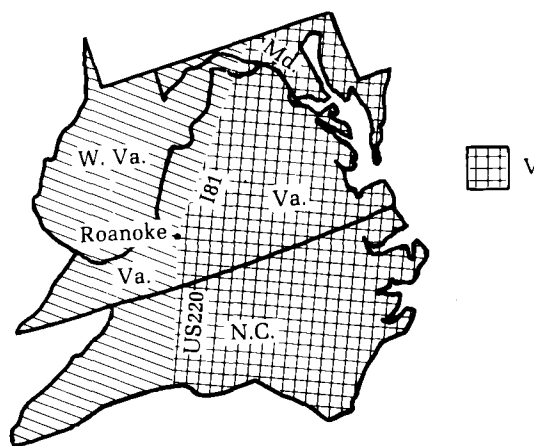
North American Bird Bander (1979) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.

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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

**Chandler S. Robbins, Coordinator**  
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Two of last year's Maryland stations (Colesville and Ellendale) did not report in 1977 because the banders assisted with larger stations and did less banding at home. On the other hand, activity at four other stations that had not been included in the 1976 report increased substantially in 1977. These "new" stations are Cylburn Park in Baltimore City, tum Suden Sanctuary south of Bel Air in Harford County, MD, Sandy Point State Park at the west end of the Chesapeake Bay bridge, and Gulf Breeze in far western Florida. Two additional Baltimore County stations were run for the first time in 1977: Fort Howard Park at the entrance to Baltimore Harbor, and the "Cloisters," which is five miles north of Cylburn Park and for reporting purposes has been combined with Cylburn. Reports from the small stations are especially welcome because for projects such as the study of age ratios it takes many small inland stations to provide large enough samples to be compared with data from the coastal concentration spots.

Station activities and netting success are summarized in Table 1. Both banding effort and birds banded were above average, but the number of birds per 100 net-hours for the Region as a whole declined from 38.5 in 1976 to 35.4 in 1977. It was the eastern stations that contributed most heavily to the decrease.

Ten of the most commonly banded species in Region V are shown in Table 2. With the following exceptions, the top 4 or 5 species are shown for each of these stations; at Towson the American Robin and Ovenbird were in 3rd and 4th place, at Damsite the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper were in 3rd and 4th place, and at Gulf Breeze the Tennessee Warbler was tied for 3rd place. For the Region as a whole, the five species banded in greatest numbers in 1977 were Myrtle Warbler, American Redstart, Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat. This year the Myrtle Warbler was among the top five species at all but one of the stations in Table 2. Compare this with 1976 (NABB 3:66-67), when 4 stations out of 9 had no more than one individual of this species. It is interesting that only half

the species are the same ones that appeared in the 1976 table. Of the species dropped from Table 2, the one with the greatest decline was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet; stations that reported both years banded a total of 1,125 in 1976 but only 441 in 1977.

This is the fifth consecutive year that banders in Region V have collaborated in a study of age ratios of the more common species. The percentages of hatching year birds banded at each station are shown in Table 3. Records from all the banding stations in the Piedmont area of Baltimore City and Baltimore and Harford Counties are combined under the heading "Towson Area." These stations are Valley Lane, Cloisters/Cylburn, tum Suden, and Joe Shreiber's home station at Parkville. The "Pooled percent" columns and the "1977 sample" column summarize the combined bandings of all the non-coastal stations (Adventure through Damsite) so the inland percentages can be compared more readily with those from Kiptopeke and from the coastal stations in North Carolina and Florida. Note that the percentages of HY birds at Kiptopeke are once again higher than the inland ones for nearly all species. Exceptions are the Cardinal, which is non-migratory and would not be expected to drift toward the coast, and the Song Sparrow. There were too many unaged Song Sparrows in the sample to give a good clean reading for this species.

One would expect that the age ratios compiled for Region II (NABB 3:172-175) which is an inland region directly to the northeast of us, would be similar to those given in the 1977 Pooled percent column for Region V. Chi-square tests show that for 9 of the 12 species that are included in both the Region II table and the Region V table, the regional differences are statistically significant (at the probability levels indicated in parentheses). Except for the junco, the percentages of HY birds are higher in Region II than in Region V: Gray Catbird ( $p < .005$ ), Swainson's Thrush ( $p < .05$ ), Red-eyed Vireo ( $p < .001$ ), Magnolia Warbler ( $p < .001$ ), Black-throated Blue Warbler ( $p < .001$ ), Common Yellowthroat ( $p < .001$ ), American Redstart ( $p < .001$ ), Slate-colored Junco

( $p < .005$ ), and White-throated Sparrow ( $p < .001$ ). For the other three warblers, Tennessee, Myrtle, and Ovenbird, the percentages of HY birds were higher in Region II, but not significantly so (partly because the age of too many birds was not determined). This raises the interesting question of why there should be such a big difference in age ratios between the two regions. Were the banders in Region V having trouble aging young birds in a more advanced stage of skull pneumatization? I think not, partly because for most of these species there are clues of plumage and eye color differences that would have been detected. Could it be that differential mortality between young and adult birds would be that great in the relatively short distance between New York and Maryland? Or is the entire Piedmont and inland Coastal Plain deficient in hatching year migrants to that degree because of the well-known offshore drift (and coastal pile-up) of birds making their first migratory flight? If so, the losses at sea may far exceed any previous estimates. Clearly, this subject needs further research.

Banders in each of the five regions commented on the scarcity of both kinglet species; and in at least three of the regions wrens and Song Sparrows were added to the list of species that were abruptly scarcer in 1977. Decreases in these same species were detected by the Breeding Bird Survey. We should expect that when populations of a species are suddenly and drastically reduced, as by the abnormally severe winter of 1976-77,

competition on the breeding ground would be reduced, more young would be raised, perhaps an extra brood would be attempted, and the percentage of HY birds in the population would rise. Furthermore, there should be a correlation between the increased rate of production and the time it takes for the population to recover.

Unfortunately, most migrating kinglets defy the best attempts to determine their age; and none of the wrens are banded in large enough numbers to provide a good sample for comparison among years. Perhaps the Song Sparrow would be a good species to study; if so, we should give high priority to aging a higher proportion of the ones we band than has been done in the past (see Table 3). Song Sparrows that are molting head feathers are difficult to skull, but many of the other birds that have been considered unskullable could be aged by carefully examining the back of the skull. Pneumatization in sparrows lags behind that of many other birds. Efforts to compare age ratios of wrens in Region V failed because, except for House Wrens at Kiptopeke, the total number of birds aged was less than 30 for each species, and even these small samples contained too many birds of unknown age. From a fine sample of 125 House Wrens at Kiptopeke, 120 (96%) were HY birds. This is a high percentage even for that coastal station.

I thank Editor Mutchler for making available advance copies of the reports from the other regions.

**Table 1. Region V banding summary**

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Towson	Cloisters/Cylburn	tum Sudan	Fort Howard	Sandy Point	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach	Gulf Breeze
Days of operation	78	20	57		33	22	26	28	34	77	41	59
Maximum nets used	24½	33	12	10	10	10	16	32	44	46	11	4
Total net-hours	20858	2291	2757	1105	448	828	1908	6790	4215	22691	1909	1610
Largest daily catch	202	220	61	33	20	30	133	187	142	1109	38	51
Birds banded 1977	3994	1637	632	492	192	205	961	1731	908	12312	302	515
Birds banded 1976	3869	842	219	560	—	—	0	—	1827	12132	548	
Total species 1977	91	58	53	55		38	57	69	67	95	46	70
Total species 1976	91	49	43	61	—	—	—	—	80	99	41	
Birds/100 n.h. 1977	19	72	23	45	43	25	50	25	22	54	16	46
Birds/100 n.h. 1976	18	63	26	54	—	—	—	—	56	67	33	

**Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1977**

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Towson	Fort Howard	Sandy Point	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach	Gulf Breeze
Gray Catbird	206*	120*	79*	79*	43*	172*	37	1154*	21*	51*
Swainson's Thrush	301*	13	67*	34*	18	24	44*	217	3	15
Red-eyed Vireo	202*	3	12	3		4	13	90	5	23
Black-th. Blue Warbler	40	0	5	4		10	97*	272	7	
Myrtle Warbler	857*	277*	62*	0	146*	531*	89*	4078*	122*	46*
Common Yellowthroat	29	7	9	9	23	43*	18	664*	13*	36*
American Redstart	82	0	19	23*	16	15	22	1863*	9	26
American Goldfinch	97	5	7	1	252*	25	5	0	0	
White-throated Sparrow	345*	464*	82*	80*	95*	76*	29	168	43*	36*
Song Sparrow	152	115*	5	16	16	143*	6	39	1	

\*One of the 5 commonest species at this station in 1977

**Table 3. Percentage of hatching year birds in 1977**

Species	1977 Sample	Pooled percent		Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Towson Area	Fort Howard	Sandy Point	Damsite	Kiptopeke	NC & FL
Mockingbird	112	93-94	92	95	91		90		(93)		100	
Gray Catbird	749	83-84	80	88	68	90	91	70	74	71	90	(90)
American Robin	262	73-88	69-87	50-91	75-77	80	93					
Wood Thrush	139	80-89	66-76	64-82		(67)		(64-73)	(64)	70	95-98	
Hermit Thrush	161	83-90	67-70	71-77	83			54-58	63-65	55	87-88	
Swainson's Thrush	490	78-80	61-63	62-65	(62-69)	67	80	(50-61)	46-50	40	89-90	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	95	70-71	60-61	56		(50-60)					93	
Veery	70		51-56	48-52								55-64
Cedar Waxwing	124		83-88	83-86								
Red-eyed Vireo	224	76-77	67	65		(92)					92	
Tennessee Warbler	94	85-89	83-85	78-81					(93)	(87)	93	86
Magnolia Warbler	191	71	55-56	55-58			(100)	46	37	57-59	78-79	(25)
Blk-thr Blue Warb	156	72-74	73	73					(40)	74	87	
Myrtle Warbler	1979	64-67	75-77	77-80	72	61	(75-81)	69	77	78	93	90
Ovenbird	152	82-83	67-68	68-70		(73)		(60)		64	93-94	
Common Yellowthroat	131		59-60	59				61-70	63	(33)	76	65-68
American Redstart	188	74	62-64	57-62		(68)	88	(44-50)	(33)	64	88	
Cardinal	274	77-79	65-67	68	49	80	76-84	(18)		(50)	57-61	
American Goldfinch	136		45-52	42-50					64-68			
Slate-colored Junco	240	76-77	66	49	71	(70)	78		81	(87)	90	
Chipping Sparrow	77	82-89	64-79	52-78						83		
Field Sparrow	171		68-80	50-89	76-78				68-71		91-94	
White-thr Sparrow	1243	68-71	61-64	52-56	63	59	73-77	70-86	55-59	52	81	60
Swamp Sparrow	83		70-75	63-68	68				56-63		81-83	
Song Sparrow	433	77-84	75-82	67-75	83		71-76		78-89		79-82	

Note: No percentages are given when sample is less than 10.

Percentages based on 10 to 19 birds are enclosed in parentheses.

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

When percentage is based on 10 to 19 birds and one or more are of undetermined age, a range of percentages is given in parentheses.

#### **tum Suden Sanctuary, Benson, Harford County, MD 393-0762**

**Joseph Schreiber**

This is the first report from the Maryland Ornithological Society's tum Suden Sanctuary located in the Piedmont 2 miles east of Benson in Harford County. It is midway between the Upper Loch Raven Watershed and the Fall Line, which are separated by about 18 miles at this latitude. The sanctuary is a 1.7 acre homesite with mature deciduous woodlands bordering the east and south sides of the property.

Banding success at the station has been limited in that we operate only one or two days a week from early morning to early afternoon, flights are generally modest, and many migrants pass through the sanctuary high in the trees. All birds were captured in four to ten mist nets whose locations are still undergoing some changes in an effort to increase bandings. Commonest species were White-throated Sparrow (51), Cardinal (16), and Myrtle Warbler (16); the best day was 9 November with 30 new bandings.

Two White-throated Sparrows banded in 1976 returned this fall (13% based on 15 bandings).

I wish to thank sub-permittees Barbara Bilsborough and Chuck Graham for their assistance, Nancy Roberts for helping with the records, Gladys Cole for her support, and my wife Jerry for her understanding.

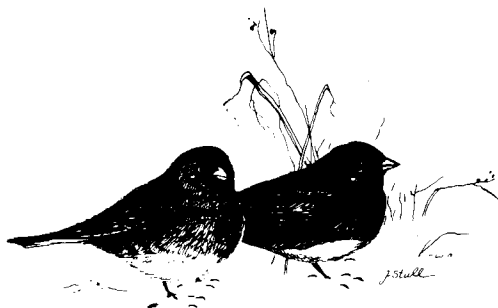
#### **The "Cloisters" and Cylburn Park, Baltimore 392-0763/4**

**Janet Ganter**

The "Cloisters" (392-0764) is an estate of 604 acres, with a large old mansion, opened on 6 November 1977 as a children's museum. Located at 10440 Falls Road, the museum is 1/4 mile north of the Baltimore Beltway, and was built by Sumner and Dudrea Parker in the 1920-30's. Remains of American chestnut trees dot the hillsides, but chestnut oak, black gum, and tulip trees now dominate. A nature program sponsored by the Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation operates out of a small room in the basement of the building. Four nature trails have been established. A banding station was set up in September of 1977. Since the entire area is wooded, netting on windy days means nets full of leaves! Two regular netting locations were established. Feeding stations were started (and ignored) until the end of October. Eight to 10 nets were used, as well as one 4-cell Potter trap. The nets were strung along the back entrance to the Windmill House and at the edge of the woods near Trail 1. Nets were operated 25 days (Sept., Oct., Nov.), and 116 birds of 29 species were banded in 328 net-hours and 84 trap-hours.

Cylburn Park (392-0763) is located in Baltimore City and consists of 170± acres west of the Jones Falls Valley stream. Approximately half of the area is wooded, half is open lawn. Recently some of the lawn has been allowed

to revert to overgrown field. Banding has been carried on with limited coverage, since 1960, when it was initiated by Gladys Cole, in the new park. During the fall of 1977 (Sept.-Nov.) up to 6 nets were strung either in the woods or along the edge of the lawn for several hours on 8 different dates. We banded 76 birds of 20 species in 120 net-hours. Banding demonstrations are scheduled several times during fall and spring for groups of Scouts and the general public. Barbara Ross did the major part of the work. Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, and White-throated Sparrow were the most commonly banded species. A female Cardinal banded on 17 November 1973 was recaptured by Mrs. Ross on 30 September 1977.



**Valley Lane, Towson, MD 392-0763**  
**Galdys H. Cole**

Banding at this suburban station was conducted once or twice a week on an all-day basis, and briefly on other days as time and weather permitted. The number of new birds banded per 100 net-hours increased from a low of 29 in August to 40 in September, 77 in October, and 78 in November.

Although I banded 18 species of warblers, the American Redstart was the only one that was at all common (23 banded). The next commonest were Magnolia (11), Common Yellowthroat (9), and Cape May and Ovenbird (8 each). The scarcest warblers, with one each, were Blue-winged, Tennessee, Yellow, Blackpoll, Connecticut, and Wilson's.

This is primarily an educational station where banders are trained and the public can learn how and why birds are banded. I thank Glenda Weber and Bill Evett for helping me this year.

**Fort Howard Park, North Point**  
**Baltimore County, MD 391-0762**  
**Barbara M. Ross**

This is a new station. Inordinate numbers of warblers were found here on 7 May 1977 during the M.O.S. State-wide Bird Count. When the location was more thoroughly examined on a map it was seen that North Point was on one of the narrow parts of the Chesapeake Bay entrance to Baltimore Harbor, and perhaps a natural place for migrating birds to cross the water. The chief instigator of the banding station was James L. Stasz, now my sub-permittee. As a result of the spring show, we decided to see how it would fare in the fall.

Fort Howard Park is on the coastal plain on the west shore of Chesapeake Bay. The vegetation is mostly second-growth hardwoods (sweet gum, locust, and cherry) with a very thick undergrowth of honeysuckle, poison ivy, and multiflora rose over barbed wire. Fort Howard was a military installation and the barbed wire is a remnant of that time. There is an assortment of bunkers and batteries of concrete. No natural fresh water is available.

On 10 September 1977 we cut our first net lanes and put up 6 nets. In time we had 12 to 16 nets in operation. We did much moving of nets trying to find the best locations. We wondered if the vegetation was too thick and too tall to get the birds down where we wanted them. Rufous-sided Towhees sounded and appeared more numerous than the number banded. However, during September and early October two nets in one of the densest spots caught most of the thrushes. Our netting success was very dependent on wind direction. South, east, and southwest winds brought nothing. Northeast winds were not much better. As expected, northwest and west winds brought good numbers of birds. We worked here from dawn till mid-afternoon on 26 days from 10 September till 27 November.

The first White-throated Sparrow was caught on 21 September. The 28th was a phenomenal day. A full moon set at sunrise, the wind was west to northwest. Hundreds of birds were dropping in off the Bay at dawn and the woods were teeming with them. We banded 95 birds that day (including a Connecticut Warbler) and had to release 4 or 5 dozen birds unbanded as we didn't have enough holding facilities or manpower. There were north and west winds on 3, 5, 10, and 12 October, and all were good days for numbers of birds. A cold front came through the night of 19 October, and 20 October was a great day with 62 Myrtle Warblers out of 120 birds. Again there were northwest winds on 12, 13, and 14 November, when 186 American Goldfinches and 88 Pine Siskins were banded. The best bird was a foreign recapture, a goldfinch caught on 12 November 1977 that had been banded at Braddocks Hill, New Jersey in December 1976.

The three big days in November came after rain and all the puddles were greatly used. The goldfinches and Pine Siskins would feed on the sweet gum balls and then come down to drink and bathe. We kept nets circling the puddles and caught most of the birds at the puddles.

From 10 September to 18 November, 133 species of birds were seen or heard. During late September and early October there were good hawk flights: great numbers of Sharpies, some Cooper's Hawks, Osprey, some Red-tails. There appeared to be a resident Red-shouldered Hawk. Notable flybys seen by Jim Stasz were a Golden Eagle, Gannets, and a Parasitic Jaeger.

I am indebted to Jim Stasz for his perseverance in getting this station going and his daily interest and enthusiasm. Other banders were Marion Glass, David Holmes, Janet Ganter, and Bill Evett. Assistants were Eddie Boyd, Peter Knight, Mike and Jim Resch, Ric Blom, Steve Hardiman, Glenda Weber, Chuck Graham, Larry Graves, Judy Massare, Sherman Sutter, Bob Ringler, and Alan Ross.

**Damsite, Chestertown, Kent County, MD 391-0761**  
**Dorothy A. Mendinhall**

In 1977 Damsite joined the group of stations run primarily by one or two banders. Chief reasons for this were my old age and infirmities. Another wedding in the family and bitter frustration fighting a proposed Nuclear Power Plant Site in my area left little time or desire to operate the station. Had it not been for Margery Plymire's personal sacrifices (now that she no longer lives nearby) the station would not have been manned in October.

Black-throated Blue Warblers topped the list of commonest birds followed by Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers, Swainson's Thrushes, and Magnolia Warblers. Low counts of Tennessee Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Carolina Wren were noted.

Solitary Vireos, a Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanagers, Black-billed Cuckoo, a lone chat, and one Blackburnian Warbler in August were "goodies" for us. The habitat has not changed in type but trees are much taller, vegetation greatly increased, lespedeza fields replaced by soybean crops.

Many of the regular assistants rallied round to keep Damsite alive. My deepest appreciation is extended to all.

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

Birds mist-netted and banded in the fall of 1977 totaled 1,637 new ones and 28 returns. The area, an abandoned orchard 1¼ miles south-southwest of the village center, was the site of banding operations in the fall of 1976 and in each spring since 1974.

Three sets of net-lanes were used, sometimes alternately. Lane A, the one used in previous seasons, is flanked by apple trees, multiflora rose thickets, honeysuckle and poison ivy tangles, and young second-growth trees like choke cherry. The habitat of lane B is similar, but about half of the lane passes through vegetation more rich and dense than along A, and the other half runs parallel to and 5 to 10 m from the edge of a field that had standing corn. The vegetation adjacent to lane C is lower and consists almost entirely of multiflora rose thickets, with no fruit trees and only a few invading saplings.

In comparison with lane A, lane B probably yielded a higher catch of birds, but species composition was similar. Lane C provided fewer species but more individuals. It caught comparatively large numbers of Mockingbirds, Field Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, and Song Sparrows.

Nets, consisting entirely of N.E.B.B.A. ATX and KTX types (12 m long, 35 mm mesh), were operated for 2,291 net-hours. Usual hours of operation were from dawn till late morning. Reflecting the results in the new "birdier" lanes, catch rates increased vs. 1976 and totaled 72.7 birds per 100 net-hours including returns, or 71.5 excluding them.

Banders John S. Weske and Nancy E. MacClintock were assisted by Stuart MacClintock and John Armstrong.

**Adventure, Potomac, Montgomery County, MD 390-0771**

**Margaret T. Donnal**

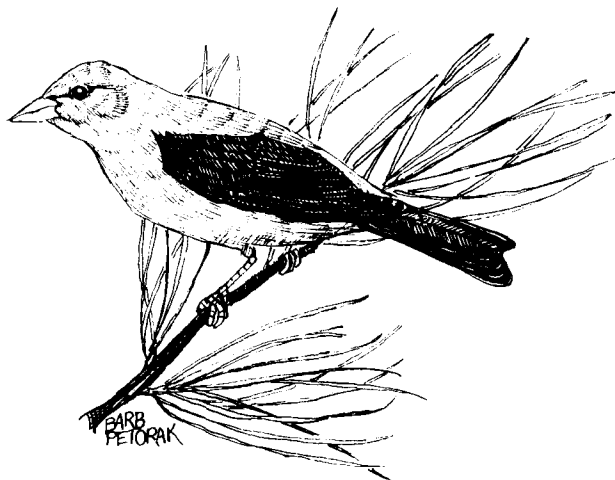
The banding station at Adventure in 1977 was operated from dawn to dusk, 14 August through 31 October. Total net-hours and number of birds banded did not significantly change from 1976.

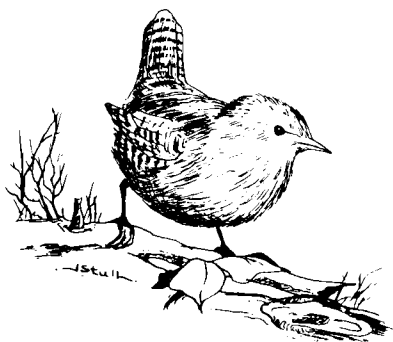
Percentages of birds banded by major family groups were not notably different, with the exception of an increase in the percent of fringillids from 18.8% in 1976 to 25.3% in 1977. Cardinals increased from 67 to 117; Purple Finches doubled from 24 to 48; goldfinches were up from 57 to 105; and juncos jumped from 25 to 81. The fringillid increase was balanced by decreases in Cedar Waxwings (down from 270 to 121), Ruby-crowned Kinglets (down from 121 to 53), and Carolina Wrens (down from 60 to 20). Decreases in the latter two species and the complete absence of Winter Wrens probably reflected the severe winter of 1976/1977.

Myrtle Warblers increased again, to an all-time high of 857. Lincoln's Sparrow reached a high of 19. New birds for the station were House Finch and Lawrence's Warbler. Extreme dates included a Gray-cheeked Thrush on 19 August, and a Scarlet Tanager on 15 October. A Slate-colored Junco captured on 29 October was originally banded on 14 April 1976 near Mountain Lakes, New Jersey.

Educational activities at the station included 214 visitors and demonstrations to 12 groups (204 people) for a total of 418 individuals.

Participating in station operation were: Sub-permittees Gloria H. Aiken, Morrill B. Donnal, Glen Funkhouser, Minette McCullough, Ernest G. Meyers, John R. Norvell, Lutie G. Semmes, Edgar H. Smith, John K. Vance, and William W. Wendell, and Assistants John Baines, Dan Boone, Tom Beers, Richard Bray, Pixie Christy, Andrea Diss, Barbara Dowell, Dave Fallow, Nancy Files, Harriet Gilbert, Delores Grant, Ives Hannay, Linda Hollenberg, Stella Koch, Marty MacDonald, Willem Maane, Ann Mitchell, Bill Murphy, Charlotte Pryor, Robert Pryor, Nancy Simpson, Steve Smith, Jim Wilkinson, and Ann Wonnacott.





**Sandy Point State Park**  
**Anne Arundel County, MD 390-0762**  
**Danny Bystrak**

Permission was obtained to set up a banding station at Sandy Point State Park. Although many potentially good sites were available, other activities in the park essentially limited the final choice to one locality. The site is probably not the best in the park, but is interesting in that it is an isolated patch of short woods and brush and is the last patch for migrating birds to use before crossing Chesapeake Bay. Thus, it could serve as a concentration point for birds putting down at dawn.

Because of the lack of tall trees, thrushes and other woodland birds made up a very small portion of the total catch. As expected, Myrtle Warbler, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Common Yellowthroat were the chief species.

Up to 32 nets were run from dawn to dusk whenever possible on weekends and occasional week days from 11 September to 20 November, for a total of 28 days. Big days followed cold fronts and most other days were somewhat dull. There were only 5 days with more than 100 birds and these catches consisted largely of Myrtle Warblers. The figure of 25 birds per 100 net-hours is probably a function of the number of days the nets were left open all day, reflecting the many afternoon hours of zero birds.

I wish to thank the authorities at Sandy Point State Park for their permission and for other courtesies such as letting me in before and after hours. I also thank the many people who assisted me in operating this station.



**Laurel, Prince Georges County, Maryland**  
**390-0765**  
**Chandler S. Robbins**

Net-hours of effort at this back-yard station more than tripled from 1976 and the number of birds banded increased by nearly the same ratio. As in the past, banding was conducted all day on weekends, and before and after work, as time, weather, and light permitted, on the other days. Total bandings and net-hours both reached a new high, largely because of greater effort in November. Any comparisons with prior years had best be made with 1973-1975, because in 1976 a prolonged trip forced closing of the station for the season on 12 October. Thus, in 1977 the White-throated Sparrow returned to its customary first place in total numbers banded, and the Gray Catbird was pushed back to second place.

The 1977 season was notable for the large numbers of Myrtle Warblers and tanagers captured and for the scarcity of wrens and kinglets. Myrtles, which had never exceeded 10 before, totaled 62 in 1977. Scarlet Tanagers, with 19 banded in 1977, tripled their previous annual high, and were joined by 2 Summer Tanagers, a species I had not banded here since 1958. Victims of the severe winter of 1976-77, Winter Wrens fell from a three-year (1973-75) average of 4 to 0 in 1977, Carolina Wrens from 10 to 6, Golden-crowned Kinglets from 4 to 0, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets from 11 to 10 despite the extra banding effort in November.



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

Except for three days on which the station was rained out, the Kiptopeke Beach banding project ran continuously for 77 days from 22 August to 6 November 1977. Operation was essentially similar to that of recent years with up to 46 mist nets depending on the weather and available help. Six of the nets this year were large mesh ones placed along woodland net lanes. The use of these probably reduced the birds banded per 100 net-hours but clearly increased the catch of accipiters (294 in 1977 vs. 144 in 1976). The total of new birds banded was slightly higher than in 1976, but since there were so many more net-hours in 1977, new birds per 100 net-hours decreased from 67 in 1976 to 54 in 1977 (see Table 1). Three of the big flights that occurred (10 Sept and 15 and 18 Oct.) were associated not with cold fronts but with low-pressure centers that moved northward over the area.

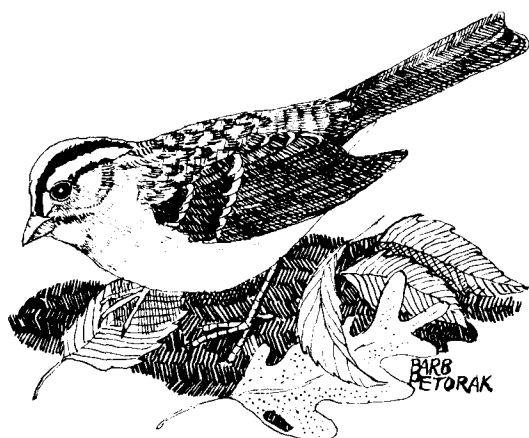
Features of the fall included record numbers of Sharp-shinned (288 vs. the previous high of 143 in 1976) and Cooper's Hawks (6 vs. 2 in 1966 and 1975), Gray Catbirds (1154 vs. 1087 in 1970), and Northern Waterthrushes (189 vs. 126 in 1967). Precipitously lower were Winter Wrens (17 vs. 102 in 1976), Golden-crowned Kinglets (22 vs. 572),

and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (210 vs. 650). Care must be taken in evaluating the latter numbers, since these three winter residents may have occurred in higher numbers after the station closed on 6 November. Unusual birds for this station were a Loggerhead Shrike on 27 August, 6 Blue-winged Warblers from 23 August to 29 September, and a Clay-colored Sparrow on the extraordinarily early date of 2 September.

The most interesting of the 10 returns were a White-eyed Vireo originally banded as an AHY on 10 September 1972 and a Prairie Warbler banded as an HY on 4 September 1972, indicating minimum ages of 6 and 5 years, respectively. The vireo also returned in 1976. Of the 14 foreign recaptures, 10 were direct recoveries of HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded from 1 to 11 days earlier in southern New Jersey (all but one at Cape May), and one was an HY Cooper's Hawk also banded at Cape May 12 days before its capture here. The other two foreign birds of interest were both Gray Catbirds, one banded on 16 May 1977 in Middlesex County, NJ, and retrapped here on 29 September 1977 and the other banded at Island Beach, NJ, on 16 September 1974 and found freshly dead on the road here on 4 October 1977.

Differences in day-to-day age ratios were more pronounced than usual this year with the overall result of reducing the percentage of HY birds for many species. For example, the largest one-day flight of American Redstarts was on 4 September when 183 were netted. Of these, only 131 (72%) were HY, and as a result of this and several other days of abnormal age ratios, the seasonal total of 1863 redstarts was 88% HY in 1977 vs. 91% in 1976 and 94% in 1975. One of the largest changes occurred with the Magnolia Warbler, which dropped from 95% HY in 1976 to 78-79% this year, mainly a result of high numbers of AHY birds on 28-30 September.

Licensed banders running the station this year were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy, C.W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F.S. Schaeffer, F.R. Scott, and W.P. Smith. They were aided by 109 other banders and helpers, most of them members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and some of whom put in a week or more of work. Without their help the results would have been much less satisfying. Additional thanks are due to W.P. Smith who again did the initial editing and tabulation of the daily field sheets.



# **Long Beach, Brunswick County, NC 335-0781** **Samuel R. and Isabel H. Tipton**

Thrae Banding Station is located in the beach resort town of Long Beach. Eleven nets and 7 traps are run in about 1½ acres of woods (mixed pine, oak, pignut hickory, and holly) bordering on a saltwater marsh a quarter-mile from the Atlantic Ocean. The fall was characterized by warm, humid weather with a few intermittent rains. There was little cool weather until November, and only two storm fronts moved through. In general, migration was poor with fewer birds than in 1976: Mourning Doves and Ground Doves (15 and 10 in 1976, respectively) were missed completely; Yellow-rumped Warblers decreased significantly (284 in 1976); Gray Catbirds, which had shown yearly increases since 1974, decreased (54 in 1976).

There were 17 returns and 2 recoveries: a Tufted Titmouse banded as HY on 5 November 1972 was killed in a 4-cell Potter trap by a Sharp-shinned Hawk in an adjacent cell of the same trap; a Slate-colored Junco banded by us at Long Beach on 23 February 1977 was caught and released alive on 8 November 1977 in White Woods, CT. Of the 316 new birds banded, 14 were caught in traps.

# **Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, FL 302-0871** **Lucy R. Duncan**

The Gulf Breeze banding station is located in the town of Gulf Breeze near the tip of the Santa Rosa Peninsula which juts into Pensacola Bay. It is the last major landfall for southbound migrants with the exception of Santa Rosa Island, a typical barrier island. The wooded suburban habitat is vegetated primarily with Sand Pine (*Pinus clausa*) and Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) with Bayberry, Saltbush, and Youpon the predominant shrubs. A small pond bounding one net is a major attraction for migrants. The peninsula is on a major raptor migratory route, but no raptor banding was attempted.

Four nets were operated for a total of 59 days from 6 August to 13 November, with almost continuous coverage during September and October. Nets were opened around 6:30 A.M. and closed about twelve hours later. Few birds were caught at midday, hence these 'dead' hours substantially reduce the BPNH averages. The best days were 12 and 13 November when the second cold front of the season brought 43° temperatures with 10-12 mph winds the previous night. However, the majority of these birds represent the local winter populations of White-throated Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

In the "rare bird" category, two Mourning Warblers were banded in October. A Cape May Warbler banded on 1 October established the first fall record in Northwest Florida of this Atlantic coast migrant.

Assistants were Bob Duncan (subpermittee) who supplied weather data and banding support, and Scot Duncan (my son) who was a chief "net-checker."