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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

North American Bird Bander

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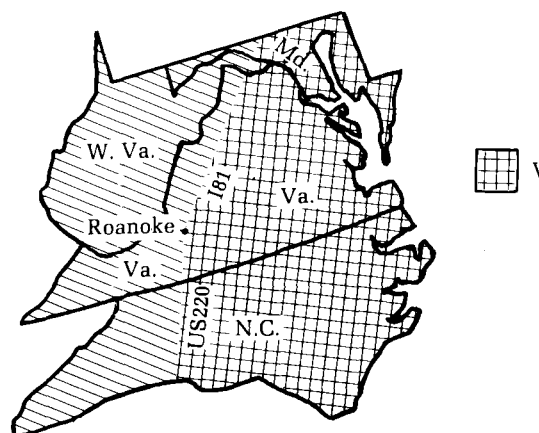
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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

**Chandler S. Robbins, Coordinator**  
7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, MD 20810



Four of last year's Maryland stations were either discontinued or banded too few birds to report their results in 1978; these were Cloisters in Baltimore County, Cylburn in Baltimore City, tum Suden Sanctuary in Harford County, and Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. Banding was severely curtailed at Damsite, Maryland's last remaining Eastern Shore Station. Each of the other stations in Region V, however, showed an increase in net-hours over 1977, and two new stations were welcomed to the network: McDonogh School in Baltimore County, and Jekyll Island on the coast of Georgia. Station activities are summarized in Table 1. The total net-hours of effort by participating stations in 1978 (68,627) was 2% greater than the effort in 1977 (67,410), but the total number of birds banded dropped 24% from 23,881 to 18,180.

If we compare only the eight stations that were operated fairly consistently both years (Adventure, Sandy Spring, Laurel, Towson, Fort Howard, Kiptopeke, Long Beach, and Gulf Breeze), new birds banded per 100 net-hours dropped 31%, from 37.8 in 1977 to 26.0 in 1978.

Station totals for the ten most commonly banded species in Region V in 1978 are shown in Table 2. With the following exceptions, the top four or five species for each station appear in the table: at Laurel, American Robin and Ovenbird were in 3rd and 4th place; and at McDonogh, American Goldfinch and American Robin were in 2nd and 5th place. As usual, Myrtle Warbler was the most commonly banded species; it constituted 25% of the 1978 total. The top five species, Myrtle Warbler, American Redstart, Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Swainson's Thrush, made up 51% of all birds banded. The Black-throated Blue Warbler and American Goldfinch, which had been among the top ten species in 1977, were replaced by the Veery and Black-and-white Warbler in 1978. In 1977 both the Gray Catbird and Myrtle Warbler were among the top five species at all stations except one. In 1978 there was less consistency, as the catbird missed the top five rating at two stations and the Myrtle missed it at four.

For the sixth year, banders in Region V, members of the Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group, participated in a study of age ratios of the more common species. The percentages of hatching year birds captured at each station are shown in Table 3, together with the percent for all inland stations combined, listed under the heading Pooled Percent. The sample size in the first column is the number of inland records (Adventure through Fort Howard) used to compute the Pooled Percent. Note that the percentages for coastal Kiptopeke are again consistently higher than those for the inland stations, as are the great majority of percentages for the southern stations.

It is interesting to compare Table 3 with a similar table for Region II (NABB 4 [3]:130). Region II includes Vermont, eastern Upstate New York, and eastern Pennsylvania, an area that should supply many of the birds that migrate through Region V. In the 1977 summary we commented that percentages of HY birds were significantly higher in Region II than in Region V for the Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and White-throated Sparrow. The Slate-colored Junco, on the other hand, showed a higher percentage of HY birds in Region V. The pattern was much the same in 1978. The junco again had a higher percentage of HY birds in Region V, while the catbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and White-throated Sparrow again had a higher percentage of HY birds in Region II. Although there was no significant difference between Regions for the Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, and Magnolia Warbler in 1978, two additional species did reveal (by chi-square tests) a significantly higher percentage of HY birds in Region II: Myrtle Warbler ( $p < .001$ ), and Canada Warbler ( $p < .001$ ). I have no additional explanation for the higher percentage of HY birds in Region II beyond those mentioned in last year's summary (NABB 4 [1]:37-38).

Impressions of banders in other regions that the season

**Table 1. Region V banding summary**

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	McDonogh	Towson	Fort Howard	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach	Jekyll Island	Gulf Breeze
Days of operation	78	26	66	45	47	42	11	62	40	8	59
Maximum nets used	27	56	13	6	6	30	23	45	12	16	5
Total net-hours	24226	4233	3370	1009	1550	5839	423	23839	2202	1036	900
Largest daily catch	104	188	35	58		154	36	1027	29	98	43
Birds banded 1978	2646	2264	437	532	615	1421	98	8917	257	369	624
Birds banded 1977	3994	1637	632	-	492	961	908	12312	302	-	515
Total species 1978	88	81	55	55	55	71	35	96	43	40	67
Total species 1977	91	58	53	-	55	57	67	95	46	-	70
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	11	54	14	53	40	24	22	37	12	36	79
Birds/100 n.h. 1977	19	72	23	-	45	50	23	54	16	-	46

**Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1978**

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	McDonogh	Towson	Fort Howard	Kiptopeke	Long Beach	Jekyll Island	Gulf Breeze
Gray Catbird	139*	355*	30*	112*	88*	52	365*	10	62*	56*
Swainson's Thrush	446*	94	58*	38*	34*	131*	73	4	6	20
Veery	72	29	22	18	3	62	177	16*	0	13
Red-eyed Vireo	152*	56	4	23	9	15	105	1	9	69*
Black-and-white Warbler	71	6	12	15	6	43	191	6	10	18
Myrtle Warbler	114	141*	27	5	0	94*	4038*	84*	13*	4
Common Yellowthroat	33	60	7	28	18	98*	318*	19*	26*	38*
American Redstart	129*	53	3	15	61*	57	1098*	21*	32*	35*
White-throated Sparrow	205*	341*	57*	22	39*	124*	255	9	0	5
Song Sparrow	78	184*	7	50*	8	76*	55	0	0	0

\* One of the 5 commonest species at this station in 1978.

**Table 3. Percentage of hatching year birds in 1978**

Species	1978 sample	Pooled Percent 1977	1978	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Towson Area	Fort Howard	Kiptopeke	Long B & Jekyll	Gulf Breeze
Blue Jay	107	-	52-68	33-38	64-94		(91-100)				79
Gray Catbird	710	80	85	80	84	90	91	87	95	71-75	86
American Robin	147	69-87	78-79	64-68	84	68	91				
Wood Thrush	117	66-76	71-78	67-78			57-64	87	(100)		64-84
Hermit Thrush	127	67-70	81	73	90			84	96		
Swainson's Thrush	764	61-63	79-80	79-80	86-87	57	97	82	90		60-65
Veery	206	51-56	71-72	68	72	50	71-81	81-82	90	(63)	(85)
Red-eyed Vireo	261	67	78-80	74-77	86		84	(73)	96		83-87
Black-&-white Warbler	142		75	66-68		(75)	(94)	81	95		(94)
Magnolia Warbler	224	55-56	70-71	56-59	89	56	81	71	95		(83)
Blk-thr Blue Warb.	94	73	68	69	(92)			54	98		
Myrtle Warbler	381	75-77	71	68	81-82			63	86	92-100	
Ovenbird	304	67-68	79-80	85-87	83	82	62	73	93		
Northern Waterthrush	96		61	53				71	82		42-46
Common Yellowthroat	236	59-60	64-66	55-61	60		61-63	72-76	91	(95)	87-92
Canada Warbler	178		67-68	66			(83-92)	66-67			
American Redstart	340	62-64	71	58	79	74	83	74	97	86	51-71
Cardinal	203	65-67	67-68	69-72	62	83	(54)	64			65-73
American Goldfinch	104	45-52	65-70	36-47	92		(64)	95			
Rufous-sided Towhee	131		66	49	74			76			(88)
Slate-colored Junco	140	66	74-75	64	79	(92)	58-62		85		
Field Sparrow	108	68-80	79-80		80-81				97		
White-throated Sparrow	838	61-64	57-59	48-52	57	68	82-85	52	82		
Song Sparrow	361	75-82	81-84	62-72	91		82	78	95		

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.

had been a poor one, with a notable absence of vigorous cold fronts and a dearth of busy days at the nets, were shared by those of us in Region V. When we compare birds per 100 net-hours for the eight stations in Region V that had comparable coverage in 1977 and 1978, we note a remarkable similarity in the percentage decrease in four of the five most common species: -33% for Myrtle Warbler, -34% for White-throated Sparrow, -38% for Common Yellowthroat, and -40% for American Redstart. The 5th species, Gray Catbird, had a worse drop of -48%. All five of these species were mentioned as having decreased along the Northeast coast in Region

I (NABB 4 [2]:76-79), but these particular birds generated very little comment in Regions II and IV. Perhaps some of the missing birds passed to the west of us in the absence of strong northwest winds, as the Spruce Budworm warblers (Cape May, Tennessee, and Bay-breasted) seem to have done. One point on which all regions agree is that kinglets, wrens, and Hermit Thrushes have not recovered from their heavy winter losses of 1977.

I thank Editor Mutchler for sending me manuscript copies of the reports from Regions II and IV so I could compare their results with ours.

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

**Mrs. Margaret T. Donnal**

The banding station at Adventure was operated from dawn to dusk, 15 August through 31 October. Although total net-hours increased approximately 16%, the birds banded went down from 3992 (82 returns, 1 recovery) in 1977 to 2646 (52 returns, 1 recovery) in 1978 — a reduction of over 30%. September banding totals in 1978 were actually greater than in September 1977, but August was slow and October was a disaster, with a drop from 857 Myrtle Warblers in 1977 to 115 in 1978, and with significant reductions in almost all species of fringillids. Much of the decrease probably reflected the warm October with no major weather fronts. A late August mowing of the fields also reduced food and cover for sparrows. Major decreases occurred in resident species (Cardinals were down from a high of 117 in 1977 to 72 in 1978) as well as migrants (Song Sparrows dropped from 153 to 72, and White-throated Sparrows decreased from 345 to 210).

Despite the general downward trend, certain early fall migrant species increased appreciably. Swainson's Thrushes were up from 301 to 447; Black-and-white Warblers increased from 31 to 71; Canada Warblers from 46 to 88; and American Redstarts from 82 to 129.

New for the station were a Chuck-will's-widow (a species not normally found in Montgomery County), and a Summer Tanager. Also of interest were three Warbling Vireos and a breeding Worm-eating Warbler.

Early migrants were two Swainson's Thrushes on 21 August and a Hermit Thrush on 13 September. A late Magnolia Warbler was banded on 29 October.

A Swainson's Thrush captured here on 28 September had been banded originally on 9 September 1978 by Nancy MacClintock near Sandy Spring, Maryland, some 13 miles northeast of the Adventure recovery site. At that rate of travel it may reach its wintering ground by Christmas 1990.

Participating in station operation were: Sub-permittees Gloria Aiken, Morrill Donnal, Minette McCullough, Ernie Meyers, John Norvell, Lutie Semmes, Ed Smith, John Vance, and Bill Wendell, and assistants John Baines, Tom Beers, Rich Bray, Pixie Christy, Andrea

Diss, Barbara Dowell, Becky Francis, David Gershen, Delores Grant, Ives Hannay, Lynn Miller, Vi Hogan, Linda Hollenberg, Adam Kaufman, Stella Koch, Scott Lawrence, Manuel Lerdau, Sybil McKinnon, Wilhelm Maane, Mai-Britt Maki, Ann Mitchell, Joanne Page, Charlotte Pryor, Robert Pryor, David Rosen, Nancy Simpson, Steve Smith, Harry Weiss, Jim Wilkinson, and Ann Wonnacott.

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

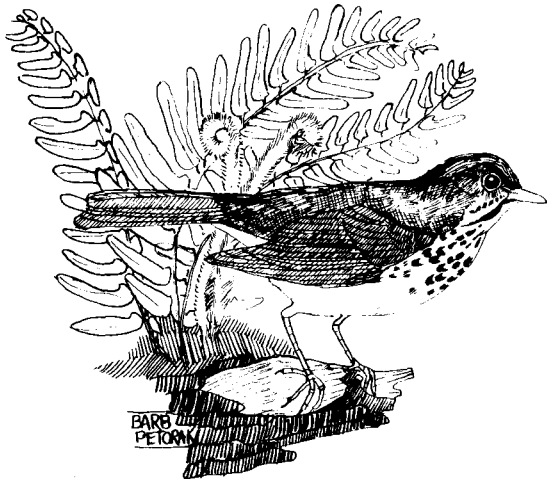
Birds were mist-netted and banded during the fall migration period for the third consecutive year in an abandoned orchard 2 km SSW of Sandy Spring. The station was operated on 26 days between 4 September and 26 November, mainly on weekends. Because of increased effort, total birds banded and total net-hours reached new highs: 2,264 new individuals of 81 species, and 70 returns. The capture rate was 0.551 birds per net-hour including returns (0.535 for new birds only).

The most commonly netted species were White-throated Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, and Field Sparrow. These were the same top five as in 1977, but their order was shifted somewhat in 1978. More new catbirds were banded than any other species, but White-throated Sparrows remained first because of a relatively large number of returns. The increased catch of catbirds is attributable to greater September coverage in 1978. Myrtle Warblers and Song Sparrows had been second and fourth, respectively, in 1977, while Field Sparrows were fifth in both years. The changes in rank, as well as a decrease in the station's capture rate overall, result in part from declines in the relative catch of Myrtles and White-throats. In October 1978, the capture rate for Myrtles was 0.071 per net-hour — less than half the October 1977 figure of 0.165. For White-throats, whose migration period lasts longer, the rate was 0.126 in October and November 1978 vs. 0.220 for the same two months in 1977. The capture rate for all birds reflected the decreased abundance of these frequently caught species and declined to 0.551 from 0.727 in 1977 and 0.642 in 1976. In line with the general trend, the totals of Mockingbirds and Ruby-crowned Kinglets also showed sharp drops in 1978.

NEBBA ATX and KTX nets (12-meter, 1½-in. mesh) were the types generally used, but HTX nets (12-meter,

1¼-in. mesh) accounted for 13% of total net-hours. Normally, the station was run from daybreak until late morning. On days when catching was good, we tended to stay open into the middle of the day, while on slow days we often furlled the nets by mid-morning.

The banders were John S. Weske and Nancy E. MacClintock. The chief assistant and net-tender was Stuart MacClintock. Others who assisted were Devin and Sharon Arkin, John and Mary Bayless, Marianna Heins, Lynn Hiller, Linda Hollenberg, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Lucy MacClintock, Woody Martin, Fran Pope, and George and Harriet Powell.



**Laurel, Prince Georges County, MD  
390-0765**

**Chandler S. Robbins**

Despite a 22% increase in net-hours, the number of new birds banded dropped 26% from 1977. The decrease was noted in each month and was spread among all of the commonest species, including summer residents, winter residents, permanent residents, and transients. The greatest declines were in Scarlet Tanager (84%), Blue Jay (78%), Red-eyed Vireo (67%), Gray Catbird (62%), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (60%), Myrtle Warbler (56%), Gray-cheeked Thrush (55%), Wood Thrush (44%), Cardinal (38%), and White-throated Sparrow (30%).

Of these species, only the Scarlet Tanager and Myrtle Warbler had been banded in unusually large numbers in 1977. Partly offsetting the decreases were a few increases: Veery (from 4 to 22 birds), Black-and-white Warbler (3 to 12), and Ovenbird (15 to 34).

The four species that had been singled out for mention last year as being victims of the severe winter weather in 1976-77 — the Winter and Carolina Wrens and the Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets — fared no better in 1978. The first three were banded in almost identical numbers to 1977, and the Ruby-crown dropped again as indicated in the first paragraph.

**McDonogh School, McDonogh, MD 392-0764  
Robert E. Jarboe**

Established in May 1978 with the assistance of Gladys Cole, under whom I held a subpermit, our station is located on the 750-acre campus of McDonogh School. We placed from one to six nets in moist to swampy woods adjacent to weedy fields and within fifty meters of a small pond. Banding took place from sunrise to sunset on weekends and for a few hours in the morning and/or evening during the week with the help of Robert Lyon (record-keeper). We operated 45 days from 11 August through 29 October. Although an abundance of inkberry and spiceberry attracted large numbers of catbirds and thrushes to our net lanes, warblers were also well represented (11 individuals of 19 species, including the Blue-winged, Blackburnian, Pine and Palm).

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

Most of my banding was accomplished in early morning from daylight until 0930 and in the afternoon from 1530 until dark. I started on 13 August and banded 8 part days in August, 6 full days and 17 part days in September, and 2 full and 14 part days in October.

I caught my first Yellow-throated Vireo this fall, and more Red-eyed Vireos than I have had in several years. A few Gray Catbirds and Song Sparrows returned, but I had no foreign birds. I had no students this autumn, so most of my banding was done alone.

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

This banding station was run for 42 days beginning 10 August and ending 28 October. It was always run from sunrise to noon and, many days this year, well into the afternoon and on some days until dusk. Therefore, more hours per day were covered as compared with 1977. Comparisons with 1977 probably are not valid because the station was closed earlier in 1978 as a result of persistent vandalism, the per day coverage was longer, the station closed a month earlier and opened a month earlier, and twice as many nets were used in 1978.

The pattern of migration was similar to last year — spells of no movement and very slow days when few birds were caught, and then bursts of activity when so many migrants arrived that nets were immediately closed and birds released unbanded. If only the "big" days could be foreseen!

Early arrivals were an AHY Hermit Thrush on 9 September, Slate-colored Junco on 20 September, and 5 White-throated Sparrows on 23 September. 23 September was a big day with 30 species accounted for, among them 15 HY Purple Finches all in one net at one time. Late dates included a Louisiana Waterthrush on 2 September, a Canada Warbler on 20 October, a Parula Warbler on 9 October, and 2 Mourning Warblers on 15 October (a new late departure date for Maryland).

Major flights occurred on the mornings of 21 August, 23 September, and 15, 18, and 20 October. On these five days a total of 531 birds of 45 species were processed.

A Swainson's Thrush (1231-44768), banded here on 15 September 1978 by Barbara Ross, was recovered in Panama in October 1978.

Rick Blom and Jim Orgaine of the Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society ran a hawk-watch at the banding station from 20 August to 21 October. They recorded a total of 2900 raptors, including: 2304 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 47 Cooper's Hawks, 25 buteos, 105 Harriers, 40 Ospreys, 310 American Kestrels, 5 Merlins, 3 Peregrine Falcons, and 4 Bald Eagles. In our 36 mm mist nets we caught 5 Sharp-shins, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk. The Red-tail did not damage the net but did kill a Winter Wren. The problems we had with raptors were the ones that got away — such as the Harrier that flew through a net.

Many thanks to Bob Burke, Herb Wilson, Sherman Suter, Jeff Bickart, Frank Davis, Bill Hillgartner, John Beier, Joe Burns, Peter Knight, Marion Glass, Dave Holmes, Glenda Webber, Janet Ganter, Woody Martin, and Dave Mosher. Special thanks to Eddie Boyd who was Jim Stasz's sole support on most days, as Jim essentially ran the station.



**Damsite, Chestertown, Kent County, MD  
391-0761**

**Mrs. Dorothy A. Mendinhall**

1978 was a year of restructuring and re-evaluation of the Damsite station. This was necessitated both by frustration over my physical disabilities and the absence of Margery Plymire, who for so many years gave so generously of her knowledge, skills, and companionship. The usual dawn to dusk daily participation in the Migratory Bird Population Studies was replaced by banding only when a recruit came. Thus, 1978 was a disaster.

We hit bottom, but are ever hopeful that replacement banders can be found another year and thus add to the value of the educational programs that are increasingly requested and carried out. We may be toppled from the top rung of the ladder of success in 1978, but we have a firm grip on the lower rungs of a new ladder and are climbing.

Good birding and God's blessing to all

**Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton County, VA  
370-0755**

**F.R. Scott**

Operation of this station decreased from 77 days in 1977 to 62 days in 1978, although total net-hours increased somewhat. Total new birds banded dropped 28% to 8817, reflecting a decrease in new birds per 100 net-hours from 54 in 1977 to 37 in 1978. Weather conditions were such that there were no large flights of small migrating birds until mid-October.

Few species totals were higher than in 1977, and these were mostly insignificant. Lower totals in 1978, as compared with 1977, included 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches (vs 44), 365 Gray Catbirds (vs. 1154), 11 Wood Thrushes (vs. 66), 73 Swainson's Thrushes (vs. 217), 107 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (vs. 268), and 1098 American Redstarts (vs. 1863). This was the lowest count of Swainson's Thrushes in 15 years. Both kinglets also continued their decline.

Only 4 returns were recorded, and one of these — a White-eyed Vireo banded as an AHY in 1972 — was over 7 years old. It had previously returned in 1973, 1974, 1976, and 1977. This was the second 7-year-old White-eyed Vireo recorded at Kiptopeke. All of the 15 "foreign" retraps were HY Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 13 of these had been banded more or less locally by other stations. The other two were direct recoveries of birds banded near Cape May, NJ. Most age ratios followed the usual coastal fall pattern of being 90% or more HY, a notable exception being Myrtle Warbler, which was only 86% HY versus 93% in 1977 and 95% in 1976.

Licensed banders in charge of the station this year were James Carter, Jane P. Church, C.W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F.R. Scott, and W.P. Smith. As usual they were aided by many other banders and helpers whose assistance was vital in the operation of the station. W.P. Smith again did the initial editing and tabulation of the daily field sheets.

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

The fall was exceptionally warm and dry with no fronts moving through our area. There was no really cold weather until December. Birds were generally widely dispersed with no large flocks. There were a number of species migrating through in October and November, but in very small numbers. The decrease in number of birds banded continued the decrease shown in 1977. Gray Catbirds, Myrtle Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows decreased appreciably. The sharp decrease in White-throats has continued on into December and January. We banded one Red-eyed Vireo in 1978 after missing them completely in 1977. The 17 birds of this species in 1976 were very unusual. We had 14 species of warblers, 5 of which we had never banded in the fall in this region before (Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Yellow, Magnolia, Prairie, and Yellow-breasted Chat). Myrtle Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and American Redstarts gave us the highest warbler counts in 1976, 1977, and 1978. We had 13 returns, with 9 more in December. We had no recoveries away from our own banding station.

**Jekyll Island, GA 310-0812**  
**Doris Cohrs**

In the fall of 1978, from 8 October through 15 October, we made our first attempt at setting up a minor banding station on the south end of Jekyll Island, one of Georgia's barrier islands, easily accessible by causeway. Limited by time and distance (we live and work 300 miles away in Atlanta), we had to consolidate all our banding into a single weekend rather than spread it over the several weeks of the fall migration. We plan to make this an on-going project and will return to Jekyll at approximately the same time period in 1979.

The station was generally in operation from daylight (0700) until late afternoon, with the exception of two half-days of rain which forced us to close the nets at about 1400. Nets were set 100 to 200 m inland from the south beach, using natural lanes through vegetation where possible and across flight paths crossing dune ridges. Vegetation varied from open grassy areas with plentiful cactus to shrubby growth of myrtle (*Myrica* sp.) and greenbrier (*Smilax* spp.) to partially wooded areas with trees not exceeding 10 m in height.

Our most common species were: Gray Catbird (62) and Palm Warbler (59). The most interesting catch was an American Kestrel that was inside a large enclosed swimming pool facility. By using a pet store mouse and a Bal-Chatri trap, we quickly trapped, banded, and freed the falcon.

A cold front had hit the area on 6 October, two days before we began, so we had a reasonable quantity of birds in the area as we began banding. Numbers decreased throughout the time period as the migrants left the island and continued southward. Our biggest day came on 15 October following a cold front that arrived

late the 14th. We processed 98 birds on that day in only 5¼ hours. Unfortunately, this was after all our helpers had returned to Atlanta, so we had to release a few of the birds without banding them.

There were two master banders, Terry Moore, and Doris Cohrs; one sub-permittee, Don Cohrs; and varying numbers of helpers including Vince and Trina Jackson, Elizabeth McCain, Ginny and Terrill Soules, and Mary Ann Vernocy.

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

The Gulf Breeze Banding Station operated 59 days from 3 August to 19 November. At this backyard station nets were strung among the saltbush along the edge of Pensacola Bay, and under the thick live oaks among yaupon, bayberry and sand pines, and along a small magnolia-bordered artificial pond.

The same number of nets (4), operated more efficiently with fewer hours on the same number of days (59) as in 1977, turned up 624 birds of 67 species compared with 515 of 70 species in 1977. The Tennessee Warblers were down to 20 from 36, Myrtle Warblers to 4 from 46, and White-throated Sparrows to 5 from 36. The latter two species finally arrived in normal numbers, but later than usual. All five species of eastern *Empidonax* flycatchers were banded (17 total), 88% of which were netted in September.

No unusual species were encountered. However, six leopard frogs, one blacksnake, a schnauzer, and an 18-month-old boy were netted and released unbanded.

Assistants were Bob Duncan (who also helped tabulate totals), Jerry Young, and Scot Duncan.





# History of Eastern Bird Banding Association

It is known that as early as 8 November 1908, at a meeting of the AOU in New York City, a paper was circulated to determine who were willing to become charter members of an organization devoted to bird banding; and among the 30 signatures appeared those of Beecher Bowdish and John T. Nichols, who later were to become officers in the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

On 24 April 1923 EBBA had its beginning in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University was elected President. A constitution was prepared, presented, and adopted on 7 October 1923 at a meeting of EBBA in the Museum of Natural History.

President: Dr. Arthur A. Allen  
Vice President: Frank L. Burns  
Executive Sec'y: Rudyerd Boulton  
Corresponding Sec'y: Mrs. J.E.B. Webster  
Treasurer: Maunsell S. Crosby  
Councillors: Beecher Bowdish, Howard Cleaves, John A. Gillespie, Richard E. Horsey, R.H. Howland, R.J. Middleton, John R. Nicholas, Lewis Rumford, DDS, Witmer Stone, ScD.

**1924** Under the date of October 1924 this Association issued Number 1 of its "Bulletin" evidently prepared by Dr. Nicholas. This initial issue was a 6" x 9" printed five-page pamphlet containing seven articles by members, and a complete list of the 102 members. The Annual Meeting date was 3 November at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

**1925** In October, Bulletin No. 2 of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was distributed to the membership. It was called the Song Sparrow Number and was devoted to articles about the Song Sparrow. It was edited by John T. Nichols. On the inside of the front page was the slogan "Let Us Band Together" — Beecher S. Bowdish. The issue had 24 pages of very interesting material! On 9 December the business session of the Association convened in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with the President in the chair. Seventeen members were present. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected:

President: Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Cornell Univ.  
Vice President: John A. Gillespie, Glenolden, PA  
Executive Sec'y: Rudyerd Boulton, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. NY  
Corresponding Sec'y: Mr. J.E.B. Webster, East Orange, NJ  
Councillors: Howard Cleaves, NYC; Maunsell Crosby, Rhinebeck, NY; Frank Burns, Berwyn, PA; Dr. Ralph DeLury, Ottawa, Canada; Richard Horsey, Rochester, NY; R.H. Howland, Upper Montclair, NJ; R.J. Middleton, Jeffersonville, PA; John Nicholls, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.; Dr. Lewis Rumford, Acad. of Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia, PA.

The Annual Meeting was held on 12 November in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. This was for all the membership. It was voted at the business meeting that other editions of the EBBA Bulletin be left to the discretion of the Councillors. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin was made an Honorary Member of the Association with full Active privileges. A Committee on Colonial (Nesting) Birds was appointed, consisting of Mr. Nichols, Chairman, Mr. Griscom, and Mr. Urner.

**1926** Annual Meeting held 12 November — place not stated. There was no publication of EBBA Bulletin this year.

President: Maunsell S. Crosby  
Vice President: R.H. Howland  
Secretary: John Gillespie  
Treasurer: Beecher Bowdish, Damersset, NJ  
Councillors: Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Rudyerd Boulton, Dr. Witmer Stone, Dr. John Nichols, C.E. Chapman, R.E. DeLury, Richard Horsey, Howard Cleaves, Raymond J. Middleton.

**1927** The officers and councillors remained the same for this year. The Annual Meeting was on or about 3 October (pers. comm.) The Bulletin of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, No. 3, was published 3 October and the Editor was John T. Nichols.

Dorothy J. Foy