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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

North American Bird Bander

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

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

Of the 15 participating banding stations in Region V in the autumn of 1983, only Baltimore's Leakin Park was new. Two others that were active but not reported in 1982 rejoined us in 1983. Four of the 15 stations are home operations, 2 are on Federal land, 2 in city parks, 2 at private schools, 2 at coastal concentration spots, 1 on a wildlife sanctuary, 1 in an abandoned orchard, and 1 in an impending real estate development. Coverage and catch characteristics of each station are summarized in Table 1 and in the pie charts that accompany the station reports. The habitats sampled vary so much among stations that species and even family composition are unique at each site.

It is always of interest to compare numbers of the most common species among years and among stations. Instead of listing the 5 or 10 most common species banded at each

station, Region V lists the 10 species that were banded in the largest numbers regionally; an asterisk indicates those species that were among the top 10 at each site. Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow have been among the top 10 in Region V in each of the past 7 years. American Redstart dropped out only in 1982 when Kiptopeke did not report, and Red-eyed Vireo failed to make the top 10 only in 1983. The American Robin, Veery, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco were among the top 10 in only 1 year out of 7, and the ever-increasing House Finch broke into the top 10 for the first time in 1983. Ovenbird appeared in the top 10 in 1980-82; it dropped to 11th place in 1983, not because fewer were banded but because of a big increase in American Goldfinches at McDonogh (Table 2).

Table 1. Region V Summary.

	Adventure MD	Sandy Spring MD	Laurel MD	Patuxent MD	Stevenson MD	McDonogh MD	Cylburn MD	Towson MD	Parkville MD	Annapolis MD	Aberdeen MD	Damsite MD	Kiptopeke VA	Jekyll Island GA
Days of operation	76	40	34	79	37	48	21	32	51	82	23	22	29	8
Max. no. of nets used	30	59	9	32	22	20	5	8	3	20	8	39	26	13
Total net-hours	25548	4726	1894	7672	1737	2453	274	434	692	8380	824	5813	5104	412
Largest daily catch	172	263	25	121	53	257	44	27	18	165		208	620	172
Birds banded, 1983	4006	3830	285	3599	840	1660	280	298	135	2825	655	1605	4036	496
Birds banded, 1982	3707	2280	407	3274	534	2009	121	382	129	2367	750	791	12042	430
Total species, 1983	92	95	45	89	59	96	42	44	27	97	55	82	85	30
Total species, 1982	94	86	49	85	47	87	31	55	36	88	52	54	95	31
Birds/100 n.h., 1983	16	81	15	47	48	68	102	69	20	34	79	28	79	120
Birds/100 n.h., 1982	14	75	18	38	36	49	66	59	14	32	61	29	62	108

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1983.

	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Patuxent	Stevenson	McDonogh	Leakin	Cylburn	Towson	Parkville	Annapolis	Aberdeen	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Jekyll Island
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	128	136	3	352*	53*	0	3	4	8	1	58	17	159*	78	1
Gray Catbird	215*	556*	11*	170	155*	76*	26	24	11	11*	255*	135*	45	231*	59*
Swainson's Thrush	526*	212*	1	246*	42*	33	13	8	25	10*	85	2	65*	108	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	581*	206	1	36	34	8	6	0	1	0	116	7	54	965*	3
American Redstart	69	29	11*	117	8	14	4	3	29*	0	90	5	40	415*	49*
Common Yellowthroat	58	103	0	216*	42*	31	3	4	6	4	30	52*	38	548*	27*
Song Sparrow	91	281*	4	44	76*	68*	2	20*	9	9	143*	29	14	30	0
White-throated Sparrow	255*	566*	75*	200	34	23	158*	39*	12*	0	443*	119*	115*	35	0
House Finch	0	0	4	0	0	287*	277*	59*	11	11*	75	0	61	0	0
American Goldfinch	23	183	6	14	25	408*	72*	1	0	0	144*	10	2	0	0

*One of the ten most common species at this station in 1983.

How can we evaluate changes from year to year, when each station samples a different mix of habitats, when effort is different each year and when banders' habits and operating schedules also change? First, we may look at the ratio of birds to effort. The number of birds banded at the 14 stations that operated in both 1982 and 1983 decreased from 29,223 to 24,550 (16.0%). The effort (net-hours) also decreased, from 78,309 to 65,963 (15.8%). The birds per 100 net-hours was essentially unchanged: 37.32 in 1982, 37.22 in 1983, a decline of barely 0.25%. However, the Kiptopeke people, who logged 25% of all the net-hours in Region V in 1982, had to cut their effort dramatically in 1983 and contributed only 8% of the total net-hours for the region. Kiptopeke's 1983 coverage was all between mid-September and mid-October. Substantial increases in coverage at sparrow-warbler-thrush stations such as Sandy Spring and Damsite could not compensate for a sharp decline in effort at Kiptopeke where two-thirds of the birds banded were warblers. Thus these stations could not be used to demonstrate changes in bird numbers between 1982 and 1983.

The best hope for detecting changes in bird populations appears to be to examine data from only those stations where effort changed less than 20% *and* where there were no major changes in net locations or in distribution of effort throughout the season. Accordingly, net-hours and totals of the common species were added for both 1982 and 1983 for the Adventure, Patuxent, Stevenson, Annapolis, and Jekyll Island stations. Net-hours for these five stations totaled 43,711 in 1982 and 43,749 in 1983, a difference of less than 0.1%; so coverage for the two years can be considered identical and the species totals may be compared directly. The Swainson's Thrush showed the greatest change from 1982 to 1983, up 57%, and the Gray Catbird catch was next with an increase of 37%. Banding for two other species, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Red-eyed Vireo, rose by about 20% in 1983, but figures for the following common species varied by less than 20%: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco. No common species registered a great decrease. Ability to detect changes from year to year will be enhanced if station operation is kept as constant as possible each year.

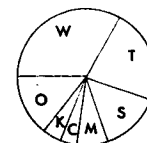
The percentage of hatching year (HY) birds was computed for the 34 species for which 100 or more individuals had been aged by the banders. To permit comparison with prior years, similar percentages are provided in Table 3 for 1979 through 1982; the range of percentages for the period 1973-78 also is included. This table is restricted to the 13 Maryland stations, all of which are inland, to avoid the strong coastal bias in favor of HY birds at Kip-

topeke and Jekyll Island. Eleven-year low reproductive percentages were registered for the Carolina Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow, and highs for the Gray-cheeked and Hermit thrushes. The White-eyed Vireo also registered high, but in only one other year was there a large enough sample for comparison. Yearly trends for the Carolina Chickadee and Swamp Sparrow suggest a continuing decline in percentage of HY birds. This may be only a temporary phenomenon, but it will bear watching over the next few years. All six species with record high HY percentages in 1982 were back to normal in 1983.

It is encouraging to note that most of the large stations in Region V are now entering their records on computer and providing much more detailed summaries than in the past. This paves the way for more meaningful analyses in the future.

In the pie charts that accompany the station summaries, percentage occurrence in 1983 of the major families is identified by the following initials: W(arblers), T(hrushes), S(parrows, buntings, and grosbeaks), M(imids), C(ardueline finches), K(inglets), V(ireos), F(lycatchers), R(Wrens), H(awks), P(Woodpeckers), and O(ther).

Adventure Montgomery Co., MD 390-0771 Margaret T. Donnal



Adventure banding station was operated from dawn to dusk, 15 August to 31 October 1983. Net-hours were slightly fewer (1%) than the previous year, however, the average number of birds per 100 net-hours increased, from 13 in 1982 to 16. The number of birds captured was the second highest for the station; the high year was in 1980 (4894 new birds plus 64 returns).

The pattern of migration differed from the fall of 1982. During that season the peak days were largely the result of flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings in mid- to late October following a very slow September. In 1983 three separate periods of peak activity occurred, the first two during 14-16 September and 25-26 September. A total of 657 birds were banded on those five days, mostly thrushes (particularly Swainson's), and warblers (predominantly Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-and-white, American Redstart, and Ovenbird). The third peak took place during 16-25 October, when Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow and Purple Finch were the most numerous species.

Table 3. Percentage of hatching year birds netted in Maryland.

SPECIES	1983 sample	1973-78	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Carolina Chickadee	198	—	—	74-78 ¹	64-75	62-65	56-59
House Wren	128	—	83-87	90-93	—	—	87
Veery	247	51-72	54	63	61-62	76-77	66-67
Gray-cheeked Thrush	156	60-72	—	67	—	—	80-81
Swainson's Thrush	1178	61-80	74-76	75	74-75	85	78-79
Hermit Thrush	238	67-90	73	79-80	74	86	94
Wood Thrush	300	66-91	76-78	85-89	81-89	82-89	82-86
American Robin	357	69-88	79-80	80-81	80-84	70-82	76-79
Gray Catbird	1687	77-87	84	89-90	90	92	89
Northern Mockingbird	171	92-94	—	84-87	90-94	86-87	88-90
Cedar Waxwing	146	83-88	—	83-85	—	93-94	93
White-eyed Vireo	122	—	60	—	—	—	78
Red-eyed Vireo	645	57-84	79	79	66-67	71	67-68
Tennessee Warbler	314	83-89	—	86	—	—	83-88
Magnolia Warbler	628	55-84	55	74	57-59	80-81	59-62
Black-throated Blue Warbler	214	61-85	—	88	48-50	—	77-80
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1028	64-85	69-70	62-63	70-72	86-87	58-60
Black-&-white Warbler	201	77	—	64-67	—	—	71-72
American Redstart	370	62-79	70-71	68-69	62-65	73-76	62-64
Ovenbird	551	65-83	79-80	78-79	68-70	85-87	74-76
Common Yellowthroat	573	48-67	63	69	62-66	74-76	59-63
Canada Warbler	165	67-80	—	73	73	78-79	67-69
Northern Cardinal	406	65-81	75-76	77-78	73-80	75-78	77-80
Indigo Bunting	200	53	77	89-90	78	85	83
Rufous-sided Towhee	155	66	69-70	82-83	78-80	—	78-80
Chipping Sparrow	143	64-89	—	94-95	—	83-91	82-90
Field Sparrow	242	68-80	77-81	77-78	69-84	73-90	78-81
Song Sparrow	777	66-84	80-81	80-82	82-84	86-87	78-80
Swamp Sparrow	143	70-75	63-65	63-64	60-61	—	52-54
White-throated Sparrow	1620	57-75	62	56-57	70-71	77	66-67
Dark-eyed Junco	633	66-81	73	71	79-81	77-78	74
House Finch	211	—	—	86-87	73-75	—	77-78
Purple Finch	383	—	—	51-53	72-78	—	67-69
American Goldfinch	817	45-70	—	53-54	73-75	59-60	64-65

¹When some of the birds were of undetermined age a range of percentages is given.

The percentage of thrushes rose from 20% in 1982 to 25% in 1983, while fringillids declined from 23% to 18%. Dark-eyed Juncos (43) and Chipping Sparrows (41) declined from their high numbers in 1982 (71 and 84 respectively), and only one new and two return Indigo Buntings were captured (a record low number). However, 108 Purple Finches were captured, a substantial increase from the low of 6 last year. All thrush species were netted in greater numbers than in 1982 except American Robin, which decreased slightly. On 18 September a Red-bellied Woodpecker became the station's 50,000th banded bird. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was the 134th species for the station.

Returns totaled 90 birds of 25 species. Two Eastern Bluebirds returned, doubling the station's cumulative total. A high number of 22 return Carolina Chickadees were captured in addition to 44 new banded birds, equaling the previous record. With 32 new birds and 4 returns,

Carolina Wrens recovered from 1982's record low of 13. The number of Red-eyed Vireos declined to 75. A pattern of alternating high and low years for Red-eyed Vireos has occurred from 1979 through 1983: 109, 201, 86, 174, 75.

Two foreign recoveries were netted during fall 1983. A young Black-billed Cuckoo caught on 2 October had been banded by Patricia Melville in Annapolis, MD, on 13 September. Also, a male American Goldfinch caught on 28 October had been banded by R. T. Norris at Whale Cove, Rockport, MA, as a second-year bird on 26 August 1982.

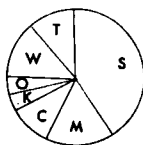
A Cedar Waxwing banded at Adventure as an HY bird on 16 October 1982 was picked up in Cuautla, Mexico, on 10 February 1983 and an HY male Black-and-white Warbler banded on 22 September 1982 was found at Aldea la Libertad, in Southeast Guatemala, 1 November 1982. An HY male Ruby-crowned Kinglet banded at Adventure

on 17 October 1982 was found near Panama City, Panama, on 24 January 1983. A young Blue Jay banded on 17 October 1980 was picked up at Lincoln, ME, on 24 January 1984. Four Gray Catbirds have been found at such diverse locations as Tupper Lake, NY; Blauvelt, NY; Jacobus, PA; and Lexington, MA.

John Goodin won the Grand Award in the Montgomery County Science Fair with a paper entitled "Bird Survival Rates and Age" analyzing Adventure return records. He was given an expenses paid trip to the International Science Fair in Albuquerque, where he received a Third Prize in Zoology. Both John Goodin and Carol Waldmann were selected as Westinghouse Science Scholars.

Participating in station operations were Subpermittees Morrill Donnalld, Ives Hannay, Jane Huff, Manuel Lerdau, Willem Maane, Dave Mehlman, Minette McCullough, Charlotte Pryor, Lutie Semmes, Ed Smith, and John Vance, and Assistants Bryan Aptekar, Dave Chatham, Pixie Christy, Molly Cornell, Steve Cosson, Dan Dellatorre, Barbara Dowell, Anne Ellis, John Goodin, Greg Grass, Linda Hollenberg, Ruth Klein, Stella Koch, Henry Louie, Ann Mitchell, Bob Rasa, Susy Strange, Carol Waldmann, and Tom Zimmer.

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



The Sandy Spring banding station enjoyed increased coverage and a successful season during the autumn of 1983. Birds banded and net-hours increased 68% and 56%, respectively, over last year. The 95 species banded set a station record; 124 individuals of 18 species returned.

The station was operated on 40 days between 14 August and 30 November, with 57% of the coverage after 1 October. Thus, our sample was biased somewhat toward later-migrating species. We ran 26 to 35 nets except for 59 on two days in late September; on a typical day we operated 30 nets from daybreak to late morning. The capture rate of 0.81 birds per net-hour exceeded last year's rate of 0.75 and was the highest in the station's 9-year history.

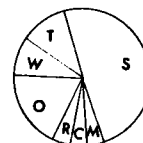
The roster of commonest species was shuffled a bit from 1982 (Table 2). White-throated Sparrow replaced Gray Catbird in the top spot, and Swainson's Thrush edged out Yellow-rumped Warbler for fifth place. Four species were banded here for the first time in fall: Hooded Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird. We regularly have seen the latter three species overhead at this season, but seldom do they fly low enough to blunder into a net.

The one foreign retrap was an old timer and no stranger to our station: A White-throated Sparrow captured 23 November 1983 had been banded at Towson, MD, by Gladys Cole in the fall of 1978, first turned up in Sandy Spring in April 1979, was captured again in November 1980, and apparently has been making our abandoned orchard its perennial winter home.

A Gray-cheeked Thrush banded 25 September 1983 at Sandy Spring was found dead 6 days later on 1 October in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Recoveries have also been reported of two more Sandy Spring birds from previous autumns: A Rufous-sided Towhee banded 13 October 1980 was found dead by a kindergarten class near Baltimore on 6 January 1984, and a Purple Finch banded on 22 October 1980 turned up in Lancaster, PA, on 30 April 1984.

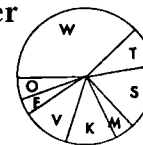
Banders were Nancy E. MacClintock, Stuart MacClintock, and John S. Weske. Steve Smith assisted throughout the season. Others who helped were Tony Futcher, Joe Gentile, Linda Hollenberg, Lucy MacClintock, Shirley Schwarz, and Nancy Smith.

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



My being away nearly all of September and on half the October weekends cut deeply into this season's banding. Totals for permanent residents and winter residents were close to normal, but numbers of the transient species are not at all comparable with other years. The only species that seemed more common than usual was the Northern Cardinal, for which my total of 28 was the second highest in ten years. The Veery and Common Yellowthroat were missed for the first time. I had only 36 returns, of 9 species. The oldest was a 5-year-old White-throated Sparrow. A Yellow Warbler was the 113th species and the 31st species of warbler banded at this station.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, Prince Georges County, MD
390-0764
Danny Bystrak



This was my 4th year of banding in a powerline right-of-way that is specially managed to encourage growth of dense scrub. Nets were run for 2 to 3 hours each morning, because activity dropped off rapidly after the sun hit the nets. I banded on 79 days, from 1 August to 22 November. Frost continues to be a problem late in the season; the frostpocket effect of the stream valley and the lack of vegetative cover over the nets result in frozen nets on more mornings than would be expected. Warblers continued to dominate, with as many as 16 species in one

day and a season total of 33 plus a Brewster's hybrid. Net-hours declined from 8506 to 7672 because I discontinued six of my least productive nets; this change accounted for much of the increase in birds per 100 net-hours (Table 1). Overall effort was comparable to that of 1982.

Species not previously captured included Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, and—a pleasant surprise fortelling the invasion to follow—a single Black-capped Chickadee. Summer Tanager was the only normally encountered species that was missed. Tennessee Warblers returned in big numbers this year with a total of 165 after 2 years in the 40s. The 102 Bay-breasted Warblers was an unprecedented number. Juncos were down considerably because excessive frost in November resulted in poor coverage. All other species were comparable to previous years.

Almost all birds were skulled, checked for fat, and weighed, and had wings and tails measured. One interesting recovery resulted from the 1983 season. A Swainson's Thrush I banded on 29 September was recovered in Rio Utcubamba, Peru, on 15 January 1984. Some early records included Hermit Thrush on 26 August, a Chestnut-sided Warbler on 11 August, a Mourning Warbler on 7 August, a Canada Warbler on 8 August and a Solitary Vireo on 8 September. Some late records included a Whip-poor-will on 4 October, a Traill's Flycatcher and a Blue Grosbeak on 11 October, and a Red-eyed Vireo on 1 November.

St. Timothy's School

Stevenson, Baltimore County, MD

392-0764

Barbara M. Ross

During April 1983 we returned to the original banding site used by Jim Stasz in 1979 and 1980. The move resulted in our netting more species and numbers of birds than in 1981 and 1982. Six nets are in a weedy field adjacent to cultivated fields planted in soybeans the fall of 1983. Some boxelder, mulberry, and wild cherry trees growing on this site are trimmed to 8 feet. Eleven nets are strung through mature woods (oaks, tulip-tree, hickory, some maple, and *Paulownia*), with much honeysuckle, spicebush, blackberry, and tear-thumb undergrowth. Five nets extend through a floodplain with a few mature trees with undergrowth similar to the above as well as wild grape, elderberry, and Hercules' club. There are springs or small streams in three distinct places.

The station was operated from sunup until midday, depending on the weather, bird activity, and available help, on 37 days from 16 August to 18 November. Some good October time was missed owing to lack of person-

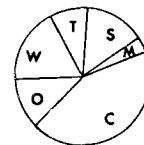
nel, resulting in fewer species and numbers of sparrows captured. Hummingbirds and Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets were released unbanded. Numbers of Lincoln's, Savannah, Vesper, and Field sparrows were way down (they weren't even seen in any numbers), and no White-crowned Sparrows were caught. No Yellow-bellied or Traill's flycatchers or Northern Waterthrushes were caught. We did have 49 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 43 Magnolia Warblers, and 25 Tennessee Warblers, which are good numbers for us. Fifteen banding demonstrations were given to school groups through the Irvine Natural Science Center.

Special thanks to Bob Dixon and Sharon Schwemmer for help in running the station. Also thanks to Mike Baker, Ann McIntyre, Nancy Mullen, Tim Raeke, Rick Press, and Bill Hillgartner. Again thanks to the Irvine Natural Science Center for their help and support and to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property.

McDonogh School

McDonogh, MD 392-0764

Bob Jarboe



A 40% decrease in net-hours from 1982 resulted in an 18% decrease in new birds banded, with most species declining. Of note were decreases among Song Sparrows (more than 50% below our six-year average) and Swainson's Thrushes (only a third of the totals each of the past two years) and increases among House Finches (twice the six-year average and 335% more than we caught last year) and American Goldfinches (411—we had caught only 328 in the previous five years). Longevity records for McDonogh were set by a Carolina Chickadee and a House Finch, both five years old; a four-year-old Rufous-sided Towhee; and a Gray Catbird at least six years old. August returns of House Finches and goldfinches banded in November 1982, and a November return of a Blue Jay banded in April 1983, suggest that not all individuals of these species are migratory. Because we band so few Blue-winged Warblers, we were excited to capture in August one we had banded in May 1982. Tufted Titmouse 1221-88446 dropped by in October to establish a longevity record—on his 34th visit to our traps and nets—of five years. The only new species banded in 1983 was the Evening Grosbeak.

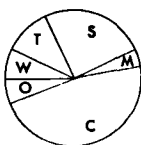
Mr. Robert C. Smoot, III, developed a computer program to determine distances between banding and recovery locations, using lat.-long. coordinates (our long-distance fliers include goldfinches recovered in Ontario and in Quebec), and Jeff Regester, a senior at McDonogh, has almost completed a program to generate banding schedules. Our thanks go also to members of the McDonogh Ornithology Club (Heather Burke, John

Elberfeld, Marty Frame, Barb and Gail Garnish, Allison Griffiths, Jason Reed, Greg Spiegel, Jeff Stone, and Darren Stores), who assisted with the banding occasionally, and to John and Peg Barber, Mike Beyer, Bob Dickson, Tony Fletcher, David Holmes, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Woody Martin, and Nancy and Stuart MacClintock for their help in turning a sparrow workshop into a finch study and in shattering the station's daily catch record of 156 by 101 birds. And very special thanks to Bob Lyon—banding partner, jovial companion, and dear friend these past six years. Bob is moving to Purcellville, VA, where the birds will remain unbanded until his new quarters are refurbished.

SIX-YEAR COMPARISON, McDonogh Station

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Avg.
New Birds	867	867	1585	1915	2036	1660	1434
Net-Hours	1110	1008	1644	2148	4101	2453	2077
Birds/100 Net-Hours	49	86	96	89	50	68	69
Swainson's Thrush	38	17	28	97	91	33	51
Gray Catbird	99	123	96	136	85	77	103
Tennessee Warbler	5	5	18	13	77	37	26
Magnolia Warbler	15	4	37	40	73	27	33
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	43	92	140	90	8	63
Ovenbird	12	5	41	35	90	44	38
Common Yellowthroat	26	35	59	49	36	32	40
Canada Warbler	4	3	23	8	50	13	17
Northern Cardinal	14	16	36	19	41	28	26
Indigo Bunting	2	46	28	54	45	30	34
Song Sparrow	47	182	160	240	236	72	156
White-throated Sparrow	22	22	56	28	76	12	36
House Finch	1	53	102	329	68	296	142
American Goldfinch	8	30	121	96	73	411	123

Leakin Park Baltimore City, MD 391-0764 John Barber



This station is reporting for the first time, although banding had been done at nearby feeders in previous years. The new net lanes were cut through thick deciduous woods and greenbriar thickets in an unused area of the park.

Warblers and vireos did not come through in large numbers, but Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were very common during September. White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos were common throughout the later months. A record number of Fox Sparrows (8) and Purple Finches (112) were banded. Five Eastern Screech Owls in October were a record for the station.

John and Peg Barber were the primary banders. Michael Baker contributed inspiration and permission to work in the Leakin Park area, owned by Baltimore City.

Cylburn Arboretum Baltimore, MD 392-0763 Michael J. Baker

For the fourteenth year, a banding operation was run at Cylburn Arboretum during the fall migration. Banding effort at the arboretum, a large urban park in north-central Baltimore City, was brought back up to the 1981 level, and produced some interesting results.

For the first time in recent memory, the White-throated Sparrow dropped to second place in the list of most commonly banded species at Cylburn. Taking top honors in 1983 was the House Finch, showing a remarkable increase in the number of individuals and perhaps a solidification of their adaptation to their new range. The numbers of White-throated Sparrows remained constant from 1982, but were still below the record of 1981.

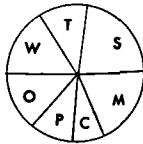
By covering more dates in 1983, it was also possible to increase the total number of species banded by 24%. Notable increases were observed in the numbers of Hermit Thrushes, Northern Cardinals, Tufted Titmice and Carolina Chickadees. There was a decrease in the number of Dark-eyed Juncos banded, although observations indicate that their numbers are still strong at Cylburn. Interesting captures for 1983 include Tennessee and Nashville warblers, Purple Finches, and Northern Orioles.

Educational demonstrations were presented to 16 area school and community groups, as well as to the Maryland Ornithological Society's Junior Nature Program. Mrs. Barbara Ross assisted with the 1983 banding.

Towson Baltimore, Co., MD 392-0763 Gladys H. Cole

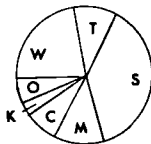
As in past years I operated three to five nets at my home station in the mornings before work, and for half days on some weekends, from August through October. I did not have flocks of warblers as I have had in other years, and Swainson's Thrushes were not as plentiful this year either. American Robin and American Redstart were by far my commonest banded species this fall, replacing Gray Catbird and White-throated Sparrow. I put on banding demonstrations on weekends and on Wednesday mornings for school children, nature study groups, and adults learning bird identification.

Parkville
Baltimore Co., MD 392-0763
J. J. Schreiber, Jr.



This marked the eighth consecutive year of fall banding at my home. Two full nets and two half-nets were used on 51 days between 15 August and 17 November, a 40% decrease in the number of days compared to 1982, but just about average for the last five years. Net-hours were down 26% from 1982, but up substantially when compared to 1979-81. Song Sparrow, the usual leader in captures, dropped way back as did Common Yellowthroat, with only 4 of each captured. The birds most commonly caught were Northern Cardinal, 18; Northern Mockingbird, 12; Gray Catbird and House Finch, 11; and newcomers Swainson's Thrush and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 10. Flights occurred on 24-25 September and on 1-2 October; 8 of the 10 Swainson's Thrushes were taken on 24-25 September. Locally nesting catbirds, cardinals, and mockingbirds apparently did well, as 40 of the 41 banded were HY. Relatively speaking, Magnolia Warbler was up and Common Yellowthroat and Canada Warbler were down. Brown Thrasher was a new bird for the station, bringing the species total to 67. All birds were aged, producing the following percentages: HY 80.7%, AHY 15.6%, and unknown 3.7%.

Bestgate
Annapolis, MD 385-0763
Pat and Bob Melville



Fall banding at Bestgate, just north of Annapolis, MD., ran from 1 August through 30 November. As last year, nets were set in scrub and hedgerows adjacent to a cornfield and along the edge of a grove of mature hardwoods.

Most banding occurred on weekends, with the usual number of nets being 19 this year, up from 15 in 1982. We generally operated 5 nets on weekday mornings and evenings during September and October, this year in the field rather than the woods as in prior years. We closed the nets around 8 A.M. and reopened them from 5 P.M. until dark. The result was 2825 new birds of 97 species banded, bringing the station species total to 113. The single new species was a late Orange-crowned Warbler, banded on 13 November.

Particularly impressive this year were the large numbers of Connecticut Warblers (16 banded versus 1 in each of the past 2 years). Several other species also showed increases of 100% or more over last year: Northern Flicker, 34 vs. 8; Saw-whet Owl, 3 (1); Black-and-white Warbler, 36 (14); Magnolia Warbler, 69 (29); American Goldfinch, 144 (42); Chipping Sparrow, 76 (14); and Dark-eyed Junco, 127 (56).

Except for the goldfinches, of which 104 were caught and 53 new birds banded during mid-August when nets were set in a patch of sunflowers, we are unable to attribute this apparent variation to changes in our banding habits. Lacking good baseline data, we are hesitant to comment on the significance of any of these increases, several of which may fall within the bounds of expected random variation; nevertheless the increase in Connecticut Warblers is astonishing, and we look forward to comparing notes with other banders. Of the goldfinch returns, five were birds banded under similar circumstances 3 years before and not seen since.

Declines were noted for Yellow-rumped Warblers, probably because the major flight days for this species occurred on weekdays when we did not band intensively, and for Eastern Bluebirds, with only one being seen on the property during the entire year.

Other exciting events included a very late and very young Swainson's Thrush banded on 27 November, which apparently had not undergone a post juvenile molt (!), and a Black-billed Cuckoo banded on 13 September and recaptured 10 days later at Adventure 37 miles due west.

This season may well mark the end of banding here at Bestgate; the farm on which we band has been sold to a real-estate developer who plans to construct townhouses or garden apartments.

Romney Creek
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 392-0761
Barbara C. Bilsborough

The fall of 1983 marked the beginning of the fourth year of banding at the Romney Creek Station. Although hot weather in August and rain in October reduced the number of net-hours and total birds from 1982's figures, the number of species increased from 52 to 55 and the birds/100 net-hours increased from 61 to 79. Of the 55 species, 5 were new for Romney Creek: Traill's Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. The species total now stands at 87. The two most common species, Gray Catbird and White-throated Sparrow, were both down from 1982. Species showing increases over 1982 were Common Yellowthroat 51 (39 in 1982), Field Sparrow 53 (31) and Indigo Bunting 77 (68). The latter two species have increased each year since the station opened in 1980.

Two birds created some excitement. One was a White-throated Sparrow with beautiful orange lores and orange at the bend of the wing. The other was a Sharp-shinned Hawk, the first hawk I have ever handled; all went well with no damage done to either bird or bander.

The Black-capped Chickadee invasion included Romney Creek and we were able to band five of them, the first since 1980. There were 15 returns of 9 species. Residents returning were a Downy Woodpecker banded the previous spring, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Northern Cardinals and 2 Carolina Chickadees, all banded in 1982. Returns among the migrant species included 2 Indigo Buntings, 2 White-eyed Vireos, a Common Yellowthroat and 2 House Wrens, all banded in 1982, and 3 Gray Catbirds banded in 1981.

On 27 October I had my first encounter with another bander's bird, a Gray Catbird #951-51350 banded at Manomet, MA, 24 days earlier on 3 October. In November I received a report that a Gray Catbird banded at Romney Creek in May 1982 had been found dead in Valatie, NY, in September.

As usual I am grateful to Nancy Roberts for her assistance in operating the station and to the Environmental Management Branch at APG for continued authorization of the Romney Creek Banding Station.

Damsite

Chestertown, MD 391-0761

Dorothy A. Mendinhall and James G. Gruber

Damsite Banding Station operated 25 days from 19 August to 7 November. Nets were placed in the same locations as in years past. New birds banded totaled 1605, in 5813 net-hours (27.6 per 100 net-hours, about the same as last year).

The first large movement of birds was detected on 25 August, when 105 birds were banded, of which most were warblers (11 Black-and-whites, 17 Ovenbirds, 12 American Redstarts). The next movement wasn't until 25 September when 149 birds were banded, mostly thrushes and warblers (16 Wood Thrushes, 21 Swainson's Thrushes, 23 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 16 Magnolia Warblers and 14 Ovenbirds).

White-throated Sparrows arrived on 29 September, with 13 banded. On 8 October we banded 5 species of thrush. Our biggest day came on 16 October when we banded 208 birds; 72 of these were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 36 were White-throats, and 26 were Hermit Thrushes. On 20 October an influx of Purple Finches was noted, with 40 banded. Our second biggest day came on 6 November, with 153 banded (27 Dark-eyed Juncos, 24 Cedar Waxwings, 25 American Robins).

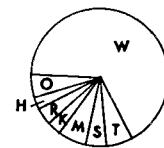
Birds of note that were banded included an American Woodcock, on 6 September; a Sharp-shinned Hawk on 6 November; a Yellow-throated Vireo, 16 October; a Mourning Warbler, 24 September; and 3 Black-capped Chickadees on 6 and 7 November.

Special thanks go to my wife, Tricia Gruber, who helped every day, and to Mary Horne, Page Hartley, Chris Linger- man, and Jason Moyer.

Kiptopeke Beach

Northhampton County, VA 370-0755

F. R. Scott



The banding operation at the Kiptopeke Beach Field Station in 1983 was changed substantially from previous years. Although the basic net lanes were retained, the maximum number of nets was reduced from 49 in 1982 to 26 this year, and the station ran for only 30 days compared with 58 in 1982. Thus comparisons between 1983 and prior years must be made with care. As might be expected under the circumstances, the numerical results were considerably lower in 1983 except for new birds per 100 net-hours, which naturally increased as less productive nets were eliminated.

In spite of the above changes, a few species were trapped in higher numbers than in 1982. Among these were House Wren, 138 (vs. 106 in 1982); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 77 (53); Wood Thrush, 12 (4); Cape May Warbler, 41 (10); Palm Warbler, 72 (64); and Bay-breasted Warbler, 49 (7). Locally unusual birds trapped this year included one each of Black-capped Chickadee, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow.

There were only 6 returns from previous years, all permanent residents banded no earlier than 1979. The single foreign retrap was an HY Yellow-rumped Warbler banded in Juniper, N.B., on 19 July 1983 by H. Odellet and recaptured here on 12 October by W. P. Smith.

Walter P. Smith served as Station director and was assisted by licensed banders Charles W. Hacker, F. R. Scott, and Charles Ziegenfus. Forty-eight other assistants helped attend the nets and were invaluable in running the station.

Jekyll Island, GA 310-0812

Terry Moore

For the second straight year the weather did not favor banding. Days of operation were 9-16 October 1983. The one cold front that came through during the week of banding was accompanied by rain. Net-hours were slightly up from last year as were birds per net-hour. The number of species was slightly down but the number of individuals was up. Next year we plan to expand the operation to two weeks in the hope of learning more about the fall migration along the Georgia coast.

Thanks to all who helped during the week: Tess Cumbie, Fairman Cumming, Hugh Garrett, Bonnie Israel, Caroline Krueger, Frank McCamey, Peggy Moore, Sara Robertson, Ruth Sanford, Mary Ann Vernocy, Joel Volpi, and Ann Wyand.