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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
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, Maryland 20708

Region V includes the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of the South Atlantic States from Maryland to Florida, but 12 of the 14 participating stations are in Maryland. The Adventure, Sandy Spring, McDonogh, and Stevenson stations are in the Piedmont. Laurel, Leakin Park, Cylburn, Towson, and Parkville are along the Fall Line between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain. Patuxent and Aberdeen are on the Western Shore Coastal Plain; Damsite is on the eastern shoreline of Chesapeake Bay; and Kiptopeke, Virginia, and Jekyll Island, Georgia, are along the Atlantic Coast.

The stations reporting in 1984 were the same as those in 1983 except that the Bestgate station in Annapolis had to be abandoned when it was sold to a developer. I made a rough comparison of the captures for the two fall seasons at the remaining 14 active stations. Net hours of effort increased from 59,018 in 1983 to 64,367 in 1984 (Table 1), a 9.1% rise. The number of birds banded, however, dropped from 22,535 in 1983 to 18,914 in 1984, a decrease of 16.1%. Unfortunately, the majority of stations vary dramatically in netting effort from year to year, so it is not easy to measure regional changes in abundance of individual species. The best we can do with the data submitted for 1983 and 1984 (Table 1) is to make a few comparisons using data from the three stations that were the most comparable in net hours of effort in these two years: Adventure, with a 1.7% increase in net hours in 1984; Stevenson with a 3.0% increase, and Parkville with a 6.2% decrease. Adventure had by far the greatest coverage of these three stations so the comparisons are heavily weighted in favor of the banding results at Adventure. The change in net hours for these three stations combined was an increase of 1.6%. Major declines at these three stations were recorded for Ruby-crowned Kinglet (182 to 133), Swainson's Thrush (572 to 298), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (614 to 380). More comparisons could be made in future years if netting effort were more standardized or if totals were reported separately for those months in which effort was similar in consecutive years.

At some of the other stations, low numbers in spite of greatly increased coverage are worthy of mention. Blue Jays, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Swain-

son's Thrushes, Scarlet Tanager, and Purple Finches were among the species caught in unusually small numbers at Laurel in 1984. At Aberdeen there were low numbers of Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird, Indigo Bunting, and Dark-eyed Junco. At Damsite, declines were recorded for Golden-crowned Kinglet and for Black-throated Blue and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The major increase at Damsite was in Tennessee Warblers, from 2 in 1983 to 58 in 1984.

White-throated Sparrow was the most common species banded at six stations in 1984 (Table 2), Yellow-rumped Warbler and Gray Catbird at three each, House Finch at one (McDonogh), and Palm Warbler at one (Jekyll Island). There was no consistent relationship between the most common species (Table 2) and geographical location (inland to coastal, reading from left to right). This suggests that local habitat rather than physiographic region influenced the dominance of species.

The three most common species banded regionwide, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Gray Catbird, and White-throated Sparrow (Table 2), were the same as in 1983 (NABB 10:53), but in a different sequence, with the total number of White-throats banded dropping from first in 1983 to third place in 1984. Swainson's Thrush dropped from fourth to seventh place, and a sharp decline east of the Mississippi River was also registered this summer on the Breeding Bird Survey. House Finches decreased by more than 50% regionwide and were replaced in the top ten species in 1984 (Table 2) by Magnolia Warbler. Other sequence changes among the top ten species were negligible.

The percentage of hatching year (HY) birds at the Maryland stations was computed for the species for which 100 or more individuals had been aged by the banders in 1984 (Table 3). If the number of unaged birds of a species exceeded 10% at any station, the records of these species for that station were not included in the percentages shown in the table. For comparison, the mean percent of HY birds for the first ten years of this program is shown in the first column, followed by the range of percentages over the 10-year period. The 1983 percentages also are shown.

Most species in 1984 fell within the expected ranges of age ratios when compared to the 1972-83 data, but several species deserve comment. The high percentage of HY Swainson's Thrushes during the autumn migration, the second highest recorded by banders in our region in 12 years, is encouraging in view of the low numbers recorded for this species. The second highest percentage for Hermit Thrush may indicate continued recovery from the severe winter of 1977 (NABB 4:182; 5:33). Gray Catbirds also had the second highest ratio of young to adults in 12 years. In contrast, Red-eyed Vireos were very low in numbers banded and had the second lowest percentage of young birds in the 12-year period. Magnolia Warblers continued their typical pattern of alternating between high and low ratios of young to adults (NABB 10:55). White-throated Sparrow and Northern Cardinal ratios were at or close to the highest levels in 12 years, but for American Goldfinches both the total numbers banded and the age ratio were extraordinarily low.

For the second year, pie charts are used to show the seasonal abundance of the common families and sub-families at the Region V banding stations. Abbreviations are as follows: W (warblers), T (thrushes), S (sparrows, buntings, and grosbeaks), M (mimids), C (cardueline finches), V (vireos), K (kinglets), R (wrens), F (flycatchers), B (blackbirds), D (doves), H (hawks), P (woodpeckers), and O (others). Three Piedmont stations in the Baltimore area, Stevenson, Leakin Park, and Towson, were remarkably similar to each other in family composition. Damsite results most closely resembled those of Adventure. Warblers dominated the two coastal sites, Kiptopeke and Jekyll Island. The chief difference between the 1984 captures and those of 1983 (NABB 10:53-60) was the scarcity of cardueline finches in 1984.

Table 1. Region V Summary.

	ADVEN- TURE MD	SANDY SPRING MD	LAUREL MD	PATUX- ENT MD	STEVEN- SON MD	Mc DONOGH MD	LEAKIN PARK MD	CYL- BURN MD	TOWSON MD	PARK- VILLE MD	ABER- DEEN MD	DAM- SITE MD	KIPTO- PEKE VA	JEKYLL ISLAND GA
Days of operation, 1984	76	25	80	71	40	31	28	33	24	49	29	26	51	16
Max. no. of nets used	30	27	13	26	20	15	4	5	6	3	8	51	26	15
Net hours, 1984	25973	2026	4294	4486	1789	692	1100	398	552	649	1195	10448	9810	955
Net hours, 1983	25548	4726	1894	7672	1737	2453	1435	274	434	692	824	5813	5104	412
Largest daily catch	105	115	33	151	64	42	41	35	27	7	64	214	300	164
Birds banded, 1984	3101	1620	576	3244	766	419	351	305	304	101	624	1947	4527	1029
Birds banded, 1983	4006	3830	285	3599	840	1660	810	280	298	135	655	1605	4036	496
Total species, 1984	90	72	58	81	64	47	46	46	49	24	51	88	86	47
Total species, 1983	92	95	45	89	59	96	53	42	44	27	55	85	82	30
Birds/100 n.h., 1984	12	80	13	72	43	60	32	77	55	16	52	19	46	108
Birds/100 n.h., 1983	16	81	15	47	48	68	56	102	69	20	79	28	79	120

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1984.

SPECIES	ADVEN- TURE MD	SANDY SPRING MD	LAUREL MD	PATUX- ENT MD	STEVEN- SON MD	Mc DONOGH MD	LEAKIN PARK MD	CYL- BURN MD	TOWSON MD	PARK- VILLE MD	ABER- DEEN MD	DAM- SITE MD	KIPTO- PEKE VA	JEKYLL ISLAND GA
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	99	65	6	352*	29	2	3	20*	4	5	16	112*	111	1
Gray Catbird	215*	320*	58*	129	190*	36*	53*	42*	56*	13	117*	54	149*	78*
Swainson's Thrush	273*	35	28	84	23	2	15	10	5	2	0	76	29	17
Magnolia Warbler	143*	40	19	153	38*	2	17	14*	17*	5	0	85	36	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	377*	64*	26	403*	3	3	11	1	0	0	0	34	1763*	1
American Redstart	59	32	19	70	21	0	6	1	14	0	0	70	618*	58*
Ovenbird	139	19	42*	61	21	6	16	2	9	5	0	97*	82	9
Common Yellowthroat	54	61	5	175*	29	0	2	1	3	8*	39*	44	421*	148*
White-throated Sparrow	261*	340*	76*	153	54*	13	54*	74*	16*	1	133*	189*	51	0*
Dark-eyed Junco	30	82	20	158	21	9	6	13	3	1	0	112*	28	0

*One of the five most common species at this station in 1984.

Table 3. Percentage of HY birds at Maryland stations.

SPECIES	1973-82		1983	1984	1984 SAMPLE SIZE
	MEAN	RANGE			
Veery	64	51-77	66-67 ¹	71-73 ¹	160
Swainson's Thrush	76	61-85	78-79	82-83	460
Hermit Thrush	77	67-90	94	87-89	149
Wood Thrush	82	66-91	82-86	88-92	135
American Robin	79	69-88	76-79	74-79	179
Gray Catbird	85	77-92	89	90-91	1090
Red-eyed Vireo	74	57-84	67-68	66	127
Tennessee Warbler	87	83-89	83-88	86	134
Magnolia Warbler	70	55-84	59-62	76-79	340
Black-throated Blue Warbler	72	48-88	77-80	78-80	138
Yellow-rumped Warbler	74	62-87	58-60	74-75	476
Black-&-white Warbler	(73) ²	64-77	71-72	66	125
American Redstart	72	62-79	62-64	76-77	199
Ovenbird	77	65-87	74-76	79	318
Common Yellowthroat	63	48-76	59-63	63-67	230
Canada Warbler	73	67-80	67-69	76	183
Northern Cardinal	75	65-81	77-80	79-81	318
Indigo Bunting	(83)	53-90	83	89	112
Rufous-sided Towhee	(75)	66-83	78-80	78-80	142
Song Sparrow	79	66-87	78-80	79-82	368
Swamp Sparrow	(66)	52-75	52-54	72	115
White-throated Sparrow	65	56-77	66-67	77-78	1111
Dark-eyed Junco	75	66-81	74	80	300
American Goldfinch	61	45-75	64-65	23	114

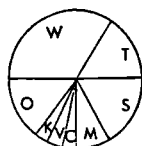
¹When some of the birds were of undetermined age a range of percentages is given.

²Means based on fewer than 5 years are in parentheses.

Adventure

Montgomery Co., MD 390-0771

Margaret T. Donnal



As in previous years, our station was operated on a dawn-to-sunset basis from 15 August through 31 October. In spite of a slight increase (1.6%) in net hours over 1983, the total number of birds captured (3176) was the lowest since 1978, and was 16% below the nine-year average of 3792. A daily total of 100 or more birds was reached only once and that was on the late date of 25 October with a count of 105.

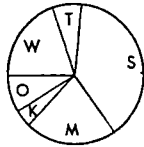
Compared to 1983, thrushes decreased from 994 to 542. Warblers decreased from 1348 to 1139, largely as a result of a decrease in Yellow-rumped Warblers from 577 to 377. Warblers other than Yellow-rumps decreased only slightly, from 772 to 762, and Canada Warblers actually increased from 67 to an all-time fall high of 128. For the first time since 1973, no Purple Finches were banded.

During the year, five birds previously banded at Adventure were reported as recoveries in five different states. These were (1) Yellow-rumped Warbler (1580-01703) banded 3 May 1982 as an ASY male, found 10 February

1984 in Saluda, South Carolina; (2) American Goldfinch (1580-10839) banded on 8 May 1982 as an ASY male, reported on 2 January 1984 at Lake Walter F. George, Alabama; (3) Ovenbird (960-95872) banded on 29 August 1983 as an HY, recovered on 7 May 1984 in Maynard, Massachusetts; (4) Song Sparrow (960-96263) banded 20 October 1983 as an HY, recaptured by Carol Fiedler on 18 May 1985 in Pierz, Minnesota; and (5) American Goldfinch (1610-24053) banded 1 May 1964 as an SY male, recaptured by Helen Lapham two weeks later on 14 May 1984 in Lansing, New York.

Participating in station operations were Sub-permittees Morrill Donnal, Jane Huff, Manuel Lerda, Willem Maane, David Mehlman, Minette McCullough, Charlotte Pryor, Lutie Semmes, Ed Smith, and John Vance, and Assistants Bryan Aptekar, Faye Barnes, Pixie Christy, Molly Cornell, Steve Cossen, Lonnie Darr, Nathan Davis, Barbara Dowell, Greg Grass, Loretta Haggard, Jim Harwell, Marge Hobdey, Linda Hollenberg, Dennis Jones, Ruth Klein, Stella Koch, Michael Kolp, Henry Louie, Bill Marx, Ann Mitchell, Robert Rasa, John Rizzo, Tamara Sadowski, Susan Strange, Lisa Thompson, Naomi Ulmer, and Mark Vranicar.

Sandy Spring
Montgomery Co., MD 390-0770
Nancy and Stuart MacClintock



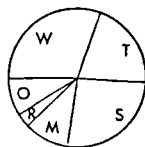
The Sandy Spring banding station operated on 25 days between 25 August and 26 November 1984. On a typical day we ran 27 nets from daybreak to late morning. The capture rate was about the same as last year. However, the 2026 net hours, the 1620 birds caught, and the 72 species were markedly down from the 1983 totals of 4726, 3830, and 95, respectively. The drop in number of birds and species is partly dependent on the reduction in net hours; perhaps it is also tied to the general slowness of the 1984 migration season.

White-throated Sparrows and Gray Catbirds remained at the top of our list of most common species, with Song Sparrows relatively high. Juncos decreased slightly, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets took over fifth place, with Yellow-rumped Warblers in sixth, down from 206 to 64. Swainson's Thrushes and Common Yellowthroats, species normally high on our list, fell off sharply, 212 to 34, and 103 to 57, respectively.

No species new or unusual for the station was captured, and several species often netted, e.g., both cuckoos, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, and Northern Saw-whet Owl, did not appear.

Bander was Nancy MacClintock, with sub-permittees Lucy MacClintock and Stuart MacClintock. Steve Smith assisted ably throughout the season, as did Tony Futchter. John Weske, who established the station, added to our totals by banding on two days and provided invaluable advice and encouragement throughout the autumn.

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



This suburban station is located on the Patuxent River gorge one-half mile down stream from the I-95 bridge. Nets were operated at the usual locations before and after work, and all day on most weekends. Although net hours for the season reached a new high (11% above my previous high of 3874 in 1980), total bandings were only the third highest in 12 years. My highest seasonal totals were 633 in 1977 and 630 in 1980.

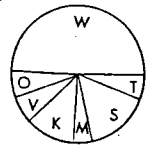
I banded my first Palm Warbler since 1955, but did not add any new species to the cumulative total of 113 at this location. Percentage of repeats rose steadily from 10% in August to 27% in November. Nearly half of the 55 returns

were taken in November. White-throated Sparrows led the list of returns with 19 individuals, followed by nine Northern Cardinals. Tufted Titmice were especially scarce, with only six new birds netted and two returns. My oldest returns were White-throats from November 1978 and 1979, a junco from March 1980, and a Hairy Woodpecker from November 1980.

The most obvious departure from normal was the scarcity of thrushes, especially the Swainson's Thrush (lowest since 1976 in spite of the record net hours of operation). The fall migration of Blue Jays was barely detectable; only two were banded, the poorest showing since 1978. Both White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were missed completely. Orioles and tanagers were almost lacking, and there were no northern finches, not even Purple Finches. On the positive side, I had new high totals for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (3), House Wren (9), Worm-eating Warbler (4), Ovenbird (42), and Canada Warbler (10), and I caught the first Eastern Phoebe in 12 years.

No baiting was done within 50 feet of the net lanes. This summary does not include the 319 birds of 13 species caught in traps on my deck, except for the ten birds that were subsequently netted. Species composition in the traps, of course, was completely different; I netted only one House Finch, but banded 236 from traps.

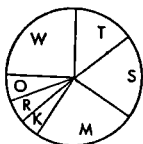
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Prince Georges Co., MD 390-0764
Danny Bystrak and Deanna K. Dawson



At the Patuxent powerline station, 1984 was the year of the Yellow-rumped Warbler-403 individuals were captured and banded (previous high, 104 in 1982). The Tennessee Warbler total climbed to a new high of 252, and this species posted both early and late capture records for this site (6 August and 1 November). We captured 45 Hermit Thrushes in 1984, more than in any other year (previous high, 38 in 1982), but the totals for Swainson's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush were the lowest recorded. Species captured in 1980-83 but missed in 1984 were Brown Creeper and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common Grackle was the only species that had not been banded in previous years. Thirty-one warbler species were captured.

The station was in operation on 71 days between 1 August and 28 November; nets were generally open by dawn and run for 2 to 3 hours. Total net hours declined from 7672 in 1983 to 4486, mainly because five fewer net were run and because rainy weather forced us to stay closed many mornings in August. Regular assistants included Andy Hicks, Elaine Lowry, and Pete Range.

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



Atlantic Flyway banding operations for 1984 began on 20 August. Nets were in the same places and numbers as in 1983. Banding was conducted from sunup until about noon. More days were covered this year, with more net hours and an increase in species, but fewer birds were banded. I do not attach much significance to this as eight of the 40 days were not covered in a manner comparable to the other 32 days. On 9 September, an especially productive day, nets were not opened until 0900, but 60 birds of 21 species, including 11 species of warblers, were caught. The 11th and 17th were also busy days. October, however, was disappointing.

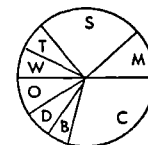
Numbers of sparrows were down again this year: no White-crowned or Vesper, and only 1 Lincoln's, 1 Savannah, and 2 Field Sparrows. We caught no goldfinches, House Finches, or Purple Finches, and very few Indigo Buntings.

An exciting capture was an HY Black-billed Cuckoo on 22 August. As I removed this squawking baby from the net the parent hovered nearby, calling. When we released the youngster near where it was caught, out came the parent to escort it to safety. We have a nice stand of jewelweed, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were caught near here four times. We do not band these. Again this year two Connecticut Warblers were caught. On 16 October we caught a Sharp-shinned Hawk alongside a Red-bellied Woodpecker and five Tufted Titmice. What a racket! The surprise on 6 November was a late Yellow-breasted Chat.

An HY American Goldfinch (1650-26925) banded on 6 October 1983 was recovered alive on 29 August 1984 at Enosburg Falls, Vermont. A male Common Yellowthroat that returned on 25 September had been banded on 15 September 1982 as an HY male. A Carolina Chickadee, banded on 13 October 1980, was recaptured on 3 October 1985.

Banding demonstrations (17) were given to school groups through the Irvine Natural Science Center. Many thanks to Mark Hoffman, Patty Hastings, Jamie Ross, and Nancy Mullen. Also thanks to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property.

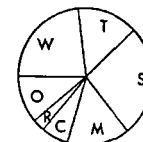
McDonogh School
McDonogh, Baltimore Co., MD 392-0764
Bob Jarboe



In 1984 a net-hours decline of 72% resulted in a new-birds-banded decrease of 75%, though returns decreased only 39%. Flooding of Horsehead Branch in July and August swept the floodplain clean, resulting in sparse ground cover and little food for birds along our established net lanes. Highlights included recaptures of Mourning Doves banded in 1979 and 1980, a House Finch and a Song Sparrow banded in 1980, an American Goldfinch banded in 1981, and the 39th handling of the patriarch of the campus titmice, a bird banded in 1978, the first year our station was open.

I thank the members of the McDonogh Ornithology Club—especially Jeff Regester, Heather Burke, Greg Spiegel, Ceres Horn, and Gail and Barbara Garnish—for their abiding interest in and help with the banding program.

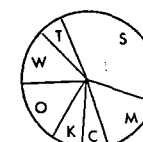
Leakin Park
Baltimore City, MD 391-0764
John and Peg Barber



The fifth year of fall banding in Leakin Park was rather disappointing, with far lower numbers of species and individuals per net hour than in prior years. The most productive nets were located in lanes through greenbrier patches in a little-used area of the park.

Notable changes over previous years were a record number of Hermit Thrushes (19), large flights of Canada and Mangolia Warblers, and only one Gray-cheeked Thrush. New species for the station were Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (4), Cedar Waxwing (1), and Philadelphia Vireo (1). November brought no Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, or Pine Siskins, the only year in five that this has happened. John and Peg Barber were the primary banders. Bob and Pat Melville and Mike Baker provided ideas and inspiration.

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

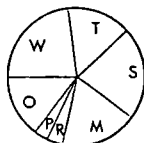


For the fifteenth year a banding station was run at Cylburn Arboretum during the fall migration. The White-throated Sparrow regained the top spot as the most commonly banded bird after a one-year replacement by the House Finch. Numbers of White-throated Sparrows approached the 1981 record level; 73 were banded in 1984 as opposed to 100 in 1981.

The number of species banded increased again in 1984 as did the number of birds. Notable increases were observed in the numbers of Magnolia Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Slate-colored Juncos, House Wrens, Swainson's Thrushes, and Tennessee and Nashville Warblers. Interesting captures include Eastern Phoebe, Northern Parulas, a Solitary Vireo, and Black-throated Green Warblers.

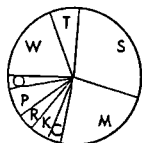
Educational demonstrations were presented to 25 area school and community groups, as well as to the Maryland Ornithological Society's Junior Nature Program. Special thanks to the City of Baltimore, Mrs. Glenda Weber, Mrs. Barbara Ross, and John and Peg Barber for their enthusiasm, cooperation, and encouragement.

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



As in past autumns I banded a couple of hours before work and an average of three hours after work on several days during the week. I also banded part time on weekends. My nets were never full as they frequently have been. I have many food-bearing shrubs, and the trees and bushes still had fruit at the end of the season; that has never happened before. Although I caught 45 species, several were represented by only one of a kind. The birds just dribbled in.

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

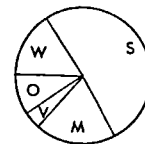


I completed my ninth consecutive year of fall banding at my home in Parkville. Total net hours were down slightly from 1983 and were slightly above the previous five-year average. The season was disappointing, lacking any substantial activity at my station. Song Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat were back among the top six species after an unusual absence last year. Others among the most frequently banded, in addition to those in Table 2, were Cardinal, 12; Mockingbird, 10; and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6. Cardinal has been among the top six species for the past six years, and Catbird and Mockingbird have been on the list five out of the six years. These locally nesting species continue to do well.

Brown Creeper was a new bird for the station, bringing the species total to 69 after Kentucky Warbler was added in the spring. Age distribution was HY 86.2%, AHY 5.9%, ASY 1%, and unknown 6.9%. For the first time, a bird

banded at my station was recovered outside Maryland. An HY female Canada Warbler banded on 5 September 1982 was found dead at Beauport, Quebec, 15 miles north of Quebec City, on 28 May 1984. My thanks to Monsieur Andre Tremblay.

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



Fall banding at Romney Creek ran from 21 August until 27 November 1984. Compared to 1983 this is an increase of six days and 371 net hours. However, the number of birds banded dropped from 655 to 624 and the number of species from 55 to 51. In spite of these decreases we had our busiest day ever on 25 October when 64 birds were banded; and on the final net check, several White-throats were released unbanded in order to leave the area before the gate closed. The following day, which we hoped would bring a repeat performance, resulted in only 4 birds! Throughout the season, similar circumstances were noted with very busy days followed by extremely slow ones.

Some species showed substantial increases over previous years. It must have been a good year for the resident Cardinals with 27 banded, the highest of any of our five fall seasons. Of the 27, 24 were HY. Rusty Blackbirds, up from 5 in 1983 to 10, made it to our list of 10 or more for the first time. Our two top species, White-throated Sparrows and Gray Catbirds, seem to trade the honor of first place each year. This year it goes to the White-throats, up 11% from the 119 in 1983. Catbirds were down 11%.

There was a significant decrease of 36% in Indigo Buntings. This species has been of particular interest to me because Romney Creek seems to have a higher percentage of them than do other stations. From 1981 through 1984, fall totals have been 51, 68, 77, and 49. Not only did the numbers increase for three consecutive seasons, but bar graphs of the numbers caught each day showed a definite advance in the date of greatest flight from 10 September 1981 to 18 September 1983. In 1984 the greatest number, 16, occurred on 21 September. Unfortunately, inclement weather and commitment for school banding demonstrations prevented any work at Romney Creek from 24 September when 5 Indigos were caught until 4 October when 2 were caught.

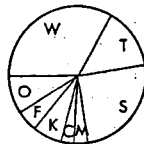
A few species were conspicuous by their total absence. Most notable was the Dark-eyed Junco, none of which were even seen. Also missing were Brown Creepers. No woodpeckers were caught although they seemed to be around in normal numbers. A Prothonotary Warbler and a Green-backed Heron brought the cumulative species total to 89.

In mid September the maintenance men from the Proving Ground who came to mow my net lanes cut through a dense tangle of grape vine, greenbrier, and small trees adjacent to an existing lane. It seemed a good place to put nets and two were quickly set up in these new lanes. They turned out to be quite productive. One one occasion 12 Field Sparrows, 1 adult and 11 HY's, were caught, all in one small section of one net. Also caught there were a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a resident Mockingbird (five times at just about the same place in the net).

The five returns included a Cardinal banded in May 1982 and a White-eyed Vireo banded in May 1984.

I am grateful to the Environmental Branch of APG for their continued authorization and support of the banding station. Thanks also go to Nancy Roberts, as usual my faithful and valuable assistant. In October we were joined by Catherine Elliott on a few days.

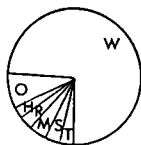
Damsite
Chestertown, MD 391-0761
Jim Gruber and Dorothy A. Mendinhall



Damsite operated 26 days, from 1 August to 3 November. Our best days were 6 September, with 214 birds banded and 30 October, with 192 new birds. Birds banded on 6 September were mostly warblers of 18 species. Birds banded on 30 October were mostly juncos, with 82 banded. Birds of note were our first Green-backed Heron on 7 October, a Belted Kingfisher on 29 October, 2 Chuck-will's-widows on 30 September, 2 Connecticut Warblers on 22 September and 1 on 7 October, and single Mourning Warblers on 26 and 27 August.

Many thanks to Tricia Gruber, Steve Hitchner, Dolly and Sam McSorley, and Maggie Duncan, all of whom contributed many hours of work.

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



The Kiptopeke Beach Field Station increased its banding period from 30 days in 1983 to 51 days in 1984. The maxi-

imum number of nets used remained the same, at 26. In spite of the 92% increase in net hours, total new birds banded increased only 12%. This was considered to be a result of the lack of strong cold fronts and northerly winds upon which the station is so dependent for good concentrations of migrants. Particularly devastating was hurricane Diana, which dawdled about the coast of North Carolina for a week, giving coastal Virginia easterly winds and almost no birds. As a result, between 9 and 14 September only 92 birds were trapped, an average of 15 per day!

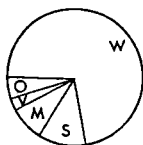
In view of the substantial increase in the length of the banding period, comparisons of individual species totals with those in 1983 would in most cases be of doubtful value. Two significant changes may be of importance, however. Banding totals for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes in 1984 were 30 and 29, respectively, versus 77 and 108 for 1983. The 1984 figures were, in fact, the lowest for both species at this station since 1963, when the station was in operation for only one week. These figures should not be extended to these birds' total populations without evidence from inland stations. In this instance, I suspect the weather conditions were principally responsible for the low numbers in 1984; i.e., the birds' main migration may have occurred farther inland rather than along the coast.

As usual for coastal banding stations, the percentage of HY birds tended to be higher than for most inland stations. However, for some of the more common species the 1984 figures were lower than in most prior years. Thus the Yellow-rumped Warblers this year were comprised of only 84% HY birds rather than the more usual 90-95%. Other lower-than-usual HY percentages were Red-eyed Vireo, 80%; Magnolia Warbler, 86-89%; and Indigo Bunting, 72%. On the other hand, some species retained the usual high HY percentage, such as Sharp-shinned Hawk, 98%; House Wren, 99%; and Gray Catbird, 99%. And for some species, such as all four *Empidonax* flycatchers and Palm Warbler, there were no AHY birds at all—i.e., 100% HY.

The six returns were all permanent residents, none banded earlier than 1981. The five foreign retraps were all direct recoveries of HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded in New Jersey from 2 to 4 days prior to their recapture here.

Walter P. Smith again served as station director and was aided by licensed banders John Buckalew, Charles W. Hacker, Don Schwab, and F. R. Scott plus over 65 assistants.

Jekyll Island,
Glynn Co., GA 310-0812
Doris Cohrs and Terry Moore



This year we expanded our banding to 16 consecutive days. Our previous maximum was 9 days. Tropical storm "Isador" brushed the coast on 28 September, hitting Jekyll Island with heavy rains and strong winds. We began operation on 30 September and had our largest catches on 2 October (164 birds) and 1 October (128). Thereafter the weather was ideal for vacationing, but not for banding, as no frontal systems moved through the area.

We had our first foreign retrap, an HY male Merlin (no. 1433-46903). He staked out one of our nets, perhaps looking for an easy meal. On the first day he hit the net but easily flew out as someone approached. The second day, 1 October 1984, he was not so lucky and became thoroughly enmeshed. He had been banded at Cape May,

N. J. on 22 September 1984 by W. S. Clark. On 30 September 1984 a resident of Jekyll Island found a dead Royal Tern (no. 684-57260) on the beach and brought it to our station. It had been banded near Wilmington, N.C. on 15 July 1984 by John S. Weske. Also of interest was our Painted Bunting (no. 950-97159) banded on Jekyll on 7 October 1982 and captured during a banding program at Caletones Beach, Cuba on 28 October 1983 (see *Oriole* 48:67). This is our only Jekyll bird to be encountered elsewhere.

Although we did not capture as many individuals as we had hoped for (comparing numbers from previous years), we are pleased with the variety of species, a total of 47, 20 of which were warblers. Thanks go to our ever changing cast of characters: sub-permittees Don Cohrs, Vince Jackson, and Anne Wyand, and 20 helpers too numerous to list.

