

with one or two helpers. 1,016 birds were banded, weighed, wing chord measured, fat content noted and skulled. 63 species were banded. Birds of special interest were two Saw-whet Owls and three HY Red Crossbills. The returns are as follows: one Veery, 14 Purple Finches, two Blue Jays, three Yellowthroats, two Black-capped Chickadees, two Song Sparrows, one Red-breasted Nuthatch, one Myrtle Warbler and one Swamp Sparrow.

--Mrs. Marion Metcalf.

#### Salisbury, New York

In 1972 the bird banding at Salisbury, New York took place from April 26 to May 7; from May 16 to June 3 and from August 30 to November 2nd. Except for periods of wind and rain, nets were open from 6:30 a.m. to dusk during these periods. The number of nets used varied from three to ten, depending upon the direction of the wind. 1642 birds of 67 species were banded in 1972.

The five most numerous species were the following:

White-throated Sparrow	377
Song Sparrow	163
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	125
White-crowned Sparrow	104
Yellowthroat	96

This is a much larger number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellowthroats than in previous years. Both of these species were captured over a longer period of time than most other species.

This was the first year for banding the yellow-bellied sapsucker and the red-breasted nuthatch although I feel sure both species have been in the area each year. This was the first year that I have seen or banded the orange-crowned warbler.

The pattern of agricultural crops around the banding area was unfavorable in 1972, particularly for the sparrow and blackbird groups. Many of these birds were observed in nearby corn fields and this probably reduced their numbers in the banding area.

Weather was certainly an important factor in determining the numbers banded. There was only one day of heavy banding this fall. The continued mild weather during the last of October seemed to delay bird movement until banding was discontinued. Only one or two juncos and tree sparrows were banded this fall. There were many small flocks of evening grosbeaks flying over the area during the latter half of October. Only one was banded.

I was surprised at the effect of even light winds on the nets. Capture drops off surprisingly fast. Even a light breeze, directly on the nets, greatly reduced the catch. When I think of all of the factors which determine captures in nets I question the value of figures showing captures per net-hour. I do not think that valid comparisons can be made between operations in different areas.

Travel plans may prevent banding next spring. I do plan to continue banding at Salisbury as time permits.

--LeRoy C. Stegeman

#### Vischer Ferry, New York

This year's fall banding operation at Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area led to an above-average take of birds which was, however, below last year's record catch. We banded 1726 birds and processed 321 recaptures for a new bird yield of 93 birds/100 net hours (B/Cn-h), compared to last year's 113; and a total capture of 110 B/Cn-h., compared to last year's 137. Coverage extended from September 8 through October 22 on the usual weekend basis as in the past. Rain prevented operation on the first weekend of October. 65 species were banded, and two new species, ruffed grouse and yellowthroated vireo, were added to bring the nine-year composite list to 110 species.

We manned essentially the same net lanes as in recent years with the exception of adding coverage of two five-net lanes for Jim Covert. Will Merritt manned two lanes totalling 20 nets, Bob Pantle manned one lane of ten nets and I manned two lanes of 21 nets. We netted on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings through September, and on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings in October. The weekends of September 8-9, 22-23 and October 14-15 were the most active.

Due to our late-than-usual start, we missed peak numbers of some of the earlier migrants. Notably the captures of hummingbirds, flycatchers and veeries were reduced.

Compared to last year we witnessed substantial reductions in the captures of black-capped chickadees (15 vs. 35), hermit thrush (35 vs. 60), cedar waxwing (18 vs. 149), red-eyed vireo (23 vs. 90), Philadelphia vireo (7 vs. 15), warbling vireo (2 vs. 9), myrtle warbler (14 vs. 35), blackpoll warbler (8 vs. 208), American Redstart (9 vs. 17), red-winged blackbird (0 vs. 14), scarlet tanager (4 vs. 16), rose-breasted grosbeak (23 vs. 14), purple finch (31 vs. 126), American goldfinch (5 vs. 29), white-throated sparrow (520 vs. 844), Lincoln's sparrow (6 vs. 19) and swamp sparrow (16 vs. 32). In part, some of these reductions were the result of the resumption of normal capture yields following last year's records captures.