

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.

The following species were found to be more abundant this year than last: winter wren (30 vs.13), robin (89 vs.53), wood thrush (52 vs.38), magnolia warbler (a new maximum of 64 after last year's record 52)

The recaptures are summarized below.

	Repeats	Returns	Total
September	147	37	184
October	125	12	137
Total	272	49	321

Noteworthy among the returns was the recapture of a Swainson's thrush which had been banded a year earlier as an HY-U. The bird's recapture history is interesting. All four captures in both years took place within 200 yards of one another.

Date	Time	Net Lane	Wing	Chrd, mm.	Fat	Class	Weight, g.	Age
9/25/71	1000	Road Ext.	97		0		27.7	HY
9/16/72	0850	Road Ext.	96		0		28.3	AHY
9/23/72	0705	Dike	97		1		31.2	AHY
9/30/72	1000	Dike	-		3		40.2	AHY

No foreign-banded birds were recaptured this fall. In the past year notification was received from the Fish & Wildlife Service on the recovery of the following birds banded at Vischer Ferry. A brown creeper banded by Merritt as an HY U on 10/23/71 was captured and released by Mrs. Marion Metcalf on 4/22/72 at Plainfield, Vt. In addition, a foreign-banded yellow warbler caught this spring by both Merritt and myself, and which from its repeat record appeared to be a local breeder, had been banded in May, 1971 by Darrell Ford at Fire Island Research Station, near Fire Island Coast Guard Station, Suffolk County, New York. Among my birds which were recaptured elsewhere were a black-capped chickadee banded on 8/26/67 as an HY U, and which was recaptured on 9/21/68 and 5/1/71, was captured after striking an object and released on 1/22/72 at Latham, N.Y. about four miles east of Vischer Ferry. A robin banded as an AHY on 10/19/1969 was trapped and released by Mrs. Erma Fisk on 1/29/72 at Homestead, Fla. One of my spring-banded warbling vireos banded on 5/22/70 was struck by a car and killed on 5/2/72 at Elm Grove, W.Va. In all likelihood this was a local breeder which was returning to its breeding grounds when killed. This bird was about 400 miles southwest of Vischer Ferry at the time of its recovery. The Florida robin recovery was about 1300 miles slightly west of south of Vischer Ferry, and represents the second longest distance recovery of the station recorded to date.

BANDERS- Robert P. Yunick - all dates
 Will D. Merritt, Jr. - all dates except 9/15-16
 Rita and Robert J. Pantle - all dates except 9/29-30 and 10/14-15
 James C. Covert III - all dates

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT- All concerned appreciated the opportunity to band the area, and thank the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for permission to use it; and for the Department's assistance in mowing part of the area

--Robert P. Yunick

ELLENVILLE, New York

The Ellenville Station, described in earlier reports (EBBA News 34:97-8 and 35:69-70) is clearly only a very average place in which to catch migrating birds. No geographical feature causes birds to be concentrated here, so the catch is small; but every season produces some new species and some very interesting banding. The 1972 fall season included many days of low numbers of birds, a few extremely dull days, and just 10 days of exciting banding. Frank Fish and I operated up to 14 nets on 66 days between August 6 and October 28 for a total of 2463 net hours. We banded 1031 birds (42 birds per 100 net hours - less than the 46 and 58 birds per 100 net hours of the last two years). We did catch 71 different species - the best ever.

August banding was slow and fairly even, yielding only an average of 13 new birds per day. September was even slower at first. Although our nets were set every day, we banded less than 10 birds a day on 13 days. But on the 21st, the warblers started to come, and for the next 10 days, banding was excellent. The biggest days were September 23 and 24, when we caught over 151 new birds, mostly warblers. A clear night, a full moon, dropping temperatures, and the first light frost on the morning of the 23rd were undoubtedly factors, as was the impending rain on the afternoon of the 24th. Banding was good through October 2, but it diminished after that, and remained poor through October. Our effort was not as consistent in October, and we ended the month with no new birds caught on October 25 and 28.

The warblers were the most outstanding features of the fall. We banded more than twice as many as in any other year, and over half of our total number of birds were warblers (550 out of 1031) Myrtle Warblers topped the list at 156, followed by 109 black-polls (neither had been in our top five before). We had an excellent variety of warblers - 23 species, including mourning, orange-crowned, and our first parulas. Other new species for this station were a gnatcatcher and a winter wren.

Comparison of this years totals with previous years' showed some substantial differences in numbers. The *Hylocichla* thrushes were notably down - 25 as compared with 78 and 49 the last two years (the greatest decrease was in Swainson's thrushes). Only 21 white-throats were banded. As a matter of fact, even though our net-hours increased by 60 percent over 1971 and by 100 percent over 1970, many species decreased in number (with