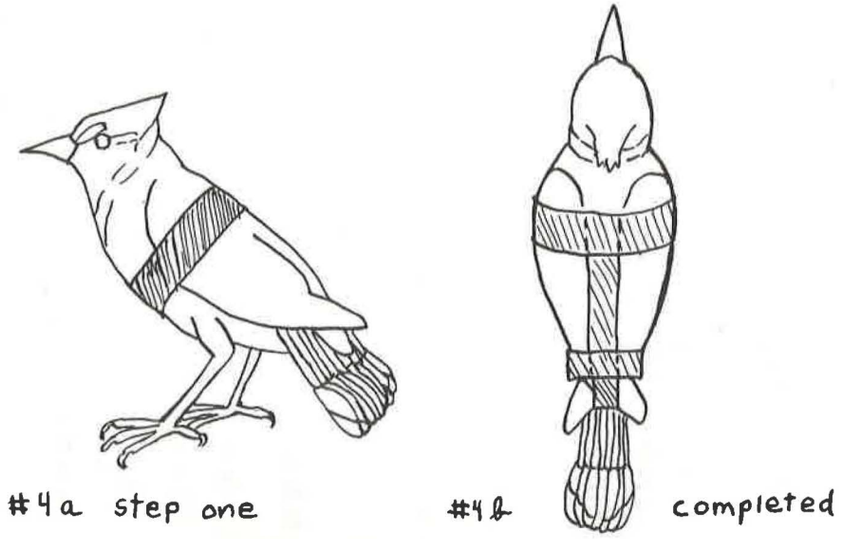

#4a step one #4b completed wing splint

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW -

REGION IV

Edited by Bruce Adams

For the 1972 fall season, only three stations in Region IV will be submitting reports; these are, Sandy Hook, Island Beach, and Ship Bottom. The Mariedor station in New Gretna, operated by John and Mary Schmid, was inactive last fall, primarilly due to Mary Schmid having been ill and hospitalized for much of the season. We understand she is now recovered and hope their station will be in full operation during the 1973 season.

Fred Schaeffer and the AFR editors are at present considering the question of just what criteria ought to be used in determining which stations should be included in AFR. As most of us are aware, AFR is an outgrowth of what was originally known as Operation Recovery and which, in its beginnings in the 1950's, included only coastal stations. Such questions as the differences in coastal vs. inland, netting vs. non-netting, and year-round vs. seasonal stations are significant in terms of the overall value of AFR data. As editorial policies on this are determined they will be appearing in future issues of EBBA News.

In the specific case of New Jersey, we have an area in which the coast alone provides a largely untapped potential of spots where AFR stations could, but do not now, exist. And New Jersey is also a state with a fairly large number of licensed banders. I have been very interested in and involved with, New Jersey coastal ornithology since the early 1950's, not only in connection with banding but also with non-banding activities such as observations. Rather than devote the space in this report to a comparison of data from the three stations reporting, (the summaries from the station leaders follow at the end) I would like to go over some of what I believe are potentially good areas on the New Jersey coast where fall netting operations could be attempted. Some of these are areas in which banding has been done in the past. Hopefully some New Jersey banders can be encouraged to try out these spots for a couple of weekends and perhaps we can have more stations reporting from New Jersey.

a) TUCKERTON: In the late 1950's, Frank Frazier and Mike Logue ran mist nets in the shrubbery and foliage along the Great Bay Boulevard, which runs from the town of Tuckerton several miles south and east through an extensive salt marsh. The end of the boulevard has long been known to bird watchers for the large number of shorebirds found there, especially Oyster catchers. The netting efforts in the 1950's produced a particularly wide variety of sparrows.

b) BRIGANTINE: The Brigantine Wildlife Refuge itself has many wooded areas abundant with fall migrants but of course any netting operations actually on the refuge would have to be under the supervision of refuge personnel. The barrier beach upon which the town of Brigantine is located has long been an excellent bird-watching spot and could have possibilities for a banding station.

c) STONE HARBOR: The lower end of seven mile beach, south of the town of Stone Harbor, contains a strip of barrier beach about 1½ miles long, which contains an extensive tract of low foliage very similar to that of the Island Beach State Park. The general area has often been visited by bird-banders in the past due to the presence of breeding Terns and Skimmers. The area can be reached by parking at the southernmost parking lot in the town of Stone Harbor; from there it is about a 100 yard walk to the area of foliage.

d) CAPE MAY: By far the best potential area, and one which has received very little attention from banders relative to its ornithological importance, is Cape May Point and the immediate vicinity. There are at least four spots that I know of where successful mist netting has been done in the past. One is of course the well known path through the Wetherbee Woods near the lighthouse, where Seth Low and George Hitchner ran the O.R. Station for so many years. Another is the farmland and woodlot about three blocks away on Sea Grove Avenue, where the present hawk banding station is located. I ran nets here in 1966 and 1968 with excellent success. Another area, tested by Seth Low and myself in 1960, is the woods across the street from the Magnesite plant, on the main road from Cape May to Cape May Point. And then there is the famous Higbee's Beach about a mile northwest of the lighthouse on the Delaware Bay side (I understand this area has been used by some banders in the past). There are doubtless many other areas

in and around the Point which would be very productive for banding with nets.

These are just some of the potential spots along the New Jersey coast which could provide additional stations for region IV of AFR. Here's hoping some New Jersey banders may be encouraged to try some of these areas in the near future.

The reports from the three stations in Region IV for 1972 follow.

Sandy Hook State Park by Davis H. Corkran and Waldron F. Kennison

The fall migration study was undertaken again this fall at Sandy Hook State Park, N.J. The banding location was the same as previously reported, i.e. on the western side of Sandy Hook just east of Spermacetti Cove. Net lanes were again set up across the salt marsh and the wooded area to the north of the salt marsh. A slight variation in the net layout was made. The single file of nets contained only five nets and did not run all the way to the eastern edge of the salt marsh. From previous results, it appeared that the last two nets in the line were not particularly productive. The woods nets were increased from six to ten and thus a total of fifteen nets were used.

Banding operations began on August 12, 1972 and continued through October 26, 1972. All birds were fully processed, i.e. weighed, fat classed, aged by skulling, wing measured and sexed. Operations were confined principally to weekends.

After last year's unseasonably warm weather, it was hoped that better weather would prevail in 1972. Unfortunately, such was not the case. The weather was not so unseasonably warm this year, but the weekends had a penchant for producing rain on at least one of the two days. There was only one significant cold front which produced a frost, with several minor ones, none of which noticeably increased bird activity.

The most numerous bird again was the Myrtle warbler (156) which was in profusion from Oct. 1 through Oct. 21. This is some 200 individuals less than last year's count. Other species that were numerically strong were: Golden-crowned kinglet (115);