

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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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);

American redstart (94); White-throated sparrow (66); Yellowthroat (64); Rufous-sided towhee (52); Catbird (44); Red-breasted nuthatch (44); and Brown creeper (44). There was not the abundance of Cape may warblers that was evident last year.

A total of 1,108 individuals of 75 species were banded in 1,635 net hours of banding. The most unusual catch was a magnificent green and red Macaw - an escaped pet.

We wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. James Rosmus, Park Superintendent and Mr. Richard Cole, Park Naturalist for their interest, help and cooperation during the almost three months that we operated the station.

ISLAND BEACH STATION by Katherine G. Price and
William F. Sandford

Banding during this autumn season began on 5 August and ended on 29 October with only 13 days not covered. On the 73 days that the station was covered, weather permitted banding on all but five days. 6818 birds of 110 species were banded in 3,250 net hours.

The first large flight of birds came on 10 September with 53 species being banded and the next on 23 September with a 54 species count. October 2nd brought the next large wave followed by the 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 20th, and 21st with the heaviest autumn flight on 26 October. The species count on those October days was 25, 47, 35, 35, 38, 25, 20, and 43, respectively.

Some of the species numbers were interesting. To the field birders unable to find the skulking elusive Yellow-bellied flycatcher, the net catch of twelve of them is amazing. Ten were netted on one day: Sept. 10th. The count of 172 Red-breasted nuthatches, on the other hand, reflects birders' observations of a heavy influx of that species last fall.

Birders are always surprised by the fall banding project's Philadelphia vireo figures. This year the nets produced a total of eighteen. Field findings of a very light Blackpoll warbler flight were also mirrored by the net counts -- only 114 -- as against 158 of the relatively uncommon Cape may warbler, and a total of 215 Palm warblers.

Myrtles topped the warbler list with 616, second only to the Golden-crowned kinglets, 1,047 for the entire list. There were 540 Ruby-crowned kinglets, 459 White-throated sparrows and 450 redstarts. There were 289 Catbirds and a tie for seventh place between the Slate-colored junco and Yellowthroat at 284 each.

Most common bird in the lives of all of us, the inescapable Starling, is surprisingly difficult to find on the table. Just one bird of that ubiquitous species was netted. It isn't that the bird is at all scarce at Island Beach, but it seldom moves through the underbrush - in which the nets are placed - as do most other land birds.

Banders in charge of net lanes were Emil Berger, Dorothy and Roger Foy, Dr. Will Merritt, Jr., John Miller, Dr. Bertram Murray, Jr., Robert Pantle, Margaret and William Pepper, Katherine Price and Lloyd Price, Hannah Suthers, Herbert Volker, Scott Wood, and Dr. Robert Yunick.

Public relations work was accomplished primarily through banding demonstrations in cooperation with the park naturalists. Educational activities included instructions for non-banders and new banders in identification, aging, sexing, skills and techniques of netting and banding and an exchange of information among experienced banders.

SHIP BOTTOM N.J. Dorothy and Roger Foy

This station is operated year round, but this report will cover the period 1 August 1972 through 31 October 1972. This station is located at 393-0741 and a description of the area can be found in EBBA NEWS, 34 (4).

During the above period we banded 32 days and all banding was accomplished with no more than four nets. During these 32 days we banded 1,459 birds of 61 species, in 801 net hours. All birds were aged, sexed, weighed and fat classed. We had 38 repeats, 10 returns and 1 recovery.

HY vs. AHY: of the total banded 62% were HY, 34% were of unknown age and 4% were AHY. There is not too much difference between these figures and those of last year.