

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Another year has passed, banding reports are due and our Annual Meeting in Wheeling, W.Va., is well along in the planning!

....But, let's go back to those banding reports! As you transcribe your data from the field sheets, have you ever wondered as to why you got birds you did in the particular HABITAT AREA you band in? Have you speculated in which Ecological NICHE these birds stay, OR the role they play in the local TERRESTRIAL FOOD CHAIN and PYRAMID OF LIFE?

These are some of the very real questions I've been called upon to answer by my high school trainees and young men in the various environmental workshops I have conducted over the past eight years, especially on those days when "nothing hits the nets!" These young people want an explanation as to why, with all the birds flying around, there is not even one in the net that can be banded. It's on days like this that you realize you should have spent more time in observing the FOOD CHAIN and PLANT SUCCESSION and less time on flight paths and weather. The basic tenets have been 'ignored', since a quality habitat or the creation of an adequate habitat provides the food and shelter necessary for an abundant birdlife in the nesting and migration patterns.

Unquestionably, the visibility of the bird community along with banding is an ideal way of demonstrating "Field Techniques in Wildlife Management." It never fails to call attention to the WEB OF LIFE, the critical inter-relationship that exists between Soil and Water, Succession, Plant Food and Wildlife, and especially BIRDS. Once we have a few birds in the hand we become aware of the CARRYING CAPACITY of any given 'acre' of land, that is, the amount of wildlife a given acre of land will support in winter over to the next breeding season! ....And don't ignore the fact that in a "day", as well as "night", wildlife community forages and thrives or competes for survival on the same 'acre' of habitat.

This preamble is my way of introducing to some of you, and enlisting others of you in an EBBA effort, which will involve more of you in the environmental programs of the public schools and various Boy Scout Camps. Those of us who give our time to these organizations are urgently in need of your help. Each season at BSA National Camping School, I am approached by Ecology-Conservation Directors for the names of EBBA members who might be contacted to demonstrate banding at local Boy Scout Reservations.

I would be most pleased to hear from those of you who are involved in using Banding as an instructional media. I am also anxious to hear from you if you would be willing to try your hand at working in these programs.

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## ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW - Region V

Edited by Chandler S. Robbins

Banders in Region V collaborated in several studies during the autumnal migration of 1973. These included: (1) pooling data on age ratios to see whether banders at inland stations can detect differences in reproductive success from year to year; (2) validity of wing covert streaking as an indicator of age in thrushes; and (3) shape of the 6th primary in Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes.

The first four stations in Table 1 are in or near the Potomac Valley, the next four plus Woodend are along the Fall Line, Aberdeen and Round Bay are on the west shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and the last four stations are along the east shore of the Chesapeake. The species most commonly banded in 1973 show remarkably little similarity among stations or even between years at the same station. Even by grouping species into families, only a few generalities could be drawn. In September, warblers were the commonest birds captured at all except the Round Bay, Woodend, and Valley Lane stations; thrushes rated especially high at Round Bay and Valley Lane, and mimids were most common at Woodend. In October, fringillids dominated all stations except Woodend; thrushes led all other families in October at Woodend and were a close second to fringillids at the Fall Line and Round Bay stations; on the Eastern Shore, warblers and kinglets outnumbered thrushes. It became clear that habitat in the immediate vicinity of each banding station had a greater influence on the relative abundance of species and families banded than did the geographic location.

Age ratios proved to be fairly consistent among stations, except for the predominance of immature (HY) birds at sites near the coast (Irish Grove and Kiptopeke). This gives some hope that ratios from many inland stations may be pooled to give an annual index for each of the common species. The figures for this autumn, expressed as the percentage of HY birds, are given in Table 2. In computing the percentages, we used only those banded samples that included no (or very few) birds of unknown age. A dash in Table 2 indicates that either fewer than 10 birds of the species were banded at that station or that too many birds of unknown age were in their sample. Percentages computed from samples of only 11 to 20 birds are given in parentheses. When one or more unaged birds were included in the sample, a range of percentages indicating the amount of uncertainty is given rather than a single figure.

Age ratios ranged from a low in the mid-1950's for the Brown Creeper and Indigo Bunting to a high near 90% for the Cedar

Table 1. Region V Summary, 1973 vs. 1972

Station	McKee- Beshers Md.	Adven- ture Md.	Wood- end Md.	Piscat- away Md.	Laurel Md.	Oakdale Balto. Md.	Val.L. Towson Md.
Extreme Dates '73	7/28- 11/13	8/12- 11/16	7/26- 10/28	7/13- 11/ 3	8/23- 11/26	8/ 3- 10/26	8/18- 11/14
(1972)	(7/26- 11/12)	--	--	(8/ 1- 11/25)	--	(8/19- 10/26)	--
Peak Days 1973	Nov. 2 Oct. 11 Nov. 12	Oct. 21 Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Sep. 30 Sep. 9 Sep. 15	Aug. 11 Aug. 14 Oct. 14	Oct. 25 Oct. 17 Sep. 9	Oct. 22 Sep. 10 Oct. 25	Sep. 8 Oct. 24 Oct. 27
Total Days '73 (1972)	54 (47)	75 --	54 --	42 (64)	68 --	50 (40)	46 --
Species '73 (1972)	87 (69)	80 --	64 --	82 (88)	54 --	-- (31)	-- --
New Birds (1972)	2,195 (1,158)	1,824 --	1,124 --	1,361 (1,556)	448 --	253 (166)	479 --
Net-hours (1972)	6,041 (3,533)	16,461 --	5,470 --	(17,431)	2,157 --	899 (834)	1,306 --
New/100 N-h (1972)	36 (33)	11 --	21 --	(8)	21 --	28 (19)	37 --
Commonest Species in 1973	Catbird 251 Goldfin 220 Song Sp 146 Wht-thr 124 Myrtle 121	Wht-thr 217 Waxwing 132 Swain T 100 Catbird 86 Cardinl 86	Catbird 356 Robin 134 C. Wren 91 Wood T 44 Swain T 43	Wht-thr 164 Cardinl 142 C. Wren 102 Red-eye 96 Swain T 65	Catbird 61 Wht-thr 43 Swain T 33 Ovenbrd 27 Robin 23	Hermit 31 Redst. 26 Wht-thr 23 Magnol 22 R. King 19	Wht-thr 51 Catbird 32 Cardinl 28 Mocker 20 Swain T 20
(Commonest Species in 1972)	Purp F 136 Wht-thr 117 Song Sp 94	-- -- --	-- -- --	Song Sp 236 Wht-thr 175 Field 129	-- -- --	Wht-thr 25 Hermit 23 Redst. 20	-- -- --

Table 1. Region V Summary, 1973 vs. 1972 (cont.)

Station	Ellend. Towson Md.	Aber- deen Md.	Round Bay Md.	Dam- site Md.	St. Michaels Md.	Irish Grove Md.	Kipto- peke Va.
Extreme Dates '73	9/ 3- 10/31	9/ 6- 11/13	8/25- 11/ 4	8/13- 10/31	9/ 6 11/24	9/13- 11/18	9/ 1- 10/21
(1972)	(9/ 1- 10/30)	--	--	(8/14- 10/30)	--	(9/ 9- 10/29)	(9/ 2- 10/15)
Peak Days 1973	Sep. 10 Oct. 17 Oct. 19	-- -- --	Sep. 19 Sep. 10 Oct. 4	Oct. 22 Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Nov. 14 Sep. 7 Oct. 25	Nov. 18 Oct. 22 Oct. 1	Sep. 8 Sep. 30 Oct. 17
Total Days '73 (1972)	38 (34)	41 --	29 --	56 (61)	38 --	13 (31)	51 (44)
Species '73 (1972)	54 (51)	31 --	63 --	93 (104)	43 --	37 (61)	98 (95)
New Birds (1972)	564 (367)	146 --	1,085 --	3,384 (4,628)	380 --	343 (1,575)	7,584 (7,331)
Net-hours (1972)	1,216 (595)	635 --	3,672 --	15,976 (24,485)	450 --	870 (2,264)	16,645 (11,878)
New/100 N-h (1972)	46 62	23 --	30 --	21 (19)	84 --	39 (70)	46 (62)
Commonest Species in 1973	Wht-thr 74 Hermit 50 Swain T 41 Wint.W 25 Robin 23	Wht-thr 23 Wht-thr 17 Song Sp 16 Chippy 11 Titmous 11	Wood T 152 Swain T 149 Wht-thr 145 Hermit 65 Veery 64	R. King 369 Myrtle 298 Junco 292 Wht-thr 206 Swain T 153	Cardinl 91 Myrtle 28 Catbird 25 Waxwing 25 Redst. 18	Myrtle 118 Song Sp 37 Swamp 33 Catbird 19 Field 16	Redst. 2,164 Yellthr 656 Myrtle 440 B-tBlue 319 B&WWar 272
(Commonest Species in 1972)	Wht-thr 76 R. King 71 Junco 26	-- -- --	-- -- --	R. King 554 Wht-thr 440 Myrtle 337	-- -- --	Myrtle 1,020 Catbird 100 Swamp 52	Redst. 1,706 Myrtle 1,637 Yellthr 554

Table 2. Percentage of HY Birds in 1973

Sample Size	Pooled Percent	McKees-Beshers	Adventure	Wood-end	Piscataway	Laurel	Balto-Towson	Round Bay	Dam-site
Brown Creeper	110	55-56	--	--	--	--	--	--	60
Carolina Wren	171	87	82	--	85	(93)	--	--	91
Catbird	557	77	84	(78)	85	81	90-91	84-92	77
Robin	121	70-73	--	74-94	--	82	--	61-80	68-73
Wood Thrush	341	84-88	81	76-81	71	(69)	(75-94)	90	93-97
Hermit Thrush	292	73	75	--	41	(86)	82	74	76
Swainson's Thrush	550	79	79	61	82	79	65	84	86
Gray-cheeked Thrush	120	72	69	--	(69)	(67)	75-85	76-78	(69)
Veery	195	61	65	--	(85)	--	--	65	60
Golden-cr. Kinglet	155	73	--	--	--	--	--	--	73
Cedar Waxwing	150	92	96	--	--	--	--	82-95	--
Red-eyed Vireo	267	82	79	86	81	--	--	84	93
Magnolia Warbler	242	84	70	--	--	(88)	94 (79-84)	--	91
Black-thr. Blue W.	127	85	77	(33)	--	--	--	--	90
Myrtle Warbler	414	85	94	--	--	--	(91)	--	89
Ovenbird	222	65	85	--	71	78	91	55-63	81
Yellowthroat	141	66-67	61	(73-82)	73	--	66-69	--	60
Canada Warbler	144	78-80	71	--	--	--	(62)	(100)	78
Am. Redstart	348	79	64	(88-94)	87	(92)	90	(83)	81
Cardinal	390	77	68	63-72	80	(69)	83	83	67
Indigo Bunting	150	53	44	--	52	--	--	--	--
Am. Goldfinch	271	61	70	--	(35)	--	--	--	73
Slate-colored Junco	351	81	23	--	(33)	--	--	--	87
White-thr. Sparrow	599	59	57-60	--	40	57	68	56-59	71
Swamp Sparrow	132	74	78	--	62	--	--	--	68
Song Sparrow	326	72	76-83	--	58	(94)	60	--	74-75

Waxwing. Wrens, including the House and Winter Wrens that were omitted from the table, were in the 85 to 90% range, which perhaps is related to their characteristically large clutch size. Thrushes were in the mid-70's, except for a very low 61% for the Veery and a high 84-88% for the Wood Thrush. Vireos and warblers were mostly from 78 to 85%. Fringillids were generally low, in the 60's and 70's. Region V banders also compiled age ratios for 1974; we would also be interested to see whether age ratios from other eastern regions are similar to ours for the same species.

At seven stations, the presence of streaks or pale edges on the secondary coverts of thrushes was recorded, and compared with the age as determined by skulling. Sample size ranged from 72 for Gray-cheeked Thrush to 320 for Swainson's. The percentages of HY birds lacking streaks or pale edges indicated that if banders had attempted to age these thrushes by wing coverts alone, birds erroneously called adults would have been 5.9% for the Veery, 6.5% for the Hermit Thrush, 12.5% for the Gray-cheeked, and 24.7% for the Swainson's. Although all birds of these four species that had streaks or pale edges to the secondary coverts proved to be HY birds, the percentage of HY's lacking markings was so high for all species that the absence of markings cannot be considered an indication of maturity.

The presence of a sinuated (cut out) leading edge to the 6th primary (the 9th being the outer primary) is supposed to be a reliable way to separate eastern Gray-cheeked Thrushes from Swainson's Thrushes. Inasmuch as a few Swainson's Thrushes have gray cheeks and some western Gray-cheeked Thrushes lack sinuations on the 6th primary, Region V banders paid special attention to these characters. Some banders had difficulty detecting the sinuated margin, and we believe the pooled rate of 6% "gray-cheeked" Swainson's Thrushes was probably an exaggeration. After a training session with skins at the National Museum, this study was continued in 1974.

As in the past, many of the increases or decreases noted in regions farther north were apparently local changes not reflected by other stations in the same region or in Region V. Trends that were more consistently noted in 1973 in Regions I, II, and IV (EBBA News 37: 84-92, 94-102, 134-139) were increases in Black-capped Chickadee, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hermit Thrush, and Swainson's Thrush and decreases in the Red-breasted Nuthatch and the Cape May, Myrtle, and Blackpoll Warblers. The catch of Black-throated Blue Warblers did not increase in Region V, but Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes did. The same four decreases were noticed here, with the decline in Myrtle Warblers being most striking (see Table 1).

Summaries prepared by the various station operators follow.