

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Number of days	5	25	19	10	1	60
Net-hours	349	2601	2225	1297	120	6592
Species	13	32	47	36	11	71
New birds	87	434	499	191	34	1245
Returns	--	--	--	1	1	2
Repeats	12	103	87	36	20	258
New birds/100 net-hrs	24.9	16.7	22.4	14.7	28.3	19.9

Overall, 89.5% of the birds were young, indicating a good nesting season. Family composition was as follows:

Family	Number	Species	Percent of total
Flycatchers	21	6	1.7%
Mimids	418	3	33.6%
Thrushes (excl. Robin)	144	5	11.6%
Vireos	24	2	1.9%
Warblers	195	20	15.7%
Sparrows	37	4	2.9%

We experimented with a six-meter aerial net 30 ft. up in a grove of locusts. In 319 hours of use, it caught 42 birds of 24 species including Philadelphia Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and ground-dwellers such as Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

PISCATAWAY PARK, Bryans Road, Md. - M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz

The Piscataway Park Banding Station was moved 2 miles south this year because of potential public use pressure in the old area. The new location is in Charles County on the Potomac River. Fifty to 65 nets were operated, mainly on weekends. There was a noticeable lack of cold front activity and the station was closed a month earlier than in previous years.

Most of the resident breeding species--Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Carolina Wren, Red-eyed Vireo and White-eyed Vireo--increased in numbers this year after a very successful nesting season. All breeding species appear to be recovering from the destruction of Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

Three of the 82 species banded were new for the park: Yellow-throated, Chestnut-sided, and Mourning Warblers. The low percentage of HY sparrows and Hermit Thrushes is most likely a result of the early closing of the station.

All birds were fully processed and data were collected on correlation of skull ossification with accepted plumage ageing characteristics, on Carolina Wren eye color, and retention of juvenile wing coverts in thrushes. Special thanks to all who assisted, especially to Tim Manns, Ranger, National Park Service.

LAUREL, Md. - Chandler S. Robbins

At Robbins Nest, above the Patuxent River gorge, 5 or 6 nets were operated daily before and after work and 7 nets all day on weekends, in the first attempt to sample fall migration here on a daily basis.

The purposes of the study were: (1) to see if short daily periods of netting can detect the major migratory movements recorded at nearby stations in continuous operation; (2) to develop correction factors to compensate for the difference in catch between all-day netting and dawn and dusk netting; (3) to record weight changes of migrants, both during the day and during the fall season; (4) to get arrival dates of wintering White-throated Sparrows; (5) to see to what extent the Munsell Soil Color Charts can be used to age common fall migrants; and (6) to participate in cooperative studies on age ratios, on dependability of plumage characters for ageing thrushes, and separation of Gray-cheeked from Swainson's Thrushes by sinuation of the 6th primary.

My dawn and dusk netting periods did detect the major flights, but because the midday catch was so much less than at dawn and dusk, I had a weekend bias that deemphasized the flights that came on weekends. Because the relationship between net-hours and the daily catch is not linear (that is, doubling the net-hours in a day does not double the catch in a back yard situation), the dawn and dusk netting on weekdays cannot be compared with the all-day netting on weekends by using the usual birds-per-100-net-hour computation. I found that birds divided by the square root of the net-hours gave a better comparison; but I hope that with a larger sample of data I can find a formula that will give an even better fit.

By comparing morning and evening weights I found that HY Catbirds gained an average of 0.87 g per 11-hour day, and HY Swainson's Thrushes, 1.36 g. Extreme weight gains were 7.6 g in 10 days by a Veery and 4.9 g in 11 days by a Catbird. The average weight of new birds banded in September increased by 0.16 g per day for the Catbird and 0.12 g per day for the Swainson's Thrush.

The Munsell charts were disappointing; most eye colors do not match the color of any chip in the book, and the differences we need to detect are often less than the differences between adjacent chips.

BALTIMORE CITY, Md. (301 Oakdale Road) - Janet Ganter

Netting locations were the same as the past two years. The 4 nets were strung along the boundaries of my somewhat overgrown back yard about 5 miles from mid-town Baltimore.

New species were Least Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow. Interesting returns (late departures for summer resident individuals) were two Catbirds: one banded on May 12, 1972 returned Sept. 24, 1973, and one banded on May 17, 1973 returned Sept. 27, 1973.

TOWSON, Md. (625 Valley Lane) - Gladys Cole

An average of 10 nets were up 2 hours before work for 41 days in August, September, and October. On Wednesday, when I had a banding class, we banded for 7 hours. This has been my most consistent fall of banding here. Our most interesting study was on the Empidonax flycatchers: Yellow-bellied, Acadian, Least, and Traill's. We studied up to 15 of them some days.

TOWSON, Md. (913 Ellendale Drive) - Marion Glass

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of days</u>	<u>New birds</u>	<u>Re- turns</u>	<u>Re- peats</u>	<u>Spe- cies</u>	<u>Net- hours</u>	<u>New birds/ 100 NH</u>
Sept.	20	248	7	22	44	731	34
Oct.	18	316	3	38	37	485	65
Total	38	564	10	60	54	1216	46

In comparing results with those of 1972, the number of nets and net-hours approximately doubled, but the number of new birds banded fell far short of this (367 in 1972, 564 in 1973). Most significant were the increases in two families: warblers (38 birds of 13 species in 1972, 108 birds of 18 species in 1973) and thrushes (9 birds of 4 species in 1972, 158 birds of 6 species in 1973). There was a notable decrease in Ruby-crowned Kinglets: 2 nets in 1972 caught 71 birds, whereas 4 nets in the same location caught only 22 in 1973.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. - Kim and Shirley Spitler

September was the first time this area has been banded. Nets were set in our yard in a small residential area on the west bank of upper Chesapeake Bay. Our area includes woods, small coves, and marshes. Net lanes were adjacent to tall forsythia bushes and along the edge of a bank covered with shrubs, vines, and trees that slopes down sharply to the Bay.

The ratio of birds to net-hours increased greatly during the 3-month period. The most exciting bird was an HY kingfisher caught in a net at the edge of the bank.

ROUND BAY, Md. - Danny Bystrak

Between Aug. 25 and Nov. 4 a small banding operation was carried out primarily on weekend mornings. Up to 28 nets were used in primarily wooded habitat. The site is a 75-acre plot

on Maynderes Creek, a tidal tributary of Round Bay on the Severn River. The property is owned by Dr. William Bodenstein, Conservation Chairman for the Maryland Ornithological Society. The area is entirely wooded except for a one-acre mowed clearing. About half the nets were around this field and the rest in a small floodplain and along a ridge. Spicebush, the dominant understory plant, is primarily responsible for the tremendous catch of thrushes, the dominant family represented. The height of the canopy causes a low warbler catch, and the small amount of open space or scrub results in almost no Indigo Buntings or sparrows (other than White-throats).

Thrushes were checked for covert spotting and sinuation of primaries, and tails of most birds were measured in addition to wing chords and weights. All birds were skulled when possible.

A correlation was done to check my ability to estimate fat class. Using Swainson's Thrushes I found the mean weights of the four fat classes to increase as follows: If class 0 = x grams, class 1 averaged $x + 2g$; class 2, $x + 4g$; and class 3, $x + 8g$. It was encouraging that the mean for those I called "trace" was $x + 1g$, since I had not been confident of my consistency in separating traces from 1's. It would be interesting to compare others' results in estimating body fat as a crude check on consistency among observers.

"DAMSITE," Chestertown, Md. - Dorothy A. Mendinhall

A.F.R. at Damsite for August, September, and October followed the same pattern started in 1959 and continued annually thereafter, with the same habitats as described in EBBA News many times. Also the same experienced banding assistant (Margery Plymire), the same highly efficient "net snatchers" (Gordon and Betty Hackman), the usual visitors--Jonnie Fisk and Lina Whiteside, and the same educational sessions for garden clubs, bird clubs, school children, and photographers.

This was the best September we ever had. Seasonal totals of Tennessee Warblers reached a new high of 66, but Myrtle Warblers were far below normal with only 298 banded. A series of Region V monthly letters kept us abreast of what the various stations were doing, problems they were encountering, and gave us comparisons of catch which proved most interesting and instructive.

ST. MICHAELS, Md. - Jan G. Reese

About 12 nets were operated on 18 days in September and 10 days each in October and November at the same site used the