

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

past six years. The primary purposes were: (1) to determine migratory dates, (2) to test various ageing and sexing techniques, and (3) to continue studying remige and rectrice molt in the Cardinal. The trapping area is characterized by wooded, hedgerow, field, and marsh habitats. The best bird movement occurred on Sept. 7, 9, and 13, Oct. 25, and Nov. 12-14. Of the 379 birds captured, 34% were fringillids, 21% warblers, 14% thrushes, and 9% mimids. Cardinals comprised 24% of all birds captured.

IRISH GROVE, Md. - Gladys Cole

Irish Grove Wildlife Sanctuary of the Maryland Ornithological Society has been used for a teaching and demonstration station for the past five autumn migrations. This fall we banded only 16 days. This is an excellent station for studying Myrtle Warblers and a great variety of sparrows.

KIPTOPEKE BEACH, Northampton Co., Va. - F. R. Scott

Netting efficiency in our 11th year dropped from 62 new birds per 100 net-hours in 1972 to 46 in 1973, the lowest in recent years. The high was 95 in 1970. The 1973 rate in September was 50 and in October it was 39. Efficiency is normally higher in October. Undoubtedly, the unusually warm weather and scarcity of strong cold fronts had a bearing on this situation, as did the fact that the station closed prior to the main migration of winter residents. There were 677 repeats, 12 returns, and one foreign retrap.

Since the station did not close until Oct. 21, versus Oct. 15 in 1972, many winter residents were in higher numbers in 1973. Comparisons include Brown Creeper, 82 in 1973 (vs. 17 in 1972); Winter Wren, 29 (vs. 12); Hermit Thrush, 47 (vs. 23); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 163 (vs. 89); and Swamp Sparrow, 41 (vs. 19). Yet the most abundant winter resident, the Myrtle Warbler, declined from 1637 in 1972 to only 440 in 1973, the lowest count since 1966.

American Redstarts hit a record high, rising from 1706 in 1972 to 2164 in 1973. Other increases were Swainson's Thrush, 108 (1972) to 236 (1973); Red-eyed Vireo, 118 to 218; Black-and-white Warbler, 176 to 272; Palm Warbler, 142 to 272; Ovenbird, 151 to 230; Northern Waterthrush, 52 to 106; Wilson's Warbler, 10 to 34; Blue Grosbeak, 3 to 7; and Indigo Bunting, 42 to 102. Declines of interest, aside from the Myrtle Warbler, included Red-breasted Nuthatch, 34 to 4; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 149 to 87; and Veery, 202 to 172. For the first time since 1970, Swainson's Thrushes outnumbered Gray-cheeks. Banders in charge were Mrs. Jane P. Church, C. W. Hacker, Mrs. Betty Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F. R. Scott, and W. P. Smith, backed up by 98 assistants. Field records were edited by W. P. Smith.

(Continued from page 23)

SUNDAY	8:00	Breakfast - Upper Lounge - 2nd fl. Lodge Drive to Bethany College to see J. Audubon's Elephant Folio, John Gould's Works on Commonwealth Birds, Forest Buchannon's specimens of Mounted Birds.
6 Apr '75	9:00	
	9:15	Bird walk in Oglebay Park and Bird Watching at Brooks Nature Center.
	9:30	Field trip to Powdermill Banding Station, Ligonier, Pa. Field trip to Ralph Bell's Farm, Clarks-ville, Pa.
	12:15	Lunch - Lodge Dining Room, Oglebay Park (Order from Menu)

As you know, Annual Meetings are ideal to renew old friendships and to make new ones. We cordially invite members of IBBA residing near Wheeling to join us so we can get to know them! From the looks of the program, this is going to be a very fine meeting, so let's all try to get to Wheeling, April 4-6, 1975!

