

The equipment used was as follows: 6 mist nets; 15 single-cell trip-step traps; 3 figure eight traps; all traps were baited with a commercial bird seed mixture plus additional sunflower and millet seeds. The nets were operated from six to eleven A.M., weather permitting, and furled for the rest of the day. I do not have a record of the number of net-hours.

The following species were most numerous: White-throated Sparrow 120; White-crowned Sparrow 118; Song Sparrow 113; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 112; this is about what would be expected except for the larger number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They seemed much more numerous this fall.

The largest numbers were banded on the following dates: October 1, 42 birds; October 4, 72 birds; October 8, 46 birds; October 11, 68 birds; and October 19, 41 birds.

Bird movements seemed less predictable this fall. Changes in the weather were less pronounced. The fairly stable and milder weather after mid-October probably accounts for the low numbers of late migrants. They had not passed through Salisbury as of November first. If banding could have been continued through November, I believe many more of these species could have been banded.

Friendsville, Pa. - Claire Gottschall

The Fall 1974 banding project at Friendsville, Pa. yielded a total of 1126 birds in 1792 net hours. This total is higher than in any of the previous five years of operation. All banding for the period, beginning August 6 and ending November 10, was done using six stationary nets: one very long net through the center of a four acre cornfield, one long net set in the path surrounding a one acre farm pond, and four others in edge areas (between cornfield, silky dogwood hedges and vegetable garden).

During the period of 56 days a total of 59 species were banded. Surprisingly, the most numerous birds banded were Bobolinks (246). The first ones appearing on the 6th and 10th of August were probably local birds; the rest peaked during the last week of August, and no Bobolinks were sighted after September 15. The four remaining most numerous species were the usual for this station: Song Sparrow, 235; American Goldfinch, 129; Yellowthroat, 63; and Indigo Bunting, 38. Again this year when nets were placed near a cornfield, the capture of Indigo Buntings was high. New fall species banded were a single Connecticut Warbler, a Pine Warbler (in full moult), and a Carolina Wren.

Notable decreases were found in Chipping Sparrows (lower than the last four years) and White-throated Sparrows (lower than the last two years). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were not banded in 1974, but had been in all previous five years. Notable increases were found in Song Sparrows and Yellowthroats (both over the last five years). American Goldfinches were higher than the last three years, and Indigo Buntings were higher than in the past four years.

My findings as an inland station on the age-ratio of migrants are similar to the findings of Harriet Marsi at the Binghamton, N.Y. station (EBBA News 35: 88-89), except that here the percent of HY birds to adults is slightly

higher. 73% of individuals banded were HY birds, 17.9% were adult, and 8.9% of the total were of unknown age.

The weather conditions produced a warm, sunny, and calm fall (lacking the strong winds usually experienced in this area). This fact plus the high numbers of net hours made the fall of 1974 the most productive of any.

Vischer Ferry, N.Y. - Robert P. Yunick

This year's eleventh season of fall banding at Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area was, on the whole, quite average and rather uneventful. After three years of above-average capture rates of approximately 100 birds per 100 net-hours (b/100 nh), we caught only 847 birds in 1420 net-hours for a yield of 60 b/100 nh. Uncooperative weather in Sept. and lesser-than-normal coverage in Oct. appeared to be the major contributors to these disappointing results. We accounted also for 33 returns and 127 repeats for a total catch of 1007 or 71 b/100 nh.

We captured 61 species and added the Carolina wren as species 111 to the composite list. Only three species set new maxima: mourning dove (5 vs. previous 1), black-throated blue warbler (11 vs. 7) and bay-breasted warbler (6 vs. 3). Because of the small numbers involved, these may not be significant differences. On the negative side, one must take into account our lesser effort (26 percent fewer net-hours than last year) and temper some of the observed differences with this thought in mind. Thus, some of the observed decreases may not be real, however, from among them the following appear to be of a sufficient magnitude to be meaningful.

Gray Catbird - a take of 113 represents the lowest capture in a six-year period of continual decline.

Thrushes - in general they were down slightly. The robin in particular, partly because of lesser October coverage, was much decreased over last year. The eight captures compares poorly to 88 last year and was the lowest take since 1965.

Cedar Waxwing - the two that were captured represent an 11-year low.

Cardinal - the six captures are much below last year's 18 and represent the lowest take in seven years.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - the 15 captures are about half of last year's 31 and the lowest take in six years.

Purple Finch - after last year's 101 captures (second to 126 in 1971), this species crashed and we did not catch a single one. A few were heard in flight, but they were decidedly scarcer. This observation is in keeping with the very marked breeding decrease noted this past summer in the southern Adirondack Mountains.

White-throated Sparrow - the 183 captures were much decreased from last year's 623 and the 1971 record of 844. It too was the lowest in six years.

Swamp Sparrow - the catch of 17 is only one bird away from a 10-year low and is much reduced from last year's 64.

Song Sparrow - the catch of 45 is a 10-year low and is much reduced from last year's 153.

Our banding covered the eight-weekend period from Sept. 6 to Oct. 27. No banding was done Oct. 19-20. The weekend schedule and net lane usage was