

the same as that of last year. On every weekend in Sept. we encountered rain and/or the threat of rain immediately before or during our attempts to band. The banding was done by Will D. Merritt, Jr., Rita and/or Robert J. Pantle, James C. Covert III and myself.

We used the same net lanes as were used last year. When all banders were present, we had 65 nets in use. The five most numerous species, white-throated sparrow (183), gray catbird (113), song sparrow (45), ruby-throated hummingbird (44) and wood thrush (37) accounted for one-half of our total.

Ellenville, N.Y. - Valerie M. Freer

The 1974 fall banding season produced only an average number of birds in spite of the fact that net hours were substantially increased over 1973. The result was that we banded only 30.5 birds per 100 net hours, our lowest yield in five years. A total of 617 birds of 59 species were banded; from 5 to 12 nets were in operation on 60 days between August 1 and October 29.

A few species were captured in substantially higher numbers than in earlier years. Both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets doubled their earlier highs, as did Canada Warblers and Redstarts. (Most of the Canada Warblers were caught in one day, September 1.) Sight records of Blue Jays in the area indicated a substantial local population, and this was reflected in an increase in the number of captures. Red-eyed Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks registered modest increases over previous highs, and the numbers of both Catbirds and Swamp Sparrows rebounded following lows in 1973.

The brown thrushes (genus Hyllocichla) continued their decline at this station. From a total of 78 caught in 1971, they gradually sank to only 13 caught in 1974. The lowest-ever total of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Yellowthroats was recorded. The total of warblers (175) remained unchanged from 1973, but the number of warblers per net hour decreased by half. It is interesting to note how the mix of warbler species has changed: in 1972, when the warbler catch was highest, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, and Yellowthroat were most abundant. In 1974, those species were at their lowest numbers, and Canada Warblers and Restarts were most commonly caught.

The top five species were: Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, Canada Warbler, and Redstart. The Catbird and Song Sparrow have been in that list every year since 1970, but this is the first year that the Kinglet and the two warblers appear there. The Yellowthroat is missing from the list for the first time since 1970.

The weather was cooler and drier than normal throughout the period. The third week in August was the only warm week in that month. A stationary front the last few days of the month brought heavy rain (4") and flooding locally. The eventual movement of that front resulted in two very good days of warbler banding on August 31 and September 1. Cold fronts on September 13 and 21 produced a small increase in the daily catch on the 15th and the first frost accompanied by good banding on the 24th. The best day of the fall was October 5, when a good catch of Kinglets and Sparrows (54 total) occurred on a fine clear day that followed several cloudy and record cold days. The number of birds caught per day dropped off sharply after October 12.

All banding was done by Frank Fish and myself, with assistance from Mildred Fish.

We thank Valerie M. Freer for her excellent report and appreciate that she was willing to take over Region II, beside her many duties as Third Vice-President of EBBA.

F.S. Schaeffer, Ed.

#### ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH TAPED CALLS IN THE RAMAPOS

By Frederick S. Schaeffer

In my last three years of bird banding, mainly at Cannonball Trail Station, I've been experimenting with various methods to lure elusive birds into my nets and traps.

#### THE STATION

Cannonball Trail Station is situated near Lake Vreeland on Fox Brook, at Camp Glen Gray (Boy Scouts of America) in the Ramapo Mountains of New Jersey, about halfway between the towns of Oakland and Darlington (near the Bergen-Passaic County line).

Ecologically it is a unique area. Climax forest, virtually untouched for hundreds of years, make up this vast area. Going north from the point where Skyline Drive (near Oakland) parallels the Ramapo River, to an undetermined point just south of the New Jersey/New York State Line, near Hillburn, N.Y., the entire area is forested and about 75% of it is part of the three Boy Scout Reservations. Nearest Oakland is Camp Tamarack, followed to the north by Camp Glen Gray, topped off by Camp Yaw Paw. The area is rocky and hilly (to @1200 ft.) and supports varied species of wildlife. Birdwise, the area supports an undertermined number of breeding birds. Many more man-hours and breeding seasons are needed to determine just how many and what species. Thusfar the most elusive bird was heard (not seen) on 28 June: Yellow-throated Vireo. There are a few nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes and I've banded many of them using taped calls to attract them to my netting area.

There are also quite a few snakes on the property, some of which are poisonous. Quite a bit of care has to be taken when checking the nets because snakes have been spotted in the netting area. I've seen Copperhead, Black Snake, and I've heard of Black Racers and possibly a Rattler or two might be in the area as well.

The Banding Station is mainly there to support lecturing. Scouts in the formative years of 11-16 need to be introduced to the wonders of nature, if they will retain a healthy respect for nature when they become adults. I'm also studying the Tufted Titmouse, Louisiana Waterthrush and the long-term effects of some foresting in the area, on wildlife.