

Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

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Eastern Regional News is published quarterly in *North American Bird Bander* by the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Applications for membership and changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer. The dues: Active Members — \$6.00 per year; Sustaining Members — \$12.00 per year; Student Members — \$4.50 per year; Life Membership — \$150.00. Canadian and foreign memberships add \$2.00. Contributions to the Eastern Bird Banding Association are tax deductible.

From the President

As the time rapidly approaches for me to step down as your president, I think it would be wise for me to make a few comments and mention ways that you as a member of EBBA can assist your future officers.

I must acknowledge the wonderful response for editorial material for NABB. Both the quality and quantity have enabled the editor to offer worthwhile material for our members and increase our knowledge as to what our co-workers are accomplishing. Both the editors and printer have much to be proud of.

It is up to you to let your editor know what you like or do not like about the articles printed. Mere silence regarding some section may raise doubts in an editor's mind as to whether the space it occupies might not be better utilized by something else.

The Education Committee is to be commended for the excellent Workshop Manual they have published. It is oriented mainly toward the new banner. All of our members could aid their work by obtaining a copy.

We seriously need to increase the number of new members in order to go forward in improving

NABB, securing funds for projects, and in all fairness offer a small remuneration to our Editor whose time-consuming job continues to grow.

All committees have been functioning. Naturally, some are more active and have more work to do. It is my hope that, again this year, we will have a report on time from each of our chairmen.

At present I am preparing an agenda for our meeting and anyone knowing of subjects that need to be on the agenda should forward them to me.

Every member should take advantage of the opportunity to contact Councilors in their area, offer suggestions for the betterment of EBBA, and be willing to serve in any reasonable capacity. It would be nice to have a known annual meeting site at least 3 years in advance. Consider giving NABB to other "birders" as gifts and be prompt in renewing your own memberships.

Many of you will note a considerable amount of repetition in my messages. It has been deliberate and I hope serves the purpose of stressing factors in which I feel we have been weak. EBBA can only be as strong as the effort put forth by the membership. Let each of us be a leader and not a "coat-tail" rider.

T.A. Beckett III

Who is . . . ? *Samuel Tipton*

A retiring councillor, Samuel R. Tipton was the head of the Department of Zoology of the University of Knoxville for several years before making an early retirement. He persuaded his wife, Isabel, a professor of Physics at the university, to retire with him. They have established a full-time program of bird study including annual Breeding Bird Surveys, study of resident and migrant land birds on the southeast Atlantic coast with year-round banding using mist nets and various traps in Long Beach, North Carolina.

Sam grew up in Sylvester, Georgia, went to Mercer University, and studied for the Ph.D. at Duke University where he met Isabel who was also studying for her Ph.D. Dr. Tipton has been a member of the faculties of several universities for 39 years; from 1933 to 1947 on the faculty of several northern and southern medical colleges, then on the Tennessee faculty in zoology until his retirement in 1972.

Bird banding started as a weekend hobby in 1943

in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and now, within sight of the Atlantic Ocean, they band about 1,000 land birds each year.

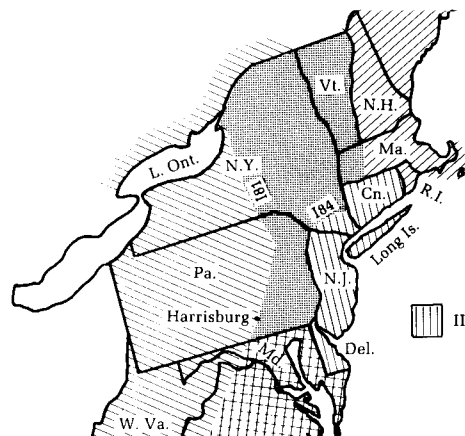
The Tiptons have 4 grown children (a daughter was recently awarded a Tony for her lighting design—1977). Dr. Tipton's field of research was in cell physiology, studying the effects of thyroid hormones on the growth of tissue in mammals; special studies now include observations on nesting and migrant land birds, especially the Painted Bunting whose northern breeding limits are on the North Carolina coast. Sam is also a member of the British Trust for Ornithology and has made frequent trips to England, to see friends primarily, but also to become more familiar with British birds. Just this spring in Berkshire, England, Isabel and Sam heard Nightingales singing for the first time.

Isabel and Sam are sharing the responsibility for the 1978 EBBA Conference with Jim Parnell at the University of North Carolina.

Atlantic Flyway Review

Region III

Robert Dewire, Coordinator
 9 Canary St., Pawcatuck, Conn. 02891



Region III covers the banding stations on Long Island, NY, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware. Four stations reported on the 1976 fall migration. The Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport, Conn., did not operate this fall. Stations in the region that do extensive banding in the fall are urged to send summaries into the Coordinator or to write him for further details on what data to include. There are no station reports this year for either Connecticut or Delaware.

The 1976 season saw a better flight than the previous year, with all stations except Brookhaven having a higher birds per 100 net hours total for the season. The Brookhaven station experienced good flights but had to limit operations on big flight days due to lack of help. The Hermit Thrush was the bird most noted as staging major flights at all stations. It was also an excellent flight year for White-throated Sparrows and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Although the thrush flight was noted, the great flight of Robins, many of which lingered in large flocks through the northeast, were not noted probably because most stations ceased operations prior to the bird's arrival.

	Manorville, NY	Brookhaven, NY	Sandy Hook, NJ	Island Beach, NJ
Days of operation	40	70	20	48
Nets used	3-10	Max 16	15	
Birds banded 1976	644	1535	1341	12508
Species 1976	46	76	60	100
Largest daily catch	115	93	193	1936
Total net hours	849	1975	1019	4427
Birds/100 n.h. 1976	76	78	131	283
Birds banded 1975	314	1818	545	12449
Birds/100 n.h. 1975	49	82	67	240

ED. NOTE: I would like to call attention to the use of coordinates in the AFR report this issue. I should like to see the coordinates of all reporting stations used.

Manorville, L.I., New York (405-0724)

Gilbert Raynor

The station recorded its best bird per net hour totals since 1959. The 122 birds per 100 net hours in October was the highest October total ever recorded here. Unusually high numbers were noted for Hermit Thrushes and Blue Jays. White-throated Sparrows were up from 50 in 1975 to 129 this year; Gray Catbirds went from 55 to 99. No rarities were taken and there were no recoveries, but the station had 12 returns and 192 repeats. The most commonly banded species were: White-throated Sparrow, 129; Gray Catbird, 99; Dark-eyed Junco, 77; Blue Jay, 41; Rufous-sided Towhee, 40; and Hermit Thrush, 38.

Brookhaven, L.I. New York (404-0725)

Dennis Puleston

Banding did not begin until the last day of August; thus a good part of the Yellowthroat and Northern Waterthrush migration was missed. There was a shortage of help from the high school so the periods of banding were shorter and the number of nets open were less than normal, especially on days when "waves" were coming through. I dislike netting more birds than I can process at once and so I kept the number of birds down in the interest of releasing the birds without delay.

The most common species was the Swamp Sparrow, 403. This has always been the most numerous bird at this station: 378 in 1975, 469 in 1974. 1976 will always be noteworthy for the very heavy flights of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. In spite of the overall low count in 1976, 87 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were banded; 34 in 1975, 63 in 1974. Hermit Thrushes were also very plentiful with 25 banded; 11 in 1975, 7 in 1974. The surprise netting was 2 Bobolinks this year, although this seems to be a major flyway (many pass overhead in the early morning), they were never captured here before. The rarest bird was an immature Blue Grosbeak. The most commonly banded species were: Swamp Sparrow, 403; Song Sparrow, 221; Yellowthroat, 159; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 110; Gray Catbird, 97; and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 87.

Gateway National Park
Sandy Hook, New Jersey (402-0735)
Davis Corkran

The station increased its operation from 12 to 20 days this year and, combined with fine fall flights, almost doubled the birds per 100 net hours over 1975 and more than doubled the total number banded. The Hermit Thrush flights reached this area in great numbers; it was the station's most commonly banded bird with 217 banded. The other most commonly banded birds were: Yellow-rumped Warbler, 144 (40 in 1975); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 139; White-throated Sparrow, 94; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 94; and Gray Catbird, 78.

Island Beach State Park New Jersey (395-0740)
Herman "Bud" Cooper

Peak days were 28 August, 174 birds; 25 September, 1394 birds; and 24 October, 1936 birds banded. There was a noticeable increase in the number of Hermit Thrushes: 185 in 1976, 77 in 1975. Yellow-rumped Warblers returned to their high numbers after the low count of 1975 when only 713 were banded. This year 2308 were taken. Highlights included a Golden-winged Warbler netted 6 Sept. and a total of 21 Connecticut Warblers for the season. Most common species were: Yellow-rumped Warbler, 2308; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1176; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1136; Common Yellowthroat, 926; Gray Catbird, 849; American Redstart, 727; and White-throated Sparrow, 653.

Ornithological happenings in Woodstock, New York

Noel J. Cutright and Kate Redmond

Introduction

In his banquet address at the first convention of the American Birding Association (1973), Roger Tory Peterson stated that "Nature tourism has been one of the most extraordinary developments in recent years." Many nature magazines and some ornithological journals advertise and even sponsor tours to a variety of regions in the world. In a recent issue of *Birding*, 17 domestic and 12 foreign trips are listed. While travel to exotic birding places is easier today and is certainly exciting, it may encourage us to neglect wildlife on our own doorsteps. Observations of backyard birds can be just as exciting as those made a continent away and can lead to a heightened awareness of our immediate surroundings.

Early in September 1973, the senior author rented a small cottage on 1/3 hectare (0.81 acre) of land, 1 km. north of the center of Woodstock in Ulster County, NY. The property is 15 km. from the Hudson River and is situated at the base of Overlook Mountain. On first sight the area appeared to have good birding potential, though a property list of 75 bird species would be an achievement considering the small size of the lot.

Seeing an American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) fly over the house one evening and being awakened by the call of a Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) during the first week were hints of ornithological things to come. All bird species identified from within the property boundaries were listed during the next 14 months.

Several houses in the immediate vicinity were well-screened from sight by vegetation. Dominant woody species included Eastern Red Cedar, Apple, Eastern

Cottonwood, Dogwoods, White and Scotch Pines, Eastern Hemlock, and Sugar Maple, and Norway Spruce. In October a brushpile was constructed from Apple and Cottonwood limbs trimmed from several trees in the yard. A couple of platform feeders, a suet feeder, and a sunflower feeder built by Doug Kibbe were erected near the brushpile. The feeders, brushpile, and a small weedy plot, dominated by Goldenrod, Aster, Purple Loosestrife, and Staghorn Sumac, could be seen from a kitchen window.

A limited amount of banding was accomplished in 1973 and early 1974; the means of capture were mist nets and a type of Potter trap. With the aid of Kate Redmond, banding activities increased in late summer. One, and often two, mist nets were in use almost daily for three months.

A few Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) and Red-tailed Hawks (*B. jamaicensis*) were observed during fall 1973 over the property but the hawk watching possibilities that the property might hold were not considered. We are both interested in hawk migration and have observed movements at Derby Hill on the southern shore of Lake Ontario and at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. Our appetites for "organized" hawk watching were whetted by the first meeting of the Hawk Migration Association of North America held in Syracuse in 1974. Standard data sheets became available for recording hawks, weather data, flight directions, and altitudes. (HMANA daily report forms are available free from Eric Single, 635 N. Broadway, Upper Nyack, N.Y. 10960).

The elevation of the Woodstock property is about 200 m. and a prominent landmark is a ridge of about 1,000 m.



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Woodstock Property | 8. Delaware River |
| 2. Hudson River | 9. Mount Peter (hawk lookout) |
| 3. Ashokan Reservoir | 10. Hook Mountain (hawk lookout) |
| 4. Dutchess Hill (hawk location) | 11. Sunrise Mountain (second hawk lookout on Kittatinny Ridge) |
| 5. Mohonk Lake in Shawangunks (northernmost hawk lookout on Kittatinny Ridge) | 12. Long Island Sound |
| 6. Rondout Reservoir | 13. Raccoon Ridge (hawk lookout) |
| 7. Cornwall Bay (hawk lookout) | |

Figure 1. LANDSAT Satellite Imagery taken at an altitude of 950 km. showing a portion of five states and locations of Woodstock property, hawk lookouts, and important water bodies.

that lies approximately east-west about 2.5 km. to the north on the southern edge of the Catskills. With Kate using the housetop as an observation station and with compass points chalked on the shingles, a small-scale hawk watch was conducted throughout the fall of 1974.

Discussion

There are many lines along which to interpret the kinds of daily data collected. They can be analyzed according to numbers of species seen, relative abundance of individuals, daily activity cycles, geographical distribution, chronological distribution, habitat preferences, breeding success, etc. Long term studies showing trends are important; the person who has 10 years of good records holds a gold mine. Our Woodstock records will be examined in terms of species, abundance, and distribution.

The bird list for the property totaled 109 species over a 14 month period. An Ulster County checklist issued by the John Burroughs Natural History Society includes 234 species. This list does not include the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*); one individual was sighted flying south over the property on 19 October 1974, on the edge of a frontal system. Species sighted from the property that are assigned an abundance ranking of "3" on the Ulster County list (one to five individuals a year in preferred habitat) include Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) and Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*).

Of the 109 species, 27 used the feeding stations. Our favorite visitors were the flocks of Common Redpolls (*Acanthis flammea*) that appeared sporadically in March and the Fox Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) that came in April.

Banding

During fall 1973 and winter 1973-74, 52 individuals of 12 species were banded with the "best bird" being a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) on 5 October. On 78 dates from 27 July through 26 October, 1974, a total of 464 individuals of 52 species were banded. The greatest two-day catch occurred on 16-17 October when 58 birds of 15 species were banded. These included 15 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*), 11 Hermit Thrushes (*Catharus guttata*), 6 Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), 5 Swamp Sparrows (*M. georgiana*) and 2 Lincoln's Sparrows (*M. lincolnii*). Swamp and Lincoln's Sparrows were encountered only on these dates.

Fourteen species banded were represented by only one individual; other species appeared in good numbers. Though they arrived relatively late in migration (25 September), Ruby-crowned Kinglets quickly became the banding leader. The occurrence of the Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) in our mist nets was slow and steady throughout the banding period; it finished in second place with less than half the total of Ruby-crowns.

Species banded in the greatest numbers 27 July to 26 October 1974 were: **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, 91 (starting 25 September and averaging 4 per day; **Gray Catbird**, 43 (primarily in August & September; last banding 13 October); **Song Sparrow**, 28 (throughout the period); **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, 24 (from 1 to 17 October); **Dark-eyed Junco**, 24 (beginning 4 October); **Hermit Thrush**, 21 (beginning 1 October); **Black-capped Chickadee**, 18 (throughout the period); and **White-throated Sparrow**, 18 (starting 17 September).

Thirteen warbler species were banded, and they show some interesting information in the timing of their fall movements. While the dates of occurrence for some are quite broad, others passed through during a very limited period and were associated with specific movements of other passerines.

The warblers banded from 27 July to 26 October 1974 were: **Black and White**, 1 (29 September); **Nashville**, 2 (7 & 10 October); **Magnolia**, 8 (14 August to 26 September); **Cape May**, 1 (5 October); **Black-throated Blue**, 3 (30 August to 1 October); **Yellow-rumped**, 24 (1 to 17 October); **Blackpoll**, 2 (25 & 26 September); **Ovenbird**, 1 (3 October); **Northern Waterthrush**, 4 (2 August to 17 September); **Common Yellowthroat**, 14 (last on 19 October); **Wilson's**, 1 (31 August); **Canada**, 8 (24 August to 9 September); and **American Redstart**, 8 (last on 26 September).

Other banding observations of note included ten Yellow-bellied Flycatchers caught between 21 August and 2 September and usually in pairs. Canada Warblers (*Wilsonia canadensis*) occurred during the same period. A southern flavor was noted in late October when two out of a total of three Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) netted were recorded during the same week and the lone Mockingbird was banded. But the first Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) were also observed during this period and three of an apparent family group were netted and banded on 24 October 1974.

On several occasions in late July, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) became tangled in a mist net. She subsequently learned the exact location of the net and could be seen flying to the net, hovering, flying vertically to the top of the net, and proceeding over the top. She was not caught after the beginning of August, but an immature male was.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) and Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) were voted most painful to band since they grab between fingers and on cuticles with amazing accuracy and with a vice-like grip in spite of twigs offered to distract them. Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) took undisputed honors as worst to remove from the nets because of their habit of grabbing every inch of net within reach of their feet.

Hawk migration

The "Hawk Watch" produced 629 individuals of 11 species between 9 September and 19 October 1974 (Table 1). The maximum single day count was 302 in-

dividuals of 7 species on 18 September. There were no distributional surprises; Broad-winged Hawks comprised the majority of the early migrants with other species increasing after mid-September following the Broad-wing peak.

Many of the Woodstock hawks were at very high altitudes (limit of binoculars) on most dates. Most birds appeared after 1:00 p.m., and many were announced by Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Though they were in sight of the north-south corridor formed by the Hudson River, most of our hawks were bearing west or west-southwest, often "quartering" the prevailing wind. Many seemed to be following (and in some cases actually bearing slightly north to intersect with) the east-west ridge north of Woodstock (Figure 1). They seemed to be headed for the western tip of Ashokan Reservoir 15 km. to the west.

We would be surprised if any of the Woodstock birds passed any of the hawk lookouts on the lower Hudson, although with very strong frontal systems and winds from the north and northeast, the hawks flew more directly south. Our birds may have continued southwest along the southern edge of the Catskills or headed more directly south. This route would take them east of Rondout Reservoir to the famous Kittatinny Ridge system and possibly past Hawk Mountain.

With an increase in the number of hawk lookouts being operated regularly, we are beginning to construct an idea of the migratory pathways hawks are using. As we learn more about these pathways and accumulate data on regional movements, even greater questions remain to be answered concerning weather's effects on migration, thermal formation and structure, and the noon-lull phenomenon. Certainly modern techniques including bio-telemetry, radar, color banding, sailplanes, and high altitude satellite imagery will be used. Figure 1 is an example of high-altitude photography that should aid in identifying extremely valuable lookouts previously not examined and in constructing a regional and continental perspective into hawk movements.

However, it still remains for the "backyard" observer who patiently and carefully interprets and documents everyday events through time to increase our appreciation and understanding of the life of birds. Through perceptive insights and sharing experiences with others, a significant contribution will be made. Hopefully, we have shown some kinds of observations and data that can be accumulated. ☞

Table 1. Hawk observations, 1974

	September							October				Total
	9	10	11	12	18	22	23	6	8	11	19	
Turkey Vulture					2				1	1	1	5
Goshawk					1					1	3	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1	1		5	3	2	6	18
Cooper's Hawk					1	1			1			3
Red-tailed Hawk					7	3		1	2	5	12	30
Red-shouldered Hawk											5	5
Broad-winged Hawk	64	1	12	10	167	94	1					349
Marsh Hawk					1							1
Osprey						8	1			1		10
Peregrine Falcon									1			1
American Kestrel				1	1	5						7
Unident. accipiter											3	3
Unident. buteo					121	55			10		3	190
Unident. falcon						2						2
Hours observed	2	2½	2½	3	3	8	½	2	1½	2½	3½	
Total birds	64	1	13	11	302	169	2	6	18	10	33	629

3352 Knollwood Rd., West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

Tales from Kiptopeke

Tale teller: *Walter P. Smith*

The Place

Turn back in time a thousand years or more:

An Indian stood on this very shore
And gazed around, amazed at what he saw.
He raised his arms aloft and spoke in awe,
"Behold, Great Spirit, harken to my words—
This place is Kiptopeke, the Place of Birds".

Have you ever really studied a map showing the routes of migratory birds forming the vast Atlantic Flyway? Long fingers may start as far northwest as Alaska, reaching ever southeastward across the middle Canadian provinces, the Great Lakes, and on down the Middle Atlantic coast of the United States. Other fingers may start in the cold Arctic tundra, or in Greenland, reaching southward past Hudson Bay and New England, and paralleling the North Atlantic coast of the United States.

But they all tend to converge somewhere about Maryland and Delaware, and their point of heaviest concentration is, most certainly, that long narrow peninsula known as the Eastern Shore of Virginia. And that brings us pretty directly to the locale of our Banding Station — Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia. Geographically speaking, the Eastern Shore peninsula extends roughly 80 miles south of Maryland. It is bound on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and a continuing series of barrier islands, on the west by the Chesapeake Bay with its myriad of inlets, sloughs and salt marshes, and at its southern tip by the entrance to Chesapeake Bay.

Just slightly on the Bay side of this peninsula tip lies Kiptopeke Beach. Doris (my wife) is wont to say that, for me, Kiptopeke is only slightly below Heaven. I attribute this statement to the fact that she loves me and has always put up with, in an amazing fashion, my obsession with the place.

Kiptopeke Beach today is but a ghost of what was formerly a bustling scene of activity, for in the days prior to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel complex it was the terminus for the car ferries plying between Little Creek, on the south side of the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, the Old Point Comfort on the lower west side of Chesapeake Bay, and Route 13 heading north.

The ferry dock was nestled at the base of a bluff perhaps 20 feet high, and even today remains as a

unique landmark — with its semi-circular breakwater of sunken concrete ships. I was particularly fascinated by these ships since I was in shipbuilding for 46 years. The story told to me by someone, sometime, is that they were an experimental design of World War I vintage whose reinforced concrete proved unable to withstand the hogging and sagging stresses occasioned by rough ocean seas, and developed serious cracks amidships, negating their possible practical application.

For the old-timers who still remember crossing the Bay on the ferry, as you drove off the pier and on up the hill to Route 13, heading north, at the top of the hill on the right stood the Tourinns Motel. In its heyday this was a very busy and popular motel, but when the Bridge-Tunnel opened, the motel was rather middle-aged, the traffic by-passed it by a mile or so, and its clientele dropped to a few nostalgic former patrons, sports fishermen, a rather rough group of truckers awaiting loads of locally grown crops (whom we referred to as "the pickle-packers"), and some of our birding friends.

As I recall, it was early in September of 1962 that Fred Scott, a birding acquaintance of ours for years, had spent the night at Tourinns after an all-day birding trip to some of the barrier islands off the ocean side of Eastern Shore. He was breakfasting one Sunday morning at a table in the motel restaurant overlooking the bluff above the ferry dock, when he became aware of a most unusual amount of bird activity in the trees skirting the bluff. A closer look through his binoculars brought into focus a constant procession of birds, large and small, moving in the ground cover, trees and overhead — almost all of which were, strangely, moving up the Bay! Fred's reaction was, "Wow! If I had some nets up along the edge of that bluff I could really band a bunch of birds!"

This idea was to germinate and flower later at a birding weekend of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Fred suggested that maybe we should establish a banding station at Kiptopeke to sample the Fall migration on the Atlantic Flyway. Several of us expressed interest in the idea, and we immediately began making plans for the Fall of 1963.

(to be continued)