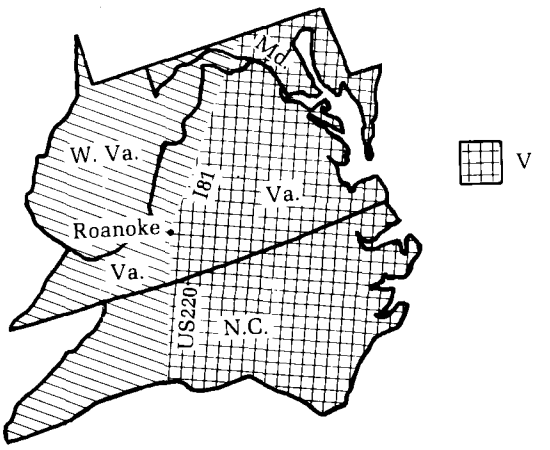
Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V

Chandler S. Robbins, Coordinator
7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, MD 20810



Because of the change in regional boundaries, Region V now includes Piedmont and Coastal Plains areas of the southeastern states from Maryland to the Gulf of Mexico, bordered on the west by Interstate Rt. 81 and US Rt. 220. Maryland's mountain stations are now reporting through Region IV (*NABB* 2:184-187). Region V welcomes three new stations this year: Colesville and Sandy Spring in the Maryland Piedmont and Long Beach on the coast of North Carolina. The Round Bay and Bellevue Stations were not operated in 1976 and banding was too sporadic at Irish Grove Wildlife Sanctuary for their contributions to be included in this summary.

Station activities for 1976 are summarized in Table 1. Banding effort (net-hours) was the lowest since 1970, but the 20,560 birds banded in Region V were only 3 percent below the 8 year average of 21,138. The number of birds per 100 net-hours for all stations combined was 38.5, which is similar to the other high seasons of 1969, 1970 and 1974.

As usual, the well-organized Kiptopeke station with its 9 banders and 122 assistants banded more than half (nearly 59%) of the 1976 total for this region. The Adventure station had the longest period of operation and the most net-hours, but the lowest catch per unit of effort. The smaller stations were run primarily by one or two banders on a part-time basis.

Instead of showing the five or ten species banded in the largest numbers at each stations, we chose to emphasize the differences among the nine locations. We did this by selecting ten of the commonest species (Table 2) and showing how many of each were banded at each of the cooperating stations. The asterisks draw attention to species that were among the top five. For every station except Kiptopeke, at least the top two or three species are shown; Kiptopeke's second commonest bird, the American Redstart (1892 banded), was caught in only small numbers at the other sites. No one species was common at all stations. The Myrtle Warbler was among the two commonest species at four stations, but only one Myrtle or none at all was taken at four other locations.

For the fourth successive year banders in Region V collaborated in a study of age ratios of the commoner species (Table 3). Summaries for prior years were published in *EBBA News* 38:34, and also in *North American Bird Bander* 1:77 and 2:81. The sample size shown in the left column is not the total number of birds banded, but the number that were included in the 'Pooled Percent'; this includes only the inland stations (all except Kiptopeke and Long Beach), and only those birds banded on days when age of most of the birds banded was determined. Colesville and Sandy Spring, which are in the same ten-minute block, are combined under the Sandy Spring heading, and the following additional stations within 16 miles of Towson are combined with the Valley Lane and Ellendale stations under the Towson heading: the Brackenridge Avenue, Oregon Ridge Park and Cylburn Park stations of Mrs. Janet Ganter, and the tum Suden Sanctuary bandings of Joseph Schreiber. Where a range of percentages is given in Table 3 it means that some individuals in the sample were of unknown age; the range given is the extreme, assigning all unknown birds first as adults, then as young.

The pooled percent of HY birds in 1976 was comparable to the 1973-75 figures for most species. The percentage of HY Red-eyed Vireos and White-throated Sparrows increased from a low in 1975 (as it did also in Region II) but there was no corresponding increase in the numbers banded. The percentage of HY Magnolia Warblers continued to bounce back and forth between about 70 and 84. The only new extremes noted in 1976 were a low of 66% HY for Myrtle Warbler (and a corresponding drop in numbers banded along the coast), and new high percentages for the Hermit Thrush and Song Sparrow (with no increase in numbers banded in this region). Although the hoped-for correlation between age ratios of banded birds and population changes has not yet been detected, banders in Region V will continue to study this problem.

Another intriguing problem is posed by the continued low age ratio of the Veery (61%, 62-63%, 65-66% and 67% for the four years) and the Common Yellowthroat (66-67%, 57%, 48-50% and 59%). These two species were omitted from Table 3 because of the small sample sizes in 1976 (55 birds and 82 birds), but samples ranged from 141 to 310 in the three prior years. Note Fred Scott's comments on the Veery age ratio at Kiptopeke, where the percentage of HY birds of most species is in the 90's. Note also that Region II (*NABB* 2:182) reported 89% Common Yellowthroats!

Table 1. Region V banding summary

	Adventure	Coles-ville	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Valley L. Towson	Ellendale Towson	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach
Days of operation	73	38	16	32	25	15	38	55	31
Maximum nets used	28	6	26	9	9	11	49	45	9
Birds banded 1976	3869	218	842	219	560	345	1908	12132	548
Total species 1976	91	33	49	43	61	45	80	99	41
Largest daily catch	218	18	127	35	75	47	172	1008	85
Total net-hours	21195	1194	1337	834	1032	562	7637	17982	1668
Birds/100 n.h. 1976	18	18	63	26	54	61	56	67	33
Birds banded 1975	3451	0	0	290	463	281	3923	9870	0
Birds/100 n.h. 1975	18			19	30	40	26	49	

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, 1976

	Adventure	Coles-ville	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Valley L. Towson	Ellendale Towson	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach
Mockingbird	17	2	39	1	51*	1	7	23	1
Gray Catbird	180	13	82*	68*	60*	5	32	425	53*
American Robin	32	27*	60*	12*	14	7	21	7	0
Swainson's Thrush	365*	28*	15	16*	42*	11	74*	176	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	121	3	41	0	22	35*	286*	650*	5
Red-eyed Vireo	198*	2	5	2	3	7	9	329	17*
Myrtle Warbler	718*	0	56	1	1	0	165*	3090*	284*
Ovenbird	136	30*	7	9	9	15	58	294	3
Slate-colored Junco	25	0	71*	0	10	17*	45	76	0
White-throated Sparrow	319*	8	161*	6	75*	113*	156*	140	34*

* One of the 5 commonest species at this station in 1976

Table 3. Percentage of hatching year birds in 1976

Species	1976 Sample	Pooled Percent 1975	Pooled Percent 1976	Adventure	Sandy Spring	Laurel	Towson area	Damsite	Kiptopeke	Long Beach
Carolina Wren	101	84-87[1]	75-85	75-85		(73-82)[2]	(58-67)	(73)	61-63	
Mockingbird	102		93-94	(94-100)	88		98			
Gray Catbird	517	86-87	83-84	84-86	72-73	93-94	91	63	91	79-100
American Robin	130	71-82	73-88	38-88	90-92	(50-58)				
Wood Thrush	121	83-91	80-89	72-87	91			88-92	(100)	
Hermit Thrush	125	68-70	83-90	82-93	(100)		89-94	72-75	89	
Swainson' Thrush	552	75-76	78-80	76-78	92-94	(88)	81-82	74	91	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	133		70-71	74-76	(79-86)	(69)	55	(58)	90	
Red-eyed Vireo	240	57-58	76-77	74			83		96	(100)
Tennessee Warbler	131	88-89	85-89	74-83				93-94	95	
Magnolia Warbler	182	84	71	62			85	89	95	
Blk-thr Blue Warb	139	75-76	72-74	65-76	(85)		65	75	96	
Myrtle Warbler	906	68-69	64-67	60-64	87			79	95	90-100
Ovenbird	271	77-79	82-83	81-82	82-87		93	74	95	
American Redstart	153	70-71	74	70-71			100	73	91	(80-100)
Cardinal	245	68-71	77-79	76-79	72-74		80-83	80	71-88	(64-100)
Slate-colored Junco	180	78-79	76-77	80	69		78-80	80	95	
Chipping Sparrow	100		82-89	74-89			(92)	88	96-100	
White-throated Sparrow	827	54-55	68-71	56-61	53		84-87	80	94	(67-100)
Song Sparrow	181	66-68	77-84	71-80	84-86		(84-100)	(82)	71-97	

[1]When one or more birds were of undetermined age, a range of percentages is given.

[2]Percentages based on 10 to 19 birds are enclosed in parentheses. No percentages are given when sample is less than 10.

I thank Editor Mutchler for sending me an advance copy of the report for Region III so I could compare Region V results with those of the other four regions. It appears that weather conditions play an overriding role in the impressions that banders have of the autumnal migration. Regions I and II reported poor flights and blamed this on lack of cold fronts and on excessive rainfall. Region III, on the other hand, reported a better migration than in 1975. In Region IV, half the stations reported an increase, half a decrease. Of the Region V stations that operated both years, Adventure reported no change, while the five other stations noted increases in birds per net-hour ranging from 37% to 115%. Again there was no concensus among regions as to which species had increased or decreased—except that there was no major southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees.

A more sophisticated approach involving detailed station records will be needed if we are to attempt to use autumnal banding results to detect population change. A first step in this direction would be to select a dozen or so key species and have each cooperating station report the number of each of these species banded by ten-day intervals, as well as the net-hours for each of these intervals. The net-hour breakdown is especially important, because this cannot be supplied by anyone except the bander. (Weather data for back years for the major cities can be obtained from the daily weather maps and from more detailed records filed at the National Weather Records Center at Asheveille, NC) How many banders would be willing and able to compile a summary of their net-hours by ten-day intervals for three or more back years? Where would these records be filed? And what energetic soul would volunteer to attempt some statistical analysis of the banding totals as influenced by weather and banding effort?

Adventure, Potomac, Montgomery Co., Maryland 390-0771

Margaret T. Donnald

Banding at Adventure in 1976 continued the pattern of 1975 essentially unchanged. The station was in operation from dawn to dusk, from 15 August through 31 October, with the exception of rainy days. Total net-hours increased 7.2% (largely because of fewer "off" days). Birds banded increased by 12% over 1975, with more than half of the increase attributable to the presence of Cedar Waxwings (270 banded in 1976 vs. 21 in 1975).

Percentages of birds banded by major family groups remained similar to 1975, with thrushes at 15.6%, warblers 37.4%, and fringillids at 18.8% of total birds banded. Within these groups some notable shifting occurred in the abundance of individual species, as follows: Swainson's Thrushes increased from 269 (in 1975) to 365 (in 1976), and Gray-cheeked Thrushes increased from 21 to 74, while Veery dropped from 95 to 33. In the warblers, Magnolias increased from 62 to 108, while Bay-breasted dropped from a high of 62 in 1975 to 29 in 1976, and Canadas decreased from 103 to 75.

Notable high counts for individual species included 33 Yellow-belllied Flycatchers, and 52 Carolina Wrens (with an additional 8 returns). Myrtle Warblers continued to increase, with 718 new birds (up from 664) and one return Myrtle originally banded in October 1975. New species for the station were Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos.

Early dates of a Swainson's Thrush on 18 August, a White-throated Sparrow on 19 September, and Brown Creeper and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 30 September made banders wonder if the birds were trying to tell us something about the winter to come. By contrast, a handsome adult male Prothonotary Warbler was banded on 26 October (and repeated on 27 October), a record late date for the species for Maryland.

A Connecticut Warbler banded 7 September 1976 was found dead near Black River Falls, Wisconsin, 26 May 1977.

Educational activities at the station continued, with 80 visitors and demonstrations to 11 groups (149 people), making a total of 299 individuals.

Participating in station operation were: Sub-permittees Gloria H. Aiken, Morrill B. Donnald, Harriet S. Gilbert, Minette McCullough, Ernest G. Meyes, John R. Norvell, Lutie G. Semmes, Edgar H. Smith, John K. Vance, and William W. Wendell, and Assistants John Baines, Tom Beers, Olin Browne, Pixie Christy, Clifford Cook, Sara Davidson, Andrea Diss, Glenn Funkhouser, Delores Grant, Lois Hawken, Vi Hogan, Dave Mehlman, Ann Mitchell, Sue Moran, Robert Mullen, Hattie Parks, Grace Sims, and Jim Wilkinson.

Colesville, Montgomery County, Maryland 390-0770

Nancy E. MacClintock

This station was operated in the fall of 1976 under the supervision of master permittee Dr. John S. Weske, with assistance from Lucy MacClintock.

Two nets were placed at the edge of our typically suburban back-yard (Cardinal, Gray Catbird), and 4 nets were interspersed in the second-growth floodplain woods, which abuts onto relatively undisturbed parkland. The predominant trees are Sycamore, Tulip Poplar and Flowering Dogwood, with a honeysuckle understory. Our woods are somewhat higher than the surrounding area (Worm-eating Warlber) and fall down to a tributary of Northwest Branch (Northern Waterthrush). The commonest species banded were Ovenbird (30) and Swainson's Thrush (28).

Sandy Spring, Maryland 390-0770

John S. Weske

This banding station is in an abandoned orchard 13 1/2 miles SSW of Sandy Spring in Montgomery County. Banding had been carried on during the three previous springs. For most of the period the net-lanes used were essentially the same ones used in spring. However, on 13 and 14 November, nets were placed at entirely different sites in the same general area. Thus the results for these dates are not truly comparable to those earlier in the fall.

Nets 12 m. in length and with 1 1/2 in. mesh were used throughout, except on 26 September when half the nets were 1 1/4 in. mesh and the rest 1 1/2 in. John S. Weske and Nancy E. MacClintock were assisted by Lucy MacClintock and Stuart MacClintock.

From 26 September through 14 November 858 individuals, including 16 that had been banded in the same area prior to the fall of 1976 and 842 that were "new," were captured and banded. Usually nets were operated from dawn to late morning, but on some days they were

opened for only an hour or two in early morning or late afternoon. The catch-rate was 64 birds/100 n.h. including returns, or 63 excluding returns.

Laurel, Prince Georges County, Maryland 390-0765

Chandler S. Robbins

Back-yard banding above the Patuxent River gorge was limited to early mornings and evenings on 28 days from 20 August through 12 October, and four full days within the same period.

Although the number of birds captured per 100 net-hours was well above average in each of the three months, the only species banded in unusually high numbers was the Gray Catbird (68 birds vs. 61, 39, and 32 in 1973, 1974, and 1975).

Valley Lane, Towson, Maryland 392-0763

Gladys H. Cole

We operated from six to eight nets almost daily from 18 September through 7 October at this suburban station; we also netted for four days in early September and six days in middle and late October.

The Cape May, with 23 individuals, was the commonest of my 19 species of warblers; Magnolia was in second place (13 birds) and American Redstart third (10 birds).

Assisting me this year were Joe Schreiber (subpermittee), Audrey Crush, Charles Graham, Bill Evett, and Barbara Bilsbrough.

Ellendale Drive, Towson, Maryland 392-0763

Marion Glass

From 13 September through 16 November, banding activities at Ellendale Drive during 15 days (mostly mornings) yielded 345 birds. The largest numbers were caught on the mornings of 2 and 16 November.

Because of curtailed banding effort in September and extended effort in November, the numbers of warblers banded were lower than normal and White-throated Sparrows were much higher.

Thanks to Barbara Ross, David Holmes, Jim Stasz and Peter Knight for keeping the station in operation.

Damsite, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland 391-0761

Dorothy A. Mendinhall

Hot and humid weather resulted in poor flights at Damsite during September. Most cold fronts were dissipated before reaching the Eastern s Eastern Shore and all were followed by strong south or southwest winds.

Many birds were seen passing overhead on 15 September but few stayed here. The first Myrtle warbler was captured on this date and a Cooper's Hawk was in and out of a net before it could be secured. Our first Ruby-crowned Kinglet arrived 17 September despite southwest winds; and a small evening flight of warblers (mostly Cape May) arrived on the 20th, again against winds from the southwest. A modest warbler flight continued in rain on the 21st. Nashvilles and 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a rarity at Damsite, were netted that day.

The first real cold front blew in on the 22nd, and the following 3 days brought our first winter birds: Purple Finches, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and White-throated Sparrows. Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived early again this year and were heard regularly from 7 September. By 25 September the Station was running up to 49 nets, with 41-46 in operation on most days from dawn to late afternoon.

Thrush flights were particularly poor. Ovenbirds were far below those banded in previous years, and Red-eyed Vireos were scarce.

There comes a time when adjustments must be made and 1976 was just such a time for the Damsite Station. Fortunately many friends rallied to my side and offered their help, making it possible to operate 38 days. This reduction is reflected in the great decrease of birds banded (1,908 of 80 species in contrast to 4-5 thousand birds of over 100 species).

I am indebted to my regular assistant banders Margery Plymire and Jim Gruber and to visiting licensees Barbara Ross, Lina Whiteside, David Holmes, and Kathy Klimkiewicz; also to recorders Dorothy Schwatka, Enid Busse, Tom Hynson and the faithful maintenance crew of Eddie Mendinhall and Busse.

Kiptopeke Beach, Northampton County, Virginia 370-0755

F.R.Scott

The Kiptopeke Beach Field Station of the Virginia Society of Ornithology ran continuously except for three days (15-17 Sept.) from 4 Sept. to 31 Oct. 1976. The station operated essentially the same way as in previous years with up to 45 mist nets as weather and personnel allowed. In addition to the numerical results shown in Table 1, the station recorded 834 repeats, 16 returns, and 11 foreign retraps. Features of the season included record high numbers of Winter Wrens (102 banded vs. a previous record of 80 in 1975) and Golden-crowned

Kinglets (572 vs. 342 in 1974) and continued high numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (650 vs. 696 in 1975). Species in lower than normal numbers compared with recent years included Parula, Magnolia, and Cape May Warblers. Unusual birds for this station were single Bewick's Wrens on 23 and 24 Oct., 4 Golden-winged Warlbers between 6 and 20 Sept., a Blue-winged Warbler on 9 Sept., and a Clay-colored Sparrow on 22 Sept.

All 11 cold fronts that passed through the area when the station was open produced noticeable flights of migrating birds, though one flight was very light. Two other flights, a major one on 9 Sept. and a moderate one on 5 Oct., were not associated with frontal passages.

Twelve of the 16 returns were of permanent residents, two were assumed to be summer residents (White-eyed Vireos), and two were thought to be winter residents (White-throated Sparrows). One of the vireos was banded as an AHY in 1972, making it a minimum of 5 years old. Seven of the foreign retraps were direct recoveries of HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded near Cape May, NJ, by W.S. Clark and others two to six days before their recaptures here.

The other direct recoveries were an HY Gray Catbird banded at Island Beach, NJ, 4 Sept. 1976 by W.K. Merritt, Jr., and recovered here by Sydney Mitchell on 15 Oct., and HY Veery banded at Block Island, RI, 14 Sept. 1976 by Mrs. F.D. Lapham and recovered here by Dorothy Mitchell on 22 Sept., and an HY-F Black-throated Blue Warbler also banded at Block Island by Mrs. Lapham on 11 Oct. 1976 and trapped here on 27 Oct. by W.P. Smith. A Gray-cheeked Thrush, banded as an AHY near Manorville, Long Island, NY, on 29 Sept. 1970 by G.S. Raynor, was retrapped here on 5 Oct. 1976 by W.P. Smith. This bird was at least 7 years old, which constitutes an age record for this species. In his summary of longevity records, John H. Kennard (*Bird-Banding* 46:55-73, 1975), who omitted birds less than 4 years old, did not list **any** age records for this species. An additional recovery was of an HY M American Kestrel banded here on 14 Sept. 1976 by Roger Foy and trapped and released near Tabor City, NC, on 24 Feb. 1977 by Dwane Lane.

The age ratios for most species followed the pattern previously set for coastal points with HY birds usually totaling 90% or more. There were some interesting exceptions, however. The flight on 9 Sept., which was not associated with a frontal passage, was notable for the unusually high numbers of AHY birds of some species. Examples, in terms of percentage HY birds, were Ovenbird, 73% (15 total banded); Black-and-white Warbler, 71% (14); American Redstart, 61% (70); Northern Waterthrush, 33% (12); and Veery, 31% (139). The Veeries, in fact, had an abnormal percentage of AHY birds for the full five-day period of 7-11 Sept. This reduced the overall seasonal ratio for this species to 63% HY vs. 87% in 1975. For the other species, the reduction was less: Black-and-white Warbler, 89% HY vs. 94% in 1975; Northern Waterthrush, 84% HY vs. 93-94%; and American Redstart, 91% HY vs. 94%. Curiously, almost exactly two years before (8 Sept. 1974) a similar one-day AHY increase occurred involving nearly all the same species (*North American Bird Bander* 1: 82).

Licensed banders who ran the station this year were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy, C.W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F.S. Schaeffer, F.R. Scott, and W.P. Smith. They were assisted by over 125 other banders and helpers, without whose aid the results would have been much less productive. W.P. Smith again did the initial editing and tabulation of the daily field sheets.

Long Beach, Bruswick County, North Carolina 335-0781

Samuel R. and Isabel H. Tipton

Our procedures are the same as reported previously (*EBBA News* 38:137-138): nets and traps in woods bordering on a salt marsh about 400 yards from the beach strand on Oak Island. Our nets and traps were open for 31 days, 20 September through 18 November. In September we banded 70 birds of 16 species in six days (24 birds/100 n.h.); there were three returns and 16 repeats. In October, 258 birds of 32 species were banded in 18 days (23/100 n.h.); five returns and 71 repeats. In November, 220 birds of 15 species were banded in seven days with three returns and 38 repeats (96/100 n.h.). In addition 15 birds caught in traps were banded. In the three months, 50 repeats were caught in traps.

Our best days were: 22 September (43 birds of 10 species, 48 birds/100 n.h.); 23 October (52 of two species—51 Myrtle Warblers—130/100 n.h.); 11 November (85 of four species—75 Myrtles—209/100 n.h.). We netted 160 new birds and 21 repeats of 17 species we believe to be birds migrating through the area to winter farther south. The general pattern in 1967 was the same as in 1973 and 1974 (no report in 1975), except that the non-resident warblers appeared to be about one week early, and the winter residents (Myrtle Warblers and White-throated Sparrows) began to arrive two to three weeks early. The 16 Red-eyed Vireos and the first Eastern Wood Pewee in four years were notable.

Notice to all AFR reporting stations.

All station reports for 1977 should be in the hands of your co-ordinator by now. If your report is not in, please attend to it immediately. Don't forget to include your lat.-long. numbers.

Membership listing

Up-to-date membership listings for EBBA are available from our secretary, Elva Hawken, for $1.00.

Historical Albums—MISSING

Please check any boxes of papers, booklets, etc. that you may have taken home with you from the EBBA Conference in Cape May, 1977. The Historical Albums were packed up in some box during the clean-up after Saturday night's program. These albums contain the history of EBBA, and the officers would like very much for them to be returned to the historian, Mrs. Roger Foy.

EBBA Annual Meeting

Wilmington, North Carolina: 24-26 March 1978

The meeting was hosted by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington this year. Like several of the past meeting weekends, Friday was a warm sunny day with great hopes for a good weekend weather-wise. Saturday was raw and somewhat rainy and made most people happy to stay inside and attend the workshops and paper session. Unfortunately, Sunday was worse than Saturday with torrents of rain, washing out the field trips. The field trip to the Carolina Beaches led by Jim Parnell did manage to sight some birds during lulls in the rain but serious trouping was impossible. The Thrae Banding Station Trip was completely rained out but the opportunity for comraderie was well attended.

While the council met for the yearly meeting, the other attendants of the meeting were treated to a slide program, "Breeding Population of Colonial Sea Birds in North Carolina Estuaries," presented by Jim Parnell, a professor of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

This year's workshops were: "Hawk Identification" presented by Bill Clark; "How to Write a Paper" presented by Hannah Suthers; "Measuring Techniques for Banders" presented by Kathy Klimkiewicz of BBL; "Aging and Sexing Wood Warblers in Spring and Autumn" presented by Katherine Davis; "An Introduction to the Breeding Bird Census Field Work Analysis and Uses" presented by Trevor Lloyd-Evans and "Presenting Your Slides to Family, Friends and/or Foes" presented by Walter Protzman.

The subjects for the afternoon paper sessions were: "The First Annual Banding Report" presented by Antonio Salvatori, Ontario, Canada; "Voluntary Talent Used by Manomet Bird Observatory" presented by Kathleen Anderson; "Banding in Southeastern North Carolina" presented by Isabel and Samuel Tipton; "Wing Measurements—How Safe Are They for Sexing Birds?" presented by Kathy Klimkiewicz; "Influence of Weather Conditions on the Feeding of Evening Grosbeaks in the Winter" presented by Alfred Dufty, Jr.; "Sharp-shinned Hawks at Cape May Point, New Jersey" presented by William Clark; "Preliminary Results of Recent Royal Tern Banding Along the Atlantic Coast" presented by John Weske.

The report from the Banding Laboratory was presented by Kathy Klimkiewicz.

The Social Hour and Buffet Banquet were held at the Blockrunner Motel. The guest speaker was Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Biologist at Manomet Bird Observatory, speaking on "Avian and Botanical Succession in Regeneration from Fire in a Pitch Pine Forest."

Due to a shortage in time, the following report was not presented at the general meeting.

Editor's Report

The costs of the journal have stayed within the budgeted allowances this year, but perhaps you have noticed there has been a decrease in number of pages. This was necessary to control costs. The past year has progressed smoothly, with an almost-free change in our cover.

NABB is now an established journal internationally with memberships in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America. We have a publication to be proud of and we all should attempt to submit articles. "Shorts" on findings, theories, migratory changes, etc., are as important as the long articles. Only when people submit findings do we get reactions from other banders. I welcome all articles, long or short, for consideration. Please refer to the inside of the NABB cover for the submission requirements. We cannot depend upon the officers to write—they are too busy handling EBBA concerns.

I am pleased to report the addition of Barbara Petorak of Shamokin, PA (a new bander) to the NABB staff as illustrations editor. Barb has done some excellent illustrations for some forthcoming articles.

Dorothy Bordner and Jean Stull have been more than gracious with their illustrations, but both are burdened with other commitments; Barb has that valuable asset—free time.

During the past year I have had fine cooperation from Barb, Dorothy and Jean as well as some caricature artists—Tommie Masone, B.J. Gruenewald, and my own son, Thom, who is also a bander. All members are urged to submit artwork for consideration in the journal. Don't be discouraged if it is not used immediately; nothing serves an editor better than a wide variety, be it articles or drawings.

Conference Bits

Common Redpolls

BBL, in answer to some conference queries, stated that after 1 January Redpolls are either ASY M or AHY U.

Black-and-white Warblers

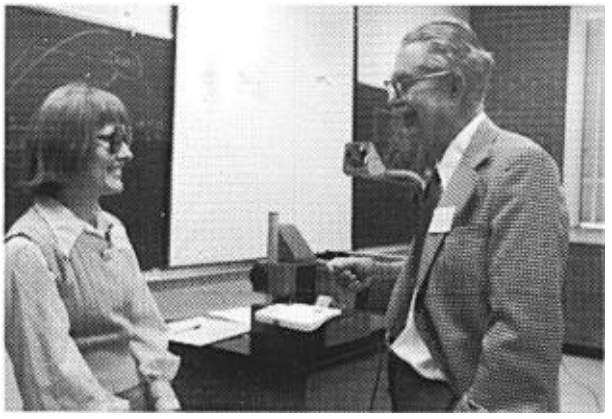
From BBL also, in aging male Black-and-white Warblers: jet black coverts—ASY, cloudy black coverts—SY.

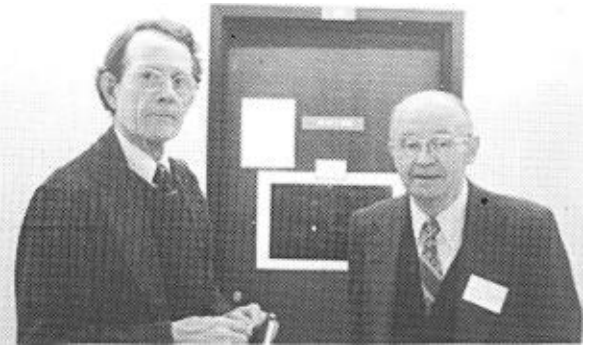
Raptors

Bill Clark presented a species summary on raptors in fall at Cape May Point Raptor Banding Stations. Look for this article in the next issue of NABB.

Fat Classes

As birds prepare for migration, subcutaneous fat is accumulated and is visible beneath the skin as whitish or





yellowish areas easily seen in contrast to the red muscular area. There are two areas in which the fat can be most easily seen—the abdomen and the furculum. The furcular or interclavicular region is the depression formed between the attachments of the pectoralis muscles to the furculum or "wish-bone," and coracoids, forming a "V" running toward the spinal cord and pectoral girdle, through which the neck protrudes. The extent of fat is measured at Point Reyes Bird Observatory by the following fat classes (another system is presented in Helms and Drury, *Bird-Banding* 31: 1. pg 13):

Fat Class	Furculum	Abdomen
0	None; the region is concave.	None.
T	Trace: fat present but the region is deeply concave.	Trace
1	Filling; the region is still concave; some covering of clavicles.	Not covering; some between intestinal folds and/or in small patches.
2	Filled, clavicles covered; fat nearly level with pectoralis muscle.	Covering pad; slightly mounded.
3	Convex pad; overflowing the length of furculum.	Greatly distended mound.

Attending the meeting:

Ontario—Antonio Salvatori
Illinois—Karl Bartel, Dorothy Flentge
Vermont—Betty Downs, Marjorie Jones, Louise Mullen
Massachusetts—Kathleen Anderson, Trevor Lloyd-Evans
New York—Barbara Belanger, Alfred Dufty, Valerie Freer, Elva Hawken, Mickie & Tom Mutchler, Bob, Rita & Steve Pantle
New Jersey—Davis & Ruth Corkran, Katherine & Price Davis, Grace & Mary Doscher, Douglas Kibbe, Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Kixmiller, Walter Protzman, Hannah Suthers
Pennsylvania—Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bigger, Blanch & Dorothy Bordner, Marie McDonald, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Middleton, Anthony Nastase
Washington, D.C.—William Clark, John Weske
Maryland—Gladys Cole, Margaret & Morrill Donnald, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Mac & Minette McCullough, Frances Pope
Virginia—James Carter, Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Hacker, Don Schwab, Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Smith, Wyatt Murphy, Tom Drumheller, Patrick Scanlon
North Carolina—Lydia & Paul Barrett, Charles Blake, J.H. Carter III, Pat Culbertson, George Grow, Lynn Hiller, Patrick Kennedy, James Parnell, Ramona Snavely, Isabel & Samuel Tipton
South Carolina—Ted Beckett III, Bill MacIntosh
Georgia—Don & Doris Cahrs, Joseph Meyers

EBBA offers technical review of banding projects involving special status species

The EBBA Conservation Committee has initiated a new service for members and non-members who are considering banding projects involving rare, endangered, or special status (e.g., "Blue-listed") species. The purpose of this project is to provide an expert, technical review of work scopes involving these species to insure that the project is technically sound and will cause a minimum of disturbance to sensitive species.

Everyone interested in utilizing this service is invited to submit a synopsis of their proposed work scope to include at a minimum:

1. Objectives of the study and the hypotheses being tested,

2. A concise summary of the existing literature and the researcher's previous experience with the species in question,

3. A detailed methodology to include trapping and marking techniques, measurements to be taken, manpower involved, season and duration of the proposed project, and the study site locations.

4. Justification for the need to involve banding in the study.

This synopsis and any other pertinent material should be sent to: Douglas P. Kibbe, Chairman, EBBA Conservation Committee, 312 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030.

The Conservation Committee hopes to expand this review service into an advisory service for individuals seeking worthwhile banding reasearch projects. Anyone willing to assist the Committee in this regard is urged to contact the Chairman.