

Waterthrushes and American Redstarts, and some rare species such as Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers. Warblers were reported as unusually common in Saskatoon this fall, and Dr. Stuart Houston had a very successful season of banding (see article in this issue). However, at Fort Qu'Appelle, Manley Callin found only Myrtle Warblers as abundant as usual, with other species fewer in number.

The abundance of warblers and the variety of species represented in the 1965 fall migration makes it seem worthwhile to show arrival and departure dates, with indications of peaks where possible (see Table 3). It will be seen in this table that almost all the common migrants had arrived in the area by the end of August, and it will also be noted that a surprisingly large number of species did not leave until October. These late dates are curiously interesting, especially since they represent some of the most striking observations — the Parula Warbler seen by the Binnies from October 21 to 24, the Cape May Warbler seen by Belcher October 21

(previously on September 23 by R. W. Nero, and on October 3 by the Binnies), and of course the Blue-winger Warbler found dead on November 9. The last record we have for the season is that of an unidentified warbler, described as being greenish in colour, with a gray head and white eye-ring, glimpsed briefly by Greg Bobbitt on November 13.

In making this survey, the authors wish especially to acknowledge the work done by Fred Lahrman, who visited the CKCK-TV tower regularly throughout the fall migration and made his notes available for this report.

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MIST NETTING AT SASKATOON, AUTUMN 1965

by **C. Stuart Houston** and **Mary Houston**, Saskatoon

Mist netting of birds has long been an art in Japan, but it was first popularized on this continent by Oliver L. Austin, Jr., who served with the American troops during the occupation of Japan immediately following the war. Silk or nylon nets, 30 to 60 feet in length and five or six feet high, are strung between poles. The nets are virtually invisible so that birds readily fly into them and pocket themselves unharmed. A special permit is required to operate mist nets.

On five weekends in August and September, 1965, 10 to 12 nets were put in place on Saturday evening and attended from dawn to dusk on Sunday, at 15- to 20-minute intervals. An

excellent sampling of the migration was thus obtained, for example, no less than 17 species of warblers and four species of vireos were banded, for a total of 190 individuals. With the bird in the hand, one can identify with certainty many species that would be difficult or impossible to identify in the field. Weights and measurements were obtained of all individuals. Members of the Saskatoon Natural History Society who assisted included Jim Slimmon (see photo), J. B. Gollop, Glen A. Fox, Sandy Macaulay, John Black, Cliff Matthews, Bill Richards, Jonathan Gerrard, Bob Ipema and Stan Houston.



Photo by Hans Dommasch

Jim Slimmon, Newsletter editor and president of the Saskatoon Natural History Society, removing a bird from a mist net.

The accompanying table shows the most interesting of the species which we banded. The wading birds were banded at the north shore of a four-mile long marshy area known locally as "Rice Lake", one mile south of Hawoods, or 11 miles north and one mile east of Delisle. The other birds were netted in the Beaver Creek valley, adjacent to the Game Farm, 10 miles south of Saskatoon. Totals for the weekends were as follows: 136 individuals of eight species on August 21-22; 16 birds of nine species on August 28-29; 59 of 18 species on September 4-5; 53 of 16 species on September 11-12; 115 individuals of 18 species on September 18-19.

TABLE 1

Species of interest trapped in mist nets and banded near Saskatoon.

Species	Date	No. banded
Semipalmated Plover	Aug. 21-22	13
Killdeer	Aug. 21-22	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	Aug. 21-22	6
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug. 21-22	13
Least Sandpiper	Aug. 21-22	52
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Aug. 21-22	46
Hermit Thrush	Sept. 15-Oct. 6	6
Swainson's Thrush	Aug. 27-Oct. 5	67
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Aug. 29-Sept. 26	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept. 18	1
Solitary Vireo	Sept. 2-12	2
Red-eyed Vireo	Sept. 5	2
Philadelphia Vireo	Sept. 12	1
Warbling Vireo	Sept. 5	1
Black-and-white Warbler	Sept. 5	1
Tennessee Warbler	Sept. 2-19	18
Orange-crowned Warbler	Sept. 7-10	8
Yellow Warbler	Aug. 29-Sept. 11	5
Magnolia Warbler	Sept. 19	2
Cape May Warbler	Sept. 4-19	7
Myrtle Warbler	Sept. 5-19	46
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Sept. 2	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	Sept. 2-5	4
Blackpoll Warbler	Sept. 2-19	31
Ovenbird	Aug. 31-Sept. 19	17
Northern Water-thrush	Aug. 25-Sept. 19	24
Mourning Warbler	Sept. 16	1
Yellowthroat	Oct. 3	1
Wilson's Warbler	Aug. 31-Sept. 12	8
Canada Warbler	Aug. 20-Sept. 1	2
American Redstart	Aug. 29-Sept. 9	8

INFORMATION WANTED ON OWL NESTS

Anyone finding a Great Horned Owl nest with young in April or May anywhere in the province or nearby is asked to please contact Dr. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, or phone collect to 244-0742.

From 385 Great Horned Owls

banded to date, Dr. Houston has had 49 recoveries, including two from Minnesota, two from North Dakota, one from South Dakota, and seven from Manitoba. From further banding, it is hoped to learn more about the wanderings of this "non-migratory" species.