

SWAMP suggest that this is one of the highest concentrations of spring migrants in North America. Our capture rates were high enough that our raw totals surpassed, or were comparable to those of several bird observatories that used up to four times as many nets and performed as many as 10 times the net hours as SWAMP during the same time period.

A brief analysis of the species composition of bird captures at SWAMP indicates that our data set is relatively rich in forest-dwelling species, and in species for which BBS data indicate a population decline during 1966-2000. We used descriptions of species' habitat preferences found in Erlich et al. (1988) to assign all bird species present in at least one data set to either forest-dwelling, or non-forest categories (Appendix A). Of the 53 species captured at SWAMP, 29 species (55%) were forest species. The remaining 24 species (45%) prefer open woodland, fields, and edge habitat. Braddock Bay, Atlantic, and Black Swamp Bird Observatories were similarly rich in forest species with 53, 57, and 55 percent of species in the forest-dwelling category, respectively. In terms of individual birds captured, SWAMP was the richest data set in forest birds, with forest-dwelling species accounting for 64 percent of captures. Next richest was Atlantic Bird Observatory (59%), followed by Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (49%), and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (48%). While forest birds are not the only species of conservation concern, as a general rule, they may be particularly susceptible to habitat loss and degrada-

tion as forests have been substantially reduced and fragmented by human activities in North America.

Similarly, species whose populations have declined significantly from 1966 to 2000 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) are of particular conservation concern. These species are distributed roughly evenly over the forest-dwelling and non-forest categories (Appendix A). BBS decliner species accounted for 45% of individual birds captured at SWAMP, roughly equivalent to Manomet Bird Observatory (47%) and McCormick Place windowkills (46%), the two other data sets that were the richest in BBS decliner species.

We would like to draw particular attention to a group of species for which SWAMP represents a data set of continental importance. The 22 Gray-cheeked Thrushes captured at SWAMP represent the highest raw total for this species of any of the data sets we examined. Even at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, where over six times as many birds were captured overall, only 19 individuals of this species were caught, and no other banding station we examined surpassed five individuals of this species. SWAMP may represent a unique opportunity for ecological studies of this elusive, northerly breeding species. The Gray-cheeked Thrush happens to be one of the only species whose breeding range is so poorly covered by Breeding Bird Survey routes that BBS data cannot be used to infer population trends (Appendix A).

There are eight species in addition to Gray-cheeked Thrush for which more than ten individuals were captured at SWAMP, and for which the SWAMP raw total is equal to or greater than that of all other data sets except for Black Swamp Bird Observatory. These species include Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Appendix A). These are all forest-dwelling species, and four of them are BBS decliner species.

For seven species, more than 50 individuals were captured at SWAMP. SWAMP thereby represents an opportunity to conduct more detailed studies of stopover biology for these species, which include Common Yellowthroat, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. A single year of data did not permit extensive analyses of stopover biology. Nonetheless, with two species for which at least 10 individuals were captured on multiple days during the season (recaptures), we performed a limited analysis of weight change during a migration stopover. For Ovenbird, three of ten recaptured birds gained weight, while two lost weight. The average initial weight was 19.7 grams and the average weight of these birds when recaptured on a subsequent day was 19.5 grams. Northern Waterthrushes gained weight in eleven of seventeen cases, while five lost weight. The average



*Two Connecticut Warblers captured at Shaw Woods Avian Monitoring Project banding station in Lake Forest, May, 2002 provided a real highlight for bird aficionados. Photo by Blaire Skinner.*