

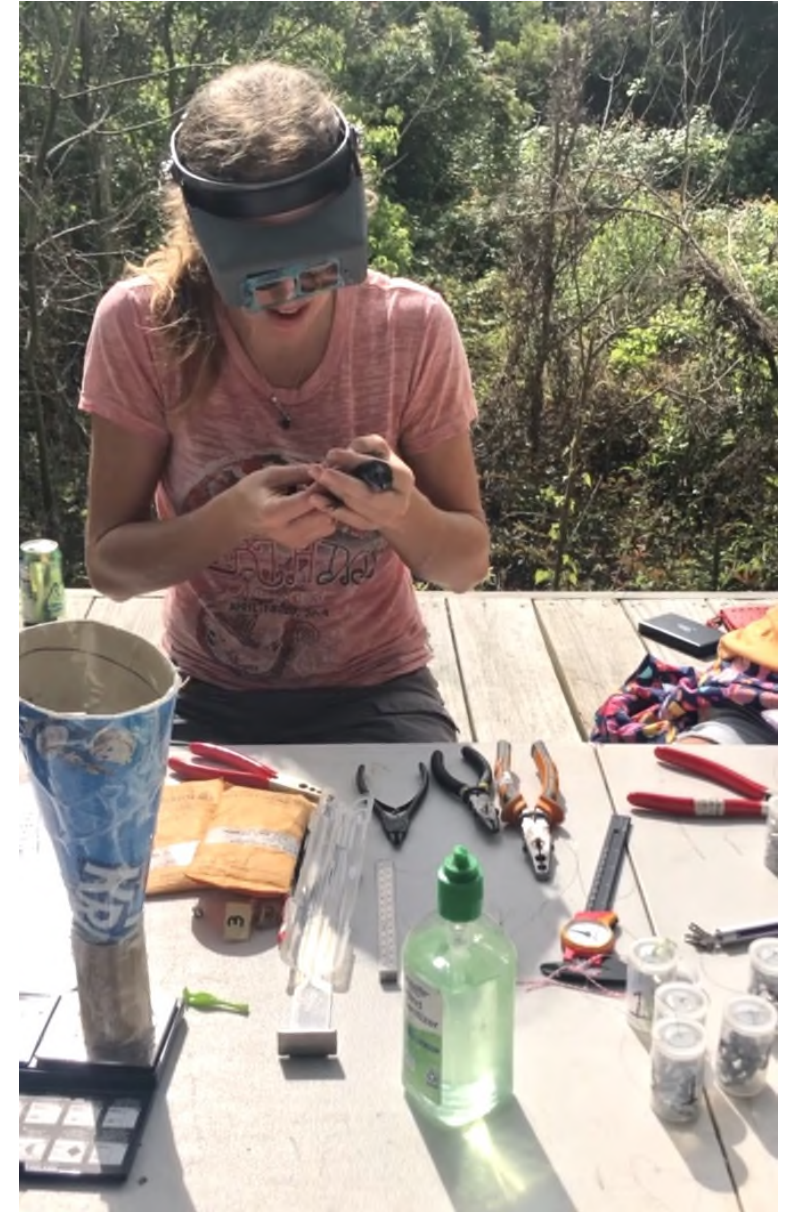


Banding Totals 2020-2023

Sarah Harper

What is bird banding?

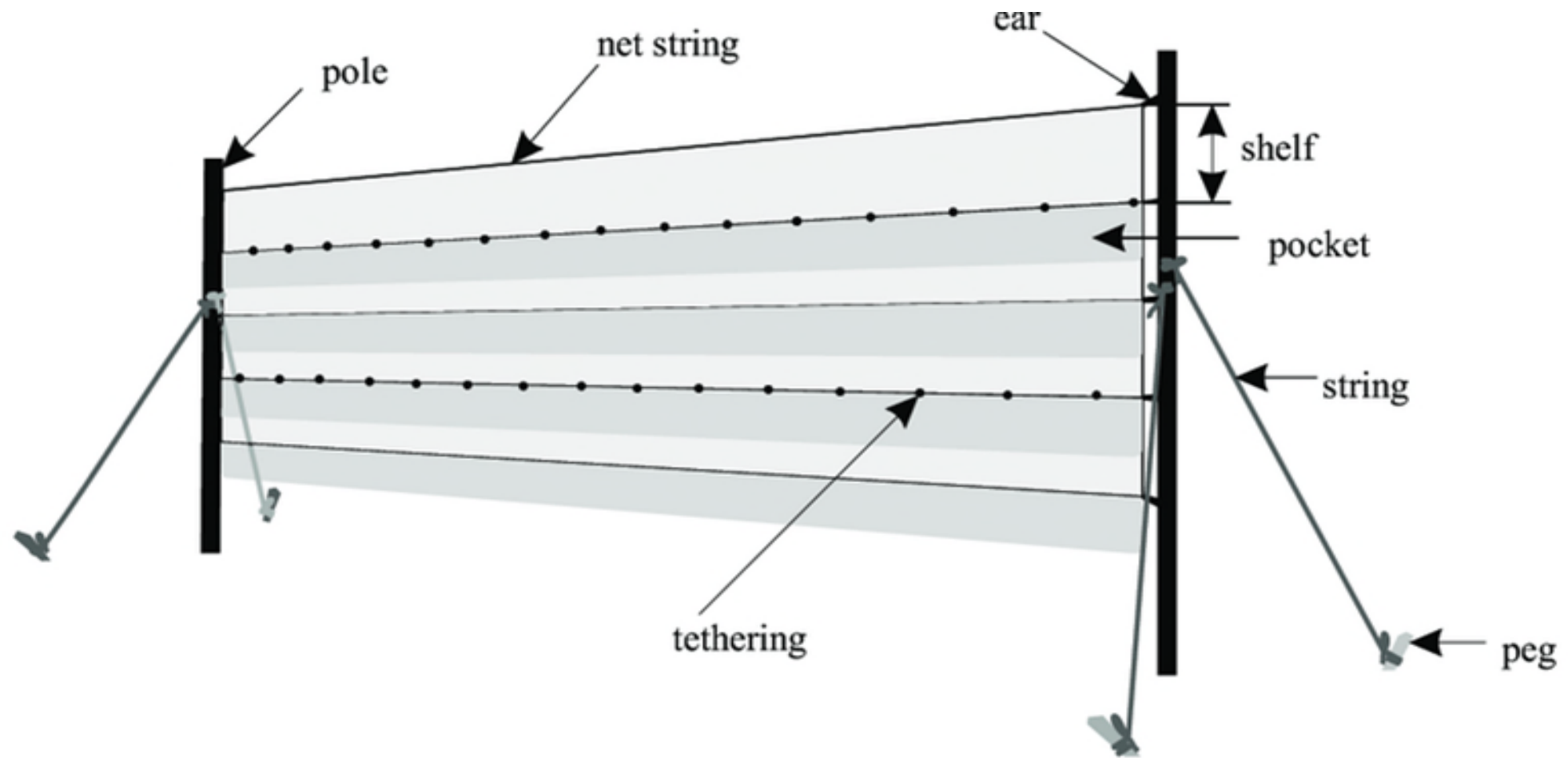
- The practice of capturing birds, placing a band on them/marking them and releasing them.
- State and Federal bird banding permits are required for capturing and tagging wild birds



Why do we study birds?

- Determine Lifespan
- Dispersal and Migration
- Population Estimates
- Survival and Productivity
- Toxicity and Disease research





How are birds captured?

- Mist nets are made of fine polyester or nylon mesh
- Nets are checked in sequence once every 15-20mins
- Temporary Set-up: Nets are set up at dawn and taken down at the end of each morning.





2020 Banding Totals

- 965 new birds banded, 55 recaptures
- 48 Species
- Year-round Monitoring



Cape May Warbler

- Stopover migrant on SI
- Breeds in Boreal coniferous forest
- Spruce budworm specialist





Ovenbird

- Nest is built on ground and resembles a brick oven
- Males and females are identical in appearance



Yellow-breasted Chat

- Summer Resident on SI
- Formerly classified as a warbler but is now only member of its own family, Icteriidae
- IUCN Status Least Concern





2021 Banding Totals

- 1,230 new birds banded, 144 recaptures
- 52 Species
- Year-round Monitoring



Blue-headed Vireo

- Winter Resident on SI
- Feeds mostly on insects but will occasionally feed on wax myrtle berries or other berries/fruits when insects are scarce
- IUCN Status Least Concern



Black-whiskered Vireo

- Vagrant on SI (breeds in S. Florida and Caribbean)
- Mangrove specialist in Florida breeding range
- Appears similar to Red-eyed Vireo except for the “whisker” lines on either side of the face below the bill





American Redstart

- Fans tail while foraging for insects
- Habitat generalist
- Stopover migrant only on Sullivan's Island



2022 Banding Totals

- 1,120 new birds banded, 86 recaptures
- 46 Species
- Year-round Monitoring



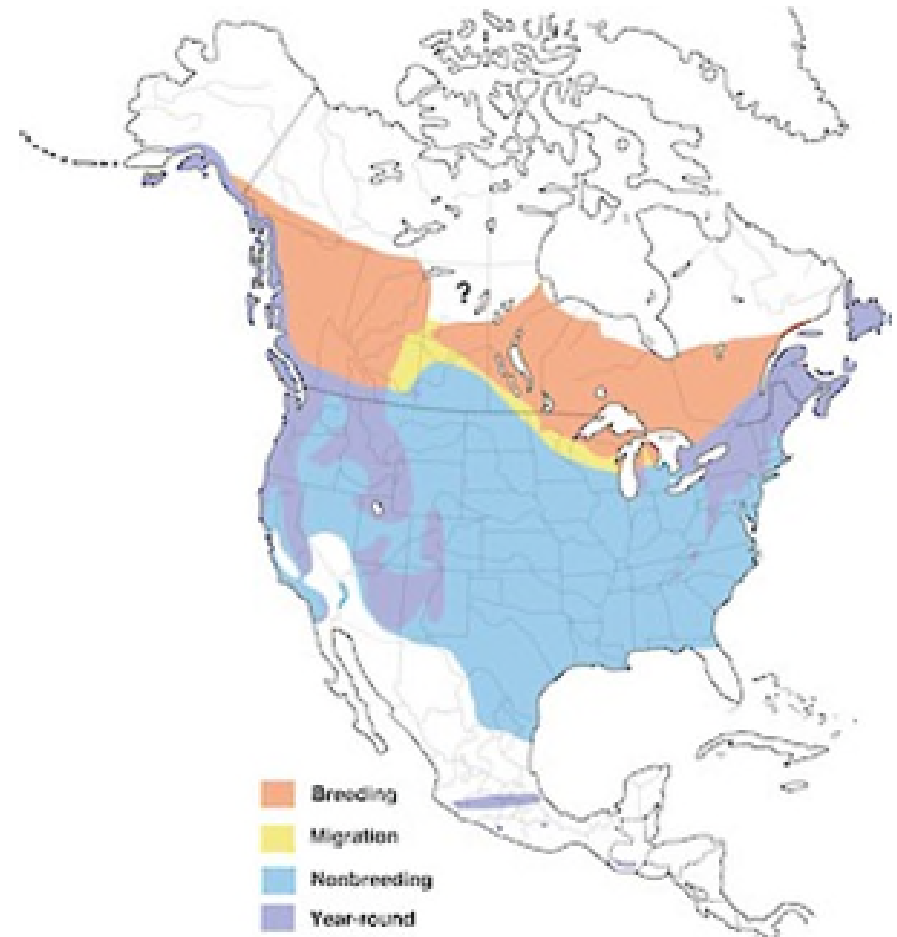
Yellow Warbler

- Diet Consists mostly of insects
- Stopover Migrant on SI
- Breeds in wet, deciduous thickets



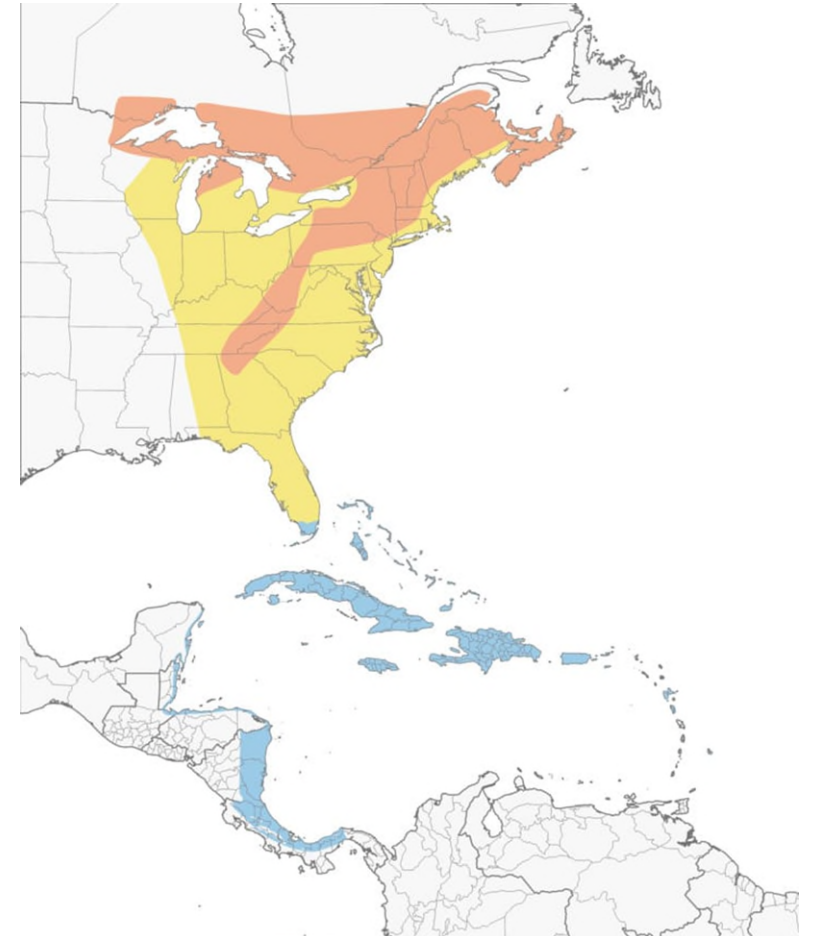
Golden-crowned Kinglet

- Winter resident on Sullivan's Island
- Breeds in Northern spruce-fir forests and white pine-hemlock forests
- Mostly seen foraging in pines during the winter



Black-throated Blue Warbler

- Stopover migrant on SI
- Prefers larger tracts of forest for breeding, but uses a wide variety of habitats in nonbreeding grounds
- IUCN Status Least Concern



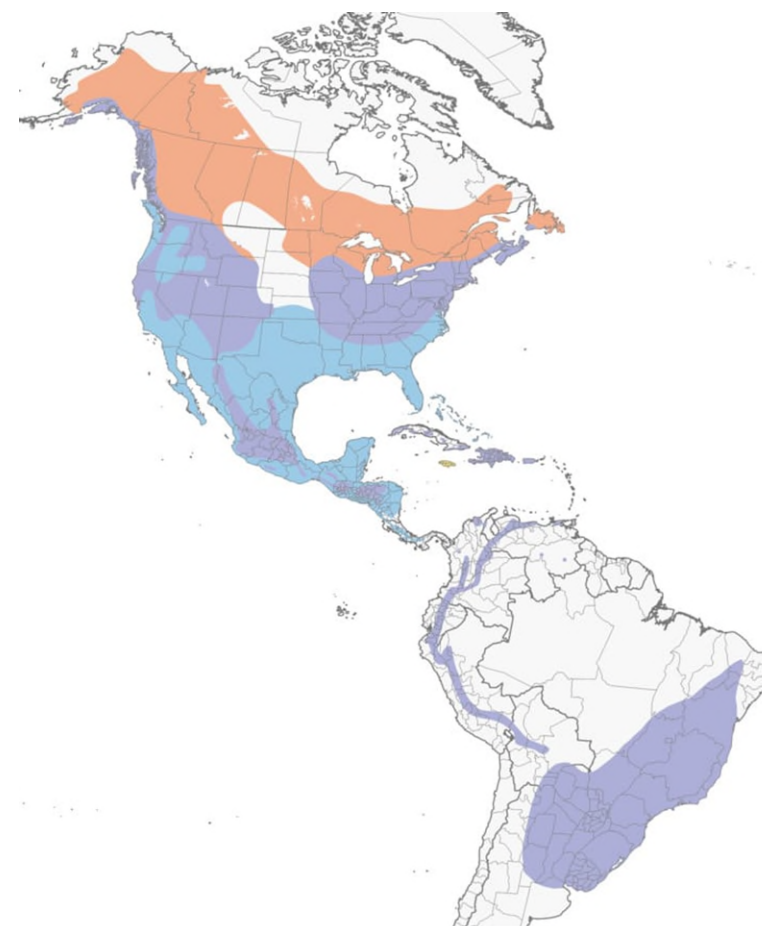
2023 Banding Totals

- Winter and Spring banding seasons (Feb. through May)
- 21 Species
- 345 Birds Banded, 84 Recaptures



Sharp-shinned Hawk

- Winter Resident
- Diet: 90% Songbirds
- Species of low conservation concern



Painted Bunting

- Classified by IUCN as Near Threatened
- Utilize Sullivan's Island as a breeding grounds and migration stopover location





Painted Bunting Site Fidelity

- Female Banded in Spring 2022 recaptured in Spring 2023
- Male banded April 21st, 2020 recaptured on April 21st 2021, May 2022, and May 2023





Site Fidelity on Sullivan's Island

- Migratory birds often return to the same breeding grounds, wintering grounds or stopover locations each year



Hermit Thrushes show site fidelity to a wintering grounds.



Gray Catbirds demonstrate site fidelity to a stopover location and wintering grounds. Birds banded in 2015 and 2016 have been recaptured in 2022 and 2023.



Eastern Towhees use the island as a wintering grounds and clear out in early-spring (They're "permanent residents" in SC but perhaps travel shorter distances to and from the mainland.)

Surprising Finds on SI



Blackpoll Warblers migrate thousands of miles off-shore in the Atlantic. We occasionally band “lost” stragglers during migration or right after a tropical storm



Vagrants are occasionally captured, such as this Bell's Vireo banded in 2016. This species normal range is in the Great Plains and Southwestern US



Chuck-will's Widows are crepuscular foragers and are very rarely captured. We banded one in 2015 and one in 2016. They are bulky and tend to bounce out of the 30mm mist nets.





Interested in helping out?

- Visit or Volunteer at the Bird Banding Station
- Email Sarah Harper at sullivanislandbirds@gmail.com



New Birds Banded	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
American Redstart	40	24	23	0	87
American Robin	0	0	4	6	10
Black-and-white Warbler	4	5	5	0	14
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	3	0	0	3
Blue-headed Vireo	1	1	0	0	2
Blue Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	1
Blue Jay	5	2	1	2	10
Blackpoll Warbler	2	1	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0	0	1
Brown Thrasher	15	14	6	2	37
Black-throated Blue Warbler	11	9	5	0	25
Carolina Chickadee	15	10	3	4	32
Carolina Wren	12	13	10	4	39
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	1	2	3
Chipping Sparrow	0	0	2	0	2
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	0	1	0	1
Common Grackle	2	5	2	2	11
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	0	0	3
Common Yellowthroat	59	96	49	6	210
Downy Woodpecker	4	5	3	0	12
Eastern Phoebe	2	3	0	0	5
Eastern Towhee	5	18	3	2	28
Field Sparrow	2	0	0	0	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	6	0	0	2	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	347	439	278	55	1,119
Hermit Thrush	7	7	7	2	23
Hooded Warbler	1	1	1	0	3
House Finch	0	3	3	0	6
House Wren	14	10	1	0	25
Indigo Bunting	7	0	1	0	8
Louisiana Waterthrush	0	2	0	0	2

New Birds Banded	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Magnolia Warbler	0	2	0	0	2
Mourning Dove	0	0	1	4	5
Myrtle Warbler	129	325	535	216	1,205
Northern Cardinal	17	37	23	14	91
Northern Mockingbird	0	0	0	2	2
Northern Parula	9	5	2	0	16
Northern Waterthrush	27	9	39	0	75
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	3	0	0	9
Ovenbird	5	3	0	0	8
Painted Bunting	27	20	7	0	54
Prairie Warbler	8	15	8	0	31
Prothonotary Warbler	0	2	1	0	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0	0	2	0	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	15	12	0	33
Red-eyed Vireo	40	26	27	0	93
Red-winged Blackbird	0	1	1	0	2
Savannah Sparrow	0	4	0	2	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	1	0	2
Song Sparrow	9	8	13	0	30
Swamp Sparrow	2	2	2	2	8
Swainson's Thrush	3	2	1	0	6
Swainson's Warbler	1	1	0	0	2
Trail's Flycatcher	3	3	2	0	8
Tufted Titmouse	0	1	0	0	1
Veery	1	1	1	0	3
White-eyed Vireo	37	17	18	8	80
Worm-eating Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Western Palm Warbler	57	19	1	2	79
White-throated Sparrow	3	19	5	6	33
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	6	1	0	7
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	3	0	0	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	1	0	3
Yellow Warbler	6	6	6	0	18
Yellow-shafted Flicker (Northern Flicker)	1	0	1	0	2
Total:	965	1,230	1,120	345	3,660





Recaptures	2020	2021	2022	2023
American Redstart	1	1	2	0
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0
Brown Thrasher	1	1	1	5
Carolina Chickadee	2	10	4	2
Carolina Wren	10	10	6	8
Common Grackle	1	0	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0
Downy Woodpecker	0	3	0	0
Eastern Towhee	0	3	1	2
Field Sparrow	0	1	0	0
Gray Catbird	10	31	15	20
Hermit Thrush	6	2	1	3
House Wren	1	3	0	0
Myrtle Warbler	4	44	35	27
Northern Cardinal	10	22	12	8
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	2	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	1	3
Painted Bunting	2	5	1	2
Prairie Warbler	0	1	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	0	1	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	3	3	1
Song Sparrow	1	1	0	0
White-eyed Vireo	4	1	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	1	1
Total	55	144	86	84