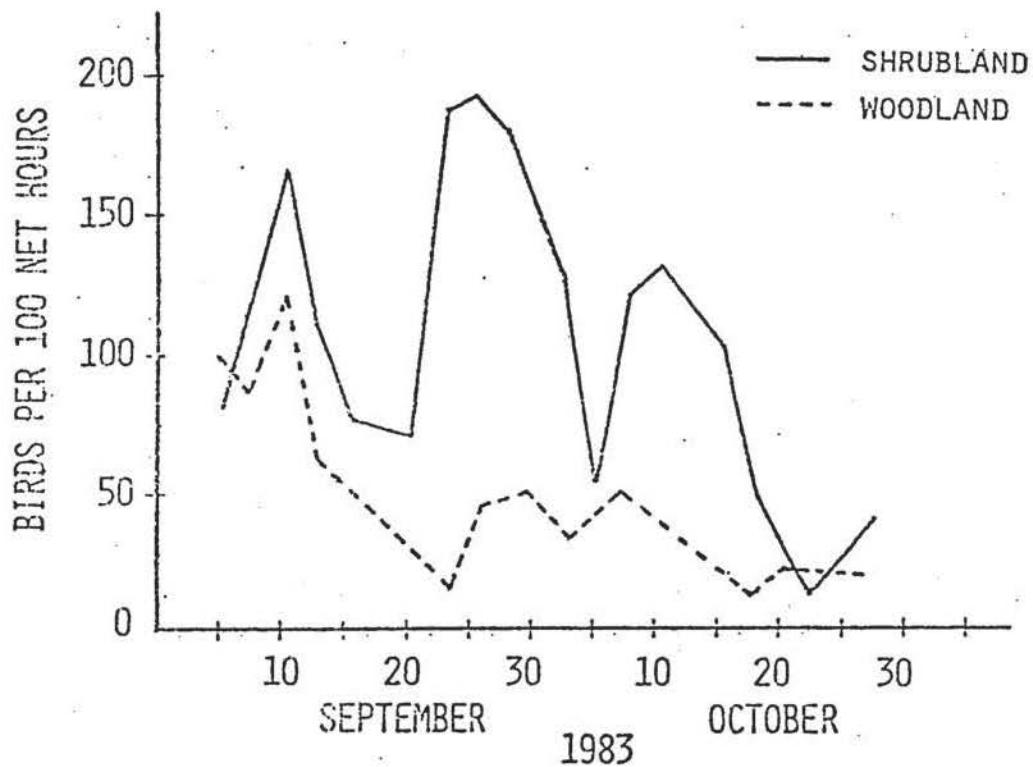


Use of Coastal Habitats by Fall Migrants

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During September and October 1983, habitat use by fall migrant songbirds was studied at the Seatuck Research Center of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, located on the south shore of Long Island, within the Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Comparisons of habitat use by birds captured in mist nets revealed a significant preference for shrubland habitats over woodland habitats. In addition, migrants present in the area for two days or more showed significant weight gains. Such information is useful in understanding the habitat requirements of fall migrants and the overall significance of suburban refuges and preserves in songbird management. Loss or reduction in the area of critical habitats in densely populated coastal flyways could be a significant factor contributing to the mortality of fall migrants during their first year of life.



COMPARATIVE CAPTURE RATES, 1983

HABITAT	BIRDS PER 100 NET HOURS	PERCENT OF TOTAL CAPTURES
SHRUBLAND	70	65
WOODLAND UNDERSTORY	43	35

TEN MOST COMMONLY CAPTURED SPECIES

SPECIES	PERCENT OF TOTAL CAPTURES
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	27
GRAY CATBIRD	12
AMERICAN REDSTART	6
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	5
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	5
VEERY	5
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	4
AMERICAN ROBIN	3
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	3
OVENBIRD	2

SUMMARY

1. MOVEMENTS OF FALL MIGRANT SONGBIRDS ALONG THE SOUTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND PROCEED FROM EAST TO WEST.
2. FALL MIGRANT SONGBIRDS SHOW SIGNIFICANTLY MORE USE OF SHRUBLAND HABITAT THAN WOODLAND UNDERSTORY AT THE SEATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.
3. AVERAGE WEIGHT GAINS OF 0.54 GRAMS OCCUR IN FALL MIGRANT SONGBIRDS THAT SPEND TWO OR MORE DAYS AT THE SEATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.