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## Atlantic Flyway Review Region Iii

North American Bird Bander

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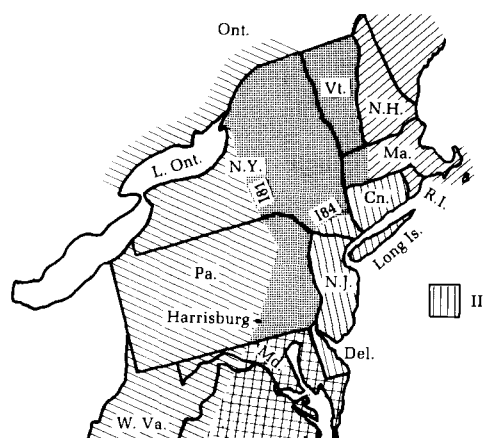
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# Atlantic Flyway Review

## Region III

**Robert Dewire, Coordinator**

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Region III covers banding stations on Long Island, New York, New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut. Five stations were active and reported on the fall migration.

The 1975 season was an interesting one with warbler flights, both early and major, at the Connecticut Brookhaven, Long Island and Island Beach, New Jersey stations. There were no real "wave" days in August or September but rather a steady flow of migrants. A stormy period at the end of September produced the best flights of the month at most stations. October saw good flights over the 4th and 5th and again on the 14th and 15th. Black-capped Chickadees staged major flights along coastal Connecticut and an increase was noted at Brook-

haven, but they did not reach the New Jersey stations. Most stations felt that the sparrow flights were below normal.

	Manorville, N.Y.	Brookhaven, N.Y.	Sandy Hook, N.J.	Island Beach, N.J.	Westport, Conn.
Days of operation	38	94	12	52	41
No. of birds banded	314	1818	545	12449	1302
No. species	40	70	53	115	65
Birds/100 n.h.	49	82	68	240	105

### Manorville, New York

**Gilbert Raynor**

August was a quiet month at the station while September produced good flights of warblers throughout the month. 20 September was the best day with 34 birds banded. October was not too active, the usual large sparrow and junco flights of mid-month did not occur. Best day was 5 October when 30 birds were banded. It was a good flight year for Veeries with a station total of 24. Most numerous birds banded were the Gray Catbird, 55 and the White-throated Sparrow, 50.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 n.h.	Species
August	8	11	0	1	17	4
September	18	159	2	32	49	22
October	12	144	5	39	56	29

### Brookhaven, Long Island, New York

**Dennis Puleston**

The station was not opened until 1 September so the usual early flights of Yellowthroats and Northern Waterthrushes were missed. The prolonged migration of the Yellowthroats was noted with flights continuing irregularly into mid-October and stragglers still occurring in early November. Although most warblers were down in numbers this season (no Magnolia Warblers and only two Black-and-white Warblers), there was a good flight of Blackpoll Warblers with 43; only 18 in 1974. The Lincoln's Sparrows were down from 27 in 1974

to 9 in 1975. These figures should be considered in terms of the total number of net hours of 2221 in 1975 to 3562 in 1974. The total number of birds banded was 1818 in 1975 to 2976 in 1974. All banding was done in the first few hours of daylight. The net lanes are located at the edge of an extensive marsh on the south shore of Long Island. The marsh species (Sharp-tailed Sparrows, 32 and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, 36) as well as the woodlot species (Redstarts, 28; Hermit Thrushes, 11 and Gray Catbirds, 122) were banded. My two young granddaughters as well

as many students from the nearby Bellport High School were my assistants.

The peak days were 28 September with 65 birds banded and 15 October with 75. The most commonly caught species: Swamp Sparrow, 378; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 342; and Song Sparrow, 215. Despite the Yellow-rumped Warbler's position of second most banded bird it had dropped considerably from the 705 total of 1974. Ed. note: Mr. Puleston's entire 1975 banding notes are impressive with 70 species (18 warblers), yielding 1818 individuals in 2221 net hours.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 n.h.	Species
September	30	607	22		73	55
October	31	889	16		117	62
Nov-Dec 3rd	33	312	—		—	—

#### Wadsworth Wildlife Sanctuary, Westport, Connecticut

**Robert Dewire**

The best and earliest warbler flights were recorded of any fall at the station. On the first day 14 August 3 Bay-breasted and 1 Tennessee Warblers were taken, an omen of things to come. By month's end 12 Tennessee, 8 Magnolia, 5 Bay-breasted and 1 each Nashville and Wilson's Warblers had been taken. The warbler migration was consistently good throughout September without noticeable peak days. Best day was 22 September with 56 birds banded. Overall 611 warblers of 25 species were taken compared to 212 of 20 species in 1974, 364 of 22 species in 1973 and 555 of 25 species in 1972.

A frontal system passed through on 13 October producing the best banding day on the 14th with 119 birds caught. Warblers persisted into the early part of the month. Thrushes had an average year; sparrows less than average. Black-capped Chickadees had a major in-

vasion along the coast with 90 caught this year as compared to 21 in 1974 and 35 in 1973. Most numerous birds banded were: Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 140; Redstarts, 110; and Black-capped Chickadees, 90. Two Mourning Warblers, caught on 24 August and 3 September respectively were first for the station.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 n.h.	Species
August	11	256	0	13	76	36
September	15	465	0	21	103	50
October	15	581	0	27	128	43

#### Gateway National Park, Sandy Hook, New Jersey

**Davis Corkran**

The netting location was changed this year from the bay (western) side to an area about one mile north-northeast, closer to the ocean side of the peninsula. This change resulted in a change of habitat conditions with more open spaces present. Large sagebrush fields are bordered by abandoned roads edged with hackberry, sumac, and wild cherry. Nets were arranged parallel to the lower growth portions of the roadside foliage. This location change does not allow for meaningful comparison to the previous four years of banding, all of which were at the older site. It was noted that no returns from previous years were recorded which could suggest that migrant individuals tend to follow the same flight paths on successive migrations.

This year found only one day of exceptional activity, 5 October when 202 birds were banded. Most numerous

birds taken: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 117; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 60; White-throated Sparrow, 40; and Dark-eyed Junco, 31. Station operators were David and Ruth Corkran and Waldron and Marion Kennison.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 n.h.	Species
August	1	48			48	10
September	7	140			30	42
October	4	357			107	35

**Island Beach State Park, New Jersey**  
**Herman W. "Bud" Cooper**

Peak days were 28 August with 367 birds banded, 28 September with 842, and 5 October with 2590. The Golden-crowned Kinglet was the most numerous species with 1557 banded, followed by Ruby-crowned Kinglet with 1320. A hybrid *Dark-eyed Junco* x *White-throated Sparrow* was caught on 5 October by Bob Pantle. Other unusual birds were a Kentucky Warbler on 9 August and a Clay-colored Sparrow on 30 October. Banding assistants were Emil Berger, Mary Doscher, Jesse Grantham, Fred Lesser, Will Merritt, John Miller, Bob Pantle, Marge and Bill Pepper, Walt Protzman, Jeff and Howard Spendelow, Hannah Suthers, Herb and Shirley Volker, Mabel Warburton, and Bob Yunick.

Month	Days Banded	New Birds Banded	Returns	Repeats	New Birds/100 n.h.	Species
August	9	857			153	58
September	26	4113			177	93
October	15	7410			330	95
November	2	69			94	18

## Region IV

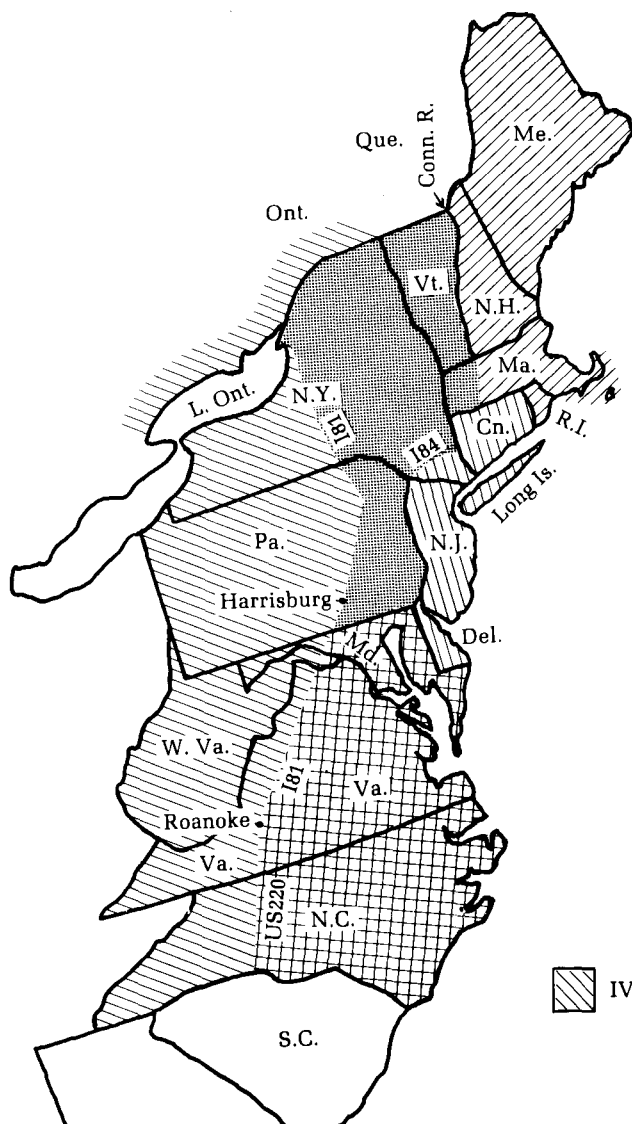
**Donald F. Clark, Coordinator**

Hicks Road RD #1, Franklinville, NY 14737

The 1975 fall migration seemed unusual in several ways. The numbers of birds banded at most stations was greater than in 1974 yet the general feeling was that the migration was sluggish and unspectacular. Several suggestions were expressed by the banders as to the make up of the flights. Peter Homann found few migratory birds in his banding area of Quebec with most of the birds in the area being adults. He wonders if the early spring and the warm, sunny summer resulted in early fledging and early migration of the hatching year birds. Robert Leberman and George Hall noted a high ratio of adult birds to hatching year birds. They both considered the possibility of a poor breeding season in the northern nesting area causing fewer hatching year birds in the migration.

Jean Stull and I noted the early arrival of migrants in September and the "flat" pattern as they lingered in the area late due to the mild weather. Powdermill, Farmersville Station, and Alfred Station are year round banding stations. All three had good northern finch flights late in the fall. A Boreal Chickadee was banded at Powdermill on 8 November and one was banded at Farmersville Station on 20 October. Betsy Brooks, Alfred Station, reported Water Pipits, Red Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks in early November. Evening Grosbeaks were early and plentiful at these three stations.

Although Malcolm Lerch had to curtail his banding operations in early October due to illness he is well now and back banding at Penn Yann. Sam and Isabel Tipton were in England rather than Long Beach, North Carolina this banding season. Erma Fisk reported on a new banding station in Massachusetts this fall and did not operate the Homestead, Florida station during this report period (See NABB 1:3 p 143).



	Lost River, Quebec	Penn Yann, New York	Farmersville Station, New York	Alfred Station, New York	Presque Isle, Pennsylvania	Powdermill, Pennsylvania	Allegheny Front, Pennsylvania
Days of Operation	10	64	88	54	19	97	41
Nets used	4	2-20	0-10	3	—	—	—
Birds banded 1975	87	2071	1088	139	1723	5121	3889
Diff. species 1975	30	76	64	29	60	103	72
Largest daily catch	15	—	99	11	248	375	367
Total net hours	—	—	1908	—	1235	9640	2230
Birds/100 n.h. 1975	—	—	46	—	139	53	174
Birds banded 1974	—	2847	642	—	815	4142	7171
Birds/100 n.h. 1974	—	—	24	—	83	31	284

### Lost River, Quebec, Canada

**Peter Homann**

The woods were empty. The only migratory birds which could be seen in relative abundance were Myrtle Warblers and thrushes. Even the nasal call of the Red-breasted Nuthatches was only heard on two occasions. Surprising were the relatively high proportions of adult birds captured. I suspect that the early spring in Canada this year, and the warm and sunny summer, resulted in an early fledging of most young. The young, which make up the vast majority of my catches, had already left northern Quebec by the middle of August. Only the late travelers—Myrtle Warblers, adult warblers, and thrushes—were still around. One adult Black-throated Green Warbler, a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets, some Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and Red-eyed Vireos were observed while feeding their fledglings.

This year's experience could provide an answer to the phenomenal banding success in 1972 when in three weeks over 650 birds were banded. That year was the year of Hurricane Agnes which brought much bad weather and rain to the eastern North American continent in June, the time of the beginning breeding activities in the northern areas. Presumably most nests were destroyed and when better weather finally arrived, many pairs began simultaneously with renewed nesting. The young from these clutches must have hatched, fledged and moulted at about the same time, making them ready for migration by the middle of August when my banding activity began. Wave after wave of largely young warblers filled the woods around my banding area.

A female Ovenbird was killed by a lawn mower while it was incubating in early July. This bird had been banded on 9 September 1969 as an AHY, less than 300 feet from the place of recovery.

The most commonly banded species were: Swainson's Thrush, 10; Myrtle Warbler, 9; Black-capped Chickadee, 8; Red-eyed Vireo, 7; Song Sparrow, 7.

### Penn Yann, Yates County, New York

**Malcolm Lerch**

Banding in the fall of 1975 was conducted from 1 August to 4 October when illness forced me to cease banding for the duration of the year. During this time 2071 birds of 76 different species were banded. The number of late migrating finches, warblers, and kinglets were down due to the early cessation of banding. Over the past two years Red-eyed Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's Thrush and Baltimore Orioles showed good increases while Ovenbirds doubled the previous two years. Brown Creepers, Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellowthroats showed declines.

The most commonly banded species were: Song Sparrow, 188; Swainson's Thrush, 170; Magnolia Warbler, 156; Gray Catbird, 135; Bay-breasted Warbler, 129; Red-eyed Vireo, 128; Ovenbird, 71; White-throated Sparrow, 69; Tennessee Warbler, 68; and Least Flycatcher, 53.

### Farmersville Station, Cattaraugus County, New York

**Donald F. Clark**

August was a hot, dry month with no movement of birds observed. In fact, very few birds were even seen in the area. September was cold and wet with Hurricane Eloise providing a full week of rain. The best migration dates were 2, 3, 11, and 16 September. On 2 September we noted the earliest heavy flights we have had in the ten years of banding at this station. October was a beautiful month with the first snow and record cold on 30 October. A Boreal Chickadee was banded on 20 October. Early

flights of Evening Grosbeaks and flocks of Pine Siskins were observed. A very late Red-eyed Vireo was caught on 20 October. Banding continued through November which was unseasonably warm this year.

The Boreal Chickadee was a new bird for this station. In addition Wild Turkeys were observed for the first time on the refuge. It was quite a thrill to watch 4 turkeys out the front window of our home.

1088 birds of 64 species were banded this year. Gray Catbirds, Robins, and all species of the flycatchers were low in numbers. There was a good flight of warblers with the Myrtle Warbler being the only warbler species lower than normal. An excellent flight of Tennessee Warblers occurred with Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers higher than normal. Black-capped Chickadees doubled the normal catch in the fall and Evening Grosbeaks arrived by the hundreds. There were 26 returns and 248 repeats.

The most commonly banded species were: Evening Grosbeak, 246; Dark-eyed Junco, 115; Tennessee Warbler, 91; Black-capped Chickadee, 68; White-throated Sparrow, 61; Tree Sparrow, 53; Magnolia Warbler, 39; Black-throated Green Warbler, 29; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 29; and American Goldfinch, 25.

#### **Alfred Station, Allegany County, New York**

##### **Betsy Brooks**

1975 was the first year of operation for this station located at 1435 Water Wells Road in Alfred Station, New York (coordinates 421-0774), a semi-rural area 0.7 mile west of Alfred. All banding was done at this location with the exception of three bandings done in a Christmas tree plantation located 2½ miles WSW of Alfred. The elevation at the station is 1960 feet.

The station operated for 54 days 3 August to 31 October. 139 birds of 29 species were banded with 8 returns and 6 repeats. The peak day was 26 September with 11 captures. The most commonly banded bird was the Song Sparrow. A late Swainson's Thrush and a lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak were banded in October.

#### **Presque Isle State Park, Erie, Pennsylvania**

##### **Jean Stull**

The station was in operation 19 days, mostly weekends, from 9 August to 19 October. An attempt to band shorebirds on the outer point of the peninsula on three August dates yielded 18 shorebirds of 5 species.

The remaining time was spent using the area regularly used during the 14 years of operation. A total of 1723 birds of 60 species were banded in 1235 net hours. Migrants arrived early and lingered late with the continuing mild autumn weather.

Unusual captures of the season were a Connecticut Warbler on 7 September and a White-eyed Vireo on 4 October. 23 warbler species were banded. Yellow

Warblers, normally common in August, were neither banded nor seen.

There were 4 returns, all breeding birds banded as early as 1971 and 1 recovery. A Myrtle Warbler banded here on 1 October 1972 was trapped and released 9 June 1975 at Barago Plains, Michigan, about 50 miles west of Lake Superior. This may be the bird's nesting area.

Banders were: Mary and Ronald Leberman, Jean and James G. Stull.

The most commonly banded species were: Ruby-crowned Kinglet 214, Swainson's Thrush 181, White-throated Sparrow 181, Golden-crowned Kinglet 113, Brown Creeper 102, Hermit Thrush 100, Magnolia Warbler 98, Bay-breasted Warbler 81, Myrtle Warbler 48, and Blackpoll Warbler 45.

#### **Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Pennsylvania**

##### **Robert C. Leberman**

The 1975 autumn migration was generally unspectacular, at least through the mountain valley at the station located 3 miles south of Rector. Warbler flights were especially sluggish during August, September and the first part of October. We obtained a higher than normal adult to immature ratio for many species which might have indicated a poor breeding season, especially those species originating in the boreal forest. Good waves of kinglets and finches did finally appear during the latter half of October and a fairly heavy flight of Black-capped Chickadees developed about the same time. In the one month period, from mid-October to mid-November, a total of almost 300 chickadees was banded. The average number usually handled during the same fall period in the previous 4 years is only 35. Our most unusual capture was a Boreal Chickadee netted on 8 November. Pennsylvania is well south of the normal dispersal of this species, and this occurrence (our second Reserve record in 14 years) represents one of perhaps 5 or 6 records for the southwestern section of the state.

Since our last Flyway Review report was published we have had word of only one additional recovery of an autumn banded bird. A Red-eyed Vireo (#820-49947) banded at Powdermill on 7 September 1974 was found dead at Auburn, North Carolina later the same month. Unfortunately the exact date and other details for this direct recovery could not be obtained.

1975 banding totals are not strictly comparable with those of previous falls. For the first time this season banding operations were conducted throughout the month of November, and the totals for that month are included in this report. There were changes in the location of a few nets as a result of the construction of 2 shallow ponds.

For varied and much appreciated assistance with the season's program I thank Dr. Mary H. Clench, A.C. Lloyd, A.C. Lloyd, Jr., and Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes.

The most commonly banded species were: White-

throated Sparrow 482, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 442, Black-capped Chickadee 334, Cedar Waxwing 216, Dark-eyed Junco 208, Myrtle Warbler 190, Least Flycatcher 179, Gray Catbird 172, Song Sparrow 171, and American Goldfinch 166.

#### **Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, West Virginia**

**George A. Hall**

The 18th year of bird banding on the Allegheny Front Mountain was a modest success compared with the outstanding season of 1974. After the fantastic results of 1974 even a good year was bound to look mediocre. The station was operated from 26 August to 5 October, ceasing a little earlier than usual. Rain forced suspension of one day's operation in August and lack of help caused a 3 day shut down in September. There was only one brief period of cold weather, 3-4 October, otherwise the weather was generally favorable.

The capture pattern was slightly different this year. As usual there was a peak in late August. Early September a lull usually occurs but this year peaks occurred on 3-5 and 9-11 September. A major flight occurred 21-22 September and the biggest movement on 27-28 September. 367 birds were banded 27 September. 22 September in excess of 200 birds were banded; 5 days had more than 200 captures and 7 days had between 100 and 200 birds per day.

A total of 3889 birds of 72 species were banded in 2230 net hours. No new species were added this year. The list now stands at 107 species with a total of 37,442 birds banded. 15 birds banded at this station previously were recaptured, the prize being a Dark-eyed Junco which has repeated every year since the original banding in 1970. We had no recovery reports this year.

The "Big Three" species were the Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and the Blackpoll Warbler. Usually the Blackpoll Warbler is the most abundant here

so it was a surprise to find it in third place. The massive movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches this fall is reflected in our capture of 52, a new station high. The operation of the station ceased before the great southward flight of the Black-capped Chickadees occurred.

There were good flights of Blue Jays, Swainson's Thrushes, Black-throated Green Warblers, Bay-breasted Warblers, and Cape May Warblers. Species which seemed scarcer than usual were Ovenbirds and Red-eyed Vireos.

It is my impression, unsupported by statistical analysis of the data, that the ratio of adult birds to immature birds was higher this year than normal. This certainly was true for the heavy flight of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers that I studied at Morgantown in late October. This high ratio, if true, would indicate a less than normal success in the breeding season in the north. The spring migration was greatly delayed and the summer conditions did not begin in the north until quite late; this may have caused the breeding season to have been less successful than normal.

Clark Miller again gave public demonstrations of banding techniques to our many visitors. College classes from 6 college/universities visited the station.

Participating banders this year were: John Linehan, Clark Miller, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Anne Shreve, John Willets and my co-leader, Ralph Bell.

Our grateful thanks go to the many, many persons who tended nets, collecting cages and bags of birds and the keepers of the records. We also wish to thank Supervisor R.F. Mumme and the other personnel of the Monongahela National Forest for their cooperation.

The most commonly banded species were: Tennessee Warbler, 661; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 547; Blackpoll Warbler, 378; Swainson's Thrush, 325; Cape May Warbler, 299; Black-throated Green Warbler, 263; Bay-breasted Warbler, 152; Blue Jay, 133; Blackburnian Warbler, 127; and Magnolia Warbler, 105.

