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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Regions Ii and Iv

North American Bird Bander

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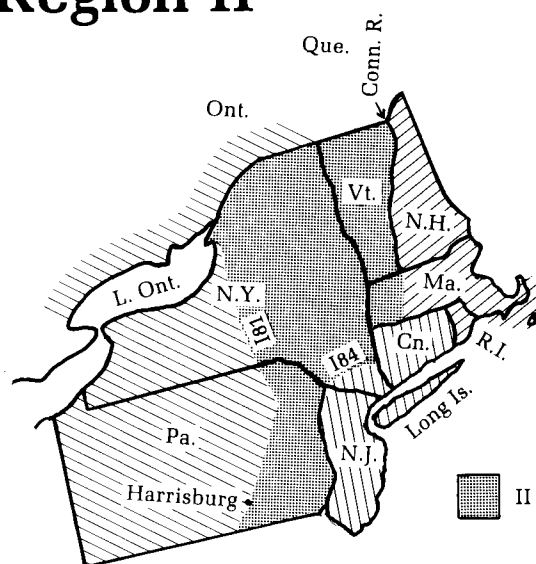
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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II

Valerie M. Freer, Coordinator  
RD #1, Box 21G, Ellenville, NY 12428

Two new stations were added to Region II for the fall banding season: Averill Park, NY and Springtown, PA. Four stations that had participated before did so again. All except Ellenville reported an increase in the total numbers of birds banded as compared with the poor year of 1976. Binghamton and Marshfield showed increases of two and three times their 1976 totals. Birds captured per 100 net hours also showed increases at all stations except for the Vermont Institute which remained about the same.

The best banding in three stations took place during the period of 20 to 24 September, while the highest numbers captured at the two Vermont stations occurred on 2 September. For the first time in several years, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were missing from the lists of most common species at every station. There was a general increase in the numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos captured but there was less agreement on other species. Two stations remarked on a decline in numbers of White-throated Sparrows, but they remained in the list of most common species in all stations. Both Binghamton and Marshfield noted substantial improvement in the numbers of warblers caught, but two other stations reported some decline in warblers. The top five species for the combined stations (Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, Swainson's Thrush, and Gray Catbird) made up 34% of the nearly 6,000 birds banded in Region II stations.



As in the past few years, the New York and Vermont stations supplied data on the numbers of adult and hatching year birds for their common species. (See Table 3.) Only one species, the Ovenbird, showed a strong decline in the percentage of HY birds (about 77%) as compared with 1975 and 1976 (91-92%). This may reflect a poorer breeding season for Ovenbirds in 1977. The Red-eyed Vireo (84% HY) showed an increased percentage of juvenile birds over the past two years (71 and 80%), suggesting an improvement in breeding success. All other species remained about the same for the three fall seasons.

Table I. Region II summary

|                        | Ellenville<br>New York | Binghamton<br>New York | Averill Park<br>New York | Vermont Inst<br>Vermont | Marshfield<br>Vermont | Springtown<br>Pennsylvania |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Days of operation      | 56                     | 44                     | 19                       | 45                      | 44                    | 60                         |
| Number of nets used    | 4-12                   | 11                     | 6-13                     | 35                      | 8                     | 9                          |
| Total net hours        | 1849                   | 1507                   | 494                      | 6685                    | 2432                  | 428                        |
| Largest daily catch    | 47                     | 115                    | 95                       | 126                     | 111                   | 127                        |
| Birds banded 1977      | 607                    | 940                    | 327                      | 1191                    | 1679                  | 1216                       |
| Birds banded 1976      | 694                    | 435                    | 433                      | 1110                    | 577                   |                            |
| Different species 1977 | 64                     | 59                     | 47                       | 68                      | 63                    | 59                         |
| Different species 1976 | 69                     | 57                     |                          | 68                      | 54                    |                            |
| Birds/100 n.h. 1977    | 33                     | 62                     | 66                       | 18                      | 69                    | 34                         |
| Birds/100 n.h. 1976    | 28                     | 41                     | 99                       | 20                      | 56                    |                            |

Table II Most common species in 1977

| Ellenville<br>NY | Binghamton<br>NY | Averill Park<br>NY | Vermont<br>Institute | Marshville<br>VT | Springtown<br>PA |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 53 Catbird       | 134 Catbird      | 52 Sw Thr          | 156 W-t Spar         | 326 P Finch      | 418 D-e Junco    |
| 53 C Waxwing     | 133 R-e Vireo    | 47 Catbird         | 120 Sw Thr           | 115 W-t Spar     | 229 Am Gold      |
| 44 D-e Junco     | 75 Cape May      | 35 Blue Jay        | 106 B-c Chick        | 112 Yllthr       | 166 W-t Spar     |
| 39 Yllthr        | 54 Mag Warb      | 24 D-e Junco       | 73 D-e Junco         | 112 Mag Warb     | 142 H Finch      |
| 38 B-c Chick     | 53 W-t Spar      | 20 Ev Gros         | 45 Wd Thr            | 91 Tenn Warb     | 120 Song Spar    |
| 35 W-t Spar      | 49 Sw Thr        | 19 W-t Spar        | 45 Tenn Warb         |                  |                  |
| 33 Sw Thr        | 43 Yllthr        | 19 Wd Thr          |                      |                  |                  |

**Table III. Percentages of HY birds at Region II Stations, 1977**

| Species                      | Number | % HY               |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Least Flycatcher             | 73     | 81                 |
| Black-capped Chickadee       | 210    | 84-87 <sup>1</sup> |
| Gray Catbird                 | 260    | 89-90              |
| Swainson's Thrush            | 220    | 72                 |
| Red-eyed Vireo               | 187    | 84                 |
| Tennessee Warbler            | 168    | 90                 |
| Magnolia Warbler             | 204    | 75                 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler  | 75     | 93                 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler        | 91     | 84-87              |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 90     | 89-94              |
| Ovenbird                     | 81     | 74-78              |
| Common Yellowthroat          | 205    | 81-82              |
| Canada Warbler               | 82     | 78                 |
| American Redstart            | 106    | 85                 |
| Dark-eyed Junco              | 144    | 47-49              |
| White-throated Sparrow       | 322    | 74                 |

<sup>1</sup>Where a range of percentages are given, the number of birds of unknown age was greater than one.

#### **Ferdinand, Vermont 444-0714** **Marion Metcalf**

We returned to Ferdinand again in September 1977 for 4 days. Our primary reason for this small operation is to try to learn more about Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees. Eight nets were in operation including one aerial net. The total number of birds banded was 99. This represents 27 species. Total net hours were 320. The largest daily catch was 9 September with 36 birds. Top species were 13 Swainson's Thrushes, 12 Black-throated Blue Warblers, and 11 Magnolia Warblers. We also banded 3 Gray Jays.

The station operated from 8 A.M. until 6 P.M. There were more warblers - Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Nashville, and Yellowthroat - than in past years. We noted decreases in Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. Weather favored us with no rain. There were two returns: 1 AHY Magnolia Warbler banded 9 September 1975 that returned 9 September 1977 and 1 Blue Jay return.

#### **Marshfield, Vermont 441-0722** **Marion Metcalf**

Most of my banding was accomplished from daylight until 10 A.M., then late afternoon from 3:30 P.M. until dark, except on weekends when I banded all day. I noted decreases in Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, White-throated Sparrows, and American Goldfinches. I found a good increase in Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. In fact, nearly all the warblers were in good numbers this season. The weather in general was quite good. On the 2 days we banded the most birds, 2 September was about 70° and cloudy, and 27 August was about 60°. The largest daily catch was 111 on 2 September. Several interesting things are worth mentioning. We banded 38 Evening Grosbeaks, the second time we have had them in August or September. An American Redstart, #124-99794 which was reported in 1976 as at least a sixth year

bird, returned this season and now it is at least a seventh year bird. A Blue Jay banded in 1965 returned. Other returns were: 2 Blue Jays, 5 Black-capped Chickadees, 5 Purple Finches, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 1 Veery, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 1 Canada Warbler, 1 Yellowthroat, and 1 Northern Waterthrush. There were no foreign recoveries. The only rarities this season were 2 Western Palm Warblers.



#### **Vermont Institute of Natural Science 433-0723** **Woodstock, Vermont** **Sarah B. Laughlin and June M. Vydra**

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science station operated from 15 August through 31 October, every morning from before sunrise until about 11 A.M., five days a week, barring rain. The station was closed due to rain on 11 days during this period.

Our total number of birds banded (1191 of 68 species) makes this year fourth in total numbers in our nine years of operation. 1975 was our biggest year ever with 2442 birds of 75 species.

The weather did not cooperate in producing any notably large flights. Our only day with over 50 birds was 2 September with 126 birds. Our impression was that the migrants just dribbled through our foothill station.

An immature House Finch banded 23 September was the first of its species banded at our station, which indicates its spread in Vermont.

In comparison with our other nine falls of banding, this year was average. American Redstart made the top ten species list for the first time. We banded 33 redstarts. White-throated Sparrows were number one, as they have been during half of our total history.

Our total top ten species for all eight years of banding are:

**Table IV. Top ten species 1970 through 1977**

| Species                | Number |
|------------------------|--------|
| White-throated Sparrow | 1057   |
| Swainson's Thrush      | 855    |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 598    |
| Common Yellowthroat    | 595    |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | 485    |
| Gray Catbird           | 451    |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler  | 419    |
| Wood Thrush            | 366    |
| Dark-eyed Junco        | 350    |
| Least Flycatcher       | 309    |

Our station has always been run by volunteers, and we are grateful to them as always. This year Anthony Robinson worked on compiling the statistics for the past eight years of banding.

**Averill Park, New York 423-0733**  
**James Covert**

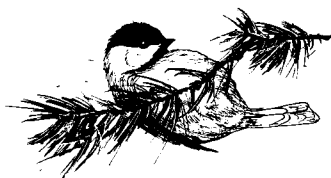
Since this is the first year we have submitted a Fall Banding Report for NABB, a brief description of our banding site follows. The Averill Park, New York banding area overlooks a 25-acre pond with a small swampy area near the net lanes. One of the net lanes is on the edge of an overgrown apple orchard with brushy fields to the far side. Four nets are placed in a deciduous tree grove and a couple more nets are placed around a feeding station. The banding station is located in the southeastern part of Rensselaer County approximately 10 miles east of the Hudson Valley at Albany and halfway between the valley and the Berkshire mountain range.

The variety of wildlife in the region is fairly extensive. We band about 70 species of birds each year. The fall banding begins in late August and extends into November, primarily on weekends. During periods of heavy migration, six nets are opened at dusk for a single net check in the morning. Normally, 13 nets are used on weekends in early fall. This is reduced to 6 and finally to 3 in late October and early November.

This fall, banding operations were restricted in mid-October and early November. The station operated 19 days versus 23 days in 1976. Although more net hours were recorded this fall - 494 hours versus 437 hours - the total birds banded was down. We banded 327 birds in 1977 for 66.2 birds/100 n.h. and 433 in 1976 for 99.0 birds/100 n.h. The number of species was also reduced from 53 to 47.

Most notable increases were Swainson's Thrushes, up from 15 last year to 52 and Evening Grosbeaks (20) which were banded in late October. The latter were seen at the feeders in mid-September. Normally, we start catching this species in early to mid-November and — in some years — not until mid-December. Field Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, Chipping Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Blackpoll Warblers, and Tennessee Warblers were caught in fewer numbers.

The cold and rainy weather in October was the biggest detriment to what had begun as a good banding season. The best day (evening/morning) was 23/24 September with 95 birds and 21 species banded. The most unusual bird banded this fall occurred on 24 September — a Philadelphia Vireo — a first for this station since it began operations in 1972.



**Ellenville, New York 414-0742**  
**Valerie M. Freer**

The eighth consecutive fall banding season at this station produced numbers that were somewhat below average. A total of 607 birds were banded between 1 August and 29 October. The average number for the preceding seven years was 709. The number of birds/100 n.h. was 33; the average for this station is 39. The month of August was very dry; the two cold fronts passing through did not produce large numbers of birds, and the monthly totals were average. The dry weather continued through mid-September, when the rain started with a vengeance. We had 7.4" of rain in late September — the highest September amount since 1960. Cool rainy weather continued through the third week in October. Although net hours for both September and October were above average, the catch during both months was low. Peak numbers for the season (82 birds) occurred during cool overcast and light rain on 22 and 23 September. This was just before four solid days of rain.

There was a general decline in the numbers of warblers (159 vs. an average of 234 in earlier years), flycatchers, and sparrows. Only 4 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were captured compared with an average of 34 per year through 1976. For the first time, no Rufous-sided Towhees were banded; this species has shown a decline in numbers every fall, from a peak of 45 banded in 1970. By contrast, Cedar Waxwings were caught in the highest numbers ever: 53 compared with an average of 24 in earlier years. These birds undoubtedly were nesting nearby. Good weather during the last ten days of October produced the largest numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (44 vs. an average of 14 usually caught). Four new species were added to the station list: Blue-winged Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Screech Owl. A total of 92 different species have now been captured at this station in the fall.

These reports usually emphasize the peak and low numbers of birds caught, but perhaps certain species deserve recognition because of their relative consistency. The Least Flycatcher has been remarkably consistent, ranging from a low of 13 to a high of only 19 over eight years. The numbers of Red-eyed Vireos have ranged from 19 to 28 following one low year in 1970. Gray Catbird numbers have ranged from 53 to 70 each year except in 1973, when 28 were banded, and in 1971, when 84 were banded. From 33 to 44 Yellowthroats have been netted each fall for 6 out of the 8 years. Other species that have been similarly stable in numbers include Song Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Eastern Phoebe. All of these species nest in this region, but some individuals nesting to the north are also captured during their migration.

The strongest fluctuations in numbers have been found in the warblers that nest well to the north of this station: Blackpoll Warbler (a range of 3 to 109 banded); Cape May Warbler (0 to 30); Tennessee Warbler (2 to 30); Yellow-rumped Warbler (8 to 156), and Black-throated Green Warbler (3 to 37). Their variation in numbers is undoubtedly due largely to the presence or absence of weather factors that keep the birds grounded when they are in this area.

All banding was done by Valerie Freer and Frank Fish with the assistance of Barbara Belanger.

**Binghamton, New York 420-0755**  
**Harriet Marsi**

The set-up at this station was much the same as in other years — a string of nets stretched along the contour of a hillside — abandoned pasture overgrown to thornapple. However, because of the arrival of two cats at a house nearby to the east, the two easternmost nets were moved to the west end of the net lane and one more net was added. This turned out to be a propitious move; the two new species netted were caught in this area. The new species were a Northern Waterthrush and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

An effort was made to band consistently from dawn to 10:00 A.M. during the weekdays. However, the extremely unpredictable weather made consistency of any sort difficult. We had the rainiest September on record and October was almost as bad. Despite the weather, the number of birds banded was more than double the number last year (the worst year this station has experienced) and also the greatest number banded in the seven years of careful record keeping. (848 in 1971; 940 in 1977.) 306 wood warblers were banded. The largest number of wood warblers for previous years occurred in 1972, when 226 were banded. Thrushes were also up — total number was 125 as against a previous high of 77 in 1971. Red-eyed Vireos were also higher in number than in any other year — 133 vs. 113 in 1970. Gray Catbirds,

too, hit an all-time high — 134 as compared with 85 in the nearest previous high year, 1971.

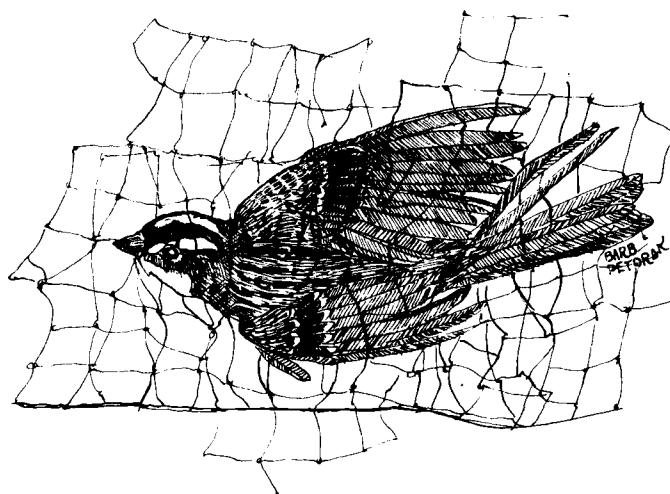
There were also some significant declines. Song Sparrows (38 in 1972) were down to 1. Dark-eyed Juncos (31 in 1971) were down to 1 this year. The wet weather may have been a contributing factor here. By far the biggest day for this station was 20 September when, between dawn and 11:00 A.M., 115 birds were netted. The day after this — 21 September — was the second best day of the season; 80 birds were banded. The 19th of September was the third best day at 49 birds. The weather undoubtedly influenced this. In this area, electric storms are very local. All around this station, during the period 19 September through 21 September, heavy and severe storms occurred. It is possible that the migrating birds were simply trapped in the surrounding turbulence and came down in the one clear spot. On 20 September, at this station also, a thunderstorm threatened most of the morning, finally breaking at 11:30 A.M. but giving enough warning so that the nets could be cleared and furlled in time.

**Springtown, Pennsylvania 403-0751**  
**Elaine and Don Mease**

This is a new banding station located in rural surrounding southeast of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The station operated 60 days between 14 August and 15 November 1977. The total net hours were 428. Three nets were entirely within a wooded area (spruce and deciduous). Three nets at the wood's edge are on open lawn and three are strung along a soybean field.

The total of birds netted was 1216, with 18 October the biggest day at 127. It is our practice to open the nets at dawn and, if weather allows, to keep them open during all daylight hours. 59 species were netted during this period.

Nine Lincoln's Sparrows which were netted were exciting, as they are listed as being rare in our area.



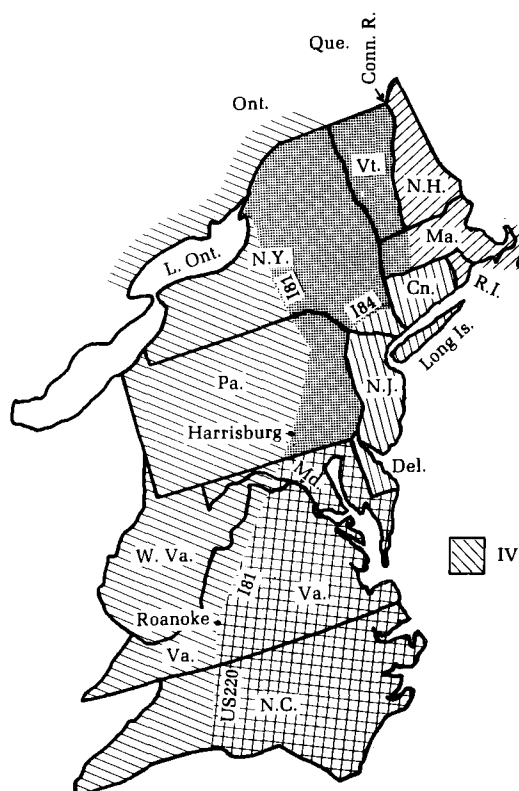
# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

**Donald F. Clark, Coordinator**  
Hicks Road, Franklinville, New York 14737

1977 fall migration was about average. However, the northern stations had a poor migration. This was most likely because of the excessive rainfall and stormy weather. The southern banding stations had excellent flights with Pleasant Valley and Allegheny Front having their best year ever.

Peter Homann wrote that he did not get to Lost River, Quebec this fall for banding. He commented that the winter of 1976-1977 nearly wiped out the wintering kinglets in Florida and predicted a drop in number of kinglets banded this fall. He also mentioned that there was a severe kill of Yellow-rumped Warblers this past winter, which may show up next fall. The bad weather in western New York curtailed all banding. Therefore, Malcolm Lerch banded fewer than 100 birds, all warblers.

Most stations reported a decrease of kinglets this fall. Also, flycatchers, thrushes, Winter Wrens, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were caught in fewer numbers. Only Pleasant Valley, Maryland and Allegheny Front, West Virginia experienced outstanding migrations. It may be that the warblers overflowed New York and Pennsylvania heading for decent weather down south. If so, I don't blame them one bit.



**Table I. Region IV summary**

|                        | Farmersville Station<br>New York | Alfred Station<br>New York | Presque Isle<br>Pennsylvania | Powdermill<br>Pennsylvania | Eckhart<br>Maryland | Pleasant Valley<br>Maryland | Allegheny Front<br>West Virginia |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Days of operation      | 54                               | 61                         | 16                           | 100                        | 25                  | 19                          | 43                               |
| Number of nets used    | 3-8                              | 1-4                        | -                            | 3-34                       | 30                  | -                           | -                                |
| Total net hours        | 431                              | 1263                       | 860                          | 9160                       | 3418                | 2248                        | 3689                             |
| Largest daily catch    | 25                               | 30                         | 161                          | 253                        | 79                  | 154                         | 477                              |
| Birds banded 1977      | 326                              | 357                        | 922                          | 5539                       | 721                 | 874                         | 7544                             |
| Birds banded 1976      | 430                              | 205                        | 1597                         | 4118                       | 1003                | -                           | 4942                             |
| Different species 1977 | 39                               | 34                         | 57                           | 105                        | 69                  | 51                          | 78                               |
| Different species 1976 | 49                               | 56                         | 66                           | 99                         | 68                  | -                           | 79                               |
| Birds/100 n.h. 1977    | 39                               | 28                         | 112                          | 61                         | 21                  | 39                          | 205                              |
| Birds/100 n.h. 1976    | 39                               | 20                         | 118                          | 43                         | 29                  | -                           | 18                               |

**Table II. Interesting or most common species in 1977**

| Farmersville<br>Station, NY | Alfred Station<br>NY | Presque Isle<br>PA | Powdermill<br>PA | Eckhart<br>MD | Pleasant<br>Valley, MD | Allegheny Front<br>WV |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 81 Ev Gros                  | 68 B-c Chick         | 125 Swain Th       | 494 W-t Spar     | 69 W-t Spar   | 358 Cape May           | 1302 Tenn Warb        |
| 68 B-c Chick                | 60 Ev Gros           | 122 Bay-br W       | 422 D-e Junco    | 66 D-e Junco  | 130 Tenn Warb          | 1179 Blackpoll        |
| 41 D-e Junco                | 46 Yel-rump W        | 79 Magnolia W      | 293 Song Sp      | 66 Field Sp   | 39 Swain Th            | 973 Cape May          |
| 20 W-t Spar                 | 24 D-e Junco         | 50 Tenn Warb       | 284 Am Goldf     | 58 Ind Bunt   | 33 B-c Chick           | 586 Bay-br W          |
| 15 Tenn Warb                | 17 W-t Spar          | 44 W-t Spar        | 276 Swain Th     | 52 Ovenbird   | 32 Magnolia W          | 568 Bl-thr Blue       |
| 13 R-b Gros                 | 15 Song Sp           | 42 Cape May        | 243 Tenn Warb    |               | 32 G Catbird           | 508 Swain Th          |
|                             |                      | 39 Blackpoll       | 226 Ev Gros      |               | 24 D-e Junco           | 392 Magnolia W        |
|                             |                      | 34 R-e Vireo       | 189 Cape May     |               | 21 Field Sp            | 359 Blkburnian        |
|                             |                      | 26 G-c Thr         | 185 G Catbird    |               | 19 R-c King            | 352 Blk-thr Green     |
|                             |                      | 23 Blkburnian      | 184 C Ylltht     |               | 14 C Ylltht            | 104 Am Redstart       |

**Farmersville Station, New York 422-0782**  
**Donald F. Clark**

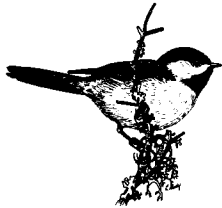
This is the ninth fall migration report submitted from this banding station. 326 birds of 39 species were banded, weighed, and measured. This is 49% fewer birds banded than the average for the past eight years. The 39 species banded were the fewest fall banding ever.

Summer and fall weather was atrocious for this immediate area. The weather was so wet that few farmers could get their hay dry enough to bale during the summer. Then, in the fall months, the fields were so muddy that it took two or three tractors to pull the corn choppers. Even then, acres of corn were left unharvested. This created wonderful food patches for wildlife and has kept Blue Jays away from feeders for most of the fall and winter.

Flycatchers, warblers, kinglets, thrushes, and vireos were scarce. Blackbirds were noticeably absent. Normally we have flocks of thousands in the area, but this year very few flocks were seen. No new species of birds were banded this year. The best catch was made on 14 November. 25 birds were caught in traps on that day.

There were 14 returns and 97 repeats. No foreign retraps were caught. A Hairy Woodpecker was retrapped that was at least 5 years old. Other returns were 4 Blue Jays, 1, 4, 6, and 8 years old; 5 Tree Sparrows at least 2 years old; and 1 Black-capped Chickadee at least 3 years of age.

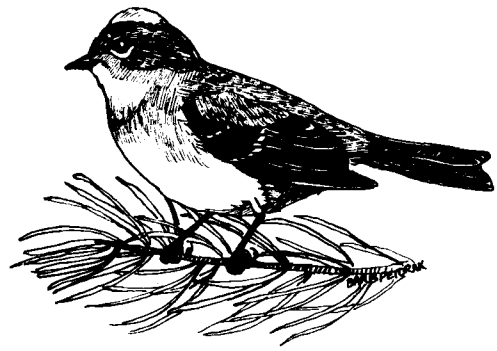
A Screech Owl banded 16 September 1973 was found dead on 19 January 1977 about 5 miles from the banding station. This was during the record cold winter of 1976-77 in western New York. One Evening Grosbeak banded 26 November was recovered 12 December 1976 in Quebec, and another Evening Grosbeak banded 18 December 1975 was recovered 14 March 1977 in Arden, Ontario.



**Alfred Station, New York 421-0774**  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**

Banding operations were carried on at 1435 Waterwells Road in Alfred Station, NY for the third consecutive year, employing 1 to 4 mist nets on 61 days between 10 September and 30 November 1977. A total of 1263 net hours of operation resulted in 357 new birds banded with 179 repeats and 16 returns. Peaks of activity occurred on 23, 24 September; 10, 14, 26, and 27 October. Largest daily catch was 30 birds on 14 October. Evening Grosbeak activity began 30 October and promised a good grosbeak winter.

Wood Pewee, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Palm Warbler were new species for this banding station. 34 different species were banded.



**Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA 420-0800**  
**Jean Stull**

Coordinated banding efforts took place at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA for the 16th consecutive fall in 1977. A total of 922 birds of 57 species were banded in 860 net hours. The 112 birds/100 n.h. is slightly above average for our station.

Placement of nets remained the same or similar to placement in former years. Although precipitation averaged above normal (highest ever in September), the banding station operated on 16 days, August through October.

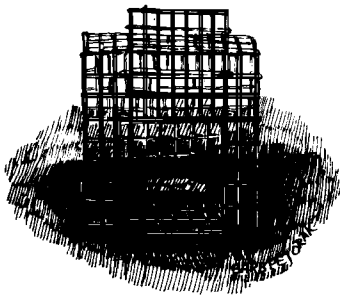
There were no big days, but it was noted that the warbler migration began early and was heavier than usual for a few species, particularly Bay-breasted Warblers and Tennessee Warblers. New for our station was a Broad-winged Hawk caught on 10 September. Highlight for the season, so far as rarities go, was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper captured on the outer beach of Presque Isle on 28 August. The only previous banding here of this species occurred in 1961.

Kinglets were netted in much lower than usual numbers, and White-throated Sparrow numbers were down somewhat. There were 2 returns, both breeding birds banded in 1975 and 1976.

Visitors were welcomed and many offered and gave assistance. Banders were Mary Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Jean H. Stull, and James G. Stull.

**Powdermill Nature Preserve, Rector, PA 400-0792**  
**Robert C. Leberman**

The autumn of 1977 represented our 17th continuous season of fall banding at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History's field station in the Ligonier Valley of southwestern Pennsylvania. A total of 5539 new birds were banded, measured, and weighed this season, up 34.5% over last fall's total of only 4118 — in spite of a 3% drop in total net hours in 1977 from 1976. The species total was also higher: 105 (plus 2 additional forms) this fall over 99 in 1976. New to this station, and perhaps the second western Pennsylvania record, was a Common Flicker Intergrade, i.e. a Yellow-shafted Flicker showing some Red-shafted Flicker characteristics. It was banded on 11 October.



Generally, the early part of the migration was rather slow; the second half busy. Especially evident was the continued scarcity this autumn of several species that had been hit hard during the previous severe winter: notably Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, in fact, were banded in only 44% of the average number of the previous six fall seasons, and the Eastern Phoebe just 43%. No Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were banded, and the numbers of this species seen continue to decline annually. The Carolina Wren went completely unrecorded.

A minor flight of Black-capped Chickadees, peaking during the first half of October, was recorded. A single Carolina Chickadee, banded on 18 September, was the first local record of that species since the fall of 1971. The Reserve is situated well out of the normal range of the Carolina Chickadee in southwestern Pennsylvania, and those few that we have captured here over the years were probably birds that had wandered beyond their usual range (all autumn Carolina Chickadees at Powdermill have been immatures) and later became caught up in the movement of Black-capped Chickadees. Evening Grosbeaks were recorded at the Reserve earlier than ever before, and a fair flight of Pine Siskins developed during the last half of October, hinting of an interesting winter to come.

There were several interesting return records among the 1109 repeating birds processed. A Swainson's Thrush originally banded as an adult in August 1972, was netted this year on 2 October, when at least 6 years old. Since this species is not known to occur as a breeding bird anywhere in the vicinity of Powdermill or elsewhere in the Ligonier Valley, it apparently represents one of those rare returns of a migrant songbird to the same stopover point on a subsequent migration. Another interesting record is that of an American Redstart that had been banded as an adult at Powdermill (where it had presumably been a summer resident) on 2 August 1972, and repeated 11 August 1977 — also a minimum of 6 years old. Among recent recoveries, a Purple Finch banded as an immature at Powdermill on 15 September 1976, was found dead on 18 February 1977 at Sulphur, Louisiana.

Special thanks are due Miss M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz and John Van Buskirk for their frequent help with the field work, and I am indebted to our Research Assistant, Mrs. Marilyn Niedermeier, as well as Associate Curator of Birds, Mrs. Mary Clench, for their assistance with the paper work at the Museum office in Pittsburgh.

**Piney Mountain  
Eckhart, Western Maryland 393-0785  
John B. Willetts**

My fourth year of fall migration banding was not as exciting as I had hoped. Despite sickness (flu), and broken ankle (mine), and bad weather (rain), I was able to operate the banding station at my residence for 25 days from 20 August to 30 October. This year I used 30 nets and logged 3418 net hours. I banded a total of 721 birds of 69 species. There were 21 birds/100 n.h. I also captured 103 repeats and 21 returns for a grand total of 845 birds. Peak days were 20 August, 69 birds; 18 September, 61 birds; and 23 October, 79 birds. I caught 24 species of warblers and, of special note, was a Saw-whet Owl on 22 October. For the first time, I also caught 5 hawks (2 Broad-wings and 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks).

The White-throated Sparrow continues to be my number one species and the Dark-eyed Junco my number two. This year the Swainson's Thrush lost out from having a five-star rating and was replaced by the Ovenbird. New species to my banding station were: Brown-headed Cowbird, Cerulean Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Wood Pewee, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk. Regular species missing this year were: Common Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

This year had several exciting new birds for me, but my total catch was down even though I increased my number of nets. Many thanks to my assistants, Gail Kohlenburg, Philip Herrick, and Harriet Williams.

**Pleasant Valley, Maryland 393-0791  
Dorothea Malec**

We are happy to report that September 1977 surpassed all previous banding at our station at Pleasant Valley 4-H Camp. Banding operations were carried on during 10 days in September and 9 days in October. 13 September was the greatest banding day ever at Pleasant Valley, with 154 new birds banded. Fewer species — only 51 — were banded this year than in 1976 or in 1975 but many more individual birds were banded. 874 new birds were banded with a catch rate of 39 birds/100 n.h.

Re-trapped birds of interest were: a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded 14 September 1976 and caught 12 September 1977; a Black-capped Chickadee banded 13 September 1976 and recaptured 18 October 1977; and a Common Yellowthroat banded 14 September 1976 and returned 21 September 1977.

Many common species of birds were not banded in 1977 which have been on our banding records in previous years. These are: Hairy Woodpecker, Traill's Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Black-and-white Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (however, we did get one return), Cardinal, and American Goldfinch. New species not previously banded at Pleasant Valley were: Brewer's Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Cooperating in banding were: K.Y. Hodgdon, Harriet Williams, J.B. Willetts, and Dorothea Malec, compiler.



**Allegheny Front Migration Observatory**  
**Grant County, West Virginia 390-0791**  
**George A. Hall**

The 20th year of bird banding on Allegheny Front Mountain was outstanding in almost every respect. The station was manned for 7 days in August, 30 days in September, and 6 days in October. The September weather pattern was slightly atypical in that there were no cold spells and little rain. On only 2 days during that month was it necessary to suspend operations because of inclement weather. In October the weather was less favorable, with heavy rain curtailing what promised to be a heavy flight day on the first. Several inches of snow shut down the operation of the 16th. The weekend of 8—9 October was also shut out because of rains. But in September, mild day after mild day produced some excellent bird flights.

A total of 7544 birds of 78 species were banded in a station effort of 3689 net hours giving a capture ratio of 2045 birds/1000 n.h. The number of net hours was the highest ever and the capture ratio was the second highest. The total number of birds banded exceeded the previous high by 373 and is more than double the average yearly capture since we moved the station from the campground to the rim location.

The general pattern of migration followed the usual one with a strong movement in early September followed by a comparative lull and then a very heavy movement from the 17th to the 25th. The difference this year was that there was a good movement of birds on almost every day and the peaks were relative. The best day was 19 September when 477 birds were banded followed by 21 September with 462 and 5 September with 412. This last day had the highest capture ratio of 6867 birds/1000 n.h. It is of interest that none of these peak days had as many captures as the highest days on record. This, too, reflects the rather steady, heavy flight that progressed throughout the period. Of the 43 days of operation, only 10 days showed a total of less than 100 bandings, 15 days had captures between 200 and 300 birds.

No new species were added to the station list which now stands at 107 and the 20 year total of birds banded is 49,929. Three birds banded in previous years were retaken this year: a Dark-eyed Junco banded in 1975, a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded in 1976, and a Black-throated Green Warbler banded in 1975. The junco and the Chestnut-sided nest abundantly in the station area, and so these birds were probably residents. The Black-throated Green Warbler may be our first recapture of a migrant. The species does nest nearby, but not at the station. During the year we have had notice of 2 recoveries of birds banded at this station. A Blackburnian Warbler banded in 1975 was recovered in May 1977 at Oppenheim, New York. A Blackpoll Warbler banded in 1976 was recovered in May 1977 near Kalispell, Montana. Both Montana and West Virginia would fall on the migration route of a Blackpoll which nested in northern Alaska.

The Tennessee Warbler was once again the number one bird with 1302 banded, followed by the Blackpoll Warbler with 1179, and the Cape May Warbler with 973. The usual number two species, the Black-throated Blue

Warbler, dropped to fifth place with 568. Eight species accounted for 82% of the captures, and 9 species were caught in record numbers. Of special interest was the Bay-breasted Warbler which increased by over 60% from its previous high.

It is possible that the severe winter of 1976-1977 is reflected in the very low catches of both kinglet species, the Winter Wren, and some of the other species which had lower than expected catches.

We were once again unable to operate our special public demonstrations this fall, but — as usual — large numbers of visitors gathered around the main banding site to watch the proceedings. Several college classes and several nature societies were represented in this influx. The station was also featured in a story in the Sunday Charleston Gazette-Mail.

The banders who participated this year were: Gloria Aiken, Joseph ImBrognio, John Lieha, Janice Musser, Avis Newell, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Trudy Smith, Jo Stern, John Willetts, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. John and Genevieve Findlay again served as chief net tenders. Carol and Fred McCullough were important net tenders. Special mention should be made of Don Shearer who brought his trailer to serve as housing for some station personnel, and to Anne and Jerry McGrew who left their tent for the same purpose.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages and bags of birds and in keeping records: Bob Butterworth, Virginia Byers, Helen and Chuck Conrad, Larry Dobson, Helen and Jim Evans, Bruce Findley, Jeff Findley, Kathleen and Mike Finnegan, Walter Fye, Janet Ganter, LeJay Graffious, Lorraine Harper, Eugene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Douglas, Jolley, Christopher McCullough, Jason McCullough, George Mayfield and son, Jack, Jolene, Jacalene, Jonavieve and Jonathan Minear, Ivarene Mott, Frank Murphy, Marilyn Ortt, Don Pattison, Glen Phillips, Charlotte Pryor, Kathy Reeves, Esther Reichelderfer, Carl Rowe, Carolyn Ruddie, Joe Schreiber, Jaunita Slusher, Ruth Wilkinson, Leon Wilson, and April Wylie.

We are most grateful to all these people and to any others whose names have been omitted due either to ignorance or inadvertance. Our thanks also go to the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, to Supervisor R.F. Mumme, to District Ranger W.K. Lerer, and to Recreation Specialist Mary Miller for their cooperation and support of the project.

