

1979

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1979) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 4 : Iss. 4 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol4/iss4/15>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

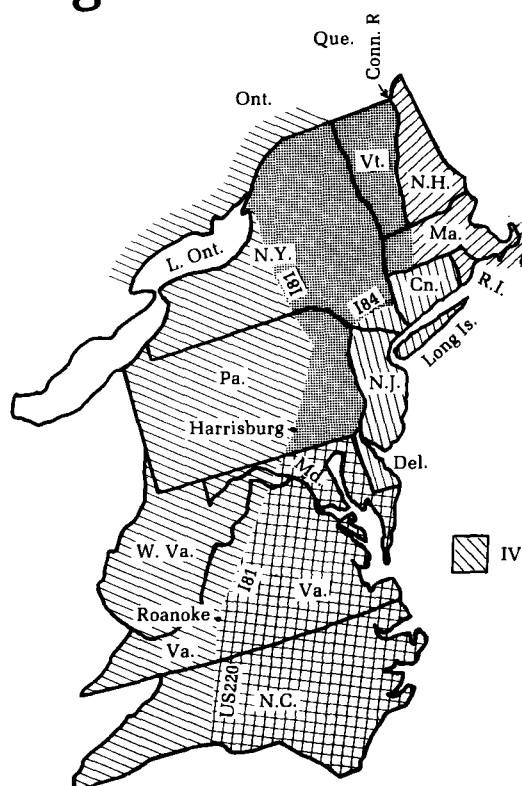
Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

Donald F. Clark, Coordinator
Hicks Road, Franklinville, NY 14737

Four new stations have been added to the Region IV report. John B. Miles has contributed his records from Maitland River in Huron County, Ontario. Dr. Stephen Eaton has banded sporadically at St. Bonaventure University over the past two decades but this is the first time he has participated in the Atlantic Flyway Review. He is well known for his trapping and research work with the Wild Turkey Project in western New York. Regina VanScoy is a graduate in Wildlife Management from the University of West Virginia and is presently President of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club. The fourth station is operated by Nick Kerlin, an Environmental Education Specialist at Raccoon Creek State Park in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

The fall 1978 migration was very spotty. To the north of Cattaraugus County in New York it was good. Southern stations in western Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia enjoyed record or near record catches of birds. However, in Cattaraugus County we had the poorest migration in my thirteen years of banding. Malcolm Lerch at Penn Yann, New York, also wrote that the migration was poor in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.

Most stations report a low number of kinglets and wrens in the migration. Presque Isle did not catch tanagers, thrashers, or finches this year and had low numbers of sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos. Powdermill was low in Hermit Thrushes, Cardinals, and Field Sparrows but did have an increase in Philadelphia Vireos and White-eyed Vireos. Bob Leberman also reported an increase in Black-and-white Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Northern Waterthrushes. John Willetts missed catching American Goldfinches, Palm Warblers, and Blue Jays. Those of us in Cattaraugus County of New York State caught and saw more Blue Jays than ever before. Maybe that one species remained in the north because of the large amounts of wild food in our woods this autumn.



Maitland River Bird Observatory
Huron County, Ontario 435-0812
John B. Miles

This banding station is located approximately five miles west of Wingham, Ontario, Canada, and is about twenty miles inland from Lake Huron on the Maitland River. It is in the northern part of Huron County, Ontario.

The banding area is five acres in size with 180 m of river frontage. About fifty percent of the area is in 5 to 6 m high white cedars and hemlocks. The remainder of the area is typical river bottom hardwoods up to 15 to 17 m high. The river flood plain is up to 45 m wide and is covered with waist high rushes and grasses.

Table 1.

Region IV summary

	Maitland River Huron County, Ont	Farmersville Station New York	Alfred Station New York	St. Bonaventure New York	Limestone New York	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Raccoon Creek Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Pleasant Valley Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
Days of operation	40	62	49	32	29	18	14	101	35	18	45
Number of nets used	30	1-9	1-5	2-6	1-5	20	7	5-35	30	4-17	-
Total net hours	13605	809	1103	458	347	891	280	14551	7838	1217	1898
Largest daily catch	175	18	13	40	32	232	14	265	-	-	521
Birds banded 1978	1220	216	142	214	157	1047	89	5716	1613	298	6791
Birds banded 1977	-	326	357	-	-	922	-	5539	721	874	7544
Different species 1978	74	37	32	29	14	56	24	105	70	48	74
Different species 1977	-	39	34	-	-	57	-	105	69	51	78
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	9	24	13	36	12	118	32	39	21	24	358
Birds/100 n.h. 1977	-	39	28	-	-	112	-	61	21	39	205

The station has been operated for four years. Banding is carried out from late March to late October mainly on weekends. For the purpose of this report, the period 29 July to 29 October 1978 is covered. The first fall migrants were banded 29 July. Usually, thirty mist nets are strung in series of two to five nets.

Being an inland station, 25 to 40 birds is the usual catch. A good day is considered 50 or more. Up to 8 September 1978 during the 4 years of operations, never more than 90 birds had been banded on 1 day. 9 September was a bumper day with 117 banded. This was surpassed on 10 September when 175 birds were banded up to 15:00 when the station was closed down.

Highlights of the season included a Yellow-throated Vireo and an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

All banding was done by John B. Miles.

Farmersville Station, NY 422-0782
Donald F. Clark

The fall of 1978 was perhaps the most pleasant weather

in the ten years of reporting for the Atlantic Flyway Review. It was also the poorest in respect to numbers and species caught. The woods were loaded with food. The frosts were late and the weather was dry. Birders in western New York generally commented on the fact that there was no noticeable migration and that the numbers of birds were unusually low. One feels that the migration just overflowed this area, resulting in a paucity of birds to be seen or caught.

The station was operated for 62 days from 20 August to 30 November. From 1 to 9 nets were used on 53 days. Traps were used during the last 2 weeks of November. Only 216 birds of 37 species were caught. This is the lowest number of birds banded and fewest species caught in the past 10 years. There were 26 returns and 73 repeats during this period of time. No foreign retraps were caught.

One Evening Grosbeak banded 6 November 1975 was caught and released on 11 February 1978 by Robert Yunick near Jenny Lake, New York. A White-throated Sparrow banded 30 September 1975 by Malcolm Lerch near Bellona, New York, was captured and released at Farmersville Station on 29 April 1978.

Table 2. Interesting or most common species in 1978

Maitland River, Ont.	Farmersville Station, NY	Alfred Station New York	St. Bonaventure New York	Limestone New York
164 Bay-brst W.	57 D-e Junco	25 Y.R.Warb	51 Cedar Wax	58 Blue Jay
117 R-w Black	35 B-c Chick	22 Song Spar	50 D-e Junco	45 D-e Junco
111 Y-r Warb	17 G. Catbird	16 B-c Chick	24 Y-r Warb	13 Tree Spar
104 Tenn Warb	11 Blue Jay	15 D-e Junco	18 W-t Spar	11 B-c Chick
56 Swain Thr	11 Song Spar	12 Field Spar	16 B-c Chick	8 Y-r Warb
49 D-e Junco	9 W-t Spar			7 Am. Goldf
37 R-b Gros	6 Swain Thr			
33 Mag Warb	6 Tree Spar			
29 Nash Warb	5 Robin			
28 No. Oriole	5 Phil Vireo			

Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Raccoon Creek Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Pleasant Valley Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
170 Y-r Warb	16 Mag Warb	413 Y-r Warb	283 W-t Spar	32 W-t Spar	1258 Tenn Warb
94 R-c King	13 C. Yllthrt	397 W-t Spar	146 Ovenbird	24 G. Catbird	1031 Cape May
73 W-t Spar	11 G. Catbird	382 Am Goldf	142 D-e Junco	23 Swain Thr	768 B-t Blue
65 Swain Thr	11 Ovenbird	316 C. Yllthrt	125 Mag Warb	22 Tenn Warb	649 Blackpoll
53 Bay-brst W	6 Swain Thr	294 Swain Thr	93 Swain Thr	20 Chip Spar	494 Swain Thr
46 Hermit Thr		268 Mag Warb		16 R-e Vireo	450 Bay-brst W
45 Mag Warb		227 Song Spar		13 Mag Warb	446 B-t Green
37 Cape May		220 G. Catbird		13 Ovenbird	270 Mag Warb
36 R-w Black		192 D-e Junco		13 R-c King	180 Blackburnian
36 Tenn Warb		185 A. Redstart		12 Field Spar	170 C. Yllthrt

Alfred Station, NY 421-0774
Elizabeth W. Brooks

Banding operations were carried on at this banding location for 49 days between 6 September 1978 and 16 November 1978. A combination of 1 to 5 mist nets were used. A total of 1103½ net hours of operation resulted in a total of 142 new birds banded with 55 repeats and 5 returns. Generally, the period was very dull with no outstanding peaks of activity. The greatest number of birds banded on any one day was 13 on 4 October 1978. A total of 32 species were banded with 1 new species, an Orange-crowned Warbler.

St. Bonaventure University
Olean, NY 420-0783
S.W. Eaton, G.D'Agostino, L. Giovinazzo

This was a first attempt at organizing a banding station at St. Bonaventure University. Some banding was done in the past by S.W. Eaton, but this year an attempt was made to set up a more permanent banding station so that more consistent data could be compiled for future years. This was set up in conjunction with the graduate avian biology class at the university.

Three localities were used. The main location was on campus. A second location was the Ten Mile Road in Allegany, New York. A third location, only used for 1 day, was at the Cattaraugus County Bird Club Sanctuary.

The first few weeks in September, the nets were set up in various positions on campus with varying results. By 25 September a fairly suitable position was selected and used for the remainder of the year. This area consists of a stand of mixed hardwoods edged with gray dogwood, hawthorn, elderberry, and other shrubs. Six, 12-meter nets were used 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) from 10:30 hours to 15:30 hours. Netting was done in all weather except heavy rain. In the middle of October, Potter traps were incorporated into our banding procedure.

The second location, the Ten Mile Road, was at a higher elevation in a birch, beech, maple, and hemlock forest. The nets were set up not far from an artificially impounded pond. By the middle of October, Potter traps were also used at this location.

The banding was used as both a teaching and a research tool. In addition to the basic techniques of banding, the students were able to study the birds on a more intimate level than is generally available in the classroom. The students learned ageing and sexing techniques and learned to recognize molt patterns. The banding was also used in conjunction with several projects.

A total of 32 operating days were completed between 9 May 1978 and 26 November 1978. From 2 to 6 nets were used for approximately 5 hours per day, giving a total of 458 net hours. On 12 of these days, 5 Potter traps were used for 5 hours each, giving a total of 300 trap hours. A total of 214 birds were banded. These represented 29 species of birds from 11 families. Our largest daily catch was on 9 October 1978 when 40 birds were banded. Of interest was an Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*) banded 6 November 1978. This is one day past the

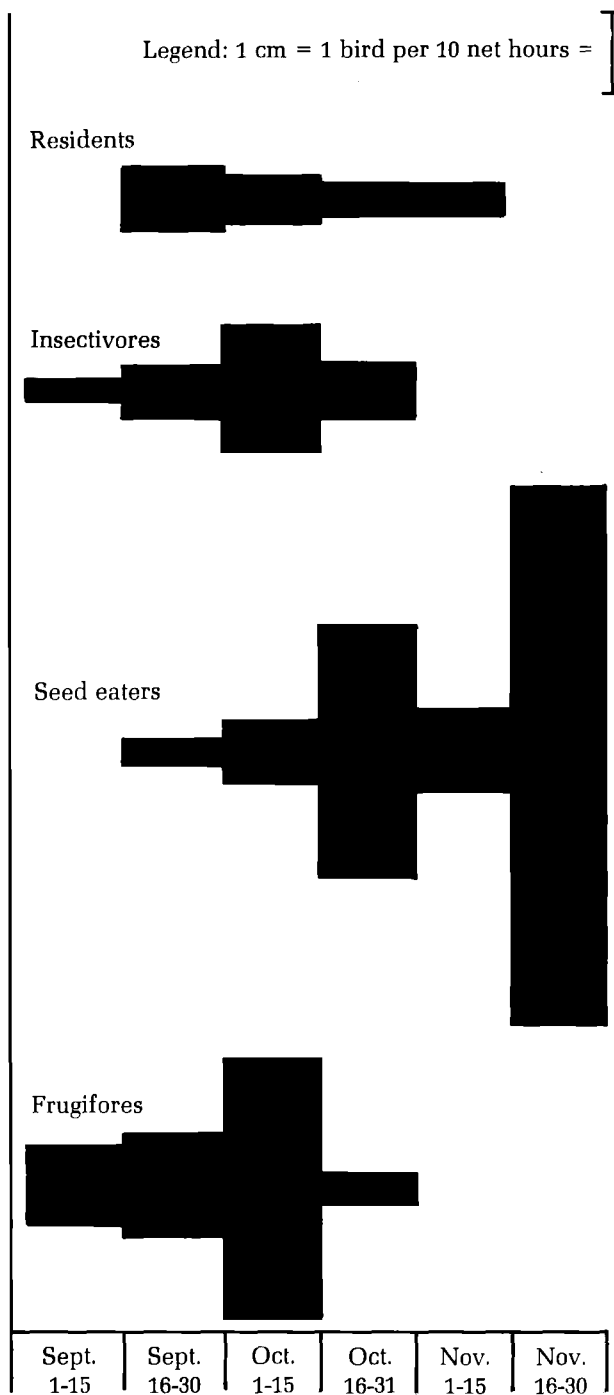


Figure 1

Residents: Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch.

Insectivores: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird.

Seed eaters: Rufous-sided Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping, Field, White-throated, Song Sparrow.

Frugivores: Gray Catbird, Robin, Hermit, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Cedar Waxwing.

Birds are placed in the above categories according to observed diet of those described by Bent (Bent (1939-1953).

latest recorded date for this bird in our area. A report was filed with the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

In addition to the standard analysis of the data as above, one of the projects of the course was to study local migratory patterns. The species were grouped according to food habits. A definite pattern appeared as can be seen in Figure 1. Resident populations of birds were captured at consistently low numbers from 26 September to 6 November. In contrast, the insectivores and the frugivores were captured earlier in September and reached a peak in the first two weeks of October. Neither of these groups were captured after 24 October. The seed eaters were recorded from the last week of September through the last day of operation. These reached two apparent peaks — one in the last week of October and one the last week of November. The frugivores and insectivores apparently move through and out of our area earlier and possibly more quickly than the seedeaters. This is not surprising since seeds are less perishable. Retraps were found only in the seed eating group, indicating that they may not move out as quickly as frugivores and insectivores.

Limestone, NY 420-0783
Regina M. Van Scoy

The first date of banding for this new station located 1 mile east of Limestone, New York, was 2 September 1978. All banding was done on our 9-acre tract located in a rural semi-wooded area. The elevation is 450 m (1470 ft).

The station was in operation for 29 days, mostly weekends, from 2 September to 31 December 1978. A total of 157 birds of 14 species were banded, with 22 repeats and 1 return. The peak day was 30 December with 32 individuals banded.



Presque Isle State Park
Erie, PA 420-0800
Ronald F. Leberman

In its 17th year of operation, the banding station at Presque Isle produced nearly normal totals of birds banded, net hours and days of operation. The same number of nets were used (about 20) with 1 additional net added at an angle to the main banding lane used by the Stulls. This year fewer species were banded and, for the first time in many years, no shorebirds were banded.

The major flights, if there were any, occurred between 26 August and 9 September and from 29 September through 15 October. Our best day was 30 September when 232 birds were banded.

Weather for the most part was very good; however, there were very few days without a strong easterly or southern wind, often up to 40 kmp (25 mph). This was not at all helpful to our banding locations along the bay shore or for the migration in general.

One new species was added to the overall list — that of a Pine Warbler banded 27 September. The migration this fall was at best disappointing, with very few sparrows, flycatchers, and vireos banded. Species missed completely were tanagers, thrashers, and finches. There were a number of repeats and a few returns but no recoveries or foreign banded birds.

Banders this year were Jim and Jean Stull, Mary Leberman, and Ronald Leberman.

Raccoon Creek State Park
Southern Beaver County, PA 403-0802
Nick Kerlin

Raccoon Creek State Park banding station was open for 14 days from 29 August to 30 September 1978. Seven nets were used for a total of 280 net hours. 89 birds were banded of 24 species with the largest daily catch of 17 birds on 14 September 1978.

The nets were placed along a small ridge top which rises approximately 15 m from an abandoned floodplain farm field in advanced stages of tree/shrub succession. Nets are placed within a mixed forest at the ridge edge and from 1.5 to 30.5 m in from a mowed lawn area near the residence and orientation area of the nature center complex.

Banding was done primarily for 2 to 3 hours during weekday mornings. The weather was generally fair and mild with heavy ground fog during September. This did not burn off until mid-morning. The total net hours were about half of the past 2 years of banding. The numbers and species banded were 50% to 75% of earlier totals.

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

With very mild weather during the fall of 1978, banding was consistently good through September and most of October at Powdermill. From 5 to 35 nets were in use this season on 101 days between 1 August and 30 November. Our overall banding total of 5716 birds was up 7% from 1977, while the species total (105) remained the same. In addition, 1088 repeats and returns were processed.

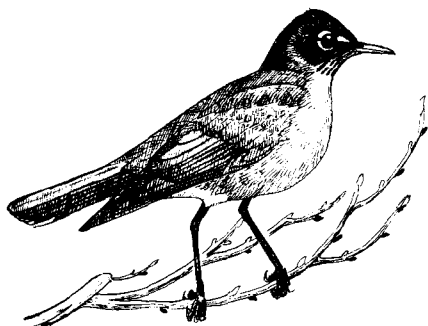
The busiest banding day was 8 October, when 265 birds of 37 species were captured; 143 of these were Yellow-rumped Warblers. At this inland locality, the extent of the Yellow-rumped migration varies greatly from year to year. With a total of 413 banded this season, Yellow-rumps made their best showing at the Reserve in the last 8 years. Some other species netted in exceptionally good numbers include 43 Philadelphia Vireos (up 340% over the average of the previous 7 years), 16 White-eyed Vireos (up 280%), 24 Black-and-white Warblers (up 300%), 26 Black-throated Blue Warblers (up 100%), and

56 Northern Waterthrushes (up 115%). Species in low numbers were mostly those that had suffered heavy population losses during the last 2 severe winters, like Winter Wren, both of the kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Cardinal, and Field Sparrow. Many warblers lingered at the Reserve later than usual. A Canada Warbler banded on 11 November, and that repeated on the 18th, was well over a month later than any previous Pennsylvania record; a repeat Worm-eating Warbler in heavy body molt was netted on a very late 26 September; and a late Black-throated Blue Warbler was netted on 12 November. Rare catches locally, included a Sora on 4 October, a Saw-whet Owl on 11 November, and a Henslow's Sparrow on 20 October.

Three recoveries of birds banded during the fall in previous years have been received since our last report. An American Robin banded at Powdermill on 16 September 1975 was found dead at Daytona Beach, Florida on 25 January 1978. The other 2 reports were both from Virginia: one, an American Goldfinch banded at the Reserve on 20 November 1977, hit a window at Roanoke on 26 March 1978; the other, a White-throated Sparrow banded on 30 October 1977, was found dead at Mechanicsville on 29 January 1978.

A special event this fall was the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Bird Banding Group, hosted at the Reserve on 4-6 August. About 25 members attended the meeting and outdoor workshops.

My special thanks are due Angelo Capparella, Dr. Mary H. Clench, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Jay Loughlin, Bob Mulvihill, Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, and Josh VanBuskirk for their help in the field this season.



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

The fifth year of banding at my residence in the mountains of Western Maryland has yielded records for me as to total birds caught, number of species, and number of net hours. I used the same number of nets as last year (30), so better weather, more spare time, and of course better flights contributed to these greater numbers.

I banded a total of 35 days, beginning 21 August 1978 and continuing through 5 November 1978. Besides the 1613 birds banded, I also captured 98 repeats and 18 returns. 25 species of warblers were caught this year.

The White-throated Sparrow continues to hold the number one spot while the Ovenbird moves to number two from number five in 1977. The Magnolia Warbler is a new bird in the top five and the Swainson's Thrush regains its five-star rating after losing out last year. Peak days were 17 September with 261 birds — a new all-time high for me in one day; 10 September with 134 birds; 9 September with 122 birds; and 18 September with 118 birds. Of special note this year were two Saw-whet Owls on 5 November and a Broad-winged Hawk on 10 September.

New species for my banding station this year include the Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Usual species missing this year include the American Goldfinch, Palm Warbler, Carolina Wren, and Blue Jay.

This was an exciting banding year because of the great increase in the number of new birds caught as well as adding new species to my total fall banding list. This brings my fall banding to 90 species. Much thanks to my assistants: Bill Devlin, Danny Llewellyn, Phillip Herrick, and Graduate Students at the Appalachian Environmental Lab at Frostburg State College.

Pleasant Valley
Bittinger, MD 393-0791
K.Y. Hodgdon

Banding was carried on for a total of 18 days beginning 11 September and ending 23 October 1978.

Sharp-shinned Hawk and Parula Warbler were new species for Pleasant Valley records. Cooperating in banding this fall were Harriet Williams, Anne Smith, Gail Kohlenberg, Mark Malec, K.Y. Hodgdon, and Dorothea Malec.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory
Grant County, WV 390-0791
George A. Hall

The twenty-first year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was another fine one. The number of birds banded was not as great as in the past two record-breaking years, but it did show one of the most concentrated periods of migration that we have seen at this station.

The station was manned for 7 days in August, 30 days in September, and 8 days in October. The weather was unusually favorable this year and only on one day was it necessary to suspend operations for rain. The usual cold weather did not occur, but the final 2 days of the operation — 7 and 8 October — did produce some snow squalls. Oddly enough, there was a fair bird movement amid the snows of 8 October.

The pattern of migration this year was not the typical one. There was little movement in late August, and a gradual building up leading to a fine peak on 8-9 September. After a lull caused by some bad weather, there was a remarkable peak in which 1531 birds were banded in 3 days on 16-18 September. 18 September may

have been the heaviest migration ever witnessed at the station. The nets were closed at 8:30 a.m., by which time a total of 521 birds had been caught. After this period, the numbers caught dropped off rapidly with a minor peak on 25 September. The usual large numbers during the last week in September failed to appear. Daily captures exceeded 500 on 2 days, were between 400 and 500 on 2, between 300 and 400 on 2, and between 200 and 300 on 6 days.

One new species, the Carolina Chickadee, was added to the station list, bringing the total to 108 species and the 21-year total of birds banded is now 56,720. Three birds banded in previous years were recaptured this year: a Yellowthroat banded in 1974, a Yellowthroat banded in 1977, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded in 1976. Since last year's report, we have learned of 2 foreign recaptures made at this station in 1977. On 4 September 1977, we captured a Cape May Warbler which had been banded at the Long Point Observatory in Ontario on 20 August 1977. On 29 September 1977, we captured a Tennessee Warbler which had been banded at Hornpayne, Ontario (about 360 km north of Sault Ste Marie) on 9 August 1975. The only recovery of one of our birds for the year was the Blackpoll Warbler banded by us in September 1977 and recovered in the Dominican Republic on 14 October, as reported by Bell in *The Redstart* 45:110 (1978).

Again this year the Tennessee Warbler was the number one species with 1258 banded, followed by the Cape May with 1031, and the Black-throated Blue with 768. The top 7 species accounted for 75% of the birds banded.

We note the continued large numbers of the "Spruce Budworm Specialists" — the Cape May and the Bay-breasted Warblers — indicating again the intensity of the outbreak of that pest in the north woods. At the other end of the scale was the unusual number of Northern Parulas, the year's total equalling the total of all previous 20 years.

It is also noteworthy that some of the species which winter in southern United States, such as the Winter Wren and the two kinglets, were caught in very low numbers again, a continued reflection of winter mortality during the past 2 years.

As in the past, the station was visited by many college classes and nature societies, as well as a group of school children on a field trip. Our public demonstrations of banding were resumed this year. An innovation was a Visitor's Book for the signatures of guests. Somewhat over 600 signatures were registered in this book, but many visitors did not sign.

The banders who participated this year were Joe ImBrogno, Maxine Kiff, Jack Linehan, Clark Miller, Avis Newell, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Trudy Smith, Jo Stern, and Leon Wilson, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. Kathleen Finnegan, John and Genevieve Findley served as chief net-tenders.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages and bags of birds, in keeping records, and in other ways: Jo Ashworth, Ray Ashworth, Bob Butterworth, Virginia Byers, Chuck Conrad, Helen Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Jim Evans, Bryce Findley, Jeff Findley, Mike Finnegan, Walter Fye, LeJay Graffious, Lorraine Harper, Eugene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Betty Linehan, Carol McCullough, Chris McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Anne McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Tresa Miller, Ivarean Mott, Janice Musser, Marilyn Ortt, Don Pattison, Glen Phillips, Esther Reichelderfer, Carl Rowe, Don Shearer, Martha Shearer, Earl Smith, and Zoltan Porga.

We are most grateful to all these people and to any others whose names have been inadvertently omitted from the list. As usual we also send our thanks to the officials of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor R.F. Mumme, District Manager W.K. Lerer, and Recreation Specialist Mary Miller for their cooperation and support of the project.

