

1980

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Ii

North American Bird Bander

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Atlantic Flyway Review:

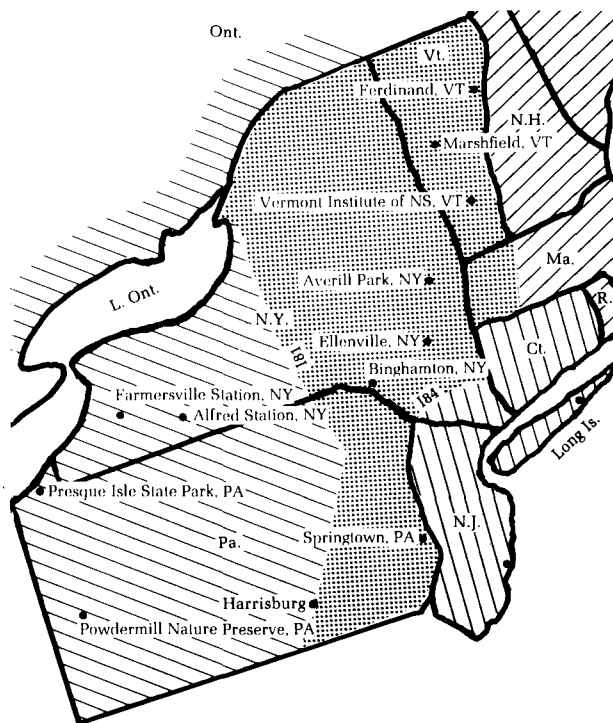
Region II

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There was no change in the six stations reporting in 1979, and the consensus was that the banding was good but without major waves of migrants. The weather was generally mild, and the two hurricanes of September (David and Frederick) had little effect on these inland stations. The numbers of birds caught per net-hour increased over 1978 in all stations except for Averill Park, which had a very high rate in 1978. There was a substantial decrease of 55% in combined net-hours.

The top five species (when all data were combined) made up 35% of the total catch of 4355 birds (as compared with 22% of the total in 1978). Song Sparrows topped that list with 369 individuals, mostly at VINS and Hellertown. The second most abundant bird was the White-throated Sparrow (347 birds). Good numbers of these sparrows were caught 15-18 October, making that the seasonal peak for the three New York and the Hellertown stations.

Each station supplied information on the numbers of HY and adult birds of the most common species (combined in Table 3). The Dark-eyed Junco showed the greatest change, from about 60% HY in 1978 to about 80% HY in 1979 (although fewer than half the 1978 number were caught in 1979). This species exhibits the most variation in percentage of HY's of any common species in this region; only about 50% were HY in 1977. Could this be due to variation in migration paths or timing by the different age classes? In contrast to the junco, the



percentage of HY Gray Catbirds caught varied by only six points (from 87% to 93%) during the four fall seasons, 1976-1979. In the same period, the percentage of HY's varied by 10% or less in Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, and Canada Warbler.

Table 1. Region II summary

	Hellertown PA	Binghamton NY	Ellenville NY	Averill Park NY	Vermont Institute	Marshfield VT
Days of operation	52	51	45	12	36	26
Number of nets used	6-12		3-13	20		
Total net hours	2016	1485	995	464	1687	1404
Largest daily catch	72	35	57	50	60	92
Birds banded 1979	866	573	592	235	935	1154
Birds banded 1978	784	455	558	408	773	2470
Different species 1979	69	53	57	38	61	62
Different species 1978	66	50	57	44	62	58
Birds/100 n.h. 1979	43	39	59	51	55	82
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	38	29	43	72	20	46

Table II. Most common species in 1979

Hellertown PA	Binghamton NY	Ellenville NY	Averill Park NY	Vermont Institute	Marshfield VT
126 Yel-rump Warb	75 G Catbird	73 G. Catbird	55 Blue Jay	203 Song Sparrow	273 Purple Finch
90 Song Sparrow	75 W-th Sparrow	64 W-th Sparrow	53 G. Catbird	117 C Yllthroat	79 W-th Sparrow
73 D-e Junco	40 B-c Chickadee	39 C. Yllthroat	24 W-th Sparrow	47 G. Catbird	62 C. Yllthroat
59 W-th Sparrow	30 Hermit Th	35 R-c Kinglet	16 Swainson's Th	47 Yel-rump Warb	45 Yel-rump Warb
46 R-c Kinglet	29 Mag Warb	32 Song Sparrow		47 W-th Sparrow	42 Am Redstart

Table III. Percentages of HY birds at Region II Stations, 1979

Species	Number	% HY
Least Flycatcher	64	94
Gray Catbird	268	87
Swainson's Thrush	124	69-75'
Red-eyed Vireo	102	74
Tennessee Warbler	76	83
Magnolia Warbler	107	64-67
Yellow-rumped Warbler	203	89-93
Common Yellowthroat	157	66-71
Canada Warbler	72	79-82
American Redstart	79	77-80
Dark-eyed Junco	93	78-84
White-throated Sparrow	287	61-67
Song Sparrow	351	76-82

'Where a range of percentages is given, the number of birds of unknown age was greater than one.

Vermont Institute of Natural Science Woodstock, VT
433-0723 Sarah B. Laughlin

In the fall of 1979 our banding was carried out in three locations in the Woodstock area: our original banding site, a back-pasture which is now reverting rapidly to woodland (5 days of banding, 700 net-hours, 184 birds); the flood plain of the Ottauquechee River (11 days, 198 net-hours, 266 birds); and the east-west valley of our nature preserve (19 days, 789 net-hours, 485 birds). We banded 4 mornings a week, weather permitting (snow on 9 October disrupted banding) from before sunrise until 11 AM, from 7 August through 15 November 1979.

A Solitary Sandpiper banded 16 August 1979 was a new species for the station.

The species report was compiled by Walter G. Ellison.



Marshfield, VT 441-0722 Mrs. Marion Metcalf

For the 26 days of banding there were no notable increases or decreases compared to past years. The banding was accomplished on 4-day weekends — Friday through Monday. Weather was generally fair with only 4 showery days. 11 August was the largest day and the second largest day was 2 September.

There were no foreign recoveries. There were, however, 77 repeats and 7 returns (2 Purple Finches, 2 American Redstarts, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, and 2 Blue Jays).

A Blue Jay that was banded 9 September 1972 returned 5 August 1973, 25 September 1977, and 7 October 1979.

Ferdinand, VT 444-0714 Mrs. Marion Metcalf

Our interest in this small operation continued, as we returned to the spruce forest on 12 September for three days. Primarily we were interested in Boreal Chickadees and Gray Jays. It appears that we are learning more about the jays than the chickadees. We were favored with excellent weather. In addition to other nets, we used an aerial net which produced very well.

A new species for the station was a Black-billed Cuckoo and, of worthy note, 2 Saw-whet Owls. There was 1 Gray Jay repeat and returns of 2 Gray Jays and 1 Common Yellowthroat.

A Gray Jay banded 9 September 1977 returned 8 September 1978 and 12 September 1979.

Binghamton, NY 420-0755

Harriet Marsi

Banding hours were usually from dawn till 10 AM, generally whenever weather and schedule permitted. Net hours were lower than expected, due to the discovery of the net lanes (early in September) by a neighbor's cat. This meant constant patrolling of nets to a point where the birds in the area of the nets were probably disturbed and driven away, and it also meant the quick furling of nets when the cat's presence was noted. Eventually this problem was solved (no, the cat was not "done in;" her family was located and persuaded to confine her until 10 AM each day), but good netting had been lost at a time when migration was in full swing.

In general, there were no large days in August or September. The weather was mild and the birds seemed spread out as if they were drifting down in a leisurely fashion, unpressured by any cold front. In October there were two "big" periods — the 4th to 7th and the 14th to 18th — both associated with large White-throat invasions.

Most species' numbers were average for the past several years. The number of wood warblers was back up from a low of 72 last year to 167 this year (average for this station). However, there were no Cape May Warblers and the number of Tennessee Warblers (4) was the lowest this station ever had (28 being the highest). Red-eyed Vireos, usually found in large numbers (133 in 1977) were down to 28, the lowest in 11 years of recording. Purple Finches were extremely low with only 2 being banded. In past years this species has appeared on the top species list. On the brighter side, 15 Canada Warblers represented 5 more than ever before (10 in 1976).

As in past years, HY birds far outnumbered AHY and U combined — about 1.75 to 1. This has been consistent since banding records for the AFR have been kept at this station (1970).



Ellenville, NY 414-0742

Valerie M. Freer

During the fall of 1979 up to 13 nets were opened (mostly in the mornings) on 45 days between 1 August and 30 October. The number of net-hours was well below that of earlier years, but the number of birds per 100 net-hours was 59 (vs. an average of 39 for the previous 9 years). Temperatures averaged above normal through the period, although there was a cold period in mid-October and again at the end of the month. Cold fronts on 6 August and 7 September brought moderate numbers of birds, with the best day 8 September (57 new birds).

The list of most common birds included the same ones usually found at this station. Gray Catbirds and White-throated Sparrows were caught in the highest numbers since 1971. Ruby-crowned Kinglets continued to increase from their low of only 4 in 1977. Swainson's Thrushes and Cedar Waxwings, two species whose numbers vary strongly from year to year, were caught in very low numbers. Some species that continue to be captured in remarkably similar numbers each year were Common Yellowthroat, Least Flycatcher, and Red-eyed Vireo. A low—average total of 187 warblers were caught, including the first Prairie Warbler since 1970, the first ever Yellow-breasted Chat, and two Blue-winged Warblers (the third and fourth ever caught).

Banding was done by Valerie Freer, Frank Fish, and Barbara Belanger.

Averill Park, NY 423-0733

James Covert

Banding began in late August, restricted to weekends only. Operations were interrupted and curtailed more than the last two years: 12 days vs. 17 and 19 days in 1978 and 1977 respectively. The number of nets was increased to 20 (15 in 1978) but the birds banded, total species, net-hours, and birds netted per 100 hours all reflect marked decreases from 1978.

The two most notable weekends in 1978 were missed in 1979. Labor Day weekend, 2-4 September 1978, was the most active, and the third weekend of October 1978 was

also very active — when we experienced the first large flight of Dark-eyed Juncos of the season. The decreases in numbers of warblers banded were caused primarily by no Labor Day operation this year. Juncos were the third highest species captured in 1978 (48); this year only 5 were netted — all on 13-14 October, the last weekend of operation.

The two most active weekends experienced this year occurred just before and after hurricane Frederick passed through northeastern New York State on 14 September. Blue Jays and Gray Catbirds topped the list of species again this fall. A first for the station occurred 13 October, when we captured an adult male House Finch. We also banded the second Mockingbird for the station; the first one was netted in fall of 1974.

Hellertown, PA 403-0752 Elaine & Donald Mease

Nets were opened 14 August and continued until 12 November — 52 days in operation. Nets were generally opened at dawn, and if sufficient birds were moving we kept them open all day; otherwise they were closed at 10 AM. Six nets were used at our home and six nets in our overgrown pasture (same as last year). This year we did not have both sections opened at the same time; although we decreased the number of nets being used at one time as compared with last year (11), we still maintained almost the same number of net-hours. The aerial net was used again this year. We moved its location midway through the season, because it had ceased being productive. After moving it into the woods against a slope, we found it was producing a high number of Yellow-rumped Warblers and kinglets.

We banded 866 birds of 69 species. Our biggest flights were: 57 birds on 15 October, 70 birds on 18 October, 68 birds on 22 October, and 37 birds on 24 October.

There were 4 returns this year: an Indigo Bunting, 2 White-throated Sparrows, and a Dark-eyed Junco. The Cape May, Connecticut, and Mourning Warblers were some of the more uncommon species banded for our area.

Notice to all AFR Stations

Your station report must be sent to your coordinator by the end of the year (31 December 1980) in order to be included in the AFR reports of 1980.
