

1980

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv

North American Bird Bander

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# Atlantic Flyway Review:

## Region IV

Donald F. Clark, Coordinator  
Hicks Road, Franklinville, NY 14747

One new station was added this year to the Region IV report. David Junkin, resident naturalist at the Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center has submitted his records. This center is sponsored by the Buffalo Audubon Society. It is located near Java Center in Wyoming County of New York State. It is 22 miles (35.4 km) due north of my banding station at Farmersville Station, NY. Nick Kerlin at Raccoon State Park in Pennsylvania reported that, because of illness and poor weather, he had no records for this past fall migration. Also, no banding was done at St. Bonaventure University this year.

As usual in Region IV, there is no consistency in the reports from the area. Four of the regular reports showed a decrease in numbers over last year while five increased the numbers banded. The northern stations plus Allegheny Front all commented on the rainy, poor weather that prevented the use of nets.

Thrushes and vireos were reported in larger numbers at several stations. Flycatchers and sparrows were reported in fewer numbers. Powdermill reported that species which had suffered heavy winter losses in the past few years had increased in number. This was not true at Farmersville Station, where kinglets were almost non-existent this year.

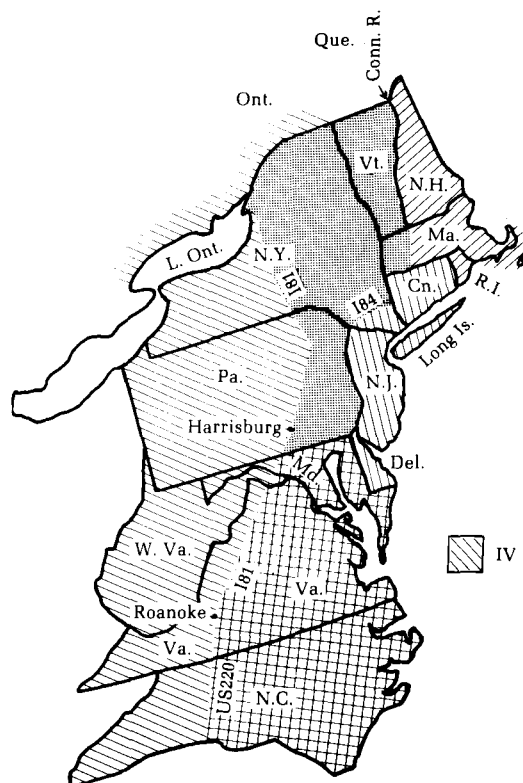


Table 1. Region IV summary

	Maitland River Huron County, Ont.	Beaver Meadow Java Center, NY	Farmersville Station, NY	Alfred Station New York	Limestone New York	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Pleasant Valley Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
Days of operation	39	24	64	50	33	16	101	37	21	41
Number of nets used	34	7	2-10	1-6	2-5	5-20	3-44	30	6-23	—
Total net-hours	14663	756	1287	1507	246	723	15897	7707	3019	3702
Largest daily catch	75	28	35	25	36	97	265	77	95	236
Birds banded 1979	784	253	349	251	263	640	6346	991	538	3052
Birds banded 1978	1220	—	216	142	157	1047	5716	1613	298	6791
Different species 79	68	41	52	30	30	65	102	70	57	67
Different species 78	74	—	37	32	14	56	105	70	48	74
Birds/100 n.h. 1979	5	36	31	17	61	89	40	13	17	82
Birds/100 n.h. 1978	9	—	24	13	12	118	39	21	24	358

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

The Maitland River Bird Observatory was in operation during the fall migration in 1979 for 39 days during the period 28 July to 4 November. A jay trap operated each banding day failed to capture a single bird.

The fall of 1979 was unspectacular yet typical of an inland location away from physical land features which produce bird concentrations. Best days were 13 September with 75 birds; 12 September with 63 birds; and 3 September with 44 birds.

New species banded for the station were Green-winged Teal on 26 August, Parula Warbler on 1 September, and an immature Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 19 August. This is near the northern edge of the latter species' range.



**Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center  
Java Center, NY 424-0782  
David Junkin**

In 1979, the Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center conducted its first banding operation. The center is located on Welch Road, 1½ miles north of Java Center and east of Route 77 in Wyoming County, NY.

The banding area is approximately 2 acres (0.8 ha). Nets were strung in a lane cut through an area of 7 ft (2 m) shrubs, including high-bush cranberry, autumn olive, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, and aspen.

Banding was carried on throughout the year from January to December mainly on weekends. For this report, the period of 12 August to 25 November is covered. During this time the weather was generally fair and mild with normal precipitation.

Data were recorded on 271 birds of 41 species: 253 new bandings plus 18 repeats and 1 female Ruby-throated Hummingbird unbanded. The peak day was 16 September with 28 individuals of 13 species banded. Highlights included a Mourning Warbler and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Banding was done by Pamela Amey, Esther Becker, Marion Bee, Karen Geiger, Thomas Harper, David Junkin, and Thomas Klonowski.

**Table 2. Interesting or most common species in 1979**

Maitland River Ontario	Beaver Meadow New York	Farmersville Station, NY	Alfred Station New York	Limestone New York
128 R-w Black	53 G. Catbird	84 D-e Junco	77 Am. Goldf	79 D-e Junco
92 Bay-b Warb	31 W-t Spar	30 W-t Spar	30 Song Spar	34 B-c Chick
44 Tenn Warb	23 Tree Spar	23 B-c Chick	24 B-c Chick	33 Song Spar
44 Swain Thr	15 B-c Chick	19 G. Catbird	20 D-e Junco	22 Field Spar
43 B-c Chick	12 Robin	16 Robin	15 Y-r Warb	18 Am. Goldf
29 D-e Junco		13 Hermit Thr		13 Blue Jay
24 R-C King		13 Tree Spar		7 Tenn Warb
21 R-e Vireo		12 Tenn Warb		7 C. Grackle
20 Song Spar		12 Song Spar		6 E. Bluebird
19 R-b Gros		11 Swain Thr		

Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Pleasant Valley Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
67 Bay-b Warb	984 Cedar Wax	88 Mag Warb	97 Swain Thr	414 Cape May W
64 Swain Thr	536 Swain Thr	87 Ovenbird	53 Mag Warb	388 Swain Thr
64 W-t Spar	457 W-t Spar	61 W-t Spar	36 R-c King	384 Tenn Warb
38 R-e Vireo	381 D-e Junco	58 Swain Thr	30 D-e Junco	343 B-th Blue Warb
36 Mag Warb	247 Mag Warb	48 D-e Junco	25 W-t Spar	238 Blackpoll
26 Tenn Warb	239 Am. Goldf		25 B-c Chick	157 C. Yllthrt
24 Ovenbird	235 R-c King		22 Tenn Warb	153 B-t Green W
23 Gray-c Thr	204 Song Spar		22 G. Catbird	119 Bay-b Warb
21 G. Catbird	187 C. Yllthrt		17 C. Yllthrt	112 Blue Jay
15 Hermit Thr	174 G. Catbird		17 Hermit Thr	106 Mag Warb

**Farmersville Station, NY 422-0782**  
**Donald F. Clark**

This is the 11th fall migration report submitted from this banding station. 349 birds of 52 species were banded, measured, and weighed. This is 33% fewer birds banded than the average for the past 11 years. The number of species banded was only 3 below the 11-year average. At least the numbers and species were above last year's record low count.

The fall was warm and wet — no heavy rains, but many days of light rain that prevented the use of nets.

Warblers and thrushes were in larger numbers this fall, while flycatcher and vireo numbers were low. Kinglets were almost non-existent. Sparrows and blackbirds were down in numbers.

There were 85 returns and 73 repeats for a total of 507 birds caught. 399 of these were netted in 1287 net-hours for 31 birds/n.h. I netted on 50 days with an average of 6.4 nets per day. One new species, House Finch, was banded. This brings the number of species banded during the fall migration to 101.

**Alfred Station, NY 421-0774**  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**

Banding operations were carried out for the fifth consecutive fall at this year-round banding station. Using from 1 to 6 mist nets located near feeding stations, on one side of a small pond and adjacent to a small stream, operations began on 4 September and ended on 15 November. There were 113 repeats and 14 returns along with 1 foreign retrap.

House Finch, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and White-eyed Vireo were new species for this station. The White-eyed Vireo represented the first record of this bird in Allegany County.

Heaviest banding activity occurred on 29 September and 8 October. The largest daily catch of 25 occurred on 24, 26, and 29 October.

**Limestone, NY 420-0783**  
**Regina M. Van Scoy**

1979 was the first full year of banding for this station located 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Limestone, NY. Between 5 August and 19 November the station was in operation for 33 days. Several weeks of rain and high winds in September and October severely limited the use of nets.

A total of 263 individuals of 30 species were banded using 2 to 5 mist nets (246 net-hours), 5 Potter traps, and 1 maze trap. There were 37 repeats and 17 returns during this period and no foreign retraps. The peak day was 27 October with 36 new birds banded and 31 of these caught in nets.

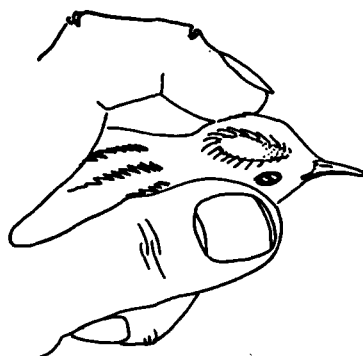
**Presque Isle State Park**  
**Erie, PA 420-0800**  
**Jean Stull**

The banding station was active for the 18th consecutive year in 1979, operating mostly on weekends from 4 August to 19 October. Locations and net lanes remained the same as in previous years. From 5 to 20 nets were used per day, with mild weather prevailing until mid-October.

There were no days of unusually heavy flights, no rarities, no recoveries or returns, no new species — generally a disappointing, slow season. One day was spent on the eastern tip of the park in an attempt to band shorebirds. A total of 16 shorebirds of 3 species were banded in 10 net-hours.

Proving to be the best banding day was 25 August when 97 birds of 26 species were banded in 80 net-hours. Highest number in September was 71 birds of 19 species banded on 26 September in 80 net hours. 7 October yielded 81 birds of 21 species in 30 net-hours.

Visitors were welcomed and many assisted. Banders were: Ronald C. Leberman, Mary Leberman, Jean H. Stull (Station Leader), and James G. Stull.



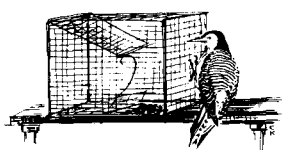
**Powdermill Nature Preserve**  
**Rector, PA 400-0792**  
**Robert C. Leberman**

Our fall banding at Powdermill was the best since 1971. The 6346 new birds banded were up 11% over 1978, and 17.5% above the average of the previous 9 years. An additional 948 birds were processed as repeats or returns. The station was in operation from 1 August through 30 November, exactly the same as in 1978. Depending on both weather conditions and the help available, from 3 to 44 nets were in use each day, the average being about 25. Peak flight days, when over 200 birds were banded, were 8 September (265 birds), 9 September (201), 15 September (234), 22 September (282), and 6 October (205).

With 984 banded, certainly the bird of the season was the Cedar Waxwing. Most of these waxwings were captured in just 3 nets along the dike of a small recently-constructed pond which contained much partially-flooded vegetation. The dead trees and shrubs were used by the birds as posts from which to hawk for insects, and from which they blundered into the nets. The thrush migration was excellent, with 536 Swainson's, 103 Gray-cheeked, and 48 Wood Thrushes netted. Most vireos were more common than usual, but flycatchers were less so. Warblers showed a mixed picture: of the 30 species netted, 2 were in average numbers, 11 above average, and 17 were captured in less than average numbers. Considerable improvement in the numbers of some of those birds, like Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets and Fox Sparrows that had suffered heavy winter losses over the past several years, was most encouraging. Unusual bandings included an American Coot, 9 Solitary Sandpipers, 9 Belted Kingfishers, and 55 Hooded Warblers. The number of the last species, in particular, was gratifying since it had been in rather low numbers for several years. A Red-headed Woodpecker, netted on 11 November, was new to the Reserve's banding list.

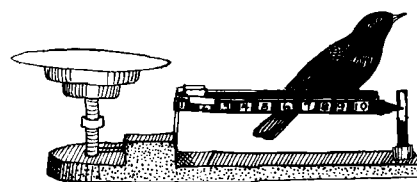
Since our last report, we have had one recovery of a fall banded bird from Powdermill. A Gray Catbird that had been netted as an adult on 14 October 1978 was trapped (presumably on or near its breeding grounds) 2 miles (3.2 km) northeast of Lewiston, NY on 6 June 1979. In addition, a foreign banded White-throated Sparrow, netted at the Reserve on 19 November 1978, had been banded near Waupoos Island, Ontario just a little over a month before on 14 October.

Weekend assistance from Bob Mulvihill, Dr. Mary Clench, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, Dr. Jane Huff, Ellen Censky, Jay Loughlin, and Josh Van Buskirk contributed much to the success of this season's banding program; I thank them all for their help.



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

This is the 6th year of banding at this location. My 18 acres on the north side of Piney Mountain near Frostburg, is covered mostly by a young forest and cutover locust woods. The net lanes were located along the edge of an old logging road and through the middle of an old grown up field. This year my banding had some exciting moments as well as some good birds, but overall the total catch was down from last year — and even though my net-hours were similar to last year's effort. 30 nets at the same location were again used as they have been since 1977.



Along with my new bandings, I also captured 107 repeats, 32 returns, and 1 foreign recovery. 23 species of warblers were caught this year. Wet weather delayed banding in August, and unseasonably warm weather extended it in November. All sparrows were down in numbers this year except for the Fox Sparrow.

Peak days were 19 September (77), 16 September (64), and 26 August (60). With the wet cold weather at the end of August, I caught high numbers of warblers and probably would have done better this year if I could have started earlier. This year I did not catch any hawks but made up for it by catching 5 owls (1 Screech and 4 Saw-whets).

New species this year were the Screech Owl, and Orange-crowned Warbler, and a Northern Oriole. Usual species missing this year were the Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Carolina Wren (2 years), Wilson's Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow. Birds higher in numbers than usual were Saw-whet 1 to 4, Black-and-white Warbler 6 to 14, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 to 17, Canada Warbler 13 to 36, and Cardinal 12 to 36. Birds less numerous than usual were Dark-eyed Junco 142 to 48, Field Sparrow 25 to 12, White-throated Sparrow 283 to 61, and Song Sparrow 17 to 3.

My recovery was an ASY-U Blue Jay captured 4 November 1979. This bird was banded by Leroy Stegeman on 17 April 1970 in Salisbury, NY.

My total fall species list for 6 years of banding at my residence now numbers 93. This fall's migration seemed somewhat down from previous years, especially the sparrows. Many thanks to my assistants: Bill Devlin and Tad Davis.

**Pleasant Valley**  
**Bittinger, MD 393-0791**  
**Dorothea Malec**

Banding was done on 21 days: 9 in September and 12 in October. Migration was late. Our biggest banding day was 10 October with 24 species and 95 individuals. This is far short of our usual rush banding days which ordinarily occur in mid-September. Weather was generally very good — warm and not rainy. We had in operation a maximum of 23 nets and a minimum of 6.

Some unusual species encountered were a first Cooper's Hawk, 2 Winter Wrens, and more Solitary Vireos than normal (8). We had no unusual recaptured birds this fall. Banders were Dorothea Malec, Harriet Williams, William Devlin, and K.Y. Hodgdon.

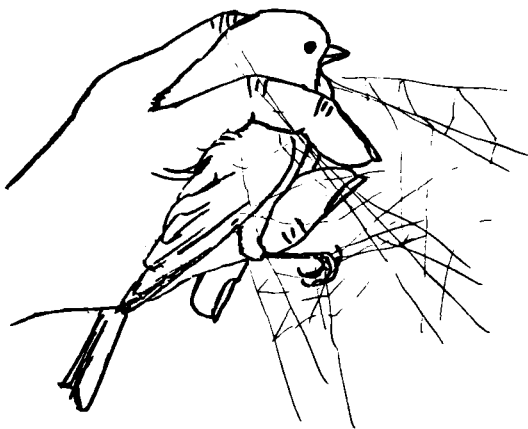
**Allegheny Front Migration Observatory**  
**Grant County, WV 390-0791**  
**George A. Hall**

The 22nd year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was not one of the more successful years. After the very high totals of the last 3 years, the number of birds banded this year was disappointing. The station was manned continuously from 26 August until 8 October, although on 3 days no banding was done because of the weather. The 2 hurricanes which moved up the East Coast brought much rain to the station area, and "David" produced winds strong enough to blow down the banding shelter. On many days light rain or fog cut down the migratory movement.

The number of birds and the capture ratio were not the poorest we have ever had, but they are the poorest in the years since we have had continuous coverage and increased manpower.

The migration started in the normal way in late August with a major wave in early September. The majority of the birds moved through between 7 September and 20 September. The usually productive last 10 days of September saw very few birds captured. Even on the best days, the numbers of birds handled was quite low. The best day was 11 September when 236 birds were banded — quite a contrast to the 400- and 500-bird days of the past. On only 9 other days did the number of captures exceed 100. There was a good flight on 8 October, the last day of operation when 150 birds were handled. Other places in our Region experienced fairly normal migrations so it is not thought that our low numbers indicate low populations. The birds captured at this station probably represent birds which have been blown off course by strong west winds during the night. We see them as they attempt to correct for this displacement. This year there were few nights with west winds, and either the birds did not need to correct their course or else they did it elsewhere.

No new species were added to the station list, which



still stands at 108 species and a total of 59,772 birds banded. 5 Common Yellowthroats and one Dark-eyed Junco, which had been banded in previous years, were retaken. During the past year we have had word of 2 Allegheny Front birds being recovered elsewhere. A Gray Catbird banded on 4 September 1978 was recovered in Princeton, NJ on 25 May 1979, and a Bay-breasted Warbler banded on 1 September 1977 was recovered on 9 May 1978 on an oil-drilling rig about 40 miles offshore from Galveston, TX.

The "Spruce Budworm Specialists" continue to dominate the warbler catches. This year the Cape May Warbler with 414 bandings led the list, followed by the Tennessee Warbler with 384 and the Black-throated Blue with 343. However, this year the species in low numbers or absent draw more attention than the abundant ones. Especially interesting is the mere 238 Blackpolls caught this year. In some years over 1000 have been banded, and the low numbers caught this year undoubtedly relate to the differences in weather pattern noted, for this station is located on the periphery of the Blackpoll migratory path.

Despite the low bird numbers, the number of visitors to the station continued to increase. A total of over 700 persons signed the visitor book and, as before, many visitors did not sign the book. Several college classes, nature clubs, and a tour group on a weekend outing visited us.

The banders who participated this year were: Sue Edmonds, Joe Imbrogno, Jack Linehan, George Mayfield, Clark Miller, Ephe Olliver, Trudi Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Leon Wilson, and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall.

Kathleen Finnegan, Genevieve and John Findley were the chief net-tenders. Special mention should be made of the crew that cleared the net lanes and spruced up the trail to the station: Kathleen Finnegan, Genevieve Findley, Jolene Minear, and Jack Minear.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages of birds, keeping records, and in other ways: Jo Ashworth, Ray Ashworth, Virginia Byers, Chuck Conrad, Helen Conrad, Dorothy Donrad, Kathy DeVaul, Jim Evans, Bryce Findley, Kevin Findley, Mike Finnegan, Walter Fye, Andrew Hall, Lorraine Harper, Linda Hollenberg, Mel Hooker, Gene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Bill Lewis, Betty Linehan, LeJay Graffious, Carol McCullough, Chris McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Anne McGrew, Clair Mellinger, John Merchant, Ivarean Mott, Allen Metz, Janet Musser, Glen Phillips, Fran Pope, Zoltan Porga, Charlotte Pryor, Ann Pyle, Esther Reichelderfer, Barbara Ross, Carl Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Joe Schreiber, Don Shearer, Martha Shearer, Juanita Slusser, Earl Smith, Margaret Stallings, John Stallings, Virginia Stanley, and April Wylie.

We are most grateful to these people and to any others whose names have been inadvertently omitted from this list. As in other years, we also send our thanks to the officials of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor R.F. Mumme, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, and Recreation Specialist Mary Miller for their cooperation and support of this project.