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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv

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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

**Donald F. Clark, Coordinator**  
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Only Presque Isle and Allegheny Front banded more birds in 1983 than in 1982, but the more southerly stations seemed to have an excellent migration. This was not true for the northern stations—most were below average in both numbers and species.

Noticeable is the lack of warblers and thrushes in the most common species list for the northern stations. Also, the House Finch is now becoming one of our most common

birds in the western New York area, replacing the House Sparrow at many feeders.

Judith Bell of Newark Valley, N.Y. (near Binghamton), has contributed her banding information for the first time. Any other banders in the region are welcome to send their records to me for inclusion in this report. In fact any bander may contribute records to the appropriate Coordinator for publication in the Atlantic Flyway Review.

**Table 1. Region IV Summary.**

	Maitland River ONT	Marilla NY	Beaver Meadow NY	Farmersville NY	Alfred NY	Newark Valley NY	Presque Isle PA	Powdermill PA	Pleasant Valley MD	Allegheny Front WV
No. days banded	43	11	15	69	57	36	20	100	15	55
No. nets used	32-35	6	7-9	1-9	1-7	4-9	—	5-52	7-15	—
Total net-hours	15,370	228	444	794	2681	583	1290	17,160	1408	5598
Largest daily catch	—	10	26	21	33	84	162	453	218	666
Birds banded, 1983	903	38	135	393	611	690	1294	9269	500	9366
Birds banded, 1982	926	207	287	516	672	—	362	10,129	565	6708
Different species, 1983	70	26	24	38	52	48	79	112	48	85
Different species, 1982	72	36	35	50	57	—	45	105	57	84
Birds/100 net-hours, 1983	6	17	30	19	23	118	100	54	34	167
Birds/100 net-hours, 1982	5	48	34	26	27	—	57	54	18	143

**Marilla, NY 425-0783**  
**John Mitton**

This is my second year of banding. Netting was conducted on 11 days between 2 August and 16 October. A total of 38 birds of 26 species were banded. The largest daily catch (10 birds) occurred on the last day. Six nets were used for a total of 228 net-hours, resulting in 17 birds/100 net-hours.

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

1983 was a poor year at this banding station, which operated from 23 July to 6 November, mostly on weekends. It was in operation for a total of 43 days.

The station operated with 32-35 mist nets and one jay trap in an area of about 2½ acres. The usual mainstay species were poor in number this year: Swainson's Thrush only 17, Bay-breasted Warbler 20, Yellow-rumped Warbler 2, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 16.

Noteworthy catches this year were a Pileated Woodpecker (the first since 1976, when 3 were banded in the spring), a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and 19 Fox Sparrows (compared to our usual catch of 1 or 2 a year).

**Beaver Meadow Audubon Center**  
**North Java, NY 424-0782**  
**David Junkin**

Banding was carried out generally from late morning through midafternoon on 15 days: 6 in September, 7 in October, and 2 in November. Weather was good during the whole period and the food crop was considered to be adequate for fruit-eating birds. The biggest daily catch was 26 individuals on 24 September. Seven to nine nets were used for a total of 444 net hours. A total of 135 birds of 24 species were caught, resulting in 30 birds/100 net-hours. September was certainly a Gray Catbird month; 24 September proved to be the second best day for birds per net-hour, with almost one bird caught every two hours.

Members who helped the banding team were Jane Cole, Taddy Dann, Betsy Davis, Dave Junkin, John Mitton, and Ree Thayer.

**Table 2. Most comonly banded species, 1983.**

Maitland River, ONT	Beaver Meadow, NY	Farmersville, NY	Alfred Station, NY
141 RW Blackbird 86 GC Kinglet 75 BC Chickadee 68 DE Junco 39 Tenn Warbler	65 G Catbird 14 AM Robin 8 WT Sparrow 7 BC Chickadee 6 Swainson's Thr	131 House Finch 59 DE Junco 31 BC Chickadee 27 RB Grosbeak 23 Purple Finch	89 DE Junco 68 Am Goldfinch 66 House Finch 52 BC Chickadee 47 Song Sparrow
36 RC Kinglet 33 N. Oriole 31 Nashville Warb 24 WT Sparrow 24 Song Sparrow	5 AM Goldfinch 4 RC Kinglet 3 YR Warbler 3 House Finch 3 Song Sparrow	13 G Catbird 13 Song Sparrow 10 WT Sparrow 9 Am Goldfinch 3 Magnolia Warb	28 YR Warbler 22 C Yellowthroat 22 Field Sparrow 19 Blue Jay 19 Am Robin

  

Newark Valley, NY	Presque Isle, PA	Powdermill, PA	Pleasant Valley, MD	Allegheny Front, WV
131 Song Sparrow 92 WT Sparrow 76 Am Goldfinch 59 C Yellowthroat 39 Purple Finch	180 WT Sparrow 178 Swainson's Thr 101 Bay-breasted W 68 Blackpoll Warb 62 GC Kinglet	945 DE Junco 620 WT Sparrow 511 Song Sparrow 501 Swainson's Thr 493 Purple Finch	107 Cape May Warb 104 Tenn Warbler 56 Swainson's Thr 33 Bay-breasted W 26 Magnolia Warb	1494 Tenn Warb 1173 Blackpoll Warb 937 Bl-thr Blue Warb 824 Cape May Warb 643 Blackburnian W
33 G Catbird 31 BC Chickadee 28 House Finch 27 Field Sparrow 19 YR Warbler	54 GC Thrush 45 Magnolia Warb 40 RE Vireo 34 Semipalm S 33 Hermit Thrush	490 BC Chickadee 427 Cedar Waxwing 382 Magnolia Warb 347 AM Goldfinch 325 Tenn Warbler	19 Nashville Warb	582 Bl-Thr Green W 554 Swainson's Thr 525 Bay-breasted W 211 C. Yellowthroat 196 Ovenbird

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

The fall of 1983 marked the 15th year of banding for the fall migration at this banding station. A total of 393 birds of 38 species were processed and banded. Only 5 years had fewer birds banded and only 2 years had fewer species, making 1983 a below-average year. No new species were captured this year. An average of 4 nets (1 to 9) were used for 794 net-hours. Nineteen birds/100 net-hours were captured, the 2nd lowest in 15 years. There were 48 returns and 161 repeats, making a total of 602 birds captured. The largest daily catch was 21 on 13 November.

Four Belted Kingfishers and two Green Herons were banded. Only the House Finch established a new high total this year; 131 individuals of this species were banded, more than three times the highest previous year. No vireos, kinglets, creepers, or flycatchers were caught. Numbers of warblers were low, and, with the exception of the House Finch, even the sparrows and finches were

below normal. Blackbirds were rarely seen in their usual huge flocks and only 4 Common Grackles were banded. In all, a disappointing migration.

A Purple Finch banded by R. L. Kremer near Nowthen, MN, was trapped and released on 18 August 1983 at the refuge; it had been banded 10 April 1983.

An Amercian Goldfinch banded by J. Mitton near Townline, NY, was caught on 27 October 1983; it had been banded 12 May 1983.

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

This report covers banding done at this year-round station from 1 September until wintery weather arrived on 10 November. This was the ninth consecutive year of fall activity. From 1 to 7 mist nets were used during 2681 net-hours of operation on 57 days during the period.

A total of 611 new birds were banded, second highest on record; there were 191 repeats and 24 returns. There were 23 birds/100 net-hours of operation.

Peak activity came on 22, 27, and 29–30 September; 10 and 24–27 October; and 1 November. I was out of town 23–26 September and missed what probably was the best weekend of the fall. Highest daily tally was 33 on both 27 September and 10 October. The 53 species represented in the total is down from the previous two years. No new species to this station were banded.

Species increasing this fall were Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, American Robin, and most notably House Finch. It was a poor season for all warblers, and thrushes were nearly absent.

**Newark Valley, NY 421-0761**  
**Judith A. Bell**

**1**983 is the first year of operation for this station, a 10-acre plot of land on the outskirts of the village of Newark Valley, Tioga County, New York. It is bordered on the east by the Owego Creek, on the north and west by fields, and on the south by a 10-acre deciduous woodlot. The station itself is overgrown pasture land with scattered apple, thornapple, and butternut trees. Willow and sycamore trees border the creek, with an understory of multiflora rose, honeysuckle, dogwood, and other berry producing vines and shrubs. An old overgrown apple orchard is located in the middle of the property.

Banding was conducted on 36 days between 14 August and 6 November from dawn until about 10:00 a.m. A total of 690 birds of 48 species were banded in 583 net-hours, resulting in 118 birds/100 net-hours. I used 4 nets until the middle of October, when another 5 nets were added.

Good daily catches occurred on 16, 22, and 29 September and on 1, 21, and 22 October. Highest daily catch was 84 birds of 21 species on 1 October. There were 89 repeats, 15 returns, and 1 foreign recovery of an AHY female House Finch.

Dry weather prevailed throughout the period with few exceptions. After a dry summer, a small brook which normally flows through the property year-round was bone dry well into November, when the rains finally began. Heavy ground fog was prevalent on 14 of the 36 banding days.

Many thanks to Don Bell and Lois Bingley for their enthusiastic help and support this fall.

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

**T**his year marked the 22nd year of coordinated autumn banding at Presque Isle State Park at Erie, PA. In operation 20 days, mostly weekends in August, September, and October, we banded a total of 1294 birds of 79 species in 1290 net-hours, or 100 birds/100 net-hours. Weather was mild for the most part, with little precipitation.

This is the first year that a shorebird was listed in our top 10. On 15 October we banded 77 birds in 32 net-hours (2.4 birds per net-hour) and on 24 September we had 162 birds in 70 net-hours (2.3 birds per net-hour).

The totals reflect the best season since 1975, when we had 1723 birds in 1235 net-hours (140 birds/100 net-hours). The species list is the best ever, 1972 coming in second with 73 species. There were no foreign recoveries but several returns among breeding birds.

Banders were Jean and Jim Stull, and Mary and Ronald Leberman. Assistants were Thelma Patton, Patrick Wishart, James A. Stull, and others.

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

**B**ird banding at Powdermill during the fall of 1983 was not the record-setter of the previous year, but it was nonetheless extremely good. The season was again characterized by few distinct weather fronts, frequent southerly winds, and a rather constant flow of migrants through the period. High winds and rain prohibited or limited banding efforts on several days—a relatively uncommon occurrence at the Reserve. Nevertheless, the program was in operation for a total of 100 days during the period (up somewhat from recent years owing to the addition of Mulvihill to the banding staff in 1983). We banded 100 or more birds on 31 days, with the following peaks:

Date	No. birds banded
September 13	378
14	230
17	205
27	224
28	221
October 18	453
20	314
25	267
27	241

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This was the second busiest banding season on record at Powdermill. The total of 9269 birds banded is 42% above the average of the past 7 fall seasons. The year 1983 was similar to 1982 in quantity of birds caught but quite different in terms of species composition. Last fall's "big two" species were both down somewhat from average this season. Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers slipped from first and second place in total number banded in 1982 to seventh and fifteenth places respectively this fall.

The species which best characterized the fall banding at Powdermill this year were Dark-eyed Junco and Black-capped Chickadee. Both were captured in record numbers this fall, the 490 chickadees being a remarkable 446% above average. Chickadees, however, have not staged a significant flight at the Reserve since 1975, so the average of the past 7 years does not reflect their occasional abundance as a fall migrant. Peak daily totals were 70 chickadees banded on 22 October and 74 on 28 October. Dark-eyed Juncos are a perennial "top 10" species for the Powdermill program, but this fall's flight was an astonishing 152% above average. The 945 juncos banded far exceeds the previous fall season record of 550 in 1981. Juncos are routinely captured in greater numbers during their spring migration through the Reserve, but 1983 saw a reversal of that trend. The junco flight was prolonged and heavy from mid-October through November. Peak totals were 112 on 18 October and 92 on 20 October.

Once again, most species were handled in above average numbers in 1983, but many fewer species were netted in record fall numbers than in 1982.

All 8 flycatcher species that we handled were banded in average or above average numbers this fall.

Among the wrens, both Winter and Marsh wrens made very good showings at Powdermill this fall, up 285% and 221%, respectively, from the average of the past 7 years. Both kinglets were again banded in above average numbers, a trend of several years' standing now, as both species slowly recover from losses incurred during the severe winters of 1976 and 1977.

Among the thrushes, all but the Veery (down 25%) were banded in above average numbers, with both Wood and Gray-checked thrushes being banded in numbers greater even than last year (57 and 119, respectively).

Waxwings, although present in large numbers throughout the period, failed to come down to net level to feed on the abundant multiflora rose hips. The similarly abundant fall webworms were apparently more to their liking, as

the waxwings clustered around these nests throughout the season, coming down only occasionally for wild cherries to round out their diet.

The vireos ranged from slightly below average (Red-eyed) to somewhat above average (Yellow-throated, White-eyed, Solitary, and Warbling), with Philadelphia Vireos being caught in just average numbers. A real surprise was a Warbling Vireo netted on the record late date of 28 November.

As a group, the warblers again did quite well. Of 31 species analyzed, 22 were in above average numbers this fall, 2 were just average, and only 7 were in somewhat below average numbers.

Tennessee Warblers, with 325 banded, staged one of their best flights in recent years, following their best spring flight ever at Powdermill. A Northern Parula banded on November 23 established a record late date for western Pennsylvania. Magnolia Warblers made their best showing ever, the 382 banded being 68% above average. The 202 Cape May Warblers were above average (up 45%), but many fewer than last year's record 337. Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Connecticut, Mourning, Wilson's, and Canada warblers, as well as American Redstarts, were all banded in above average numbers which exceeded their totals for the fall of 1982. A Worm-eating Warbler banded on 29 September was very late. Prairie and Palm warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats all showed declines in 1983 (49%, 36%, and 67%, respectively), a trend that is of several years' standing for all three species.

Among the Emberizinae, Rufous-sided Towhees; Fox, Song, Swamp and White-throated sparrows; and Dark-eyed Juncos were all banded in above average numbers. The 78 Fox Sparrows banded were 157% above average and represent the highest fall total ever for this species for the Powdermill program (they were down 48% in 1982). Lincoln's Sparrows were handled in slightly below average numbers (down 25%) for the second straight year.

The cardueline finches, as a group, did very well. The 493 Purple Finches banded were down somewhat from last year's near-record 522, but they were still 150% above average. House Finches were also below last year's total but considerably above average. The total of 347 American Goldfinches was just average, but the 25 Pine Siskins, following last fall's absence, were 136% above average. Thirty Evening Grosbeaks had been handled by the end of the season, perhaps signalling a good flight for the winter of 1983-84, following an almost complete absence during the winter of 1982-83.

Other noteworthy bandings during the fall of 1983 include 8 Solitary Sandpipers (down somewhat from recent years), 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 1 Northern Saw-whet Owl on the very early local date of 25 September. The latter was an HY-U and still possessed considerable juvenal plumage, perhaps indicating somewhat local origin.

There were 12 recoveries of birds banded at Powdermill during the fall season reported to us in 1983. Eight species were represented (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Grackle, and Purple Finch).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird #X-22259, banded as an HY-M on 4 September 1980, was recovered on 5 June 1982 by Benoit Dumont in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. This remarkable event is the first recovery of this species outside the immediate block of banding in the files of the Bird Banding Laboratory. Quebec City is approximately 650 miles northeast of the Reserve and is near the northern edge of the hummingbird's range.

Cedar Waxwing #1301-08063, banded as an HY-M on 17 October 1982, is our second waxwing to be recovered in Oaxaca, Mexico. It was found by Francesco Bautista Mendez, Jr., at Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico, on 27 January 1983 (about 2000 miles southwest of the Reserve). Waxwing #1301-08848, an HY-M, was one of 237 waxwings banded at Powdermill on 23 October 1982. It was recovered on 19 May 1983 by Cindy McCullen at North Little Rock, AR.

Ovenbird #920-57587 was banded at Powdermill as an HY-U on 11 September 1981. It was recovered by Roger Wills on 30 May 1983 near Kalkaska, MI (about 450 miles northwest of the Reserve).

Common Yellowthroat #1580-14213, banded as an HY-M on 11 September 1982, was recovered by Paul Rice in Ramsey, PA on 21 May 1983, some 125 miles northeast of Powdermill.

The remaining recoveries were more local or generally of less interest.

We wish to thank those who contributed to the success of the banding program in 1983. Valued and capable assistance was again provided by Mary Marlatt throughout much of the season. D. Scott Wood contributed much to the success and growth of the program in 1983, including occasional field assistance. Others whom we wish to thank include Kenneth C. Parkes, Larry and Linda Barth, and C. D. Gerow. Marilyn Niedermeier tackled the formidable task of entering and editing the season's voluminous data with her usual skill and efficiency, and for this she has earned our special thanks and admiration.

## **Pleasant Valley**

**Bittinger, MD 393-0791**

**Dorothea Malec, Harriet Williams**

**W**e again exceeded our all-time single-day banding record. On 13 September, with only 8 nets in operation, 218 new birds of 22 species were banded.

Banding was conducted for only 15 days this fall, owing to limited funds for our Allegheny County Outdoor School Program. We started on 5 September and ended on 4 October. A total of 500 new birds of 48 species were banded, using a minimum of 7 nets and a maximum of 15. A total of 1408 net-hours were logged, for an average of 34 birds/100 net-hours.

Because we ended banding operations so early in October, we missed Dark-eyed Junco migration and had only 4 White-throated Sparrows. We also missed Golden-crowned Kinglets, Indigo Buntings, American Goldfinches, and banded only 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

A Gray Catbird banded 11 May 1981 was retrapped on 27 September 1983 and a Song Sparrow banded on 2 June 1982 was retrapped on 4 October 1983.

## **Allegheny Front Migration Observatory**

**Grant County, WV 390-0791**

**George A. Hall**

**T**he 26th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was a banner event in all respects. The station was in continuous operation from 15 August to 9 October, with banding conducted on 55 days. On 1 day in October the station was closed because of the weather and on 4 other days operations were curtailed because of rain. There was a snowfall on 23 September and a cold spell at that time, but generally the season was mild and dry.

A total of 9366 birds (highest ever) of 85 species (highest ever) were banded in a station effort of 5598 net-hours (highest ever), giving a capture ratio of 167 birds/100 net-hours (6th highest). It is apparent from the capture ratio that the unusually large number of birds banded was largely the result of the extra time of operation this year.

One new species (Warbling Vireo) and a hybrid form ("Brewster's" Warbler) were added to the station list, bringing that to a total of 113 forms and a grand total of 92,195 birds banded. Six birds banded in earlier years were recaptured this year. Two Common Yellowthroats, two Magnolia Warblers, and one Black-throated Blue Warbler banded in 1982 were caught and a Magnolia Warbler banded in 1981 was retaken. In the time since the last report we have had reports of two birds banded at this station being recovered elsewhere. A Tennessee

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Warbler banded on 21 September 1981 was recovered near Newton Center, MA on 5 May 1983 and a Yellowthroat banded on 4 September 1982 was recovered at Bittering, MD on 16 July 1983. We have also learned that on 30 August 1982 we netted a Cape May Warbler that had been banded near Westport, Nova Scotia, on 4 August 1981.

The migration started about on time and perhaps because of the mild weather the southward warbler flight was prolonged well into October. The daily number of captures followed the pattern that was so common in earlier years, quite unlike the pattern of the last few years. There was a pronounced peak in the flight on 21-22 August, highlighted by a tremendous movement of Blackburnian Warblers. This was followed by a lull with no large flights for about two weeks. Then on 8-12 September there was a very heavy flight, peaking on 12 September with 664 birds banded. Another brief lull followed and from 18 to 27 September the migration was heavy, although the daily numbers were not as high as in the earlier peak. In late September and early October Tropical Storm Dean brought us an interval of bad weather, but when this broke, there was another heavy movement of birds during 2-5 October with 666 birds, the largest daily catch, banded on 4 October. Toward the end of the season the migration seemed a little behind schedule, with many warblers still present when the station closed on 9 October and rather few juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and other October migrants having arrived.

There were two days on which bandings exceeded 600, one day between 500 and 600, 4 days between 400 and 500, 5 days between 300 and 400, and 8 days between 200 and 300, thus 20 days on which bandings exceeded 200. Seventeen species were banded in record numbers and one additional species tied the record count.

Wood warblers constituted 82% of the captures, with the Tennessee Warbler being the most abundant. The Blackpoll, after being low for several years, was the second most abundant species. Of 19 warbler species 14 were banded in numbers well above the 5-year average, 4 were in average numbers, and only 1 (Cape May) was in below average numbers. These numbers have not been corrected for the extra length of operation time and so some of these species were not quite as abundant as it appears; however, the flight of Blackburnian and Magnolia warblers was most impressive, and was well above the average. The Swainson's Thrush was handled in average numbers, Wood Thrush bandings were below average, but the other thrushes were in above average numbers. The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was better than last year but was still below average. A rather large number of Black-capped Chickadees gave a preview of the massive flight of this

species throughout the East in late October and early November. Of special interest was the large number of Red-headed Woodpeckers seen flying by the station.

During the season about 1530 people signed the visitor's book. These people came from 16 states, the District of Columbia, one Canadian province, and one from the Isle of Man. Among the visitors were several elementary school classes and classes from at least three colleges.

The banders who participated this year were Sue Edmonds, Walter Fye, Ephe Olliver, Frances Pope, Julie Simpson, Harry Slack, Jo Lane Stern, Sallie Thayer, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson and Charles Ziegenfus, together with co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. Special thanks go this year to LeJay Graffious and Todd Schnopp for the erection and removal of the shelter; to Charles Ziegenfus for clearing the net lanes; to Kathleen and Mike Finnegan for improvements in the shelter; to Jim Evans for supplying the gathering bags; and to Harriet and Mel Hooker, Carol and Fred McCullough, and the Minear family—Jolene, Jack, Jonavieve, Jacaleen, and Jonathon—for extra miscellaneous help. As in every year, extra-special appreciation goes to Genevieve and John Findley, without whose devoted work this project would not be possible on the present scale.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Lewis Banker, Rodney Bartgis, Mike Berdine, Virginia Byers, Gladys Cole, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Bob Dean, Ben Dutcher, Hal Findley, Kevin Finley, JoAnn Graham, Phil Graham, Andrew Hall, Lorraine Harper, Ann Harris, Ken Heselton, Sue Heselton, Susie Hinzman, Linda Hollenberg, Diane Holsinger, Murray Honick, Renee Honick, Patrick Hurley, Tom Hurley, Gene Hutton, Jim Huy, Karen Huy, Mike Huy, Steven Huy, John Jones, Virginia Johnson, Andy Kraynik, Holly Kraynik, Martha Kulp, Bill Lewis, Maxine Kiff, Melinda Lukei, Reese Lukei, Chris McCullough, Jason McCullough, Ben Meyers, Evelyn Meyers, Jerry McGrew, Janice Musser, Marilyn Ortt, Jenny Ortt, Jodi Ortt, Kathy Ortt, Glen Phillips, Charles Pierce, Ivareen Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Stan Roach, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Joe Schreiber, Juanita Slusher, Connie Skipper, Bill Smith, Edgar Smith, Edwin Smith, Virginia Stanley, Roy Ward, Martin Wiley, Dolores Wilson, and James Wilson. To all of these and any others missed go our thanks.

We also wish to thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor Ralph Mumme, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, Assistant District Ranger David Allen, and others of the Petersburg Ranger Station for their cooperation and support of this project.