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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President's Message

EBBA's annual meeting this year was one that was not only enjoyable but was informative as well. As always, the paper session and workshops were excellent, as were the birding opportunities at Cape May.

John Tautin's report from the Bird Banding Laboratory was very important as it will affect all of us. Mr. Tautin informed us that there will be changes coming at the BBL. He could not yet say what these changes would be, but assured us that it is not the intention of the BBL to eliminate the amateur bander. He reported that improvements are needed internally at the BBL to improve records management and to make better use of present day technology. In addition, the BBL is overloaded with banding information to be processed. It is because of this overloading that the BBL will seek to eliminate non-essential banding. High quality, essential banding is needed, and Mr. Tautin listed the following priorities in the banding of birds:

1. A study should consider banding needs as opposed to the bander's desires.
2. Approaches to banding need to be changed: exact studies are needed; quality should be considered over quantity; emphasis on capture/recapture studies.
3. Repetitious studies need to be eliminated.
4. Species emphasis changes are needed. Currently, the highest numbers of birds banded are the most common species. Studies should be redirected to investigating species where little information is known.

In response to questions from the EBBA membership, Mr. Tautin agreed that the banding organizations such as EBBA, IBBA, and WBBA should receive representation in the decision-making process in the formulation of future changes.

I encourage all members to attend EBBA's annual meeting in Rochester, New York, next year on April 27-29, 1990. It is important for all of us to show our support of EBBA and to remain informed of the current affairs of the organization.

Judith Bell
President

THE MEMORIAL GRANT FUND

Over 25 years ago, EBBA established a Memorial Grant Fund to recognize departed members and friends. Income from that endowment has been used annually to make student awards for ornithological research projects which use bird banding as part of the study. Income has grown so that up to \$500 has been designated by Council for distribution by the Memorial Grant Committee in 1989.

If you want to remember a departed bander friend, or to simply contribute to the support of student research in ornithology, send your tax-deductible check to EBBA's treasurer, Donald Mease. Added income from the Fund will be used in the future to increase the number or amount of these competitive awards.

A Continuing Quest to the Ageing and Sexing of Western Palm Warblers

In 1985, the Jekyll Island Banding Station had a surprise visitor. Chan Robbins was in town as the Saturday speaker at the Georgia Ornithological Society meeting on Jekyll Island. He had come to speak to the Coastal Audubon Society in Brunswick on Thursday evening and spent Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday at the station with us.

While at the station, Chan noted our usual abundance of Western Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum*), that make up about 45% of our total birds banded each year. He also noted the lack of a key for ageing and sexing the species, suggesting that the length of the tail spots may have a significance. We had some college students check the literature to see what had been published on this subject and they found nothing.

In 1986, we measured the length of the tail spots on several hundred birds, then tallied and plotted our data. The result was a nice bell-shaped curve, proving that the tail spot length indicated nothing but a normal biological variation.

Next we examined the shape of the top of the spot on several birds and noted a difference in the shape. In 1987, we recorded the shape of the spots as either straight or angled in relation to the feather shaft. We also examined two study skin collections. The University of Georgia collection had very few specimens, but they indicated that the straight or perpendicular top line of the spot was a male and the angles were females. The Tall Timbers Research Station had even fewer skins available but the results were the same--straight, male; angled, female. The total number of skins in both collections was eight--a modest sample to say the least.

In 1988, we salvaged and froze twenty specimens of Western Palm Warblers which had died from various causes during our banding operation. These were later taken to the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine for examination. Using micro-surgery, Dr. Branson Ritchie, a noted diagnostician and exotic animal specialist, determined the sex of our specimens: There was no correlation between the shape of the tail spots and the sex of the bird. Back to square one!

The reason for this discourse is to keep others from doing what we have done. In all probability, the same work has been done before but we did not find anything in the literature. We will continue to look for a key to age and sex this species. Perhaps we can solve the mystery.

Don Cohrs
P.O. Box 1908
Darien, GA 31305

Three North American Passerine Age Records

Among the longevity records reported by M. K. Klimkiewicz and A. G. Fitcher (1987. Longevity records of North American birds: *Coerebinae* through *Estrilidae*. J. Field Ornithol. 58:318-333) are a male House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) of 11 years 7 months, a male American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) of 8 years 10 months, and a male Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*) of 5 years 9 months. From among my banding records, I have re-encounters of a female House Finch of the same age as the reported male; a male American Goldfinch of 9 years 3 months, or 5 months older than the previous report; and a male Common Redpoll of 6 years 9 months, or 1 year older than previously reported.

I banded the House Finch (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] band no. 830-24634) at Schenectady, New York on 8 December 1973 as a female of unknown age, and last recaptured it on 20 January 1985 at the same location. I recaptured it once between those dates on 7 May 1982 at the same site. It was the 249th individual out of 6567 of this species that I have banded in the Schenectady area between May 1964 and December 1988. Among those 6567 individuals, 646 (9.8%) have been recaptured as returns on 837 occasions, and 19 (0.29%) have been re-encountered by other people (12 in the immediate area, 4 elsewhere in New York, and 3 in Pennsylvania and Virginia).

I banded the American Goldfinch (USFWS band no. 1450-60189) at Schenectady, New York on 8 April 1977 as a second-year male, and had no re-encounter with it until a neighbor three blocks away reported it to the USFWS as killed by her cat on 16 September 1985. It was my 2430th banding out of 4738 for this species in the Schenectady area from May 1963 to December 1988. In that time, I have had 12 reported re-encounters (0.25%), involving 4 immediately local reports, and 8 more distant (3 in New York, and 1 each in Quebec, New Jersey, Michigan, Maryland, and Pennsylvania).

I banded the Common Redpoll (USFWS band no. 1520-84989) at Schenectady, New York on 15 April 1982 as an after-second-year male, and never recaptured the bird. It was reported found dead in March 1987 at St. Andre Est, Quebec, about 50 km west of Montreal, and 300 km north of the banding site. It was my 8561st banding out of 10196 between March 1964 and December 1988 in the Schenectady area; and among 6 reported re-encounters (0.059%) involving 1 local report and 5 more distant reports (3 in New York and 2 in Quebec).

Robert P. Yunick
1527 Myron Street
Schenectady, New York 12309

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

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

This year we welcome banders John Gregoire and Sue Dorney to Region IV of the Atlantic Flyway Review. They are banding at Kestrel Haven located in Schuyler County of New York State. This is ten miles or so west of Ithaca, New York

The 1987 migration pattern, in general, was an improvement over 1986. Most stations banded more species in 1987 than in 1986. However, half of the stations banded fewer birds overall.

Kinglets seem to be returning to higher numbers after several years of decline. Maitland River, Manitou Beach and Presque Isle reported good numbers of both species. The House Finch was high at Farmersville Station, Kestrel Haven and Newark Valley. Beaver Meadow is only 20 miles due north of Farmersville Station, provides ample feeders, yet only banded five House Finches. One wonders why?

Powdermill reported the lowest total ever of White-throated Sparrows. They also showed a very high total of Pine Siskins banded. Seldom is this species seen on the "Ten Most Common Species" list.

The general feeling of fall banding in 1987 was that it was near average. Over the entire area, it ranged from fifth highest in the past ten years at Allegheny Front to second lowest in 19 years at Farmersville Station. Weather did not seem to affect the banding this fall to any great extent.

All banders, who wish to do so, may submit their banding results for the fall months to the appropriate coordinator. They should follow the format of banding from approximately 15 August to 15 November. Include numbers to complete the tables that accompany the reports. Then describe the interesting factors for the migration. The more banders that have their results published, the more interesting and instructive it is for all.

Table 1. Region IV Summary

	Maitland River, Ontario 435-0812	Manitou Beach, New York 431-0774	Beaver Meadow, New York 424-0782	Farmersville Station, New York 422-0782	Kestrel Haven, New York 422-0764	Newark Valley, New York 421-0761	Presque Isle, Penna. 420-0800	Powder mill, Penna. 400-0791	Allegheny Front, W.Va. 390-0791
Days Operated	43	52	21	42	61	28	19	102	57
Number Nets Used	36	16	7-9	2-6	1-14	12	8-20	0-64	-
Total Net Hours	17654	3839	551	431	2457	1104	1049	14388	4996
Largest Daily Catch	56	183	15	25	77	69	202	298	631
Birds Banded 1987	771	2415	149	225	1411	862	753	6866	7911
Birds Banded 1986	621	1174	170	278	159	1191	741	7216	8778
Different Species 1987	72	77	28	22	61	-	68	113	87
Different Species 1986	61	56	21	21	19	57	69	107	81
Birds 100/nhs 1987	4	63	27	24	57	78	72	48	158
Birds 100/nhs 1986	4	79	29	25	-	92	100	47	164

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species 1987

Maitland River Ontario	Manitou Beach New York	Beaver Meadow New York	Farmersville New York	Kestrel Haven New York
88 GC Kinglet	563 WT Sparrow	32 G Catbird	111 House Finch	377 Song Sparrow
55 DE Junco	343 BC Chickadee	23 WT Sparrow	36 DE Junco	156 House Finch
52 BC Chickadee	209 Hermit Thrush	19 BC Chickadee	22 BC Chickadee	110 A Goldfinch
51 RC Kinglet	145 RC Kinglet	17 A Robin	9 Song Sparrow	86 Field Sparrow
36 Tennessee Warb	93 Swain Thrush	10 DE Junco	6 Even Grosbeak	81 Chipping Sparrow
35 No. Oriole	88 RE Viero	6 GC Thrush	6 Pine Siskin	62 A Robin
31 Swain Thrush	84 GC Kinglet	5 House Finch		47 BC Chickadee
29 Song Sparrow	79 Song Sparrow	5 A Goldfinch		46 G Catbird
27 Ovenbird	57 G Catbird	3 Magnolia Warb		45 DE Junco
25 Bluejay	57 Swamp Sparrow	5 Swain Thrush		38 Cedar Waxwing
Newark Valley New York	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Allegheny Front W. Virginia	
241 Song Sparrow	107 GC Kinglet	454 DE Junco	1207 Blk-Thr Blue Warb	
133 House Finch	92 RC Kinglet	361 Pine Siskin	921 Blk-Thr Green	
79 C Yellowthrt	73 WT Sparrow	341 C Yellowthrt	885 Tennessee Warb	
45 G Catbird	45 Hermit Thrush	321 Song Sparrow	648 Blackpoll Warb	
36 BC Chickadee	33 Winter Wren	299 Swain Thrush	410 Swain Thrush	
32 Field Sparrow	32 G Catbird	292 Cedar Waxwing	389 Bluejay	
31 RB Grosbeak	28 Song Sparrow	268 Magnolia Warb	353 Blackburnian	
30 N Cardinal	25 GC Thrush	263 G Catbird	294 Bay-breasted	
23 WT Sparrow	22 Nashville Warb	244 A Goldfinch	290 Cape May Warb	
19 Swamp Sparrow	21 Swain Thrush	242 Tennessee Warb	284 Magnolia Warb	

Maitland River Bird Observatory

Huron County, Ontario, Canada

John B. Miles

435-0812

The station was in operation on 43 days from 25 July to 1 November 1987. While mainly operating on weekends, continuous coverage took place between 24 August and 7 September. During the banding period, 771 birds of 72 species were banded.

In general, the number of warblers banded was down. Bay-breasted numbers were significantly down with only 13 banded. No Cape-May Warblers were banded nor were any seen. Myrtle Warblers banded were a dismal eight. The Wood Duck and the Connecticut Warbler were firsts for this station.

Manitou Beach, New York

431-0774

Elizabeth W. Brooks

Kevin C. Griffith

William Symonds

The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, located in the town of Greece near Braddock Bay in Monroe County, New York, began its third fall of operation on 5 August and continued until 16 November 1987. Up to 16 mist nets were used on 52 days during the period for a total of 3839 net hours. Banding was done by Elizabeth Brooks, Kevin Griffith, and William Symonds with assistance from volunteers.

A total of 2415 birds were banded representing 77 species

with 24 species being new for this location in the fall. Nets were located in hedgerows, in wet deciduous woods, in a open weedy field, and in lanes cut through shrubs.

New species for the station's fall records included: Sharp-shinned Hawk, C. Flicker, Traill's Flycatcher, Gr. Crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird, Tufted Titmouse, White-br. Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Marsh Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, No. Shrike, E. Starling, Warbling Vireo, Orange-cr. Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-thr. Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, No. Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Rose-br. Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Purple Finch, and House Finch.

Species missing this fall were White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, C. Redpoll, and Pine Siskin.

There were 182 repeats and 12 returns. There were 63 birds banded per 100 net hours of operation. Our most active day was 183 birds banded on 5 October, but we had 100+ days on 21 September, on 1,2,12, and 16 October, and 4 November. Birds were aged, sexed, wing chord measurement taken, weighed and examined for fat class. A number of birds had injuries and/or abnormalities which were noted.

The fall began quite dry but became wetter in September and October. Temperatures were near normal. Of the seven 100+ bird days, six were accompanied by south-to-southwest winds. During late October and early November, hundreds

of siskins, goldfinches and redpolls flew over the banding site but, unlike the previous two fall seasons, very few landed or came down low enough for us to catch. It is possible that too much wind during this period kept them moving over the area.

The most noteworthy event of the season was the banding of an intergrade flicker on 23 September. This AHY-F bird had rose-colored outer four primaries on both wings with the remainder of the flight feathers yellow. The same symmetrical pattern was noted on the retrices. Other highlights were a Saw-Whet Owl and a large number of regional near-record first arrival and last departure dates. Two interesting retraps were a No. Cardinal banded in the nearby pear orchard by Bob McKinney in May 1987 and a Black-capped Chickadee banded by Bob at the same location in April 1985.

Many area birders visited the station during the season and a banding demonstration was held for Pack 318 Webelos Scouts.

Appreciation is extended to the following individuals who helped make this our best spring and fall season ever: Jimmy Aubin, Carolyn Cass, Bill Colman, Mike Davids, Brian and Eileen Keelan, Judy Larsen, Mike Maibolm, Dan Niven, Dick O'hara, Bob and Robert Oswald, Sr., Marty Robinson, Clay Taylor and Dave Tetlow. A special vote of thanks is due Bill Kaiser for his support and permission to band on his land.

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center
North Java, New York
David Junkin

424-0782

Nine persons banded for 21 days from 5 August to 11 November at Beaver Meadow this year. This has been about average for the fall season since 1979. We didn't have a "big day" this year, with 15 birds banded on 9 September being the most.

The weather gave us 10 sunny and 11 cloudy days; but the days above 50° were only 7 and below 50° were 14. A few nice days of warbler banding gave us more species than in the past few years with singles of Canada, blue-wing, hooded, black-throated blue and blackpoll. It was also nice to catch the grey-checked and Swainson's thrushes again, as they were absent from last year's banding and sightings.

Autumn Olive is a dominant shrub in our banding area and along the road where the net lanes are, the fruit supply was good. But on 29 September, our town highway crew eliminated 75% of the crop so that winter snows could be plowed farther back from the road. This affected our fruit eater banding--robins and waxwings--to a great extent and numbers of these were lower than in previous years.

Members of the banding teams this year were: Nancy Bompczyk, Jane Cole, Taddy Dann, Betsy Davis, Dave Junkin, Carl Pedersen, Jane Schneider, Ree Thayer and Emily Vaughn.

Farmersville Station
New York
Donald F. Clark

422-0782

The fall of 1987 was the 19th year of banding reports for Region IV of the Atlantic Flyway Review. A total of 225 birds of 22 species were banded. This is tied for second lowest number caught. In 1975, 1088 were banded and in 1980 only 183 were caught. Banding was conducted from 15 August through 15 November for a total of 42 days. Two to six nets were used for a total of 431 hours and 102 unbanded birds were caught in nets. This gives a total of 24 birds per 100 net hours. There were 24 returns and 117 repeats.

The migration was the poorest ever at this station. Only two warblers, other than those caught, were seen during the fall. Sparrows, thrushes, catbirds, and juncos were all at their lowest numbers. No vireos, flycatchers, or thrashers were even seen. The usual large flocks of blackbirds were not observed. However, during this same period, we had over 300 Canada Geese loafing on our pond during the day. With them were 50-60 Mallard and Black Ducks. This is the largest concentration of waterfowl we have ever had.

Two yellow neckbanded Canada Geese were observed on the pond during the first two weeks of November. One was banded at Oak Orchard, New York, in 1985; the other at Eastern Neck Island, Maryland, in 1987.

The weather was about average for this refuge. The highest temperature for the year was 90°F on 16 August. Frost was late, the first coming on 13 October. It was a cloudy, wet fall with 46 days of rain and 7 days of snow during the period.

Kestrel Haven
Town of Hector
Schuyler County, NY
John Gregoire
Sue Dorney

422-0764

This was our first complete season of fall migration banding at Kestrel Haven, our 60-acre, private wildlife sanctuary five miles northeast of Burdett, New York. Geographically, our station falls within a long-standing study area which is designated as the Cayuga Lake Basin by the Cayuga Bird Club, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. For CBC purposes, we fall just within the 15-mile circle of the Watkins Glen count area. Waters flowing from Kestrel Haven enter Cayuga Lake via Taughannock Creek. Our nets are deployed along field edge, across hedgerow and stream, and in fallow fields at altitudes ranging from 1500 to 1700 feet above sea level.

Weather is normally harsher and temperatures lower by ten degrees than official conditions recorded in nearby Ithaca or Watkins Glen. Winds during this season predominated from the south.

We banded on 61 days between 7 August and 15 November. We curtailed operations upon the return of several Black-capped Chickadees and Tree Sparrows banded last winter. Captures were steady with high days on 8 August (77) and 20 August (66); 4, 13 September; 6, 24 October; and 10 November were all days above 50 captures, and on 10 October we banded nine species of sparrow.

Our ten days in August yielded 294 banded. September was slow with 403 banded over 24 days while October improved our yield to 484 banded over 19 days. Weather, always a negative factor, became severe in November but our rate remained high with 230 banded in eight days of operation. Overall, we handled 1730 birds and banded 1411 new individuals of 61 species. We had 295 repeats and 24 returns from our limited netting last fall (1986). Of the 1411 banded, 1323 (94%) were HY birds. Not reflected in our "top ten" list was our enjoyment of three *Tyrannidae*, seven *Turdinae*, three *Vireonidae*, 13 *Parulinae* and 13 *Emberizinae* species.

We look forward to next year's flow through our plateau between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Special thanks to Sue for all her net hours and to visiting bander Ed Smith of Virginia. Thanks also to Michelle Morin, 12, who spent several days learning, helping, and working toward her subpermit.

Newark Valley, New York
Judith A. Bell

421-0761

While 1987 marked the fifth consecutive year for banding operations at this station, it also marked one of the most dismal. A total of 862 birds were banded, the lowest since 1983, when far less nets were used. Due to rain and high winds on thirteen days in September, the station was in operation only 28 days from 26 August to 24 October. Twelve nets were used for 1,104 net hours, resulting in 78 birds/100 net hours. This was the lowest birds/100 net hours in the history of the station. There were 19 returns and 192 recaptures of previously banded birds. Peak activity came on 21 and 22 September and 10 and 2 October. The largest daily catch was 69 birds on 10 October. As usual, heavy fog was present on 66% of the banding days.

Only N. Cardinals and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were caught in record high numbers this fall. All sparrow numbers were below the five-year average, with Swamp Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows recording all-time low numbers. With the exception of an average flight of Common Yellowthroats, most other warbler numbers were down or nonexistent.

While the fall migration was disappointing overall, there were two bright spots. One was the banding of an AHY-M Wood Duck--a new species for this station. The other bright spot was that no white-tailed deer were netted this fall.

Presque Isle State Park
Erie, Pennsylvania
Jean Stull

420-0800

1987 marks the 26th consecutive year of fall banding at the Presque Isle State Park, Erie, Pennsylvania, station. Lake Erie water levels decreased enough so that banders were able to return to traditional net sites. On 30 August, 16 net hours of effort on Gull Point Sanctuary yielded one shorebird, a Semi-palmated Sandpiper.

The station was in operation on 19 days in August, September, and October, and 753 birds of 68 species were banded in 1049 net hours--averaging about 72 birds per 100 net hours. Numbers of nets used per day varied from 8 to 20, depending upon wind velocity and direction and numbers of people in the area.

During the past ten years, lower numbers of birds captured per net hour were recorded only in 1982, 1984, and 1985. No major weather fronts of any kind occurred on, just preceding, or following banding days.

One new species for the station, a Golden-winged Warbler, was banded on 29 August. A Scarlet Tanager on 10 October was late. One bird, a Carolina Wren banded in September, 1986, returned, indicating possible breeding in the area.

The station's best day was 4 October, when 202 birds were banded in 102 net hours. Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets and White-throated Sparrows made up the bulk of the totals that day and throughout the season. By contrast (and more typically), only nine birds were banded in 112 net hours on 19 September.

The ten-year average shows a decrease this year in Swainson's Thrushes, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers, and American Redstarts. Warbling Vireos and Winter Wrens increased.

Banders were Ronald Leberman, Thelma Patton, James G. Stull, and Jean Stull (station compiler).

During the 1987 fall season at Powdermill Nature Reserve, more than 100 birds were banded on 18 days, with more than 200 on five of these: 298 on 5 September, 213 on 11 September, 224 on 20 September, 222 on 23 September, and 223 on 24 October. The catch on our peak date (5 September) included 28 Tennessee Warblers, 28 Magnolia Warblers, 27 American Redstarts, 21 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 20 Red-eyed Vireos, and 11 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, among 39 species.

Table 1 lists our fall 1987 banding totals for selected species and the mean fall banding totals for these species (\pm S.D.) for the previous ten years (1977-1986). Nine species were caught in record high numbers this fall: Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Another three species made their best showing in the past ten years: House Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. One species, White-throated Sparrow, was captured in the lowest number ever, and another three species (Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Lincoln's Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow) were caught in the lowest numbers in the past ten years.

Overall, twelve species were banded in numbers significantly greater than the average of the past ten years, and only one species was banded in significantly lower numbers (i.e., 1987 total two or more standard deviations above or below the mean. See Table 1).

No unusual returns, recoveries, or bandings were recorded during the season.

Table 1. 1987 fall banding totals at Powdermill Nature reserve for selected species, compared with the mean fall banding totals for these species (\pm S.D.) for the years 1977-1986.

Hummingbird, Ruby- Thr.*	161 (88.1 \pm 33.0)	Warbler, Blackburnian	22 (11.1 \pm 6.1)
Wood-Pewee, Eastern	35 (38.1 \pm 14.3)	Prairie	7 (5.0 \pm 2.2)
Flycatcher, Yellow-Bellied	80 (86.1 \pm 20.4)	Palm	23 (21.7 \pm 7.1)
Acadian	21 (18.2 \pm 5.4)	Bay-breasted	66 (59.6 \pm 30.2)
Traill's	27 (18.5 \pm 9.2)	Blackpoll	24 (34.1 \pm 13.8)
Least	81 (87.0 \pm 19.3)	Black-and-White	23 (15.2 \pm 8.1)
Phoebe, Eastern	67 (45.8 \pm 14.4)	Redstart, American	194 (118.3 \pm 40.9)
Wren, House*	64 (39.1 \pm 10.4)	Ovenbird	55 (78.0 \pm 24.3)
Kinglet, Golden-Crowned	37 (32.1 \pm 15.8)	Wthrush, Northern	37 (39.5 \pm 14.7)
Ruby-Crowned	98 (199.6 \pm 92.4)	Warbler, Kentucky	10 (6.7 \pm 2.3)
Veery	11 (12.1 \pm 5.3)	Connecticut	15 (18.3 \pm 7.4)
Thrush, Gray-Cheeked	35 (64.4 \pm 34.2)	Mourning	11 (16.7 \pm 6.5)
Swainson's	229 (382.3 \pm 178.2)	Yellowthr, Common	341 (264.5 \pm 61.9)
Hermit	20 (51.5 \pm 22.4)	Warbler, Hooded*	140 (75.0 \pm 25.2)
Wood	36 (37.7 \pm 17.3)	Wilson's*	45 (28.2 \pm 8.1)
Catbird, Gray	263 (251.0 \pm 50.2)	Canada	35 (39.1 \pm 10.4)
Vireo, White-eyed	11 (11.0 \pm 38)	Chat, Yellow-br.*	8 (2.1 \pm 2.1)
Solitary	27 (26.6 \pm 14.0)	Tanager, Scarlet*	108 (53.7 \pm 20.1)
Philadelphia	24 (31.2 \pm 18.9)	Grosbeak, Rose-br.	117 (83.3 \pm 22.5)
Red-eyed*	220 (129.7 \pm 26.5)	Bunting, Indigo	102 (81.7 \pm 24.9)
Warbler, Blue-winged*	23 (15.2 \pm 8.1)	Sparrow, Field	80 (122.2 \pm 24.7)
Golden-Winged*	8 (2.4 \pm 2.3)	Fox	52 (44.6 \pm 27.9)
Tennessee	242 (212.3 \pm 73.4)	Song	321 (328.0 \pm 97.6)
Nashville	59 (54.6 \pm 18.9)	Lincoln's	35 (54.9 \pm 17.2)
Chestnut-Sided*	85 (35.7 \pm 11.2)	Swamp	147 (153.3 \pm 62.2)
Magnolia	268 (270.6 \pm 69.0)	White-throated*	110 (468.7 \pm 145.0)
Cape May	48 (160.6 \pm 114.3)	White-crowned	7 (18.3 \pm 10.0)
Black-thr. Blue	26 (22.6 \pm 11.0)	Junco, Dark-eyed	454 (471.0 \pm 207.2)
Yellow-rumped	152 (396.4 \pm 252.9)	Finch, House*	215 (24.8 \pm 31.3)
Black-thr. Grn.	98 (58.2 \pm 26.4)	Siskin, Pine*	361 (29.4 \pm 27.9)

*1987 total is two or more standard deviations above or below the mean

The thirtieth year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory must be considered an average year. The station was in continuous operation from 15 August to 6 October with six additional days in October ending on the 19th. Bad weather closed the station on two days and so at least some banding was done on 57 days. The early period was very dry but early September had heavy and frequent rains. On four October days there were freezing or near freezing conditions.

A total of 7911 birds (5th highest total and just about equal to the seven-year average) of 87 species (new high) and one hybrid was banded in a station effort of 4996 net hours (5th highest), giving a capture rate of 158 birds per 100 net hours (9th highest). No new species were added to the station list, which stands at 115, with a total of 123,069 birds banded. This station does not band hummingbirds, but this year 92 were released from the nets and 184 were logged as flying by the banding shelter.

A Magnolia Warbler banded here in 1985 and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in 1983 were captured this year as were three birds banded in 1986. During the year, we had notice of a Blackburnian Warbler banded in 1985 being recovered in Honduras in May 1986 and a Black-throated Blue Warbler banded in 1984 recovered in New Hampshire in July 1987.

The season started slowly and no sizeable wave appeared in August. The usual early season peak came on 2 September following a weak cold front but only 230 birds were involved. Bad weather reduced the catches in early September. The highest daily count was 631 on 14 September followed by 517 on 15 September. Oddly, there was no major weather activity in advance of this period. Besides these high counts, only nine days had more than 300 bandings and only one had more than 400.

The most numerous species was the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 1207 banded. The Black-throated Green Warbler was second with 921 bandings and the Tennessee Warbler, the usual leader, was third with 885 bandings. The usually numerous Cape May Warbler had only 290 bandings compared with the seven-year average of 726. The Swainson's Thrush continues to be low. A new record for Blue Jays was set with the aid, in late September, of a special net site for them. Of 38 species with enough captures to make the calculation worthwhile, 17 species were in average numbers (within one standard deviation of the mean); 17 were above average (more than one standard deviation) and four were below average. Eleven species were in record high numbers and one tied the highest yearly count.

During the season, a total of 1631 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 17 states, the District of Columbia, as well as Germany, Italy, and New Zealand. Several elementary and high school classes visited the station as did some college classes.

The banders who participated this year were Walter Fye, Ephe Olliver, Bob and Patty Hogan, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, and Charles Ziegenfus, along with co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. LaJay Graffious was again responsible for the shelter. As usual, the net lanes were in the charge of Genevieve and John Findley. Throughout the season, Kathleen and Mike Finnegan, Harriett and Mel Hooker, and Ivareen Pierce provided assistance. The Minnear family was present on most weekends. Ken Heselton added a two-layer net assembly to the net lanes, which was notably successful.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Lynn Barnhart, Rodney Bartgis, Robert Bastarache, Pat Beale, Arlene Blunton, Kyle Bush, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Nathan Davis, Robert Dean, Ruth Ann Dean, Kathy DeVaul, Cindy Ellis, David Ellis, Jim Evans, Brian Findley, Bryce Findley, Hal Findley, Jenny Findley, Janet Fletcher, Tom Fox, Annabelle Fye, Barb Graff, JoAnn Graham, Phil Graham, Mike Griffith, Brian Gwynne, Andrew Hall, Sue Hesselton, Linda Hollenberg, Diana Holsinger, Charlotte Hurley, George Hurley, Tom Hurley, Patrick Hurley, June Huy, Jim Huy, Karen Huy, Mike Huy, Gene Hutton, Ben Kiff, Maxine Kiff, Pat Kimpan, David Ladd, Nevada Laitsch, Sean Leasure, Kathleen Leo, Kevin Mangum, Joe Marshall, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Anne McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Joel Miltenberge, Janice Musser, Ben Myers, Jean Neely, Maura Newell, Don Ober, Harry Osborne, Louise Osborne, Charles Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Ann Pyle, Esther Reichelderfer, Beth Ritter, Randy Ritter, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Miles Runner, Noodie Runner, Linda Scandale, Janet Schaeffer, Joe Schreiber, Ed Smith, Todd Snopp, Bill Wentzel, Brad Wentzel, Cory Wentzel, Robert Whitmore, Martin Wiley, and John Willetts.

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