

1995

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv

North American Bird Bander

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator

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Twelve stations contributed to AFR IV's fall 1994 migration monitoring report. We were especially pleased to have input from Peter Homann's Laurentian Mt. station after an absence of many years.

Overall, 1994 fall banding results were disappointing. Lewiston, Kestrel Haven, and Alfred were the only stations reporting higher birds/net hour ratios, in comparison with 1993 results. All other stations had declines in birds/net hour, with Braddock Bay reporting the lowest number ever, Powdermill the lowest since 1976, and Allegheny Front the third lowest ever.

Nesting season results varied from station to station, but many banders commented on the long, beautiful autumn with few cold front passages, which contributed to lower capture rates. There were few kinglets anywhere and a poor Black-capped Chickadee migration. Thrushes were markedly down at Maitland, Braddock Bay, Alfred, and Powdermill.

The season's best days varied significantly from station to station. Kestrel Haven's highest totals came on 27 July. Farmersville, Hebron, and Lost River had their biggest days during August. Lewiston, Alfred, Powdermill, and Allegheny Front reported their best capture day occurring in September. October was the month for the best day at Braddock Bay, Maitland, and Presque Isle, while Spring Hill's biggest catch did not occur until 4 November!

Kestrel Haven contributed further strong evidence to convince banders to begin their fall migration monitoring early. An HY-M Yellow Warbler banded there on 24 July was recovered on Long Island (220 mi SE) on 10 August. Many AFR contributors have moved to an earlier start-up date, thus improving the quality of our coverage of migration.

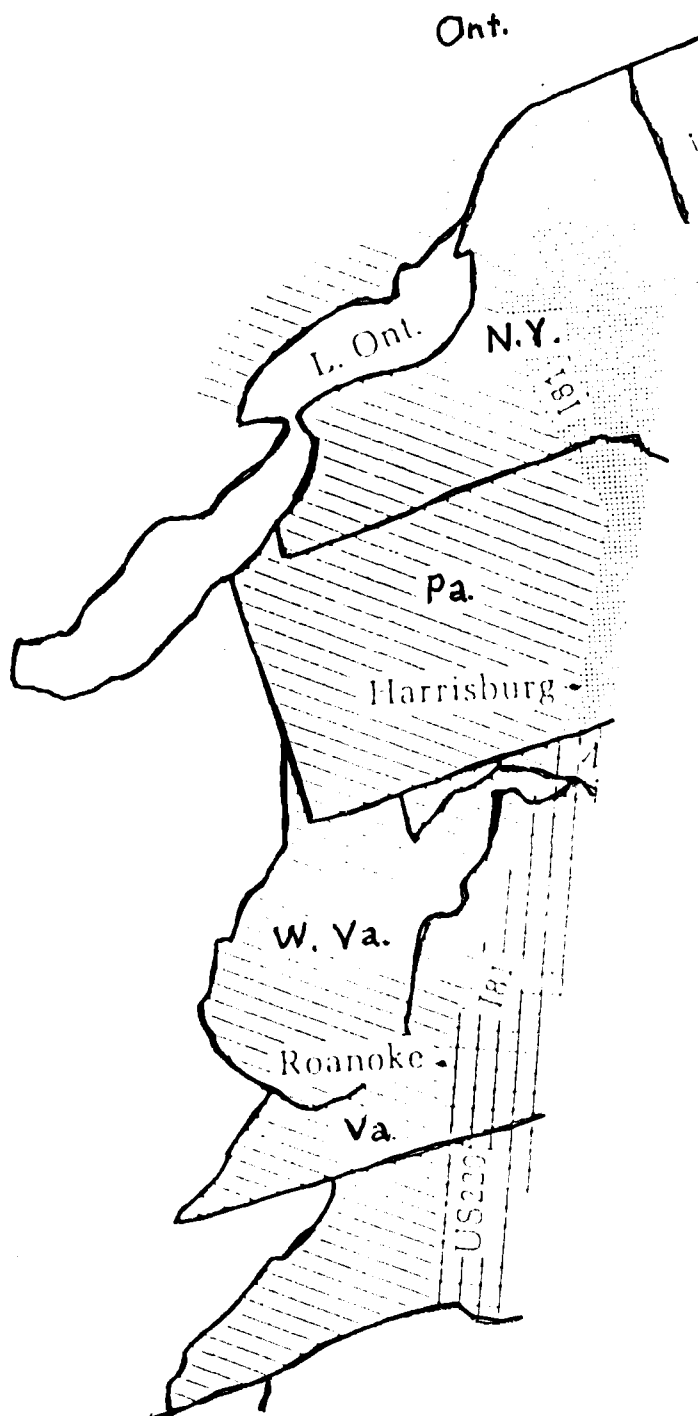


TABLE 1. FALL 1994 REGION IV SUMMARY.

	Lost River Quebec	Maitland River Ont.	Braddock Bay NY	Lewiston NY	Spring Hill NY	Farmers- ville Station NY
First Day/Last Day	8/8-8/24	8/12-10/30	7/18-12/1	9/5-10/14	7/30-11/11	8/11-11/17
Days Operated	16	36	31	10	18	52
Nets Used	5-9	42	6-20	18	9-11.5*	4
Total Net Hrs.	1330	15,681	2638	702	1352	523
Best Day (Date)	13 (8/10,11,12)	55 (10/22)	136 (10/5)	48 (9/8,9/22)	54 (11/4)	10 (8/17)
No. Banded '93	238	691	1597	277	339	558
No. Banded '94	98	449	1059	380	295	154
No. Species '93	32	64	64	40	55	41
No. Species '94	28	56	59	37	42	31
Birds/100 NH '93	19	4	67	47	38	43
Birds/100 NH '94	7	3	40	54	22	19
Overall % HY '93	NA	NA	81	NA	79	72
Overall % HY '94	73	72	81	93	172	88

* Plus some traps.

Table 1 (continued). Fall 1994 Region IV Summary.

	Kestrel Haven, NY	Alfred Station, NY	Presque Isle, PA	Hebron, PA	Powdermil- l, PA	Allegheny Front, WV
First Da/Last Day	7/16-11/16	8/10-11/15	7-16-10/30	8/1-11/12	8/1-11/30	8/13-10/9
Days Oper.	92	80	17	40	105	65
Nets Used	1-18	1-7	5-20	1-11	4-45	10-22
Total Net Hrs	2646	1538	1464	560	13,440	6595
Best Day (date)	94 (7/27)	80 (9/15)	44 (10/2)	78 (8/7)	205 (9/18)	542 (9/10)
No. Banded '93	1986	544	519	1288	5953	3797
No. Banded '94	2103	478	383	689	4898	4024
No. Species '93	90	66	62	67	103	81
No. Species '94	86	56	64	61	101	68
Birds/100 NH '93	73	27	56	139	43	49
Birds/100 NH '94	80	31	26	123	37	61
Overall %HY '93	89	65	70	75	NA	NA
Overall %HY '94	87	70	73	75	NA	NA

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, AFR Region IV, 1994.

Lost River, Quebec			Maitland River, Ontario			Braddock Bay, NY			Lewiston, NY			Spring Hill, NY			Farmersville Station, NY		
13	BOCH	(3)	69	GCKI	(5)	143	RCKI	(7)	50	GRCA		35	SOSP	(1)	24	BOCH	(3)
10	MAWA	(1)	53	SCJU	(1)	137	GCKI	(6)	47	MAWA		34	SCJU		14	HOFI	(2)
9	OVEN		51	RCKI	(4)	134	WTSP	(1)	47	WTSP		30	BOCH	(3)	14	COYE	(5)
8	BTNW	(2)	23	WWR	(7)	82	SCJU		36	HETH		25	GRCA	(2)	11	GRCA	(9)
			15	MAWA		77	HETH	(3)	36	GCKI		17	AMRO		8	SOSP	(10)
			15	SOSP		49	AMGO		20	BOCH		15	WTSP	(4)	6	MAWA	(7)
			14	BOCH	(3)	47	YWAR	(5)	17	RCKI		12	CEDW		5	SCJU	
			13	OVEN	(8)	41	MAWA		16	OVEN		11	AMGO	(9)	3	MODD	
			13	WTSP		35	SOSP	(4)	10	COYE		10	RCKI		3	AMRE	
			13	FOSP		24	BOCH	(2)	10	AMRO		10	REVI	(8)	3	AMGO	(1)
						24	GRCA	(10)									

Table 2 (continued). Most commonly banded species, AFR Region IV, 1994.

Kestrel Haven, NY			Alfred Station, NY			Presque Isle, PA			Hebron, PA			Powdermill, PA			Allegheny Front, WV		
373	SOSP	(1)	55	MAWA	(4)	33	WTSP	(3)	82	SOSP	(2)	625	AMGO	(2)	639	BTBW	(2)
141	GRCA	(2)	54	SCJU	(1)	30	YWAR		75	INBU	(1)	522	SCJU	(1)	629	BLPW	(1)
136	COYE	(3)	28	BOCH	(2)	27	HOWR	(7)	61	SCJU	(3)	258	MYWA	(7)	457	BTNW	(3)
129	CEDW		28	COYE	(8)	25	GRCA	(10)	36	SCTA	(10)	238	RCKI	(8)	358	TEWA	(10)
110	MYWA		27	HOFI		19	SOSP	(8)	33	COYE	(8)	216	WTSP	(6)	305	SWTH	(6)
88	YWAR	(9)	25	AMGO		18	HETH	(5)	32	HOFI	(6)	212	MAWA		231	CMWA	(4)
64	HOFI	(7)	22	FBGR	(5)	16	WWR		29	CSWA	(4)	209	COYE	(10)	212	MAWA	(8)
60	EAPH	(8)	16	LEFL		14	BAOR		27	GRCA	(7)	200	SOSP	(4)	162	BLBW	
56	BOCH	(5)	16	SOSP	(3)	14	GCKI	(1)	27	BOCH		198	RTHU	(9)	146	BBWA	
54	AMGO		14	BLJA	(6)	14	RCKI	(2)	20	BAOR		164	GRCA	(5)	110	SCJU	(5)
			14	NAWA													

Laurentian Mountains**455-0743**

Quebec, Canada

Peter H. Homann

A previous account of banding results from this banding station in southwestern Quebec (close to Lost River) was contributed to the Atlantic Flyway Review in 1974 (*EBBA News* 38:136). Most of the banding since that time was in late July and early August and did not involve many transient birds. Therefore, submission of data was deemed inappropriate during the past two decades. In recent years, banding activities could be extended to at least mid-August. These activities monitored only a very few migrating passerines, but pre-migration movement of birds was evident. Hence, the collected data may have some relevance to the general overview of migration as provided by the Atlantic Flyway Review.

Mist nets were located on the shores of a lake among alder and sweet-gale shrubbery, in openings of the adjacent cedar/spruce/fir/birch forest, as well as at the boggy edge of the same woods along a dirt road. Some data are summarized in the Table below (note that a much shorter time period was covered in 1989).

	1989	1993	1994
Time Period	8/5-8/13	8/2-8/21	8/8-8/24
Net Hours	590	1275	1330
Total Birds	114	235	93
# of Species	29	32	28

The banding results in 1994 reflected an abnormally low abundance of passerines in the study area. Significant pre-migratory associations of birds in flocks were not seen during the entire period, quite in contrast to preceding years. The cool and very wet summer may have had an adverse effect on

breeding success. Among the regularly captured species, Chestnut-sided Warblers were conspicuously lacking--in peculiar contrast to their reappearance after a 12-year absence among the migrants banded by me in Tallahassee, Florida.

Maitland River Bird Observatory 435-0812

Huron County, Ontario, Canada

John B. Miles

In fall 1994, the Maitland Bird Observatory was in operation from 12 August to 30 October. A total of 449 birds of 56 species were banded which is below normal for this station. The station was operated by John and Steven Miles. During the fall, migration banding demonstrations were done for visiting groups from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Huron Fringed Naturalists' Club.

Banding equipment used was again consistent to that of previous years with up to 42 mist nets as well as a sparrow trap in operation. Despite a good nesting season in northern Ontario, the passerine migration was very poor at the Ontario banding stations. Field observers also reported small birds hard to find. It may have been that with the large number of clear nights, the birds migrated right over the province.

The most noteworthy species banded in 1994 was the station's first Traill's Flycatcher in over 10 years! In general, most species were down in numbers, particularly warblers and thrushes.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774

Monroe County, New York

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler

The tenth consecutive year of fall banding at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station banded for 31 days beginning on 18 July and ending on 1 December. Banding was done by Elizabeth Brooks, Robert McKinney and Sharon Skelly

with help from several volunteers. A total of 1059 birds were banded, representing 59 species. The ratio of 40 birds/100 net hours was the lowest ever. Northern Oriole was the only new species for the cumulative fall banding list which now stands at 98 forms. Record high counts were recorded for Blue Jay, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Slate-colored Junco. Record low counts occurred for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush, and Philadelphia Vireo.

There were 98 repeats and 16 returns. Returns of fall-banded birds included a Song Sparrow in its fifth year. Interesting were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet with orange crown feathers and three White-throated Sparrows with orange lores.

The following individuals provided help and support: Jack Duval, Brian Mongi, Tom Muller, Dan Niven, Dick O'Hara, Jeanne Skelly, Tom Smith, Lloyd Swart, and Dave Tetlow. Donations from the Genesee Ornithological Society, the Rochester Birding Association and many other individuals are gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks go to Bill and June Kaiser for their continued support and permission to band on their land.

Lewiston **431-0790**
Niagara County, New York
Jerald J. Farrell

The fall 1994 banding season was completed on 14 October. The banding station habitat has changed very little in the 18 years of operation. There is a mixture of pines, thorn apple, low brush, and some second-growth hardwoods. The weather was very good for the planned banding days with no unscheduled lost time.

In addition to the total birds banded (380), there were 17 local retraps but no foreign retraps.

Spring Hill Wildlife Sanctuary **423-0772**
Steuben County, New York
Robert G. McKinney

The year 1994 was the third year of operation of this AFR station with operation conducted on 18 days between 30 July and 11 November. The station is on the top of a hill at 2,000' elevation on a north-facing slope with open fields, brushy areas, and woodlots. A total of 295 birds of 42 species were banded using from nine to 11.5 mist nets for a total of 1352 net hours. A few of these birds were captured in a potter trap, an all-purpose trap, and a government sparrow trap. In spite of good weather which permitted netting on all of the scheduled banding days, the number of some species, most notably vireos, warblers, and sparrows, was low.

Most noteworthy was a juvenile plumage Northern Saw-whet Owl banded on 11 September. The bird was caught in a net that was two-thirds closed to avoid deer. This bird was probably fledged locally, and it is the first time this observer has been aware of local nesting of this species.

Farmersville Station **422-0782**
Cattaraugus County, New York
Donald F. Clark

The 26th report from Farmersville Station has the fewest banding numbers ever for the Atlantic Flyway Review. Only 154 birds were banded in 52 days. The dearth of birds could be due in part to the beautiful, long autumn. The first snow of the year came on 22 November, which set a record in this area for the latest day for a first snowfall. In addition, this region was hit hard with the Cherry Scallop

Shell moth that defoliated cherry trees in July and August. There were no wild cherries to attract the fruit- and seed-eating birds. Since my banding area has 50+ cherry trees in and around it, there was a definite lack of food. We had one other problem: the beaver dammed up our creek and flooded out the net lanes that I have used all these years. The problem was solved by putting in an electric fence to prevent them from repairing the dam.

Banding was done from 11 August to 17 November. Four mist nets plus five traps were used. I banded, weighed, and measured 154 new birds of 31 species. In addition, 27 birds repeated and nine returned. Of the returns, one Song Sparrow was five years old and two Common Yellowthroats were four years old. A Gray Catbird banded 21 August 1992 was recovered near Bolivar, New York (25 miles SE) on 20 June 1994.

I caught only 35 warblers of 11 species this year. However, I banded by first Louisiana Warbler and my second Connecticut Warbler. Myrtle Warblers, usually my most common catch, were non-existent. In comparison, Betsy Brooks caught 35 warblers in one net at one time in Alfred—only 30 miles away. So at least there was some warbler migration, it just missed this area.

Only three thrush, one vireo and one White-throated Sparrow, were caught. House Finches were active at feeders until the last week of August, but most disappeared until the last week of November. Juncos and goldfinches, that normally come to feeders in October and November, did not arrive.

Our pond provides a resting area for up to 200 Canada Geese daily. They arrive in the morning and stay until just before dark. This year no neck-banded geese were observed.

Kestrel Haven

422-0764

Schuyler County, New York

John and Sue Gregoire

A very early start to migration led to our third consecutive record year. We banded 2103 birds of 86 species during 2646 net hours of operation in 92 days. Repeats numbering 558, 78 returns, one foreign retrap, and many House Sparrows, starlings, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds released unbanded contributed to a total of 2930 birds netted. Our measure of efficiency in birds per 100 net hours was 79.5 for newly banded birds and 110.7 overall. Since opening in the fall of 1987, this station has banded 10,775 birds of 109 species. New this season were gray-phase Eastern Screech-Owl, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Grasshopper Sparrow. We also had our first returns of Tree Swallow and Eastern Kingbird. Several returns of Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, and Yellow Warbler, all in their sixth year, were among the longest-lived returnees.

Point counts were reduced to daily counts on-site and only aperiodic comparisons of activity at lower altitudes to our east and west. In eight years of recording migration over the Seneca/Cayuga Lakes basins, we note an increase in the use of the lakes and their littorals as a major migratory route. While waterfowl move southward over the lakes, the land mass between has become a major passerine flyway.

Indicative of the very early beginning of migration was an HY-M Yellow Warbler banded here on 24 July (after our resident nesters had dispersed) and recovered after striking a building on 10 August in Hicksville, Long Island, New York (220 mi SE). Several other species of flycatcher, warbler, and icterid had also dispersed by the first week of July, with migrants arriving in mid-month. At the

other end of migration, activity was reduced sharply by early October. The extremely mild weather and abundant wild food supply contributed to keeping our wintering "feeder populations" from arriving until well after we ceased migration banding.

Fall weather was largely governed by an unseasonable jet stream configuration that may have shepherded many species to the east and west of expected flyways. A related result may have been our retrap of a banded SY-M Myrtle Warbler on 12 October. This bird had been banded last October at Long Point, Ontario. The Canadian Lake Erie station is 180 mi to our west.

Berry and nut crops were fantastic this year. Two large ($n=100$) flocks of Cedar Waxwings were induced to remain in the vicinity of the station for several weeks owing to the abundance of Pokeweed berries (*Phytolacca americana*) and Mountain Ash berry (*Sorbus americana*) which provided the opportunity to more closely study these migrants. Firstly, each flock was composed of 98% HY birds under the tutelage of two adult females. This hints at a species-specific migration strategy of nursery flocks being shepherded through their first migratory flight. Fast learners, it didn't take long to denude all the ripe Poke in the area. Secondly, of 129 Cedar Waxwings banded, 22 HYs had orange tail bands which may be indicative of diet on their breeding territories (all adults had yellow bands). Of greater interest was one HY-U banded on 4 October. This bird was in the final stages of post-juvenal molt and its tail band was changing from orange to yellow, perhaps as a result of the dietary change to largely Poke berries along with Wild Grape (*Vitis spp*) and Cherry (*Prunus spp*).

Hypoboscids flies were prevalent in August on 14 species. Two Black-capped Chickadees were banded with very short wing/tail measurements, more closely indicative of

Carolina Chickadee. An American Robin with an everted ear when banded on 27 July was normal when it repeated four days later.

Overall, most species were within one standard deviation (SD) of the eight-year norm. Sharp-shinned Hawk was +3 SD while Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, and House Wren were +2 SD. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were up by almost 2 SD, while sparrows were down a bit overall. A significant and welcome change was the 34 Field Sparrows banded—our largest count by far since 1987. We believe this very large rebound was due to the rains which prevented much second and third cutting of hay this year in the northeastern U.S. and Canada.

The "endgame" was tedious with few birds banded after 14 October. We normally end fall migration banding upon the arrival of previously banded birds which form our wintering flocks of Tree Sparrows, juncos, and chickadees. This year, we struck nets arbitrarily on 16 November as none of these (two Tree Sparrow returns) had yet arrived.

We wish to thank the Watkins Glen/Montour Falls Lions, Watkins Glen International, and J.J. O'Malley for their support and assistance.

Alfred Station

421-0774

Allegany County, New York

Elizabeth W. Brooks

The 17th year of fall banding at Alfred began on 10 August and continued until 15 November. During 80 days of banding, from one to seven nets were used in similar locations as in previous years (near feeders, along a small stream, and adjacent to buckthorn, briars, and maturing pine and spruce). A total of 478 birds of 56 species were banded during 1538 net hours of operation (31.1 birds/100 net hours). Eastern Bluebird was the only new species for the

cumulative fall banding list which now stands at 99 species. The number of birds banded is slightly above the 15-year average of 457 (range 139 [1975] and 672 [1982]). Fewer nets were used this year due to early-season problems with a feral cat. (The birds/100 net hour ratio is the highest ever, possibly because several less-productive and harder-to-monitor nets were not used.)

Record high counts were recorded for Traill's and Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Record low counts occurred for Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Song Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Species missing entirely that are usually recorded were Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, flicker, Bay-breasted Warbler, cardinal, Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrow.

There were 114 repeats and 16 returns. Noteworthy returns were a Downy Woodpecker in its sixth year and four-year-old chickadees, Chipping and Song Sparrows. Fifteen birds representing 10 species were found with hypoboscids flies, mostly in the early part of the season. A Cedar Waxwing (AHY-F) banded in early August had an orange terminal tail band.

In general, the weather was warmer than normal with few big cold fronts. Only two significant waves of migrants were noted--one on 14-15 August and the second on 15-16 September.

Banding demos were held for several home-schoolers and for campers at a nearby Girl Scout camp.

Presque Isle State Park
Erie, Pennsylvania
Ronald F. Leberman

420-0800

The results of fall banding at Presque Isle this year were disappointing. Only 383 new birds were banded in 1465 net hours, and the average of 26 birds/100 net hours was a 50% reduction from 1993. The station was in operation for 17 days from 15 July to 29 October. The best day was 2 October when 44 birds were banded (one of the lowest 'best days' in many years). A total of 64 species were banded with one new for the station: a (Long-billed) Marsh Wren.

We found no deer ticks on birds this fall. We netted and banded a Black-capped Chickadee with a mostly white cap and white bill. Noteworthy was the banding of an adult male Yellow-breasted Chat in molt on 16 July and its recapture two weeks later. Was this a locally breeding bird or an early migrant? There were some interesting returns of fall-banded birds including a Yellow Warbler in its ninth year.

As usual, weather plays a big part at this station. Unfortunately, we had just three favorable days of NW wind in the 17 days of banding, with no major cold fronts and drier-than-normal conditions.

Thanks to Thelma Patton, Pat Wishart, Jean Stull, and the Park officials for their help.

Hebron
Potter County, Pennsylvania
David W. Hauber

415-0780

Banding at Hebron for fall 1994 was carried out from 1 August to 12 November in the same location and using the same net lanes as in previous years. Discouraging numbers of birds and decreased available time to band resulted in a 20% drop in net hours.

Banding was conducted on 40 days. There were 817 birds handled with 689 new birds banded of 61 species. There were 91 repeats and 37 returns. New species for the station for fall migration were Worm-eating Warbler and Sharp-shinned Hawk, which brings to 83 the number of different species taken during six fall banding seasons.

Indigo Bunting numbers declined dramatically with only 75 buntings banded and four returns this year compared to 1993 when we banded 268 and had eight returns.

Many thanks to Kirk Newton, the Gary Witmer family, Chris Keir, Candi Thomas, and Ben Hauber for their invaluable assistance during the season.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791
Rector, Pennsylvania
Robert C. Leberman
Robert S. Mulvihill

Fall 1994 was our 34th consecutive year of fall banding at Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve. Although banding effort (in terms of net hours) was statistically average, our August-November total of 4898 birds gave us our lowest capture rate (birds/100 net hours) since 1976. We banded 100 or more birds on just eight out of 105 banding days; the best of these was 18 September, when 205 birds were netted.

In general, *Empidonax* flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and several species of finches were in rather poor numbers; most warbler totals were statistically average. Of 70 species looked at statistically, American Goldfinch (with 625 banded) was 3 SD above the average of the previous ten years; Western Palm Warbler (42 banded) was 2 SD above average. With just 32 banded, Least Flycatcher was 2 SD below average. For the first time in the history of the Powdermill

banding program, no Acadian Flycatchers were banded during the fall flight.

A Carolina Chickadee netted on 16 October was the first recorded at the Reserve in several years, as was the "Brewster's" Warbler captured on 31 August. Four Orange-crowned Warblers were banded between 9 and 14 October, including a very brightly colored adult male that we identified as belonging to the western subspecies, *V.c. orestera*, which has very rarely been recorded in the east. An "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco was the first so identified at Powdermill in a number of years.

We had about 300 visitors to the banding station during the fall and gave formal banding demonstrations to a dozen groups, including several university classes. We are pleased to acknowledge the following people who contributed to the success of the fall banding program at Powdermill in 1994: Jim Gruber, Jane Huff, Carroll Labarthe, Grant Milliron, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Kenneth C. Parkes, Barb Rich, Carole Shanahan, Bob Shaw, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and Peggy Wisner.

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

While it was a better year than 1993, the 37th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory must be considered another poor season. Except for an early rainy period, the weather was good and several frontal passages occurred. However, only one major flight developed. The station was in continuous operation from 13 August to 9 October; some banding was carried out on 65 days.

A total of 4024 (sixth poorest) birds of 68 species (second lowest) was banded with a

station effort of 6595 net hours (fourth highest) giving a capture ratio of 60 birds/100 net hours (third poorest). There were 455 birds banded in August, 3152 in September, and 433 in October. The station has now banded a total of 158,454 birds of 117 species and two hybrids. No new species were captured this year.

The recapture of a Black-throated Green Warbler and two Magnolia Warblers banded in 1993 and another Magnolia banded in 1990 were noteworthy.

A major cold front brought the only heavy migratory movement on 8-12 September when 1211 birds were banded. Two other periods of heavy movement which were not accompanied by major frontal movements were 15-17 September with 771 birds banded, and 24-25 September with 285 bandings. Surprisingly, a major cold front on 28-29 September did not result in a large migratory movement. The biggest day was on 10 September when 542 birds were banded, the highest one-day total since 1988. On only nine other days did the number of captures exceed 100; and on five of these, the number was between 200 and 300.

As in most years, the most numerous species was the Blackpoll Warbler with 629 bandings (a number which is 9.4% below the 10-year average). The Black-throated Blue Warbler with 639 (16.7% below average) was second, and the Black-throated Green Warbler was third with 457 bandings (3% above the 10-year average). Of 35 species for which a meaningful analysis could be made, only four were not below the 10-year average. Seventeen species were less than one standard deviation (SD) below that average; 12 species were between one and two SD below; and one species (Ruby-crowned Kinglet) was more than two SD below average. Only the Palm Warbler was more than one SD above the 10-year average.

The low numbers of both kinglet species as well as some of the migrant sparrows might well be the result of the early close of the station this year. There were some notable absences and low numbers. No Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded; very few Blue Jays were seen flying over and only six were banded; only four flycatchers and two Song Sparrows were caught.

A total of 3252 warblers were banded--27% below the 10-year average. The 3611 Neotropical migrants were also 27% below average. These figures are better than the 49% below average obtained in 1993. The three "spruce budworm specialists" did better than last year; but the Tennessee was still 47% below average, the Cape May Warbler was 53% below average, and the Bay-breasted Warbler was 29% below.

The Hermit Thrush was one of the few species that was handled in above-average numbers (+12%). Swainson's Thrush was in better shape than in the past few years but still 7% below average, while both the Gray-cheeked and Wood Thrushes were 59% below average.

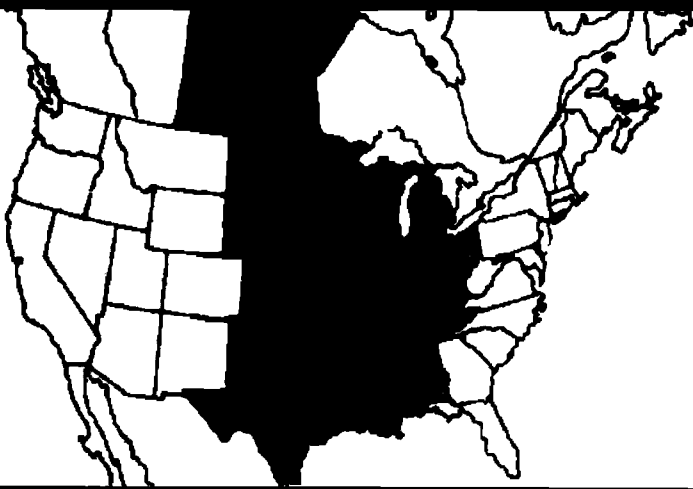
The visual migrant counts were continued but with fewer hours spent on this project. A total of 310 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted (down from 388 last year). Only 49 Blue Jays were counted by 1 October and few came through while the station was open in October. By contrast, the 3495 American Goldfinches counted was a new record, with 461 seen on 11 September. Only 302 Monarch Butterflies were counted, but this total was depressed by the absence of many afternoon counts.

During the season, 11,467 people signed our visitors' book. These visitors came from 23 states, the District of Columbia, and Zimba-

bwe. Our educational function continued as several elementary, high school, and college classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, Walter Frye, LeJay Graffious, Sue Haselton, Joan Pattison, Janet Shaffer, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. LeJay Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter, and as usual Genevieve and John Findley were in charge of the net lanes. Ivarean Pierce, who also headed up the Blue Jay-Hummingbird counts, Ken Heselton, and

Carl Rowe were present for extended periods of time. In addition, 53 people aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways, and their help is gratefully acknowledged. We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Jim Page, District Ranger Nancy Feakes, Recreation Specialist Jill Shoemaker, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to Walt Lesser of the D.N.R. for the use of the Laneville cabin for housing and storage of the shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

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The Capture of a Merlin: A New Technique

About 9:30, 17 October 1995, I received a call from the manager of Lowe's Department Store here in Springfield, Illinois, about a "hawk" that was flying around inside the store. He wanted to know what could be done to remove the bird from the building. Since I do not usually make "house" visits, when such calls arrive I attempt to explain capture and release tactics to the callers according to their desperation and the probable species involved. Most calls received are from frantic housewives who suddenly find one or more birds flying through their homes (usually starlings or House Sparrows) or a fireplace full of crawling birds (most often young Chimney Swifts). However, the present case seemed different, especially since the bird

was reported as a "hawk" (which in layman's language could be anything). So I volunteered to investigate the problem and help with a potential solution.

I arrived at Lowe's about 9:50 and was promptly shown the "hawk" sitting above one of the check-out counters. Sure enough, it was a hawk, but a species I would never have suspected: a Merlin. In nearly every instance, birds under stress inside buildings stay near the ceiling, even when doors and windows are open. The Merlin was no exception. A simple procedure for capturing birds inside buildings is to keep them flying until they tire themselves out and float down, often to the floor,