

1996

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iii (western Ridge )--fall 1995

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1996) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iii (western Ridge )--fall 1995," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 21 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol21/iss3/7>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

# *Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge )—Fall 1995*

*Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator*  
1435 Waterwells Road  
Alfred Station, NY 14803

The AFR III report summarizes and analyzes fall migration from the Sudbury/Georgian Bay regions of Canada, through the Lake Erie/Lake Ontario gap down through the Appalachians. Eleven stations contributed banding results from the 1995 fall migration season. Welcome additions were Ruthven Park and Long Point Bird Observatory, both from Ontario. Ruthven Park will monitor the flow of migrants along the Grand River corridor to Lake Erie. Long Point continues its impressive tradition of migration monitoring on the north shore of Lake Erie. Smith Farm and Calmes Neck from western Virginia became part of the Region III report as a result of the geographical redistribution of the AFR. Next fall, we are anticipating a report from Tennessee and additional coverage from western Pennsylvania but we still have geographical gaps in coverage and would welcome new reporting stations.

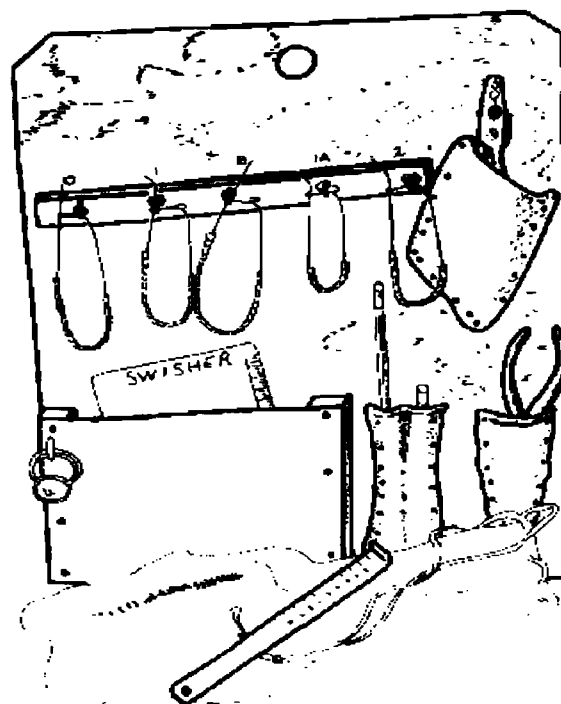
In general, 1995 totals and species' counts were up in the northern and eastern areas of our region including Maitland, Lewiston, Presque Isle, Hebron, and Calmes Neck and Powdermill had its second highest totals ever. But farther south and west, results were down at Lakeshore Estates and Smith Farm, and Allegheny Front had its worst season since full-time banding began. The necessary cold fronts that came at regular intervals at the northern stations may have lost intensity at more southern stations. Most stations reported their best results in October.

Noteworthy events were the banding of Maitland's second White-winged Junco and Presque Isle's first Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Allegheny Front captured a record 13 Northern Saw-whet Owls. Powdermill banders must have had some very sore fingers after processing 110 Purple Finches and 97 Black-capped Chickadees in one day!

Lewiston reported better thrush numbers, especially Wood Thrush; but thrushes continued to be in poor numbers at Allegheny Front. The massive Black-capped Chickadee eruption that occurred in parts of the northeast was in evidence in the Maitland, Lewiston, Ruthven Park, Hebron, and Powdermill corridor and a few even managed to drop down to Calmes Neck in western Virginia where they are very uncommon. Yet Long Point, scene of some classic chickadee eruptive movements in the past, saw few of this species.

There was evidence of considerable Blue Jay movement with Powdermill reporting their numbers up 7 SD while Allegheny Front recorded 6459 jays (highest since 1991) on their impressive and valuable visual counts. Numbers of American Tree Sparrow improved at several stations with numbers up at Hebron and Powdermill (+8 SD).

The individual station narratives make interesting reading. Jerry Farrell helped tape a half-hour program on banding for educational television. And John Miles is making us all wish we could take early retirement!



**Table 1. Fall 1995 Region III Summary.**

	<b>Maitland River Ont.</b>	<b>Lewiston NY</b>	<b>Ruthven Park Ont.</b>	<b>Long Point Ont.</b>	<b>Presque Isle PA</b>
First Day	07/30	08/30	09/28	07/31	07/08
Last Day	10/29	10/12	11/06	11/14	10/28
Days Operated	45	13	14	102	22
No. Nets Used	37-41	20	3-5	10-14	10-12
Total Net Hrs.	21,354	910	281	10,897	1647
Lgst.Daily Catch	64	83	48	226	54
Date of LDC	10/24	09/19	10/26	10/11	08/13
No. Banded '94	449	385	NA	NA	383
No. Banded '95	1160	518	227	19,799	590
No. Species '94	56	37	NA	NA	64
No. Species '95	71	51	25	109	72
Birds/100NH '94	3	54.9	NA	NA	37
Birds/100NH '95	5.3	56.9	81	141	36
% HY '94	72	93	NA	NA	73
% HY '95	NA	90	87	77	60

**Table 1 (cont'd). Fall 1995 Region III Summary.**

<b>Hebron PA</b>	<b>Powdermill PA</b>	<b>Allegheny Front WV</b>	<b>Calmes Neck VA</b>	<b>Smith Farm VA</b>	<b>Lakeshore Estates FL</b>
07/29	08/01	08/13	08/15	08/18	09/02
11/17	11/30	10/28	10/27	11/12	11/15
55	111	69	44	57	33
10-11	20-60	19-21	10-20	5-11	6009
610	18,160	7586	9274	5520	1786
83	529	168	108	135	15
10/08	10/25	09/15	09/19	10/27	10/08
689	4898	4024	494	1487	222
1165	9638	3181	1467	1339	198
61	101	68	75	76	36
68	114	78	91	69	34
123	36	60	8	18	14
151	53	42	16	24	11
75	NA	NA	83	67	56
70	NA	NA	60	65	69

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 1995**

<b>Maitland River Ont.</b>	<b>Lewiston NY</b>	<b>Ruthven Park Ont.</b>	<b>Long Point Ont.</b>	<b>Presque Isle PA</b>	<b>Hebron PA</b>
188 GCKI(1)	79 GRCA(1)	55 SOSP	1386 GCKI	48 WTSP(1)	188 SOSP(1)
142 RCLO(3)	64 WTSP(3)	24 WTSP	788 RCKI	46 GRCA(4)	120 WTSP
117 SCJU(2)	59 MAWA(2)	23 RCKI	717 MYWA	44 MAWA	112 SCJU(3)
85 MYWA	35 SWTH	23 SCJU	545 MAWA	40 WIWR(7)	94 AMGO
76 BCCH(7)	24 HETH(4)	22 BCCH	455 HETH	30 BAOR(8)	70 HOFI(6)
57 HETH	22 COYE(8)	20 MYWA	450 BRRCR	23 REVI	44 SCTA(4)
38 SOSP(6)	21 BCCH(6)	9 GCKI	387 YWAR	23 SWTH	43 COYE(5)
37 AMRO	20 VEER	9 NOCA	385 SWTH	21 YWAR(2)	42 CSWA(7)
28 WIWR(4)	16 WOTH	7 DOWO	352 SOSP	21 HETH(6)	38 BCCH(9)
27 WTSP(9)	16 BTBW	7 BRRCR	231 AMRE	20 GCKI(9)	36 GRCA(8)
27 PUFI		7 AMRO			

( ) - Position last year.

**Table 2 (cont'd.). Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 1995**

<b>Powdermill PA</b>	<b>Allegheny Front WV</b>	<b>Calmes Neck VA</b>	<b>Smith Farm VA</b>	<b>Lakeshore Estates FL</b>
875 WTSP(5)	469 BTBW(1)	685 AMGO	223 AMGO(10)	32 MYWA(3)
731 SCJU(2)	265 BTNW(3)	42 CACH(7)	155 SCJU(5)	30 NOCA(1)
689 PUFI	264 BLPW(2)	34 SCTA	119 INBU(3)	27 WEVI(2)
585 AMGO(1)	210 GCKI	30 BAOR	119 WTSP(1)	12 GRCA
547 MYWA(3)	169 TEWA(4)	39 BTNW(10)	116 SOSP(2)	11 RCKI(4)
427 COYE(7)	163 SWTH(5)	29 NOCA(6)	84 MYWA	10 VEER(6)
418 SOSP(8)	154 MAWA(7)	28 ETTI(3)	53 CHSP(9)	10 HOWA
390 GRCA(10)	128 CMWA(6)	28 RBNU	45 FISP	5 BRTH
352 CEDW	126 RCKI	24 MODO(4)	43 RCKI(4)	5 ACFL(7)
296 MAWA(6)	112 COYE	23 WBNU	41 EAPH(8)	5 MAWA(5)
				5 WOTH

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

In 1995, the Maitland Bird Observatory was in operation for fall banding between 30 July and 29 October. Banding was carried out on two days in July, 16 days in August, eight days in September, and 29 days in October. A total of 1160 birds of 71 species were banded which was the best fall banding result ever for this station. The station was operated by John Miles and sons Jamie and Steven.

Banding equipment used was again consistent with that of previous years with up to 41 mist nets in operation as well as a ground trap and a jay trap. Bird migration in late August and in September was poor as the good weather did not ground the migrants. Other banding stations were also wondering where the birds were. The excellent 1995 total (over twice as many bandings as in 1994) was mainly attributed to operating the station for 29 straight days in October, during the peak kinglet and junco days. The joys of early retirement!

The peak banding days were 24 October (64), 21 October (55) and 14 October (50). All birds were caught in nets except for 18 birds trapped in a ground trap and seven banded in nest boxes.

The most noteworthy species banded in 1995 were two Golden-winged Warblers, the first for fall in the station's 21-year history. Also of note was the station's second White-winged Junco; the previous one was nine years ago.

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

This was the 18th year for fall banding at the Lewiston location. Weather for banding was excellent. Very light winds prevailed for most days with very little rain causing lost banding time.

There was little change in species composition from other years. One noteworthy occurrence was the increased numbers of all thrushes,

especially Wood Thrush. As recently as five years ago, this location was reporting only three or four Wood Thrush. When the station began operating 18 years ago, Wood Thrush were always in good supply. Hopefully the numbers will continue to return to normal.

There were 11 local retraps this fall of three species. I observed abnormal feather coloration on a Winter Wren, whose head and neck area showed many scattered white feathers.

Many interested people visited this station both spring and fall. Highlights of educational programs were talks on bird banding given to the Lions Club in Tonawanda, Girl Scouts of N. Tonawanda, 4th graders of N. Tonawanda, Niagara County Pioneer Sportsman Club, the Environmental Awareness Club's Earth Day at Akron, and a television taping of a half-hour program on bird banding for educational TV.

**Ruthven Park**      425-0795  
Haldimand County, Ont.  
*Rick Ludkin*

Ruthven Park, which was bequeathed to the Lower Grand River Land Trust in 1994, is situated next to the Grand River on the Haldimand Clay Plain about 3 km north of Cayuga in southwestern Ontario. It extends over approximately 1500 acres: 7% cleared grounds of an historic site, 33% cleared agricultural land, 60% forest/sloughs—constituting part of the much larger North Cayuga Slough Forest.

Forests are dominated by Red Oak, Red Maple, Sugar Maple and White Ash with scattered American Beech, Large-tooth Aspen, Black Cherry, and Ironwood. Sloughs contain hummocks of Tall Blueberry, Buttonbush and Winterberry. The combined total list of vascular plants recorded for this area is 485 (from "The Natural Areas Inventory of the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk" by M.E. Gartshore, D.A. Sutherland and J.D. McCracken).

Two banding sites have been considered: a migration monitoring site placed in shrubby second growth along the Grand River and a

breeding bird site (MAPS) in the slough forest. The migration monitoring area was developed in the fall of 1995. It is situated at the south end of the spacious grounds surrounding an historic mansion and overlooks the flood plain of the Grand River. Net lanes have been cut in shrubby second-growth hawthorn and dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) patches along the edges of old fields containing predominantly goldenrods and asters. The clumps of second-growth tend to join sections of more mature forest and thus act as a thoroughfare for bird movement.

One of the major questions to be addressed by developing this site is whether the Grand River, which runs generally north-south to its mouth at Lake Erie, acts as a migration corridor for birds. Observations over the last ten years would suggest that this is true during fall, with large concentrations of blackbirds, robins, Myrtle Warblers, swallows and sparrows seen in the areas adjacent to the river at times when they are much scarcer inland (i.e. away from the river). Whether these observations are accurate and, if so, whether similar mechanisms operate in the spring, remains to be determined through the development of this banding site.

Fall banding was begun on 28 September, after permission was granted by the Land Trust. (Fortunately, this organization is committed to this banding project as a means of popularizing the natural history of this unique area.) The station was operated for 14 days, closing on 6 November. An attempt was made to standardize effort, but this was not always possible.

A total of 227 birds of 25 species was banded in a total of 281 net hours for a count of 81 birds per 100 net hours. Seventy-four percent of the birds were banded in two four-day periods (7-12 and 23-29 October) characterized by mild temperatures and southwest winds. The largest daily catch (48 birds) occurred on 26 October.

Birds were weighed, scored for fat deposits, aged, sexed and measured for wing chord. Repeats were weighed and scored for fat deposits to determine weight change and length of stopover.

The 1995 effort was hampered by a late start and

a shortage of nets. (These will be rectified for the 1996 season). Even so, there are several indicators that suggest that Ruthven Park could prove to be a valuable migration monitoring site: the 81 birds banded per 100 net hours seems quite respectable in light of records from other sites over the years. Censuses and observations showed that there were concentrations of birds at the site during the banding period. Robins, blackbirds, and sparrows seem to be using the river plain and adjacent land as a migration corridor. Needless to say, we are looking forward to the 1996 season!

Special thanks is due to the Management Committee of the Lower Grand River Land Trust and to assistants/helpers Jim Smith, Pat Smith, and Marg Ludkin.

This project is supported by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada and the Long Point Bird Observatory with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

Long Point Bird Observatory	423-0800
Haldimand-Norfolk R.M.,	
Ontario, Canada	423-0801
John B. Miles and Jon McCracken	423-0802

Long Point Bird Observatory operates three field stations on Long Point, Ontario — a long narrow sand spit that extends 20 miles in an easterly direction out into Lake Erie. Both spring and fall migrations are monitored, through a daily routine of banding and censusing. Each station is under the direction of a "warden" who is assisted by two to four volunteers. In fall 1995, 54 volunteers (from many parts of the world) took part. Banding is usually carried out for six hours per day from dawn to around noon. Trapping is done with mist nets, jay traps, ground traps and heligoland traps.

Fall banding in 1995 was conducted from 31 July through to 14 November, during which 10,799 birds of 109 species were banded. Of these, 77% were HY birds.

Banding first started at the tip of the point in 1960 and this has been the principal banding station for LPBO. This station is accessible only by boat. The "Tip" station's co-ordinates are 423-0800. Mist

netting is conducted using 14 nets, but with the sweep of the wind off the open lake, nets frequently cannot be opened and so this station also relies on its heligoland trap and baited traps.

The tip of Long Point is an early successional sand dune habitat. The principal vegetation is dune grass with low marshy wet areas between the dunes. The common trees are fast growing cottonwoods, with scattered junipers. This area is very sensitive to the blowing sand and the wave action of the lake. Consequently, the tip of Long Point is continuously changing in shape and position.

The Breakwater station, which is 20 km west of the tip, was established in 1961 and is accessible only by boat. The co-ordinates for this station are 423-0801. Up to 12 nets are used depending upon the weather, as wind protection is limited at this location. One heligoland trap, two jay traps and several ground traps supplement the catching effort.

The Breakwater is located at the end of a mature sand ridge that rises 50 or more feet in places from the surrounding marshes and is only 100 to 200 yards wide. The habitat is characterized by an open grassy savannah, dotted with mature oaks, maples and black cherries. Shrub cover is very sparse, owing to over grazing by white-tailed deer.

The Old Cut station is a farther 10 km west of the Breakwater station and is located near the easterly end of the cottage area of Long Point. The co-ordinates are 423-0802. The property was purchased by LPBO in 1984. Trapping is done with 14 nets, supplemented with one jay trap and several ground traps. While this area is relatively protected from the wind, the netting area is public property and gets a lot of visitors. Consequently, the netting is watched very closely and nets are closed whenever it is apparent that they cannot be cleared in 10-15 minutes. Netting is carried out in a semi-mature, Scotch pine plantation and a dogwood-willow thicket bordering a cattail marsh.

In fall 1995, 3728 birds of 101 species were banded at the Tip. The banding effort consisted of 3029.5

net hours, 356.25 trap hours and 611 heligoland trap drives. At the Breakwater station, net hours totalled 822, 64 heligoland trap drives were done and traps were operated for 285.5 hours, resulting in 823 birds of 73 species being banded. At Old Cut, 6248 birds of 91 species were banded, involving 7045.5 net hours and 205.25 trap hours. Total catch at all stations was 9939 birds by mist net, 586 birds by heligoland trap, 249 birds in baited traps and 25 birds by hand. The combined station banding total was 141.07 birds per 100 net hours.

Best days were: at the Tip, 11 October with 226 and 2 October with 167 birds banded; at the Breakwater, 15 September with 138 and 30 August with 112 birds banded; at Old Cut, 16 October with 216 and 26 September with 169 birds banded.

The best birds banded in fall 1995 included a Tufted Titmouse, two Lapland Longspurs, a Prairie Warbler and a Northern Shrike.

Presque Isle State Park 420-0800  
Erie, Pennsylvania  
*Ronald F. Leberman*

The fall migration at Presque Isle (our 34th year) started out much better than usual, but finished with a whimper. Good numbers of flycatchers and warblers were netted and banded in August and September but October's big kinglet and junco flights did not happen and most weekends were wet, cold, and windy.

A total of 590 new birds were banded (about 36 birds/100 net hours) of 72 species. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a new species for this station, was banded on 27 September. We found no deformed birds and no deer ticks this year. There were 11 returns from previous years including a Yellow Warbler in its third year.

I would like to thank all those people that helped at this station: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kwater, Evelyn Anderson, Don Snyder, Jean Stull, Issac Fields, Jim Barker, Thelma Patton, Patrick Wishart, Sally Seger, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Wrinkleblack, and the park staff.

Hebron  
Potter County, PA  
*David W. Hauber*

415-0780

Banding at Hebron for the fall of 1995 was carried out from 29 July to 17 November in the same location and using the same net lanes and traps as in previous years. Days spent banding increased. There seemed to be more birds using this area during migration this year as shown by the increase in birds per net hour.

Banding was conducted on 55 days with 1310 birds handled including 1165 new birds banded of 69 species. There were 60 returns and 85 repeats. New species for the station for fall migration were Rusty Blackbird, Common Redpoll, and Orange-crowned Warbler which brings to 87 the number of species taken during seven fall banding seasons.

Numbers were generally up for most species except for Mourning Dove (2 in 1995, 7.7 is average from 1989-1994), Chipping Sparrow (1,13.8), and Indigo Bunting (27, 179). Bunting numbers were down dramatically from 1992 and 1993 when we banded 298 and 263.

Thirteen species were banded in record high numbers: Least Flycatcher 11 (4.2 average from 1989-1994), American Goldfinch 94 (24.5), White-throated Sparrow 120 (33.3), American Tree Sparrow 13 (3.5), Song Sparrow 188 (104), Fox Sparrow 10 (1.3), Northern Cardinal 4 (1), Scarlet Tanager 44 (16), Myrtle Warbler 22 (1.9), Black-throated Green Warbler 8 (3), Common Yellowthroat 43 (30), Black-capped Chickadee 38 (17), and Eastern Bluebird 13 (0.8).

Deformities noted included a Common Yellowthroat with a deformed left tarsus, Song Sparrow with a tumor on top of its head, and a Song Sparrow with a healed fractured left tarsus.

Of the 60 returns, several were noteworthy including a House Finch of seven years, American Tree Sparrows of at least five and six years, a Hairy Woodpecker of at least six years, a Common Yellowthroat and an Indigo Bunting of at least four years.

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

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

It was an exceptional banding season at Powdermill. Our fall 1995 total of 9,638 birds is nearly twice last year's total and the second highest fall total ever for our program (our highest total was in 1982, when 10,160 birds were banded). Our banding effort of 18,160 net hours is the highest ever (previous high was 17,208 net hours in 1982), but our overall capture rate of 53 birds/100 net hours was nonetheless well above average. Our busiest day was 25 October when 529 birds of 27 species were banded, including 110 Purple Finches and 97 Black-capped Chickadees. This is the third largest single day banding total in the 35-year history of the Powdermill program. Other peak dates this fall with over 200 birds banded were 18 September (231), 30 September (294), 7 October (262), 10 October (223), 21 October (381) and 31 October (278); there were 23 additional days during the season where between 100-200 birds were banded!

We broke or tied record high totals for more than a dozen species this fall (totals in italics below). Of 66 species looked at statistically, 32 were banded in numbers one or more standard deviations (SD) above the average of the previous ten years; 31 were average, and just three were one SD below average. The American Tree Sparrow, with 56 banded, came in at +8 SD; Blue Jay (*68*) was at +7 SD; Eastern Phoebe (*202*) was +6 SD; White-throated Sparrow (*875*) and Black-throated Blue Warbler (*74*) were each at +5 SD. Our record high total of 689 Purple Finches was +3 SD, and each of the following species was at +2 SD: Chipping Sparrow (*172*), Swamp Sparrow (*270*), Rufous-sided Towhee (*85*), Northern Cardinal (*54*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*140*), Orange-crowned Warbler (*7*), Common Yellowthroat (*427*), Hooded Warbler (*150*), House Wren (*71*), Winter Wren (*42*), and Wood Thrush (*43*). Totals for Gray



Catbird (390) and Indigo Bunting (134), although not more than 1 SD above average, tied or set new record highs for our banding program.

A Merlin, banded on 7 October, was an addition to the Powdermill cumulative banding list, which now stands at 181 species, and a Greater Yellowlegs banded on 25 October was our second ever. A "textbook" example of "Brewster's Warbler" was netted on 31 August. Late encounters included a Northern Parula on 21 October, a Magnolia Warbler on 5 November (!), and a Worm-eating Warbler on 8 October.

The following people contributed in a variety of ways to the success of our banding program this year: Larry Barth, Don Connell, Jim Gruber, Carroll Labarthe, Grant Milliron, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Barb Rich, Carole Shanahan, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and Peggy Wisner.

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

The 38th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was the poorest banding season since we have had full-time coverage. The weather was dry and warm, but a number of frontal systems did develop. The station was in continuous operation from 13 August to 16 October, as well as five additional days in late October. Some banding was carried out on 69 days.

A total of 3181 (third poorest) birds of 78 species (average value) was banded with a station effort of 7586 net hours (second highest) giving a capture ratio of 41.93 birds per 100 net hours (lowest). Only 337 birds were banded in August (19 days), 1891 in September (30 days), and 953 in October (20 days). Only the late-season flight of kinglets and juncos prevented this from being the poorest season ever. The station has now banded 161,735 birds of 119 species. No new species were captured this year.

Two birds (junco, Downy Woodpecker) banded at the station in 1993 and 12 birds banded in 1994

were recaptured. Of the latter, a Swainson's Thrush and a Black-throated Green Warbler were of particular interest.

Peak days on 5 September, 14-15 September and 28 September were all accompanied by strong frontal systems. The biggest day was 15 September with 168 bandings. On only seven other days were more than 100 birds handled.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler with 469 bandings was the most numerous species but this figure is 38% below the ten-year average. The Black-throated Green Warbler with 265 (41% below average) bandings and the Blackpoll Warbler with 264 (60% below average) were next in line. Of 40 species for which meaningful analysis could be made, 37 were in numbers below the 10-year average and 20 of these were more than one standard deviation (SD) below that average. The Hermit Thrush and the Song Sparrow were more than one SD above the average.

As a group, the Neotropical migrants were 55% below the 10-year average. The 1940 warblers banded was 53 below the average. The "budworm specialists" continue to be poor with Bay-breasts 76% below average, Tennessees 73% below, and Cape Mays 71% below. Other than the Hermit Thrush, which was 47% above average, the other thrushes were in poor shape: Veery, 33% below; Swainson's Thrush, 54% below; Wood Thrush, 58% below; and the Gray-cheeked Thrush, 88% below the average (only two were banded). Only 11 flycatchers were banded.

The 13 Saw-whet Owls was a record high, which suggests a southward movement of this species.

One can only speculate about the reasons for the poor year. It is not known how the hot-dry weather influenced the migratory pattern but these conditions may have caused most species to have poor breeding seasons. An analysis of the age distribution and number of HY birds banded might prove interesting. There have been mixed reports from other points in the east as some stations had fairly good migratory movements, while others had results much like ours.

The visual migrant counts were continued and 487 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted (second highest year); 6459 Blue Jays were seen (highest since 1991), with 2306 counted on 28 September alone; and the 4788 American Goldfinches logged was the highest total ever. Only 343 Monarch Butterflies were counted. Besides the birds banded and the flyover counts, a few observations were made of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks. The details of this event will be published elsewhere.

By the end of September, a record number of 1853 people had signed the visitors' book, coming from 22 states, the District of Columbia, Germany, France and Ireland. As usual several elementary and high school classes visited the station as well as three college classes.

The banders who participated were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, Walter Fye, Betty Gatewood, LeJay Graffious, Sue Heselton, Cleo and George Mayfield, Janet Shaffer, Julie Simpson, David Skinner, 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 count, Ken Heselton, Beth and Randy Ritter, and Carl Rowe were present for extended periods of time.

Over 70 individuals aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways, for which we are grateful. 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.

Calmes Neck  
Boyce, VA

390-0775

*J. William Oberman*

An increase in net hours by 50% resulted only in an average year (15-20 birds/100 net hours) following last year's very atypical year.

Two long periods of especially balmy weather in October with no significant frontal activity, I believe, resulted in low sparrow counts.

This year was unusual in the number of captures of Red-breasted Nuthatches (28 vs the usual 0-2/season). The pattern of low "brown" thrush counts continued, with the exception of Hermit Thrushes. Warbler counters were average (193 total of 27 species).

A phenomenon I have noted from the beginning of my netting continued: I catch a large number of Yellow-rumped Warblers in the spring and only a few in the fall. This year was dramatic: 264 vs. three.

Appreciation to banding assistants Mildred Clark and Frances Endicott.

Smith Farm  
Arlington, VA  
*Edgar Smith*

382-0781

A major flood in Madison County on 27 June destroyed all the cover along my run so three of my best net sites were gone this fall. The dramatic change along all watercourses in my part of the county undoubtedly affected bird movement after the floods and throughout the fall season. Major downward trends from 1994 results were noted in Indigo Bunting (-60%), Song Sparrow (-51%), and White-throated Sparrow (-47%) .

Weather was generally warm until our first frost, 5 November, then 8-10 dg colder than normal throughout the rest of November.

Black-capped Chickadees (2) are very uncommon here, as are Evening Grosbeaks (one banded on 19 November and several flocks seen). Vesper Sparrow (2) is very unusual. Good numbers of

American Goldfinch and Slate-colored Junco were noteworthy.

I continued banding until 3 December. Six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were banded from 17-30 November, none during the reporting period. Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, sparrows and allied seedeaters continued to move through the area into early December.

Foot pox was noted on four Field Sparrows, two Chipping Sparrows, and a junco.

The only re-encounter of note was a junco banded in November 1994 that was retrapped by J. William Oberman at Calmes Neck, VA, in April 1995.

Lakeshore Estates  
Tallahassee, FL  
*Peter H. Homann*

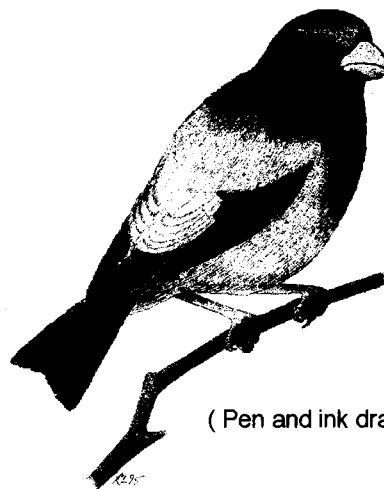
302-0841

As in previous years, netting was done at my residence and also in the adjacent woods where nets typically were placed near and in a temporary bog that borders on a clearing with a telecommunication tower. In contrast to 1994, the bog was not flooded at any time during this year's banding period. Presumably, as a consequence, the 1995 capture total of all birds (repeats and returns) was only two-thirds of that in 1994. However, the overall total of new bandings was about the same in both years. This can be attributed largely to the fact that the numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Myrtle Warblers were almost back to normal after their poor showing during the dry and berry-less fall of 1993, which appears to have affected their abundance in the following year.

Due to almost year-round banding, a considerable number of resident birds were netted which already had been banded prior to the period covered by this report. Hence, to provide a realistic account of the abundance of certain species and their HY-AHY ratios, I believe those repeats should have been included in the data as they were for 1994, in violation of present policies of the AFR. The comparative data listed now for 1994 have been adjusted by deleting previously

banded individuals and all bandings after 15 November. As a result, the new numbers differ from those published in the AFR Region V report (NABB20:140-141).

A Chipping Sparrow captured here had been banded in Athens, GA.



( Pen and ink drawing by Keith Lott )