

2000

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iii (western Ridge) Fall 1999

North American Bird Bander

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EBBA MEETING 2001 (CONT'D)

Students of any age may stay in the dormitories at Harford Glen at the Glen's rate of \$10/night. Students must provide their own linens.

Banquet entree choices are (1) Vitali's style Chicken—boneless breast of chicken topped with tomato slice, Rosemary Madeira wine sauce and Monterey Jack cheese, and (2) Backed Stuffed Pork Chop—double cut pork chop, stuffed with apple-almond bread dressing, served with pan gravy. Alcoholic beverages may be obtained from the adjacent bar. Vegetarians and others with special requirements should notify Ken.

Due to limited capacity, EBBA members should pre-register to Ken Heselton by mail (105 Haverhill Rd., Joppa, MD 21085) or e-mail (KHeselton@cs.com) no later than April 1, 2001. Indicate if you will attend the meeting and your choice of entree (1 or 2 as described above). Fees are \$25.00 for the meeting and \$25.00 for the banquet. Payment in advance (check written to EBBA) will be appreciated and speed your registration when you arrive. Pre-registration is a commitment to pay regardless of attendance. You will receive confirmation and more details within two weeks.

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 1999

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator
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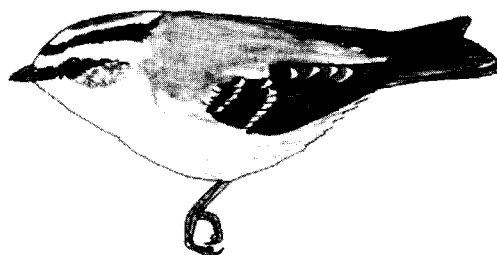
Debra Forthman has ceased banding operations at Zoo Atlanta. She reports that the landscape and bird habitats have been altered dramatically by further development of the zoo and she has lost a number of net sites. Others are so disturbed that data would not be at all comparable. She hopes to establish a mist-netting program at Stone Mountain sometime in the future. We thank her for her contributions to past AFR reports.

The Mt. Nebo banding station report was moved from Region IV to Region III and the move was reversed with Lakeshore Estates. This makes good sense geographically as Mt. Nebo is located in the mountains of western Maryland and Lakeshore Estates is a better fit in Region IV.

Altogether, there were 29,076 birds banded at the AFR III reporting stations in fall '99, which is down from the previous year. Only Ruthven, Selkirk, Presque Isle, and Smith Farm banded more birds in fall '99 than '98. Birds/100 net hour ratios, however, were actually up at Lewiston, Powdermill, Hebron, Mt. Nebo, and Smith Farm. A negative

was that %HY figures were down at every station except Ruthven, probably indicating a poor breeding season.

Of interest were an influx of Purple Finches (525 banded at Powdermill and 101 at Mt. Nebo), Presque Isle's second-ever Bicknell's Thrush, more Fox Sparrows than usual—even making Lewiston's 'top ten' list for the first time ever, and an astounding 77 Scarlet Tanagers banded at Hebron.



GCKI by George West

Table 1. AFR III Fall 1999 Summary

| | Lewiston NY | Ruthven Park Ont | Selkirk Ont | Long Pt Ont | Presque Isle Pa | Hebron Pa |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| First Day/Last Day | 9/9 - 10/21 | 7/26 - 11/8 | 7/20 - 11/16 | 7/31 - 11/16 | 7/11 - 10/30 | 8/3 - 11/28 |
| Days Operated | 12 | 76 | 122 | 109 | 19 | 58 |
| No. Nets Used | 9 to 20 | 10 to 14* | 1 to 18* | 0 - 38* | 1 to 20 | 1 to 15* |
| Total Net Hours | 565 | 4409 | 12,185 | 13,198 | 1536 | 955 |
| % Caught in Traps | 0 | 16.8% | 3.50% | 8% | 0 | 10% |
| Largest Daily Catch | 53 on 10/12 | 108 on 10/12 | 82 on 10/23 | 219 on 10/15 | 59 on 9/30 | 82 on 9/19 |
| No. Banded 1998 | 501 | 2303 | 1637 | 9795 | 446 | 839 |
| No. Banded 1999 | 311 | 2545 | 2466 | 7648 | 452 | 938 |
| No. Species 1998 | 42 | 84 | 80 | 109 | 54 | 65 |
| No. Species 1999 | 43 | 86 +1 hybrid | 91 | 86 | 57 | 74 |
| Birds/100 nh 1998 | 48.7 | 61.8 | na | 94.4 | 4.5 | 82.6 |
| Birds/100 nh 1999 | 55 | 55.2 | 19.5 | 58 | 4.5 | 88 |
| % HY 1998 | 83% | 81% | 93.3% | 83.4% | 68% | 70% |
| % HY 1999 | 77.5% | 79% | 77.2% | 81.2% | na | 66% |
| * plus traps | | | | | | |

Table 1 (cont'd). AFR III Fall 1999 Summary

| | Powdermill PA | Bedford Valley PA | Mt. Nebo MD | Allegheny Front WV | Calmes Neck VA | Smith Farm VA |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| First Day/Last Day | 8/1 - 11/29 | 8/17 - 10/11 | 8/22 - 10/30 | 8/15 - 10/16 | 8/14 - 10/09 | 8/4 - 12/12 |
| Days Operated | 103 | 28 | 37 | 56 | 39 | 89 |
| No. Nets Used | 2 to 40 | 5 to 10 | 8 to 16 | 20 to 22 | 14 to 17 | 9 to 13 |
| Total Net Hours | 12,031 | 8362 | 3853 | 6796 | 5764 | 8045 |
| % Caught in Traps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Largest Daily Catch | 250 on 10/20 | 11 on 10/02 | 79 on 10/16 | 613 on 10/01 | 36 on 10/08 | 120 on 10/29 |
| No. Banded 1998 | 6381 | 117 | 1383 | 8585 | 913 | 918 |
| No. Banded 1999 | 6136 | 88 | 1124 | 5662 | 456 | 1250 |
| No. Species 1998 | 108 | 38 | 66 | 80 | 85 | 71 |
| No. Species 1999 | 105 | 39 | 62 | 84 | 52 | 76 |
| Birds/100 nh 1998 | 40 | 16 | 39.6 | 100.4 | 9.7 | 12.1 |
| Birds/100 nh 1999 | 51 | 1.1 | 41 | 83.3 | 7.9 | 15.5 |
| % HY 1998 | na | 65% | 76% | na | 79% | 71.5% |
| % HY 1999 | na | 65% | 63% | na | 55% | 70% |
| * plus traps | | | | | | |

| Table 2. AFR Region III, Fall 1999. Most Commonly Banded Species. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|--|
| Lewiston, NY | | | Ruthven Park, Ont. | | | Selkirk Park, Ont. | | | Long Point, Ont. | | | Presque Isle, PA | | | Hebron, PA | | | |
| | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | |
| 37 | HETH(3) | 84 | 279 | HOFI | 92 | 368 | GCKI(1) | 67 | 610 | GCKI(4) | 86 | 41 | WTSP(3) | 95 | 212 | AMGO(6) | 66 | |
| 35 | GCKI(5) | 80 | 164 | MYWA(1) | 82 | 203 | SOSP(7) | 87 | 599 | RCKI(2) | 80 | 37 | HETH(4) | 75 | 124 | SCJU(1) | 69 | |
| 27 | WTSP(6) | 70 | 156 | AMGO(3) | 78 | 181 | BCCH(9) | 97 | 516 | MYWA(1) | 93 | 33 | GRCA(6) | 60 | 51 | CHSP | 66 | |
| 26 | MAWA(9) | 81 | 151 | SCJU(2) | 59 | 178 | RCKI(2) | 61 | 439 | BLPW(3) | 45 | 30 | YWAR(5) | 60 | 41 | SOSP(4) | 32 | |
| 23 | BCCH(7) | 70 | 149 | WTSP(5) | 77 | 127 | MYWA(6) | 94 | 432 | MAWA(6) | 91 | 29 | GCKI(1) | NA | 31 | SCTA | 77 | |
| 19 | GRCA(4) | 89 | 135 | BCCH(10) | 93 | 118 | SCJU(3) | 85 | 281 | WTSP(8) | 78 | 25 | MAWA(9) | 80 | 26 | BCCH | 70 | |
| 18 | RCKI(1) | 78 | 130 | SOSP(4) | 84 | 78 | MAWA(4) | 96 | 279 | HETH(7) | 86 | 20 | SWTH | 90 | 26 | EVGR | 45 | |
| 14 | AMRE | 93 | 129 | RCKI(7) | NA | 73 | ATSP | 67 | 252 | SWTH(5) | 81 | 19 | MYWA | 95 | 26 | REVI | 69 | |
| 10 | NAWA | 80 | 100 | GCKI | NA | 71 | YWAR | 89 | 195 | SCJU(9) | 73 | 19 | WIWR(8) | NA | 26 | WTSP(2) | 90 | |
| 9 | FOSP | 100 | 89 | AMRO(8) | 91 | 68 | NSWO | 77 | 172 | AMRE | 89 | 18 | GCTH | 75 | 25 | INBU(8) | 50 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 | MAWA(9) | 100 | |

| Table 2 (cont'd.). AFR Region III, Fall 1999. Most Commonly Banded Species. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Powdermill, PA. | | Bedford Valley, PA | | | Mt. Nebo, MD | | | Allegheny Front, WV | | | Calmes Neck, VA | | | Smith Farm, VA | | |
| | | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY | | | % HY |
| 713 | AMGO(3) | 7 | CHSP(1) | 71 | 164 | INBU(5) | 66 | 1035 | BTBW(2) | 55 | 93 | AMGO(1) | 50 | 173 | WTSP(1) | 78 |
| 679 | SCJU(2) | 7 | WTSP | 85 | 122 | GRCA(1) | 83 | 625 | BLPW(1) | 52 | 48 | CACH(2) | 100 | 167 | SCJU(2) | 66 |
| 525 | PUFI | 6 | BTBW | 83 | 101 | PUFI | 50 | 494 | BTNW(3) | 80 | 35 | ETTI(4) | 97 | 157 | AMGO(6) | 69 |
| 319 | GRCA(7) | 6 | GRCA(5) | 85 | 99 | WTSP(3) | 51 | 428 | MAWA(4) | 67 | 21 | WBNU | 90 | 90 | RCKI(4) | NA |
| 236 | MYWA(1) | 5 | SOSP | 60 | 46 | RCKI | NA | 377 | TEWA(5) | 67 | 21 | RBNU | 70 | 88 | PUFI | 72 |
| 222 | MAWA(6) | 5 | RCKI | 40 | 46 | TEWA | 85 | 332 | SWTH(7) | 62 | 18 | SCTA(10) | 83 | 57 | PISI | NA |
| 212 | WTSP(5) | | | | 44 | COYE(2) | 72 | 245 | GCKI(9) | NA | 16 | EAPH | 25 | 38 | EAPH | 36 |
| 209 | RCKI | | | | 44 | SOSP(4) | 44 | 227 | RCKI | NA | 15 | REVI(3) | 86 | 38 | SOSP(3) | 67 |
| 207 | RTHU(9) | | | | 33 | BTBW(8) | 33 | 178 | BLBW(8) | 68 | 12 | NOCA | 100 | 30 | ETTI | 74 |
| 188 | COYE(8) | | | | 31 | EATO | 31 | 150 | SCJU(6) | 68 | 12 | BTBW | 50 | 30 | GRCA(7) | 60 |

() = position last year

Lewiston
Niagara County, NY
Jerald J. Farrell, Bander

431-0790

The 1999 fall banding season got off to a late start because my return trip from Alberta waterfowl banding was extended. Banding started on 9 Sep and was completed on 21 Oct, operating six days later than normal.

The operation at this station is not a continuous one. If the bird count appears to be down on a given day, the nets may not be opened the following day. Also, the weather (rain, wind, etc.) plays a very important role.

My birds-per-100-net-hour total was up a few percentage points from the average. Birds missing from the top ten this year were Slate-colored Junco and Wood Thrush. The two replacement species were Nashville Warbler and Fox Sparrow. The total of nine Fox Sparrows surpasses 21 years of fall banding totals for this species by six birds!

There were seven local retraps involving two species, with one Black-capped Chickadee being four years old.

Many visitors were again present this fall, with several having their first look at fall warblers in the hand.

Ruthven Park
Haldimand County, Ontario
Rick Ludkin, Bander
Loretta Mousseau, Chief Assistant

425-0795

Fall 1999, Ruthven's fifth fall season, was its most successful one to date in a number of ways: best coverage, most net hours, most birds banded, and most species banded. This was all made possible by the continued and progressive development of a crew of keen volunteers.

Generally, the weather conditions throughout the season were warm and dry with very few days lost to inclement weather. On some days wind was a factor resulting in the early closing of some nets.

The location has remained stable since 1996. Some tree trimming was done in the area of the net lanes to maintain the edge habitat (in which our nets are situated) for years to come. One unfortunate occurrence was the mowing of our wildflower field in late Sep for an historical reenactment. This greatly reduced what has been prime sparrow habitat on which several of our net lanes border.

We open in July to try to band locally breeding birds, especially Yellow Warblers before they disperse or head south. Despite what we thought was an early start, we probably missed most of the Yellow Warbler movement, banding only 16 (compared to 77 in 1997). This difference most likely reflects an early breeding/fledging capability due to the early good conditions rather than a drop in the number of birds. We banded for five days in July, processing 155 birds at a rate of 52.6 birds per 100 net hours.

August coverage was not as good as it has been in past years due to the multiple demands on the time available to our volunteers. Despite being out on only 12 days, we still banded 309 birds at a rate of 41.4 per 100 net hours. Our most noteworthy capture was Ruthven's first Olive-sided Flycatcher.

We have come to expect big things in September, but this year we were a little let down. Despite very good coverage (25 days) we caught only 628 birds, the capture rate (42.7/100 net hours) being the lowest so far (compare with 60.0 in '96, 46.8 in '97, and 56.6 in '98). Interestingly, the largest single day catch this September was 45 birds. We had six days last year with larger catches. It would appear that this was due to the reduced number of warblers caught at our site this year. For the whole season, we caught only 457, which made up about 18% of our overall catch. This is down from the 30% of our overall catch last year. My sense is that this drop was specific to our site and not general to other migration monitoring/banding sites around the Great Lakes.

We had even better coverage in October—27 days, banding 1319 birds at a rate of 74.1 birds/100 net hours, the lowest rate in the last four years. On

the one hand, expected birds were in short supply—164 Myrtle Warblers (compared to 390 in '98) and 130 Song Sparrows (the lowest total since the peak of 188 in '96). On the other hand, there was an influx of 279 House Finches (five times the combined total of the last four years) and 135 Black-capped Chickadees (almost double last year's total, undoubtedly part of the irruption of this species from the north that has been tracked through this fall season).

We closed up after the first week of November after banding on seven days—134 birds at a rate of 41.8/100 net hours.

We had one interesting retrap: a male Nashville Warbler. This bird had been banded in mid-August of '96 about 3 km away at the north end of the Haldimand Slough Forest and then retrapped at Ruthven, again in mid-August. In '96 it was an adult bird, so at the time of recapture it was at least four years old.

We recaptured two birds with foreign bands: both Black-capped Chickadees. One was banded near Youngstown, NY, by Jerry Farrell on 9 Sep 1999 and recaptured here on 24 Oct, moving 80 km SW in 45 days. A second chickadee had been banded by Robert McKinney at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station near Rochester, NY, on 26 Oct 1999 and recaptured at Ruthven on 8 Nov 1999, moving 168 km WSW in 13 days. So far, no birds banded at Ruthven have been reported recovered at other locations.

I would like to thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their continuing support of this project. Ron Pine has been quite helpful in facilitating our operation. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Hamilton Naturalists' Club and the South Peel Field Naturalists. I would also like to thank the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations, including bird bags, binders, station supplies, and our mascot "NOCA," were greatly appreciated.

Selkirk Provincial Park

424-0795

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario

John Miles, Bander

Elizabeth Morgan, Alice Boyle, Rene Baebler, Chris Kimber, Sue Kimber, Jim Smith, Chief Assistants

The second year of fall operation at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 20 Jul and ended 16 Nov. Partial coverage was provided on four days prior to the 20th while the equipment was being erected. The station was manned daily once it opened officially, except for one day, with the banding effort taking place on 122 days. Twenty-six volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander in charge with the running of the station.

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was manned for passerine banding starting one half-hour before sunrise and usually running for a minimum of six hours. In October and early November, the nets were opened one to two hours earlier each morning to catch owls.

The summer and fall were mainly warm and quite dry. Vegetation growth was noticeably stressed from the lack of moisture. On most "wet" days, little rain occurred during the mornings with little disruption in netting activity. The station did not operate due to weather on only one day, although operations were restricted on a few other days. The warm, dry conditions with clear nights this fall allowed the birds to migrate right over so, especially in September, there were no fallouts of birds. This resulted in reduced numbers of thrushes being banded this fall. The kinglet numbers in October were especially good compared to 1998, but junco numbers were down. A light-to-moderate flight of Black-capped Chickadees was noted from around 10 Oct on.

The Selkirk field station operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area remains the same.

Banding was carried out using 17-18 mist nets, three ground traps, and a Jay trap. The same net lanes used in the spring of 1999 were used again. One additional 10-meter net was erected in the hawthorns on the east side of the pine plantation which proved to be effective for N. Saw-whet Owls and Sharp-shinned Hawks. After six banding seasons of experimenting with net locations, it appears we have finally achieved the best setup possible. No additional changes are anticipated, provided the construction of a retirement village in the field to the west of the park does not interfere with the west hedgerow nets. The developers are committed to erecting a new fence between their property and the park. The boundary line is the middle of the hedgerow.

We first started erecting the nets for the fall season on 10 Jul. By the time we had the first 10 nets up, we had caught 18 birds. While replacing three old nets on 14 Jul, I caught and banded 21 birds in three hours. There certainly were strong indications we were in for a good fall. In 1998 we did not have a 20-bird day until 25 Aug. The fall flight of Yellow Warblers came through this year with a peak of 20 banded 24 Jul. This was more than the total banded in the fall of '98. Also Song Sparrows were being caught and banded at a steady rate. By the end of August, over 700 birds had been banded, almost double the 1998 total for the same period.

We had nice weather in September but low numbers of birds, although there was good variety. We did not have a day of over 25 birds banded until 25 Sep when 62 birds were banded of 24 species. The kinglets had arrived.

It really picked up from 4-8 Oct when 245 birds were banded. During these five days 65 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 50 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 51 Myrtle Warblers were banded, which accounted for nearly 68% of the total number of birds handled during this rush.

Good numbers of birds banded occurred from 11-22 Oct. No day was below 24 birds, with the best day resulting in 55 birds banded. The best fall banding day since the station opened was 23 Oct.

There were 82 birds of only 10 species banded, but over half, 45, were Golden-crowned Kinglets. Good days with the number of birds banded up to the high 40s continue right up to 31 Oct.

November started off with an unexpected 38 birds banded. The station was rained out on the 2nd, the only day this fall, but four of the remaining five days of the first week of November saw 20+ birds banded. After that, the numbers of birds in the banding area dropped off drastically, although American Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco were coming through in small flocks occasionally. There were 188 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Noteworthy birds included a Peregrine Falcon that spent over two hours perched on the sandbar at the mouth of Spring Creek, Western Sandpiper, several Baird's Sandpipers, both crossbill species, and Western Kingbird. An unexpected 32 Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Merlin, a Red-tailed Hawk, 68 N. Saw-whet Owls, four Whip-poor-wills, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and two Connecticut Warblers were banding highlights.

There were 2466 birds of 91 species banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the fall of 1999. In addition, two races, Yellow Palm Warbler and Oregon Junco, were also banded. Most numerous birds banded in the fall of 1999 were Golden-crowned Kinglet 368, Song Sparrow 203, Black-capped Chickadee 181, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 178, Myrtle Warbler 127, and Slate-colored Junco with 118. Five species were banded for the first time at Selkirk in the fall of 1999: Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Shrike and House Finch.

In the fall of 1999, 350 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly, with some repeating as many as 30-40 times.

There were 26 returns of 14 species recaptured in the fall of 1999. While most of these were resident or nesting birds of the area, the recapture of a Slate-colored Junco and an American Goldfinch banded in the spring of 1997, and a Brown-headed Cowbird banded in the spring of 1996 are noteworthy.

Foreign returns included a Black-capped Chickadee banded 28 Apr 1998 at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), near Rochester, NY, retrapped at Selkirk on 22 Oct 1999. Another Black-capped Chickadee banded 10 Oct 1999 at Kaiser-Manitou Beach was retrapped on 28 Oct 1999. A N. Saw-whet Owl banded at Old Cut, Long Point, Ontario, on 14 Oct 1999 was retrapped at Selkirk on 24 Oct 1999.

At the time of writing, two birds banded at Selkirk in fall 1999 have been reported retrapped and released this fall at other locations. A N. Saw-whet Owl banded 20 Oct 1999 was retrapped and released at Old Cut, Long Point, Ont., 27 Oct 1999. And a Black-capped Chickadee banded 20 Oct 1999 was retrapped and released at Lynndock, Ontario, 8 Nov 1999.

There were 101 visitor days recorded at the banding site in the fall of 1999. The Norfolk Field Naturalists, the South Peel Naturalists, and the grade 3 class of Fairview Avenue Public School, Dunnville, were given banding demonstrations.

Appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Park Contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Birds Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, the South Peel Field Naturalists, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program and the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, loose-leaf binders, Timbits and other goodies, and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Craddock's Garage, Capital Equipment Rental and Selkirk Provincial Park.

A special thanks to John Whitford for arranging the acquisition of a travel trailer, and to Heather Whitford and John who spent hours making the necessary alterations to convert the trailer into a banding lab and then putting the trailer on site for the fall migration.

In addition to the chief assistants noted elsewhere, I thank Brian Benvenuti, Dave Donn, Bill Crooks, Tom Crooks, Gerald McNaughton, Eric Machell, Lorna Machell, Ann Miles, Jamie Miles, Marcel and Sabrina Morganstern, Kristen Niwranski, Paul Prior, Ernie Rogers, Cathy Rogers, Alex Smith, Gerta Smith, Heather Whitford, and John Whitford.

Long Point Bird Observatory **423-8088**
Port Rowan **423-0801**
Haldimand-Norfolk RM **423-0802**

Katherine Warner, Compiler

Jul Wojnowski, Christine Jamieson, Banders

Fall 1999 banding at Long Point Bird Observatory began on 31 Jul and continued for 109 station-days until 16 Nov. A number of traps were used in addition to up to 38 mist nets; 8% of our total was caught in these traps. Our totals, number of species, birds/100 net hours, and % HY were all down from fall 1998 results.

Presque Isle **420-0800**

Erie, PA

Ronald Leberman, Bander

Thelma Patton and Sally Senger, Chief Assistants

Our 38th fall banding operation ran for 19 days between 11 Jul and 30 Oct, three days less than last year. Weather did not play an important factor this fall as there were few cold fronts, no effects of two coastal hurricanes, and no frost or freeze. It was a rather dry fall and not too windy.

No new species were added to the station's list this fall. Our second Bicknell's Thrush was banded (the first in September 1996). Thrush numbers were up as well as Magnolia, Wilson's and Blackpoll warblers. We had 60 returns including two Yellow Warblers in their sixth year.

Since the station's start in 1960, we have banded a total of 32,378 birds of 133 species. We had about 150 visitors this fall. Special thanks to Thelma Patton, Sally Senger, Bob Senger, Susan Smith, Evelyn Anderson, and all the Park officials. A special thank-you also goes out to Toby and Jean Cunningham for the contribution of their mist nets and to Patrick Wishart for clearing the net lanes.

Hebron**414-0780**

Coudersport, Potter County, PA

David W. Hauber, Bander

Gary Witmer and family, Chief Assistants

Banding at Hebron began on 3 Aug and continued for 58 days until 28 Nov. The total banded was up from the previous year as was the birds/100 net hour ratio. We also captured 80 N. Saw-whet Owls, but these are not included in the totals as they were captured using audio lures. The capture of 77 Scarlet Tanagers was a record for this station.

Powdermill Nature Reserve**400-0791**

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Banders

In common with much of the northern Appalachian region, dry summer-like conditions prevailed at Powdermill this fall. Few heavy fallouts of migrating birds occurred following what were just scattered and rather weak cold fronts. A total of 6136 birds (average for the previous ten years) were banded between 1 Aug and 30 Nov. On our busiest day, 20 Oct, a total of 250 new birds were netted, including 86 juncos and 41 Purple Finches. (The previous day, 42 Purple Finches had been banded during a 243-bird day). This season's total of 525 Purple Finches was exceeded only by American Goldfinch (713) and Slate-colored Junco (679). Just two species, Hermit Thrush (72) and American Goldfinch, were banded in numbers 2 SD above average; Canada Warbler, with six banded (average 24), was the only species at 2 SD below average. Banding highlights included a Sora, three American Woodcocks, nine Solitary Sandpipers, three N. Saw-whet Owls, a Brewster's Warbler, and a Pine Warbler—the latter was our first banding of the species since 1993.

Formal and informal demonstrations of bird banding were given to approximately 400 people, including seven university classes, a home-schooling group, and an enthusiastic bus-load of "golden agers" from a Pittsburgh retirement community.

We would like to thank research assistant Marilyn Niedermeier for her dedicated assistance in managing much of the banding data generated by Powdermill. In the field, the program benefitted from volunteer help provided by Mary Helen Chido, James Gruber, Carroll Labarthe, Darlene Madarish, Carole Shanahan, Bob Shaw, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and Peggy Wisner.

Bedford Valley**395-0783**

Bedford County, PA

Janet Shaffer, Bander

Banding was carried out for 28 days from 17 Aug to 11 Oct for a paltry total of 88 new birds banded and a staggering 8362 net hours to equal .0105 birds per net hour. Nets were opened between 6 AM and 12 noon most days. There were seven days when no new birds were banded. On most days there was at least one repeater. I just kept going because I did not believe what was happening. Looking at my data, it seems the main migration through this area did not materialize until October.

There were 39 different species netted, and of the 88 new bandings, 65% were judged to be HY birds. Noticeably absent were Common Yellowthroats. My area experienced severe drought from about 4 Jul until the last week in Aug. In my opinion, this stressed many of our summer residents, especially robins, which is logical since there was no mud, earthworms, or water for almost two months. The most exciting event was the capture and banding of an immature Pileated Woodpecker. I heard the birds in the area wacking on our plentiful dead trees, but this is only the second one I ever caught. The first was in 1992 and I had a helper at that time. Saw-whets began to trickle through my netting area on 6 Oct, and as of 14 Oct, I had banded 14.

Mt. Nebo WMA Banding Station **392-0792**

Oakland, Garrett County, MD

Fran Pope, Connie Skipper, Banders

The Mt. Nebo banding station was open 37 days from 22 Aug through 30 Oct 1999. Our peak day was 16 Oct with 79 birds banded. Other big days were 66 birds banded on 9 Sep, 57 birds banded on

25 Sep, and 54 birds banded on 21 Oct. The total number banded in 1999 were 1124 individuals of 62 species.

This was the second season at this banding station. Once again the autumn olive and honeysuckle plantings produced abundantly in the old field hedgerows. One small area was planted in millet which attracted Indigo Buntings in large numbers. The *Prunus* spp. also produced abundantly this fall with many apples and black cherries in the immediate area. An incredible number of Purple Finches descended on the rose hips present.

No long-term analysis or standard deviation statistics are meaningful with only two years' data at this site. Nevertheless, I can not resist commenting on comparisons with last year. Indigo Buntings took the number one spot this year and the Gray Catbird dropped from first to second place. The Purple Finch count was 101, bringing it to third place, amazing considering we banded only one of this species last year. The thrush numbers were far below last year's, bringing them more in line with what we expect as normal. The Tennessee Warblers made the top ten with 46 individuals, well above last year's 14. Common Yellowthroats dropped from second place to seventh. The 44 individuals banded this year are far below our normal numbers of 100+. Flycatchers also seemed in short supply, but Eastern Towhees were well represented.

We had 24 visitors to the banding site. Notable was Jeff Peters, a Frostburg State University graduate student, who was learning to handle and identify birds as part of an independent study class. A Garrett Community College Wildlife Techniques class visited the site for a banding demonstration, as did a group of students from the Swan Meadow Elementary School.

**Allegheny Front
Migration Observatory**
Grant County, WV
George A. Hall, Compiler

390-0791

The forty-second year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory can be considered to be an average season. While the number of birds banded was the third highest in the past decade, it was much lower than in earlier years. The station was in continuous operation (except for seven days due to rain and/or high winds) from 15 Aug to 16 Oct.

A total of 5662 birds (average = 5875) of 84 species was banded with a station effort of 6796 net hours, giving a capture ratio of 83.31 birds/100 net hours. In August, 903 birds were banded, 2777 in September, and 1982 in October. The station has now banded 176,066 birds of 119 forms. No new species were captured this year.

Twenty-two birds banded in previous years were captured. These included a Magnolia Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat banded in 1993, a yellowthroat and a Purple Finch banded in 1995, and four birds banded in 1997. An exciting recovery is the report of a Hermit Thrush banded here in 1995 retrapped near Yakutat, Alaska, on 3 Sep 1999.

The pattern of migration followed the classical form but was greatly influenced by the rainy days. The days on which the station was closed because of rain were invariably followed by major flights. After a dry August with low daily numbers, the first wave of migrants came through on 27-29 Aug. After a week of little activity, the rains of Hurricane Dennis caused a two-day shutdown. This was followed by a wave lasting for about six days during which 821 birds were banded. Hurricane Floyd gave rise to a small wave lasting four days. Rains on 21 Sep triggered the biggest flight of the season. From 22-27 Sep, 1258 birds were banded. A major frontal system with strong winds closed the station on 30 Sep, but 613 birds were banded on 1 Oct, the highest daily count of the season. In addition to this

high count, one day had more than 300 birds, seven days had more than 200, and seven more had more than 100.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler with 1035 bandings was the most numerous species. This figure is 62% above the 10-year average. The Blackpoll Warbler with 625 bandings (2% above average), and the Black-throated Green Warbler with 494 (41% above average) were next in line. Of 32 species for which meaningful analysis can be made, 23 were banded in numbers greater than the ten-year average, but only four were more than one standard deviation (SD) above the average, only one (Philadelphia Vireo) was 2 SD above and only one (Hooded Warbler) was 3 SD above average. Of the nine species handled in numbers less than the average, only two (Veery and Cape May Warbler) were more than 1 SD below the average. The 3996 warblers were 27% above the 10-year average. Of the "budworm specialists," the Tennessee Warbler was 33% above the 10-year average, the Bay-breasted Warbler was 31% below the average, and the Cape May Warbler, with only 98 bandings (third poorest), was 61% below.

The visual migrant counts were continued. An all-time high of 18,706 Blue Jays was counted with a fantastic one-day count of 8297 on 3 Oct. Other seasonal counts were 252 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (10-year average = 443), 3689 American Goldfinches (average 3064), and 1134 monarch butterflies.

During the season, 1459 people signed the visitors' book. These visitors came from 13 states, District of Columbia, Ontario, England, Japan, New Zealand, and South Africa. As usual, several elementary and high school classes as well as several college classes and senior citizen groups visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Ken and Sue Heselton, Carol and Fred McCullough, Joan Bell Pattison, Randy Ritter, Janet Shaffer, Judy Ward, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leader

Ralph Bell. LeJay Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter. Randy Bitter was campground host and resident bander. JoAnn Graham made most of the Blue Jay-hummingbird counts. Others who were present for extended periods of time were Phil Graham, Beth Ritter, and Carl and Joan Rowe. An additional 42 individuals aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways.

We thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Chuck Meyers, District Ranger Elizabeth Schuppert, 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 shed for storage of the banding shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

Calmes Neck

390-0775

Clarke County, VA

J. William Oberman, Bander

I was unable to band during the last three weeks in October due to an illness in the family. September was very slow with the exception of the irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches that everyone experienced.

I had a recovery of a newly banded N. Saw-whet Owl on 9 Oct, probably banded near Hagerstown, MD. There appears to have been an irruption of this species, too.

Smith Farm

382-0781

Madison County, VA

Edgar Smith, Bander

Fall 1999 was warm with several well-defined fronts following a dry summer. First frost was 25 Oct.

As usual, August and September were very slow, with 201 birds banded in 2600 net hours by the end of September. Even this was an improvement over last year. Numbers picked up in October and the season ended on 12 Dec with 1250 banded of 76 species, making this the biggest autumn since 1995.

Pine Siskins (57) showed up this fall, the first since 1993, and we also banded a few Black-capped Chickadees. Only one Wood Thrush and no Veery banded in the continuing thrush shortage. Hermit Thrushes remain stable, however, with 23 banded.

I banded one N. Saw-whet Owl, a rare occurrence, but there were no other owls or hawks banded this season.

Among 46 returns was a seven-year-old junco and a six-year-old Indigo Bunting. My thanks to Christian Brown who assisted me this year.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2000

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This is the third year for the AFR spring report. Don Runkles reported that the weather was terrible at Greenwell on the weekends—either rain, wind, or cold—and so he did not do much banding. The weather was a problem at several stations. Staff at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station at Braddock Bay slogged through net lanes covered with up to 10" of mud and water throughout the entirety of spring 2000 but were rewarded with their highest totals ever. And the good news there was that "only" 555 Black-capped Chickadees were banded, compared to 1082 the previous fall!

The results over the whole region were mixed, with Crown Point, Lewiston, Ruthven, Appledore, Bedford Valley, and Calmes Neck reporting totals down from spring '99 and the rest of the stations reporting better numbers. Overall, 30,556 birds were banded compared to 27,343 the previous spring. The 'best day' ranged from as early as 20 April at Powdermill to as late as 25 May at Appledore, with the majority of stations' best day falling between 11-20 May.

As banders become more comfortable using the new Pyle ageing protocols, we ought to be able to provide as much reliable %SY data in the spring as we do %HY data in the fall. Less than half the reporting stations reported %SY figures this spring; but of the stations who did report these data, an interesting observation can be made. It is well known that HY birds tend to migrate along the coast in fall while AHY birds tend to move inland. But not as much is known about spring movement.

Of three species with enough sample size, it appears that SY birds also tend to take a coastal route in spring, while ASY birds are more apt to take an inland route (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1. Percent SY birds vs % ASY birds of three species captured at inland vs coastal banding stations.

| Species | Station | Location | Number Banded | % SY |
|---------|------------------|----------|---------------|------|
| WTSP | Long Pt Bird Obs | Inland | 1010 | 23.3 |
| | Yanty Creek | Inland | 92 | 18.5 |
| | Appledore | Coastal | 244 | 82.3 |
| | Calmes Neck | Coastal | 62 | 80 |
| RCKI | Long Pt Bird Obs | Inland | 690 | 17.5 |
| | Appledore | Coastal | 75 | 65.9 |
| | Calmes Neck | Coastal | 15 | 67 |
| MAWA | Long Pt Bird Obs | Inland | 448 | 51.3 |
| | Yanty Creek | Inland | 177 | 36 |
| | Appledore | Coastal | 271 | 70.3 |

From reading the narratives below, you can see that a key to the success of the operations is the work of volunteers. There were over 150 volunteers individually cited in the reports and they all deserve much credit for the success of our research efforts.

We are still seeking new stations to contribute their records to the spring AFR report. Please contact me for a reporting form for the spring 2001 banding season.