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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2000

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We are fortunate to be able to add Jim Smith's Rock Point Banding Station to the Region III AFR report. Rock Point is located on the north shore of Lake Erie, about 12 miles ENE of Selkirk and approximately 25 miles west of the Niagara River corridor, a major route for migration movement. We also welcome back the report from Rick Knight's station on Roan Mountain, a high mountain pass on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. Unfortunately, Ron Leberman was not able to run the banding station at Presque Isle, and Bill Oberman wrote that he would not be banding at Calmes Neck in fall 2000 "for the darndest reason – I'm getting married in September"! I am happy to report that both the Presque Isle and Calmes Neck reports will be back in fall 2001!

As usual, there were somewhat mixed results at the participating stations, with the ratio of birds/100 net hours up at Ruthven, Selkirk, Long Point, Powdermill, Bedford Valley and Smith Farm, but down at Hebron, Lewiston, and Allegheny Front. Weather was not a negative factor at most stations; exceptions were Long Point and Allegheny Front where wind and/or rain resulted in a significant number of days lost. Drought conditions prevailed at Smith Farm and Roan Mountain.

The most active day occurred between 9 & 20 Oct at most stations. Interestingly, the big day at the more southern stations (Herrington Manor and Allegheny Front) occurred earlier, between 18 & 23 Sep, while Smith Farm had the latest big day at 15 Nov.

George Hall continues to document the cyclical decline of the "spruce budworm specialists" at Allegheny Front. Cape May Warbler showed a decline of 79%, Blackpoll Warbler and Bay-

breasted Warbler down 65%, and Tennessee Warbler down 33% from the ten-year average. American Goldfinch was the most common species at Ruthven, Rock Point, Powdermill and Smith Farm with 1790 goldfinches banded at these four stations alone.

Region III stations had some noteworthy exchanges: a Yellow Warbler moved from Selkirk to Ruthven; a Cooper's Hawk from Braddock Bay to Selkirk; and a Northern Saw-whet Owl from Long Point to Selkirk.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
by George West

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2000 Summary.

	Lewiston NY	Ruthven Pk ONT	Rock Pt ONT	Selkirk ONT	Long PT ONT	Hebron PA
First/Last Day	8/21 - 10/12	7/21 - 11/	7/1 - 11/6	7/5 - 11/12	7/26 - 11/19	7/26 - 11/19
Days Operated	14	62	119	128	109	40
No. Nets Used	11 to 15	10 to 14	5 to 11	1 to 18*	0 - 38*	1 to 15*
Total Net Hours	691.5	3887	5585	12,177	12,045	591
% Caught in Traps	0	<1.0%	0.0%	2.99%	NA	4%
Lrgst Daily Catch	65 on 10/12	133 on 10/17	120 on 10/18	172 on 10/10	576 on 10/16	40 on 9/2
No. Banded 1999	311	2545	NA	2466	7648	939
No. Banded 2000	325	2222	3506	3106	9181	300
No. Species 1999	43	86+1 hybrid	NA	91	86	74
No. Species 2000	42	83+1 hybrid	85	86	121	52
Birds/100 nh '99	55	55.23	NA	19.5	57.9	88
Birds/100 nh '00	46.9	56.35	62.78	24.58	176.2	51
% HY 1999	77.49%	79%	NA	77.2%	81.2%	66%
% HY 2000	80%	NA	57%	76.95%	76.8%	65%
* Plus traps.						

Table 1 (cont'd). AFR III Fall 2000 Summary.

	Powdermill PA	Bedford Vly PA	Herrington Mr MD	Allegheny Ft WV	Smith Farm VA	Roan MT TN/NC
First/Last Day	8/1 - 11/29	8/14 - 10/16	9/6 - 10/25	8/13 - 12/15	8/2 - 12/10	8/17 - 10/16
Days Operated	103	29	25	57	65	28
No. Nets Used	2 to 40	1 to 10	10 to 15	19 to 21	10 to 11	4 to 7
Total Net Hours	12,031	814	1230	6000	6395	362
% Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lrgst Daily Catch	250 on 10/20	32 on 10/14	42 on 9/23	231 on 9/18	58 on 11/15	53 on 10/9
No. Banded 1999	6381	88	NA	5662	1250	NA
No. Banded 2000	6136	145	323	3007	1003	435
No. Species 1999	108	39	NA	84	76	NA
No. Species 2000	105	37	47	73	67	46
Birds/100 nh '99	40	1.1	NA	83.3	15.5	NA
Birds/100 nh '00	51	17.8	26	50.1	15.6	120
% HY 1999	NA	65%	NA	NA	70%	NA
% HY 2000	NA	72%	74%	NA	70%	NA

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2000.

	Lewiston NY	Ruthven Pk ONT	Rock Point ONT	Selkirk PK ONT	Long Point ONT	Hebron PA
	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY
1	40 GCKI(2)	88% 284 AMGO(3)	88% 833 AMGO	52% 381 SCJU(6)	93% 1553 MYWA(3)	93.2% 32 MÄWA(10)
2	32 SWTH	72 268 MYWA(2)	94 285 YWAR	79 328 GCKI(1)	50 1201 RCKI(2)	61.4 26 SCJU(2)
3	29 MAWA(4)	86 235 SOSP(7)	89 240 RCKI	na 284 WTSP	90 913 GCKI(1)	87.8 21 MODO
4	28 GRCA(6)	100 155 RCKI(8)	- 203 GRCA	79 282 RCKI(4)	32 561 WTSP(6)	77.4 20 AMGO(1)
5	27 RCKI(7)	81 129 WTSP(5)	87 195 WTSP	70 279 SOSP(2)	91 385 HETH(7)	88.3 18 CSWA
6	19 BCCH(5)	63 98 GCKI(9)	- 180 GCKI	na 92 SWTH	72 339 SCJU(9)	72.9 16 HOFI
7	16 WTSP(3)	31 89 SCJU(4)	80 149 SOSP	70 88 HETH	95 298 SWTH(8)	73.2 12 BCCH(6)
8	14 AMRO	93 79 AMRO(10)	87 104 MAWA	57 78 GRCA	85 216 MAWA(5)	86.1 11 BTNW
9	12 NAWA(9)	60 51 MAWA	87 76 SCJU	68 64 NAWA	92 298 BRCR	67.9 10 CEDW
10	10 MYWA	60 46 GRCA	93 74 SWSP	62 65 MYWA(5)	95 193 YWAR	76.2 10 REV(8)
	10 GCTH	100				

Table 2 (Cont'd). Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2000.

	Powdermill PA	Bedford Valley PA	Herrington Mr MD	Allegheny FT WV	Smith Farm VA	Roan Mt TN/NC
	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY	%HY
1	481 AMGO(1)	70% 36 CHSP(1)	69% 47 COYE	57% 546 BTBW(1)	76% 192 AMGO(3)	77% 84 SWTH
2	437 MYWA(5)	85 12 AMGO	66 32 GRCA	78 325 SCJU(10)	89 162 WTSP(1)	76 66 TEWA
3	383 MAWA(6)	66 8 GRCA(4)	75 30 MAWA	83 275 BTNW(3)	85 88 SCJU(2)	80 66 BTBW
4	319 WTSP(7)	55 7 MAWA	42 28 TEWA	79 211 SWTH(6)	75 77 RCKI(4)	na 46 SCJU
5	295 GRCA(4)	86 7 BHVI	85 28 BCCH	68 199 MAWA(4)	81 59 SOSP(7)	92 18 CSWA
6	289 SWTH	92	25 SWSP	44 191 GCKI(7)	na 35 GCKI	na 16 RCKI
7	260 SCJU(2)	48	11 SOSP	91 190 TEWA(5)	72 31 EAPH(7)	80 12 GCKI
8	242 SOSP	67	10 EAPH	60 162 BLPW(2)	70 28 INBU	75 12 GRCA
9	223 COYE(10)	78	9 RCKI	78 138 COYE	91 27 HETH	90 11 OVEN
10	194 REVI	85	9 BTNW	100 65 RCKI(8)	na 23 NOCA	93 11 HOWA
				65 NAWA	59	

Lewiston**431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

Jerald J. Farrell, Bander

The 2000 fall banding season started on 21 Aug. This is the earliest this station has opened in the last four years. Normally I am away until 3 Sep on a waterfowl banding project for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Brooks, Alberta. I passed on this project for the year 2000 so I was able to start the songbird banding earlier.

This is the 25th year for banding in the fall at the Lewiston Station. I have cut back on our banding lanes (five 12-m nets) because total bird catch at this location was down. Two of the old banding lanes are still in service—one of eleven 12-m nets and the other of four 12-m nets. If this station continues, another lane will be opened enabling the full complement of twenty 12-m nets to be used.

This was a great fall for mist netting. No days were lost to either rain or wind. I was very disappointed in the number of birds in late August. I anticipated banding a few more warblers but this did not happen. A total of 325 birds were banded comprising 42 species. These totals are almost identical to last year. I had a total of four local retraps of which three were Black-capped Chickadees.

There were nine Fox Sparrows banded in fall 1999, placing the species as one of the top ten. This year there was not a single Fox Sparrow handled, following the trend for most years. The Gray-cheeked Thrush is appearing in greater numbers, placing this species in the top ten for the first time.

As in the past, I have continued to give many talks pertaining to banding. We had approximately 12 individuals and three groups visit the station.

Ruthven Park**425-0795**

Haldimand County, Ontario

Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Banders

Gene Paterson, Marg Ludkin, Christine Paterson, Jamie Miles, Maureen Moore, Chief Assistants

We had another fine season, banding on 62 days. I sympathize with the bander from St. Andrews Banding Station (NABB 25:(3)): "real work"

Oct. - Dec.

commitments do get in the way. And can you imagine the nerve of the courts in requiring jury duty at the height of the migration season – that should be outlawed! Still, we had good coverage during the busiest times: 22 days in September and 24 in October. 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 minor tree trimming/removal was done in the area of the net lanes in order to maintain the edge habitat in which our nets are located.

We started banding toward the end of July in order to catch Yellow Warblers before they leave. In six days we banded 41 of them (out of a total of 184 birds) which compared favorably with only 16 that we captured last year. Interestingly, we recaptured a HY-U Yellow Warbler on 23 Jul that John Miles had banded just 24 hours earlier at Selkirk Provincial Park. In this time the bird had moved about 12 miles to the northeast.

August was difficult for us to cover (only eight days of banding), and we banded only 147 birds. However, one of them was a first for this station: a beautiful male Cerulean Warbler. It may have been the one that was around for at least three weeks in May and early June, singing on territory.

The fluctuations in some of the species from one year to the next were interesting. Myrtle Warblers were up from last year (268 vs 164 but well below the 390 banded in 1998). Song Sparrows made a resurgence (235 vs the record low of 130 last year) probably directly related to the regrowth of a large wildflower field adjacent to the banding area which had been mown in September the year before. We also did a record number of American Goldfinches (284 vs 181 in 1998). However, the bottom fell out of our House Finch population: 23 vs 279 last year.

We would like to thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their continuing support of this project. Our efforts were supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

Rock Point Banding Station 425-0793

Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario

Jim Smith, Bander

Jose Blanco Marcillo, Peter Dombrowski, Robin Young, David Millen, Margaret Kormandy, Bill Love, Chief Assistants

Rock Point Banding Station is located on the west side of Rock Point Provincial Park which is on the north shore of Lake Erie. A couple of kilometers west of the Park is the Grand River. The banding station is on a no-access lane with the ten nets located in a circular route through old meadow, dogwood thickets, planted maple, and spruce. The area has a number of spruce thickets and lots of high bush cranberries, gray olive, and various dogwoods.

The only foreign retrap was an American Goldfinch banded by Tony Salvadori near Orton, Ontario, on the 2 Aug 1999. The goldfinches were significant in relation to the number banded. Yellow Warblers came through in numbers from 20 Jul to 3 Aug. There were 118 *Empidonax*-type flycatchers banded mainly in August.

Through the summer, two banding demonstrations were put on for campers in the park. About 50 people attended the demonstrations. Fifty-four visitors, not including those who returned to the station after the demonstrations, were welcomed and shown around. A local newspaper article through the summer outlined what banding was all about. Mark Custers, Park Superintendent, and Diane Hayward, Nature Interpreter for the Park, visited often and took part in extracting birds from the nets.

Thanks to my wife Gerda Smith for the early mornings when she was willing to get up with me and for the care and attention she gave to the volunteers who boarded with us. Thanks to John Miles and Rick Ludkin for the training given to me in the previous seasons.

Thanks for financial assistance from the following organizations which enabled us to get Rock Point Banding Station up and running: Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund and Bird Studies Canada, and the Canada Millenium Partnership Program. A big thank-you to

Ontario Parks and Mark Custers, Park Superintendent, for permission to conduct research within the park.

Selkirk Provincial Park 424-0795

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario

John Miles, Bander

Galli Basson, Alicia Korpach, Chief Assistants

The third year of operating in the fall at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 5 Jul and ended 12 Nov. The station was manned daily, once it officially opened, except for two days, with the banding effort taking place on 128 days. Twenty-one 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 from one-half hour before sunrise usually for a minimum of six hours for passerine banding. In October and early November, the nets were opened one to two hours earlier each morning to catch owls. The mild summer and fall was pleasant, with few days of excessive winds. The wind did seem to come from the east or northeast more than what would normally be expected. The area was damp early in the season from the excessive spring and early summer record rains. The latter part of the banding season was fairly dry. The station did not operate due to weather only on one day, although operations were restricted on a few other days. The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area remain the same.

Banding was carried out using 18 mist nets, three ground traps, and a Jay trap. The same net lanes used in the spring of 2000 were used again. One additional 12-m net was erected in the hawthorns on the east side of the pine plantation replacing a 10-m net. After eight banding seasons of experimenting with net locations, it appears we have finally achieved the best setup possible. I know this was said in the spring report but this should be it, provided the construction of a retirement village in the field to the west of the park does not interfere with the west hedgerow nets, as the developers are committed to erecting a new

fence between their property and the park. The boundary line is the middle of the hedgerow.

The number of ground traps used was three, as well as a "portable" Jay trap. The Jay trap was moved at the start of the banding season to the edge of the Spring Creek Marsh. We first started erecting the nets for the fall season 5 Jul. July was a good month with 435 birds banded. Peak days were 23 Jul and 24 Jul, with 33 and 36 birds banded respectfully. Song Sparrow was the main species banded with 96 done. Bandings slowed down in August with only 358 birds banded, but 95 were Song Sparrows. By the end of August, a respectable 783 birds had been banded.

We had nice weather in September and low number of birds until 13 Sep, when a drop of thrushes took place. A new one-day fall banding record was set with 97 birds banded of which 82 were thrushes. Daily bandings dropped back to low numbers until the next big push that took place 28 Sep when the station had it first fall 100-bird day with 101 birds banded—the kinglets had arrived. Nearly 600 birds were banded in September.

The first couple days of October were slow and then it started to pick up, peaking 10 Oct when an impressive 172 birds were banded. Oct 12 was good with 91 birds banded. The week of 15-21 Oct was very good; 514 birds were banded with a peak of 116 birds banded on 20 Oct. October ended up being the best banding month at Selkirk since the station opened, with 1521 birds banded.

November started off slowly as is to be expected, with the 30 birds banded 5 Nov an encouragement. The day before close down, 11 Nov, was a bit of a surprise, with 57 birds banded—two more than the best day for the fall of 1998. The 209 birds banded in November brought the season's banding total up to a new fall high of 3106 birds banded of 86 species.

There were 181 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Noteworthy birds included an adult Golden Eagle circling over Spring Creek, several Orchard Orioles, two Bicknell's Thrushes, and a Baltimore Oriole sighted on two days in early November. There were 3106 birds of 86 species banded at

Selkirk Provincial Park in the fall of 2000. In addition, one additional race, Oregon Junco, was also banded. Most numerous birds banded were Slate-colored Junco 381, Golden-crowned Kinglet 338, White-throated Sparrow 284, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 282, Song Sparrow 279, Black-capped Chickadee 181, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet 178. Two species were banded for the first time Bicknell's Thrush and Orchard Oriole.

In the fall of 2000, 249 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly—some as many as 30-40 times. There were 36 returns. While most of these are resident or nesting birds in the area, the recapture of an American Tree Sparrow, banded in the spring of 2000, is noteworthy. A Yellow Warbler, Northern Cardinal, and two American Goldfinch, originally handled in 1996, were retrapped.

This fall, two foreign retraps were encountered: A Cooper's Hawk banded at Braddock Bay, NY (near Rochester), was retrapped 11 Oct 2000. A Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at Old Cut, Long Point, Ont., 27 Oct 2000 was retrapped at Selkirk on 12 Nov 2000. A Yellow Warbler banded at Selkirk this fall was retrapped a few days later at Ruthven. This is the first inter-station recovery for the Haldimand Bird Observatory.

There were 37 visitor days recorded at the banding site in the fall of 2000.

I would like to extend my 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 Government of Canada's Millennium Partnership Program, and the support of Bird Studies Canada, 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, three-ring loose leaf binders, bird feeders, cleaning tools, Timbits and other goodies, and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

A special thanks to John Whitford for arranging the acquisition of a solar panel system for the banding trailer; and who then, along with Jason Waldon, spent several hours installing the system.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: 3-4 weeks: Galli Basson, Alicia Korpach, 2-3 weeks: Mike Kimber, Sue Kimber, 1-2 weeks: Chris Kimber, 4-6 days: Dave Donn, 1-3 days: Tom Crooks, Floyd Deiter, Audrey Heagy, Stuart MacKenzie, Gerald McNaughton, Ann Miles, Maureen Moore, Jose Morcilla, Chris Nadeau, Dave Okines, Alex Smith, Gerta Smith, Jason Walton, John Whitford.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk RM **423-0801**
423-0802

Kathryn Warner, Michael Enright, Banders
Matt Hindle, Madeline Schickel, Chief Assistants

Fall migration was very fascinating this year with unusual numbers, interesting movement patterns and great people. Migration monitoring at the Old Cut Station began on 29 Jul, a hot summer day. Many breeding species and their young were still around, and the early migrants were starting to move. The start of the season was productive for banding while the Young Ornithologist Workshop was operating, catching a total of 225 birds in one week. The six youthful participants received lots of practice banding migrants such as Yellow Warblers, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and Least Flycatchers. Many local birds such as Gray Catbirds, Song Sparrows, American Robins, Swamp Sparrows, and Common Yellowthroats were also caught. During this week, a Black-and-white warbler, American Redstarts, Northern Waterthrushes and a Blackburnian Warbler all made appearances. At the end of July and start of August, early migrants were moving, and banding was progressing nicely.

On 8 and 11 Aug, the Tip and Breakwater stations were opened respectively. It was perfect timing because the arrival of Canada Warblers and Ovenbirds on 11 Aug at all three stations announced the start of Neotropical warbler migration. It seems that as August progressed, the banding totals tapered off. The early migrants passed through, and many of the locals moved on

to different areas. Although the daily banding totals dropped, the number of species seen in a day remained high. At Old Cut on 20 Aug, even though only 23 birds were banded, the number of species seen in a day was 63, which is high for the area.

A warm and sunny day brought in the month of September and the birds kept moving. During the month, most of the warblers passed, and late migrating species such as Nashville Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers moved in. By the end of the month, several sparrow species started to make appearances. White-throated, Lincoln's, Field and Chipping sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos all started their migration. During the last week, large numbers of blackbirds and starlings started to collect and roost.

Although September was a great month for unusual birds, banding was dismal for the Tip and Breakwater. High winds and rain often kept the stations from operating. The Tip mist nets were run only 15 days during September, thus ending the month with banding totals less than 1000 birds. The most frustrating day for the Tip was on 9 Sep, when thousands of warblers passed by within two hours. High winds prevented nets from being opened and low light and rain made it nearly impossible to identify the birds. Breakwater closed on 20 Sep due to the hunting season commencing, and banded only 420 birds, approximately half of last year's total of 819. Fortunately, Old Cut was unaffected by the winds and remained open the entire month.

The month of September was slow and left most of the volunteers and staff asking "Where are all the birds?" Well, it seems they were waiting for October. The first week of the month was slow but things started to pick up for the Tip. The weather was kinder, thus nets could be opened. On the 3rd, they caught 133 birds, the best of the fall so far, but that was just a prelude to what was coming. Old Cut's large banding days began on 7 and 8 Oct, banding 172 and 171 birds respectively. It was Myrtle Warbler mania! They were everywhere, literally dripping from the trees. We banded 240 individuals within these two days. It was estimated that over a thousand Myrtles were in the woodlot for two days. On 9 Oct, the Myrtle Warbler numbers subsided slightly, but the kinglets moved in. Over

120 Ruby- and Golden-crowned kinglets and Myrtle Warblers were banded, for a total of 182 birds for the day.

October was filled with banding, but also offered some unusual sightings. Several Red-necked Grebes and White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at the Tip on 8 Oct. Throughout the month, approximately 58 Surf Scoters were seen off the Tip as well as two Parasitic Jaegers. A Grasshopper Sparrow was spotted on 11 Oct and an endangered Hooded Warbler was banded at the Tip on the 12th. Two Golden Eagles were also seen this fall: one was seen flying over Old Cut and the other was seen at Tip.

Overall, LPBO had a great fall season. At the end of the migration, over 9100 birds of 121 different species were banded. The Old Cut Station managed to band 4956, followed by the Tip with 3723. Breakwater was considerably quieter with about 420 birds banded due to the early closure date. It is estimated that over 230 species were seen over these four months across the three stations.

Hebron 414-0780

Coudersport, Potter County, PA

David W. Hauber, Bander

Aaron Greene, Gary Witmer and family, Chief Assistants

Work schedule and participation in Project Owl-net caused a significant reduction in net hours devoted to capturing passerines. Successional habitat change is another factor in the lower numbers of passerines. Total new passerine captures declined from 939 in fall 1999 to 300 in 2000. We added Carolina Wren to the cumulative fall station species list.

One hundred eight Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded (up from 80 in 1999) which are not included in these totals as we used an audio lure to bring them in. There were four saw-whet foreign re-encounters: a SY female recaptured here on 20 Oct 2000 had been banded on 10 Oct 1999 by Scott Weidensaul's crew at the South Mountain station near Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County, PA; a SY female banded on 7 Oct 2000 by Dr. B Watts' crew at the GATR Tract state wildlife management area on the lower

Delmarva Peninsula was recaptured here on 25 Oct 2000; a SY female banded on 23 Oct 2000 by Dave and Sandy Junkin near Bliss, NY, was recaptured here on 27 Oct 2000 (**80 miles south in four days**); and another SY female banded on 2 Oct 2000 by Jennifer Brackbill at Shaver's Creek Env. Center near University Park, PA, was recaptured here on 22 Oct (**80 miles north in 11 days!**).

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill, Banders

The bird-banding program at Carnegie Museum of Natural History's 2000-acre field research station in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, Powdermill Nature Reserve, was in operation on 98 out of a possible 122 days during the fall period (August through November). Over 100 birds were banded on 18 days during the season, with a peak of 186 on 11 Oct. It is unusual for us not to tally >200 birds on at least one day during the fall, but numbers of sparrows and finches were comparatively very low during the last half of October, which is when we ordinarily catch the greatest number of birds. Although our overall capture total (6178) was average, our capture rate of 36 birds/100 net hours was well below average. With 109 species and two recognizable forms banded; however, the diversity of our catch this fall was above average. As usual, a comparatively small number of species makes up a large proportion of our total catch—this season's "top ten" list of most commonly banded birds together comprised 44% of our banding total.

Highlight of the season was our first ever Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Banding totals for Sharp-shinned Hawk (9), Winter Wren (47), Northern Parula (9), Black-throated Green Warbler (121), Magnolia Warbler (383), and Wood Thrush (60) broke long-standing records. Conspicuous "misses" this fall included Red-breasted Nuthatch, Great Crested Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow.

Our program could not be so productive without the help of a great many people. This year, we were very ably assisted on most days by banding

assistant, Laura Quattrini, and on many occasions also by research assistant Jim Sheehan. We were fortunate, as always, to have help from a number of dedicated volunteers, especially Darlene Madarish, Carole Shanahan, and Carroll Labarthe. Others who assisted from time to time included Jack and Karyl Merchant and their daughter Jessica, Bob Shaw, Peggy Wisner, and Geoff Burtner. For facilitating our efforts in many ways we thank Powdermill's Director, Dr. Joseph F. Merritt, and the station's maintenance crew, Gilbert and Albert Lenhart and Lloyd Moore. Last, but not least, we owe a tremendous debt to our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who painstakingly enters, checks and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and fulfilling data requests.

Finally, early in fall 2000 we launched a website (<http://www.westol.com/~banding>) devoted to the Powdermill bird-banding program. The site was updated almost daily throughout the fall 2000 season with banding totals and pictorial highlights (these currently are archived on the site) and, following the conclusion of the season, included a detailed banding summary, with comparisons of totals from the previous 40 fall banding seasons at Powdermill (this summary also is archived on the site). We encourage readers to visit our website often for the most current information and results of the Powdermill banding program.

Bedford Valley
Bedford County, PA
Janet Shaffer, Bander

395-0783

Weather conditions in fall 2000 were excellent when compared with 1999 which had three summer months of serious drought in this area. However, few fronts went through and many days not a single bird was netted. August and September were very slow until 23 Sep when activity picked up. Days with over 10 birds were 23, 25 Sep and 2, 14 Oct. Up to ten 12-m nets were used between the hours of 6AM and 12PM. One net location was reassigned closer in, due to exposure to sun and also for my convenience.

In addition to the 145 new birds banded, there were 20 repeat/encounters. A Chipping Sparrow male, banded as AHY on 11 May 1997 was retrapped on

25 Sep 2000 for the sixth time over the three-year period. Surprises were netting seven Blue-headed Vireos and seven Magnolia Warblers. Warbler species banded this fall were: Cape May, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Ovenbird, Wilson's, Nashville, Myrtle, and Common Yellowthroat.

Herrington Manor Banding Station 392-0792
Oakland, Garrett County, MD
Fran Pope, Connie Skipper, Banders

Herrington Manor is a new location for us. It is approximately four miles due west of the Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area banding station, where we banded in 1998 and 1999. Work schedules and personal con-siderations necessitated the change in location. Ten mist nets were set up west of Herrington Manor Lake. Half the nets were in an edge habitat between the lakeshore and a tall white pine plantation. The other nets were set up in a wetland area dominated by low shrubs such as speckled alder, *Spirea*, and *Viburnum*. Very few of the shrubs bore fruit this fall. We added five more nets on 22 Sep in a low deciduous forest of mostly black cherry. These nets yielded very few birds but collected tons of leaves for us.

We had a very late start (6 Sep) and ran fewer nets than our usual 19.5. We opened the nets on 25 days and banded 323 birds of 47 species. We captured 26 birds/100 net hours, the second lowest birds per net hour in the past ten years. One third of our birds were captured during the first five days open. On 22 Sep we banded 42 birds; after 6 Oct, our numbers per day were very low.

Though the change in location seemed to bring fewer birds our way, the composition of the species was a bit different than we have experienced previously. Warblers accounted for 46% of our total numbers, a figure more than 10% higher than at Cherry Creek or Mt. Nebo WMA. Common Yellowthroats ranked #1, followed by Gray Cat-birds, Magnolia Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Black-capped Chickadees. Swamp Sparrows lost their usual #1 ranking, moving to #6 this year. Indigo Buntings nearly always rank in the top five, but we captured none this year, which seems a bit odd. Our "best" birds were an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Prairie Warbler, two species we seldom see.

One reason we relocated to Herrington Manor State Park was to facilitate visitors. This move definitely paid off in this regard. We had 203 students and 64 visitors. All students and many of the visitors received a formal banding presentation.

Allegheny Front Migration Obs. 390-0791
Grant County, WV
George A. Hall, Compiler

The forty-third year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was the second poorest season since we have had full-time coverage. The number of bandings was only 52% of the long-term average. The weather was generally mild but unusually rainy. The station was in full operation from 13 Aug to 15 Oct. On six days the operation was closed down because of rain or high winds, and on five additional days rain caused an early close of the nets. Some useful banding was carried out on 57 days.

A total of 3007 birds (43-yr average = 5722) were banded with a station effort of 5998.8 net hours, giving a capture ratio of 50.13 birds /100 net hours (fourth poorest). The station has now banded 184,773 birds of 119 species. No new species were captured this year.

Eleven birds banded in previous years were recaptured: four banded in 1999, five in 1998, and two (both Common Yellowthroats) banded in 1996. All 17 were species that nest in the area. There were two interesting recoveries: an Ovenbird banded in 1999 was found dead at Warner, NH, in April 2000, and a Western Palm Warbler banded in Oct 1995 hit the World Trade Center building in New York on 2 Apr 2000.

The capture pattern was not the typical form but was similar to the 1996 pattern, the all-time poorest year. The few birds captured in August were almost all local breeders, and the first moderate migratory movement was about two weeks late on 15 Sep. However, the days of heaviest flights were on 18 and 23 Sep, about the normal time. The mid-October wave was caused by a good flight of juncos. The biggest day was 18 Sep with 247 bandings followed by 23 Sep with 231. No other days produced more than 200 birds and only seven days had more than 100. There were less than 50 bandings on 37 days.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler continues to be the most numerous species but the 546 bandings is 21% below the ten-year average. Dark-eyed Junco, including both migrant and resident populations, was second with 325 (40% above average) and the Black-throated Green Warbler with 275 (25% below average) was third. Of 40 species selected for analysis, 33 were banded in numbers below the ten-year average, but 19 of these <1SD below, 12 species were less than 2 SD below, and two (Veery and Rose-breasted Grosbeak) were more than 2 SD below. Five species were above the average but none were more than 1 SD above.

The warblers as a group showed a decline of 42% from the ten-year average. The "spruce budworm specialists" continued their decline with the Cape May Warbler having a decline of 79%, the Bay-breasted Warbler 65%, and the Tennessee Warbler 33%. Most surprising was the 76% decline of the Blackpoll Warbler, which usually has the most or second most captures. The Blackburnian Warbler was down 71%. On the other hand, Nashville and Wilson's warblers were in numbers slightly above average.

Swainson's Thrush had a decline of 22%, Gray-cheeked Thrush declined 52%, and Veery, 44%, but Hermit Thrush continued to show increasing numbers caught but this is largely caused by an increase in captures of an expanding local breeding population. Another surprise was the 44% decline in Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Flycatchers continue to be almost absent at this station.

The visual migrant counts were continued. Only 229 Blue Jays were counted. Other season counts were 305 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (10-yr average = 443), 1209 American Goldfinches (10-yr average = 3064), and 831 monarch butterflies.

During the season, 1636 people signed the visitors' book. These visitors came from 19 states, District of Columbia, Ontario, England, Germany, and Venezuela. As usual, several elementary and high school classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, Walter Fye, LeJay Graffious, Ken and Sue Heselton, Steve Huy, 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 Ritter 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 in addition to 34 individuals who aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways.

We also 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 the D.N.R. for the use of the shed for storage of the banding shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

Smith Farm
Madison County, VA
Edgar Smith, Bander

382-0781

This was a dry fall with only a trace of rain the entire month of October. Several fronts produced little moisture and few birds.

The season began slowly, as usual. I was open only two days in August and banded few birds. Eighteen days and 1800 net hours of banding in September produced 192 birds.

Flycatchers were very scarce except for phoebe. There was only one Wood Thrush and no Veery. Hermit Thrush increased a little to 27. Ten sapsuckers banded was a record number as was 11 Winter Wrens. Eight blackpolls was a record high. I banded a Rusty Blackbird on 14 Nov, the first ever seen at the farm in our 35 years there.

I had 41 returns, not notable, and no foreign recoveries. Few parasites were noted; three sparrows had legs crippled by pox.

Roan Mountain
Carter County, TN / Mitchell County, NC
Richard L. Knight, Bander

360-0820

Banding was conducted at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain for the third autumn season, following a

two-year hiatus. The habitat was described in NABB 22:150-151 and is essentially unchanged today. Precipitation for August was near normal, but the next two months were very dry. In fact, October was the driest on record. Temperatures in late September and early October were cooler than normal. Few cold fronts moved through. At this high mountain pass (5512 ft), strong winds are frequent and several days were not suitable for mist netting because of it. Nets were set up from sunrise until noon, sometimes later. A combination of 6 m, 9 m and 12 m nets were used, with net hours adjusted accordingly.

Most species occurred in near-normal numbers. Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were quite scarce. The single Golden-winged, Mourning, and Wilson's warblers were station firsts. The Carolina Wren (also a station first), Carolina Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse were somewhat unusual at this high elevation. The juncos and Golden-crowned Kinglets, plus the single Red-breasted Nuthatch and Winter Wren, were most likely all local residents. Most transients move through this high mountain gap rapidly, as evidenced by just five individuals that repeated, three of which were catbirds (possibly local breeders). The only return was a junco banded here as an AHY-M on 8 Oct 1997. Five hummingbirds were released unbanded.

My thanks to the Unaka District of the Cherokee National Forest (TN) and Appalachian District of the Pisgah National Forest (NC) for permission to band birds on lands which they administer.

