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State Park and staged there benefited from the abundant food. One Song Sparrow captured in the fall and recaptured in March gained 3.5 g and another gained as much as 2.25 g. Those captured in April evidently were migrants coming into the area that had either used their body mass in migration or had not had the advantage of an abundant food supply prior to migration.

Prairie Warblers. Three Prairie Warbler territories within the area of the field station were lost this spring. A pair of warblers occupied each of these territories for each of the preceding three breeding seasons, starting in mid to late April. It is unknown whether these birds relocated. It seems two were lost due to normal plant succession—the

tree canopies over these territories became almost totally closed. This had been anticipated. However, the ground cover, such as tall fescue and scattered blackberry bushes, within the third territory was mowed within several inches of the ground in late March for a Boy Scout jamboree. Had the mowing not been so close to the ground, this territory may well have been occupied this spring. From banding and observations at Greenwell, the habitat requirements for this species seem specific: ground cover roughly 18 inches to three or four feet in height with scattered short trees such that the canopy is less than 50 percent closed. Territories have been established within the field station along woodland edges and in abandoned pastures where these conditions are met.

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2001

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This season was as strange as it was productive throughout our transect of New York state. All stations report excellent totals, unusual species, high numbers of species seen infrequently on the norm, exceptionally mild weather late into the season, and an extension of the drought begun last year.

A tremendous invasion of Black-capped Chickadees reached Braddock Bay on the Lake Ontario littoral in October. Fortunately many additional helpers were manning the station at the time. That dynamic failed to present itself at the other stations, although both Kestrel Haven and Northview experienced significant increases (but well under 100 as compared to the 1600+ at Braddock) in numbers of the species, and the other station chickadee totals were higher than normal. In past irruptions, the numbers remained strong through the central Finger Lakes corridor, giving rise to the speculation that this surge routed much further to the west. During the last irruption in fall 1999, the cumulative total between Braddock

Bay and Kestrel Haven was around 2000 birds. Only one was recovered (recaptured 93 mi WSW of Braddock Bay 13 days after banding).

Two other species irrupted in good numbers throughout the state with all stations reporting many juncos and White-throated Sparrows. While the former has accompanied chickadee irruptions in past years, the widespread presence of White-throated Sparrows was an unusual bounty. These birds normally cluster at the Lake Ontario migrant trap and then proceed south along the ridge route much to the west of this year's movement. Six stations banded 1975 chickadees, 1755 White-throated Sparrows, 701 goldfinches, 618 juncos, and 217 Purple Finches.

The winter finches joined the chickadees in this year's irruption. Strangely, the flocking type experience was not extended to Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, or White-winged Crossbill. Both Ellenville and Kestrel Haven enjoyed record high numbers of Purple Finch, which arrived in small numbers over the entire season. Pine Siskins were very early and may reflect local nesting. White-winged Crossbills were also early and widespread although only three were banded. The mild nature of November combined with the

invading species to produce some unusual combinations of species at the feeders and in the nets. Chipping Sparrows joined American Tree Sparrows while Evening Grosbeaks, crossbills, redpolls and Snow Buntings were seen in many locations while breeding birds remained well into November. To add to the confusion, a very unusual Long-billed Murrelet (split in 2000 from Marbled Murrelet) and a Northern Gannet appeared on Cayuga Lake.

Other species present in unusual numbers included Magnolia Warbler and Indigo Bunting. Several stations, led by Braddock Bay, reported greater-than-normal Magnolias while Kestrel Haven enjoyed a two-month stream of buntings; the majority of those birds were HY males.

It was particularly nice to see Ellenville and Vestal enjoying productive seasons. They were overdue and Vestal, a station with a 39-year record under Harriet Marsi and later Gail Kirch, actually returned

to norms they routinely experienced in the earlier years even adding a new species to that station's cumulative. Alfred Station continued to suffer the consequences of local accipiter nesting and Betsy's long absences to work at the Braddock Bay station. Bob McKinney was unable to operate Spring Hill this year.

While many were concerned over the spread of West Nile virus and recommended draconian handling techniques, I experienced a very unusual staph infection this season, which required some hospitalization for antibiotic treatment and lots of CIPRO after that. We were unable to identify the cause and best speculation is that the infection was initiated by either bird induced bites and scratches or woodpecker finger hammering. Needless to say we have become very aware of cleanliness and the need to wash hands after such encounters. We also now keep a dispenser of liquid alcohol (Purell) handy for disinfecting hands after handling birds.

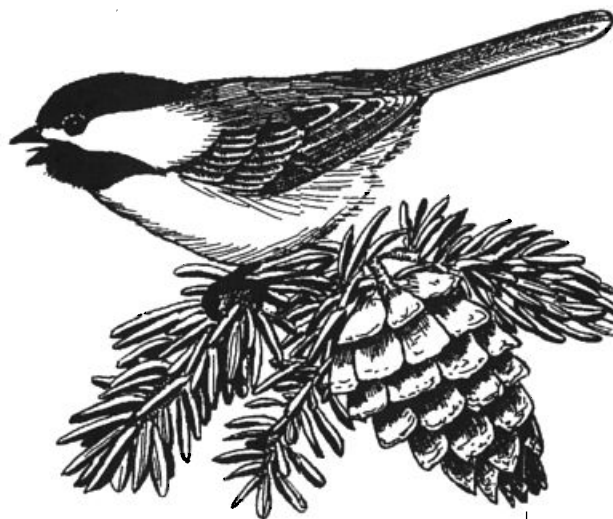
Table 1. AFR II Summary of Operations - Fall 2001.

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Spring Hill	Kestrel Haven	Northview	Vestal	Ellenville
Start	14 Jul	9 Jul	n/a	5 Jul	4 Jul	27 Jul	1 Aug
Stop	12 Nov	30 Nov	n/a	28 Nov	21 Oct	19 Nov	8 Nov
Total Days	66	66		96	45	73	41
No. Nets	1 - 33	1 - 4		1 - 17	1 - 6	11 - 11	6 - 8
Net Hours	11,534	768		2958	691	1461	1085
No. Best Day	412	15		137	27	99	38
BD Date	13 Oct	21 Oct		28 Oct	29 Sep	28 Oct	24 Sep
Reason BD	92% BCCH	67% PISI		40% SCJU	41% BCCH	45% SCJU	21% AMGO
Best Diversity	37 on 23 Sep	8 on 12 Aug		25 on 22 Oct	12 on 11 Aug	19 on 29 Sep	19 on 27 Sep
Banded '00	4795	132	127	2323	477	366	576
Banded '01	6704	159		3073	360	1291	713
Species '00	88	30	26	83	53	49	57
Species '01	97	29		87	50	69	62
B/100nh '00	47	18	19	93	32	n/a	51
B/100nh '01	58	21		104	44	88	66
% HY 2000	85%	76%	84%	86%	85%	75%	73%
% HY 2001	92%	68%		85%	80%	79%	66%

Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2001.

Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Spr.Hill	Kestrel Haven			Northview			Ellenville			Vestal		
Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Unable to band this season.	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
BCCH	1668	94	BCCH(1)	47	71		AMGO(1)	481	86	BCCH(6)	61	87	PUFI	86	77	SCJU(9)	178	72
WTSP(1)	1379	93	SCJU(4)	31	50		SOSP(2)	441	97	GRCA(1)	55	90	SCJU(1)	72	36	WTSP(1)	171	74
RCKI(3)	538	88*	PISI	10	80		SCJU	205	91	WTSP(4)	36	97	WTSP(3)	69	33	AMGO(5)	140	89
GCKI(2)	358	97*	CHSP	8	64		GRCA(4)	178	87	COYE(3)	33	60	RCKI(6)	61	55	CEDW(10)	92	82
MAWA(4)	341	92	HOWR	7	17		COYE(3)	166	85	SOSP(2)	22	90	BCCH(8)	60	88	GRCA(2)	89	93
HETH	178	97	GCKI	7	100		INBU	106	28	BLJA	14	93	GRCA(2)	50	86	REVI(7)	74	73
MYWA	175	89	MYWA	6	100		WTSP	97	99	NOCA	14	79	AMGO(4)	38	76	COYE(3)	61	84
COYE	157	95	DOWO	4	33		PUFI	96	71	MYWA	11	100	COYE(9)	25	80	BCCH(4)	55	95
SWTH(7)	147	88	COYE(3)	4	75		RBGR(10)	88	85	AMGO	9	33	AMRE	25	80	MAWA	45	53
GRCA	128	94	five species				BCCH	84	78	AMRO(8)	8	100	SOSP(10)	20	65	SOSP(6)	45	80
													MAWA(4)	20	80	RCKI	32	72
% of Total Banded	91.90%		80.00%				63.20%			90.77%			74%			76%		

Notes: * - Percentages for those where skulling was possible
 (#) - Indicates ranking last fall.
 NA - Not attempted.



Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station
Monroe County, NY.
Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler
<brookser@infoblvd.net>

The sixteenth consecutive year of fall banding began on 14 Jul and ended on 12 Nov. Licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Dan deRoos, Erin Karnatz, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sue Smith, and Martha Zettel did the banding. Banding assistants were Jessie Barry, Katherine Clemens, Mark Deutchlander, Miriam Hulst, Pat Lovallo, Cindy Marino, Chris Villone, and John Waud. A number of licensed banders attending the NABC/EBBA Bander Certification session, from 12 to 14 Oct, helped with the banding of the 728 Black-capped Chickadees captured during that period.

Banding was done every day between 25 Aug and 14 Oct, and on eight days prior and nine days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 11,533.5 net hours on 66 days. There were 6704 birds banded of 97 forms. The season's capture rate was 58.1 birds/100 net-hr. Broad-winged Hawk, Whippoorwill, Brewster's Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Common Redpoll were new species for the cumulative fall list, which now stands at 117 forms. The best day was 13 Oct with 412 birds banded. Other 200+ days were 406 on 28 Sep, 366 on 14 Oct, 290 on 23 Sep, 275 on 8 Oct, 242 on 18 Oct, 235 on 19 Oct, and 216 on 29 Sep. The greatest species diversity occurred on 23 Sep when 37 species were banded.

Up to 33 twelve-meter nets and 4 six-meter nets were used, most in the same locations as in previous years. Nets were numbered and identified as to their habitat site and the capture time (hour after sunrise to the nearest half-hour) and net number was recorded for each bird handled. Included in the 33 twelve-meter nets were six double-high net assemblies.

Ticks were removed from several birds, and hyboboscids were found on at least 20 birds. Compared to last fall, very few birds were found infected with avian pox.

There were over 1398 birds recaptured and they were all measured, fat-scored, and re-weighed. Thirty-eight percent of the same-season recaptures were White-throated Sparrows. Fourteen birds were returns from a previous fall season. The eldest return was a Northern Cardinal at eight years old. A Yellow Warbler and a Song Sparrow were four years of age, while the remaining returns were three years old or less. We have received reports on the following foreign encounters: An AHY White-throated Sparrow banded 17 Apr 2001 near Quantico, VA, by Joseph W. Witt was trapped here on 23 Sep 2001; an ASY-M American Goldfinch banded here on 29 Apr 2000 was captured and released by Gilles Burelle on 01 Nov 2001 at point Aux Trembles which is near Montreal, Quebec. Finally, although not one of the 1999 irruption chickadees, a Black-capped Chickadee that was banded here on 10 Oct 1999 was recaptured at Selkirk Provincial Park by John Miles on 28 Oct 1999.

Sixteen species were banded in record-high numbers. These included Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Katherine Clemens and Charley Eiseman conducted a fruit sampling survey to document the use of Highbush Cranberry, Honeysuckle, and Panicle and Silky Dogwood berries by birds. Katherine also operated a satellite banding station at the East Side of Manitou Beach Road. These data are not included in this report.

Our excellent fall intern was Charley Eiseman. Special thanks to RIT students Chara Batchelder, Jeremy Kuster, Melissa Lamphron, Anna Ludi, Andrea Rybicki, and Lisbeth Troy.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Jim and Liz Barry, Bob and Sue Bayley, Daina Beckstrand,

Heather Bradstreet, Don Cowley, Kelly Dockery, Virginia Duffy, Jack Duvall, Chris Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Robin Karnatz, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Katie, Nick, and Phil Marino, Chita McKinney, Loretta Morrell, Cathy and Tom Muller, Dan Niven, Bill O'Neil, Debbie Reed, Jeanne Skelly, Doug Smith, Lois Smith, Greta Stephany, Chris Villone, and Tobin Woodruff.

Alfred Station

421-0774

Allegany County, NY.

Elizabeth W. Brooks

<brookser@infoblvd.net>

The 24th year of fall banding at Alfred Station (1435 Waterwells Road in the Town of Alfred) began on 9 Jul and ended on 30 Nov. The season was extended approximately 15 days from the usual close because of the unusual mild weather during the period, which delayed the arrival of winter residents. From one to four nets were used on 66 days, for a total of 768 net hours. A total of 159 birds of 29 species were banded. The peak day occurred on 21 Oct when 15 birds were banded.

There were 126 repeats and 29 returns. The best returns were a Hairy Woodpecker and a Blue Jay, both in their sixth year. Two other Blue Jays were four years old and the remaining returns were three years of age and less. Hypoboscids were found on just three birds.

For the third year, a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested in the vicinity, which affected the number of birds in the area in late July and early August. As in the previous five years, no banding was done at this location from 10 Sep to 14 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay, and this year from 26 Oct to 7 Nov when I was out of town (grandmother duty!). But, because mild weather permitted me to extend the banding season until 30 Nov, the number of days of banding increased from the previous year. Total birds banded increased slightly from 2000, and returns increased from 13 in fall 2000 to 29 in 2001.

Gray Catbird was missing for the first time ever and American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler, Field Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and House Finch were missing after being captured in 14 of the past 16 years.

A banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 1 Sep.

Spring Hill Wildlife Sanctuary **423-0772**
Steuben County, NY.

Robert and Chita McKinney

Bob's schedule at Braddock Bay and an impending surgery prevented his migration banding at Spring Hill this season.

Kestrel Haven

422-0764

Avian Migration Observatory

Burdett, Schuyler County, NY.

John and Sue Gregoire

<khmo@att.net>

We enjoyed a busy fall season. Although few major weather fronts affected bird movement, migrants were steady and interesting. Oct 23 could have been a banner day as we had 47 birds on the first net check at dawn. As we removed these birds, a front with fierce winds arrived and effectively closed the station. We tried to band a bit in November but high winds precluded netting on most days. We did, however, band three White-winged Crossbills which brought the station cumulative banded list to 124 species and five forms. Overall, this was a terrific fall second only to the great chickadee invasion of 1999. Although massive numbers of chickadees were reported to our northwest again this year, very few came our way.

We banded 3073 individuals of 87 species during 96 days of operation. We also had 744 repeats, 93 returns from previous years, and 208 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds not banded, for a total of 4118 birds netted. Our measure of efficiency was 103.9 birds/100 net-hr for birds newly banded and 139.2/100 net-hr overall.

Returns were of 23 species. Twelve species were recaptured at ages of four years or more, the eldest of which was an eight-year-old Gray Catbird. Two Black-capped Chickadees were 7 and 4 years of age; eleven American Goldfinch were at 7, 6+, 6, 5, 4+ (4) and 4 (3); a Red-eyed Vireo was at 6+; a Yellow Warbler was at 6; a Red-winged Blackbird was at 5+; two Gray Catbirds were at 5+ and 4+; a Blue Jay was at 5+, two Song Sparrows were at 5 and 4; a Baltimore Oriole was at 5; a Chipping Sparrow was at 4+; an American Tree Sparrow was at 4+; and, a Hairy Woodpecker returned at 4

years of age. The seven-year-old goldfinch had not been re-encountered since his banding as an SY-M in 1996.

We had three birds reported. An American Robin banded as U-U in late Oct 1997 was recovered about 30 miles northeast in Jun 2001. A Common Yellowthroat banded as an HY-M on 14 Aug 01 was recovered dead in Maitland, FL, just north of Orlando, on 10 Sep 01. The bird averaged 30 miles per day. An American Goldfinch banded as an HY-F on 17 Sep 01 was recovered and released by Bradley Livezey in Rector, PA on 02 Nov 01, a distance of 245 miles SSW.

For the second year running, a Yellow-shafted Flicker presented with red-shafted central primaries on each wing. We again banded Cedar Waxwings with orange tail bands. The diet theory does not hold well with our observations. One HY bird presented with a tail band that was orange distal and yellow basal. Another AHY-F had mixed orange and yellow on same age feathers. A third AHY-F had R6R and R5L yellow while remaining retrices were tipped in orange; all were same age. Finally, we again banded two juveniles that presented with waxy tips bilaterally, thereby questioning the aging technique presented in Pyle.

Other abnormalities included *Mycoplasma conjunctivitis* on both a HY Purple Finch and a HY House Finch; a very dark Song Sparrow that may have been an Atlantica or Acadia sub-species; four Indigo Buntings with strong fault bars in the tail; and, two House Wrens with missing toes. Hypoboscids were very few and only one bird, an AHY-F Ovenbird, was infested with feather lice on its crown.

We had feral cat problems for several weeks causing us to both hunt the cat and keep nets set very high. A rabid raccoon was encountered on one pre-dawn net set. Both critters were eventually buried.

For the first time we made an effort to identify and mark migratory dragonflies. We netted four *Aeshna umbrosa*, one *Libellula lydia* and one *Anax junius*.

Numbers of thrushes and warblers were generally very low as were Nashville, Magnolia and Black-

throated Green warblers. Vesper, Grasshopper and Savannah sparrows were low, reflecting the loss of pastureland to dairy farm supporting forage crops in recent years. Indigo Buntings were strangely abundant; we banded 106, which is seven times our 16-year average. Purple Finch were also high and at a +6 Standard Deviation (SD) from our sixteen-year norm. Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Mourning Dove all exceeded +3 SD Slate-colored Juncos were at +2 SD. The White-winged Crossbills were our first and were an apparent family unit of adult male and female and juvenile male. Our first impression while extracting these creatures from the net was their remarkably sticky feet and very soft, dense plumage. Sticky feet makes sense when one thinks of these birds hanging from pitchy pine cones while feeding. They were attracted to our Norwegian Spruce mixed with Larch plantation.

We thank A. L. Donahue, Dorothy Dorney, Stan, Shari and Steve Beaver, and Gary Herzig for their generous support as well several others who contributed equipment, advice, and assistance. These include Stillman's Greenhouse, Herzig Printing and Publishing, Ducks Unlimited, *Bird Watchers Digest*, Spidertech, Pine Tree Farms, *Natural New England* and Fred Sibley, our dragonfly and damselfly mentor.

Northview Sanctuary

421-0762

Candor, Tioga County, NY

Robert J. Pantle

<bpbird@pronetisp.net>

Due to some personal commitments, my banding efforts were somewhat curtailed. This second year of reporting will have approximately one-half the net hours I had last year.

Weatherwise, there was very little precipitation but what we missed in precipitation in July and August was made up for in September; however, October was also quite dry. The overall temperatures were about normal. Two cold fronts were noted—one on 11 Aug and another on 29 Sep. As mentioned in last year's report, winds and weather from the NNW do not necessarily mean a high rate of birds per net hour at this banding station, as migrants tend to overfly this station under these conditions.

Statistics for the fall 2001 season are as follows: Newly banded birds were 307 of 50 species over 45 days of operation comprising 691 net hours. Adding the 53 repeat and return birds to the new bandings, my netting efficiency was 52 birds/ 100 net-hr. Of the 53 recaptures, only 16 were classified as returns, the oldest being a four-year-old Purple Finch. The 16 returns were of eight species.

Highlights included banding a Sharp-shinned Hawk and an Eastern Screech-Owl. Black-capped Chickadees top the list of most banded and my last year's leader, Gray Catbird, dropped to second place. Looking at my banding records I can say with some certainty that this station experienced a small part of the tremendous chickadee irruption that took place in September along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, as fully one-half of the 61 chickadees were banded in that month.

This fall banding season I again checked rectrix shape first and then used skulling as a final criteria for aging.

Powderhouse Road Station **420-0775**
Vestal, Broome County, NY.
Gail Kirch
<gkirch1234@aol.com>

The 2001 banding season was as good as 2000 was poor. A total of 1291 birds was banded between 27 Jul and 19 Nov; the station was closed from 1 through 10 Oct.

August was normal, about 200 birds. September, often my slowest month, was the best I have ever had (1988-2000). Common Yellowthroat (+1.5 SD), Red-eyed Vireo (+2 SD) and Gray Catbird (+2 SD) numbers rebounded to above their averages. Good numbers of Magnolia Warblers and Ovenbirds were banded. A Savannah Sparrow was the first for this station in 39 years!

October and November were exceptional in spite of the station closure in early October. Weather was mild, no heavy frost or fog, and only a few windy days. Large flocks of White-throated Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, American Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings meant good banding. Three Pine Siskins were the first since I began AFR banding in 1988. For only the third time

since 1988, an Orange-crowned Warbler was banded. November banding could have continued all month. There were large (100+) flocks of waxwings almost daily and the weather remained mild.

Small fruit crops were abundant. Of interest, in August heavy numbers of sawfly larvae attacked Gray-stemmed Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*). This larva feeds at night and eventually, after denuding the shrubs, descends to burrow into the ground to spend the winter. Unsubstantiated reports tell that shrubs die after such an invasion. I will report on their fate in 2002.

Harriet Marsi did no banding this year, but she helped ID the Orange-crowned. This bird had no hint of orange in its crown. The other two I have banded had some orange, which helped greatly with the identification.

Ellenville Station **414-0742**
Ellenville, Ulster County, NY.
Valerie M. Freer

The fall 2001 banding season yielded the second highest number of new birds ever netted at this station, exceeded only in 1972 when a second bander ran additional nets not far from my lanes. The number of birds / 100 net-hr was the highest ever for the station, and the number of species caught was very high. The catch was spread throughout the season, not concentrated in a couple of big days: over 20 birds were banded on each of nine days, and over 30 birds were banded on six other days.

This avian bounty differed, however, from that of any previous year in that it featured the finches. My number one species was Purple Finches, with 86 banded. This is remarkable because the previous high number of Purple Finch at this station was 33, and the average number for the past 31 years was only five per season. None were banded last year. Unlike the flocking species of October, no more than seven Purple Finches were caught in any one day; small numbers were banded on 28 days scattered throughout the season. When 38 American Goldfinches (2nd most ever) and 16 House Finch are added to the 86 Purple Finches, the finches made up 20% of the total birds banded (compared with less than 5% in other years).

The top five species made up 49% of the total, a typical proportion in recent years. Twenty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were netted (but not banded) between 1 Aug and 11 Sep. One hundred twenty-five warblers of 17 species made up 18% of the total catch, a low proportion for this station. The sparrow group, led by 72 Slate-colored Juncos and 69 White-throated Sparrows, made up 22% of the total, a usual proportion.

The weather during the banding period was warm and dry, with record heat in early August. September rains were about an inch above average, but August and October rainfall was well below normal, and the region was well into drought by early November. Conditions for netting were generally very good, though high winds following strong cold fronts prevented opening nets on about 10 mornings in October and early November. No new species were banded.



Founded in 1925

Western Regional News

ANNUAL MEETING - 6-8 SEPTEMBER 2002 BISBEE, ARIZONA

Bisbee is a former mining town that has become a tourist mecca because of charming turn-of-the-(last)-century buildings that remind many of Europe. With a plethora of shops and a wide selection of the best restaurants in southeastern Arizona, there is plenty to do when not banding or birding. A wide selection of lodging is also available - contact the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce at <chamber@bisbeearizona.com> for details. Bisbee is well situated for birding many of the Arizona "hot spots" and this year will be the new location for the Southwest Wings Birding Festival three weeks before the WBBA meeting. It is also ideal for travel into northern Mexico with its own border crossing at Naco.

For the WBBA meeting this year we plan on taking advantage of these attributes plus easy access to established banding sites in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, the first "Globally Important Bird Area" in the Western Hemisphere.

PROGRAMS will include Sheri Williamson, author of the new *Peterson Field Guide to the Hummingbirds of North America*, and her husband Tom Wood who runs two MAPS stations in northern Sonora. Together they operate the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory <sabo@sabo.org>. Other programs may include travelogues of tropical birding destinations and the San Pedro Avian Resources Center (SPARC) <sanpedrobirds.org>.

FIELD TRIPS will include visits to newly discovered sites just across the border in Sonora (no entry visas required), the San Pedro Riparian Area, and canyons in the spectacular Huachuca Mountains as well as visits to banding sites along the San Pedro (NB: see book review on pg 18.)

Early September is a great time to visit southeast Arizona. Weather may include afternoon thunderstorms and highs in the mid-80s to mid-90s, but Bisbee is located at over 5,000 feet, so is always