

Banders who participated this fall were A.C. Floyd, Virginia Wood, Don Wood and Robert Leberman.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, W. Va. - George A. Hall

The sixteenth year of concentrated bird-banding during the autumn Migration on Allegheny Front Mountain on the border between Grant and Tucker Counties, West Virginia was the most productive year of all. The station was manned on 13 days in August, 30 days in September, and 14 days in October. On only one day did the weather force a complete suspension of operations. This extensive coverage produced a total of 4743 (record high) birds banded in a station effort of 3286 net-hours for a capture ratio of 1443 birds per 1000 net-hours (this ratio on the otherhand was essentially the same as the 1463 birds per 1000 net-hours in 1972.)

The day of greatest catch was September 16 with 361 birds banded. The daily catch went over 200 birds on six additional days and over 100 on nine other days. The day of heaviest migration was also September 16, but other heavy periods of migration were September 7-9; September 11-12; September 22-24; September 28-29; October 3-4; and October 11-13.

The years total brought the cumulative station total to 26,382. One new species, the Water Pipit, was added to the station list bringing that list to 105 species. A total of 18 species were caught in record numbers and no species seemed to be in remarkably lower than average numbers.

Five birds, one Towhee, and four juncos, banded at this station in earlier years were retaken this year. One of the juncos had been banded originally in 1970. To my knowledge no birds banded at this station have been recovered elsewhere in this past year.

The weather pattern of this fall was extremely conducive to having good flights of passerines past the station. With little interruption by bad weather the birds passed through in numbers day after day. On most days the wind was out of the west, which is the direction that produces large catches at this station. On the otherhand there was no great "damming" up of birds followed by extremely heavy flights when the weather turned favorable. It is worth remarking in passing that the great succession of days favorable to passerine flights along this mountain carried with it day after day of unfavorable conditions for hawk flights on this mountain, where the two movements are strickly complementary.

It is extremely interesting to note that eight species (in order: Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler) account for 66.7% of the birds banded. It is always tempting to speculate as to the origin of these birds, but insufficient data exist to make these speculations meaningful. As mentioned in the 1972 report the greatly increased numbers in recent years of Bay-breasts, Cape Mays and Tennessees strongly suggests that the birds are coming from an area in Canada where there has been a heavy outbreak of sprucebud worm. Of special interest is the very large number of Blackpolls caught at this station year after year. Where are these birds going, and where are they coming from.

There are two more or less conflicting theories as to the path taken by the southbound flight of Blackpolls, and neither theory is very comfortable in explaining the large number flying southwest at this station. The species is practically unknown to the southwest of West Virginia in the fall. This species offers a great challenge to the imagination in trying to figure out what is going on.

For some years it has been almost evident that HY Black-throated Blue Warblers precede the AHY birds in the fall migration, but it required statistical treatment to prove it. This year the phenomenon was well demonstrated without the necessity of using statistics.

In addition to co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall the other banders who participated this year were Connie Katholi, Jack Linehan, Avis Newell, Clark Miller, Frances Pope, Anne Shreve, and John Willetts. John Findley provided assistance of all sorts throughout September and was a very important member of the team. Other "permanent residents" at the station who helped throughout the period were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Evans, Ann and Howard Heimerdinger and Genevieve Findley.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting birds, and keeping records: Ray Ashworth, Bill Devlin, Greg Eddy, Sue Edmonds, Walter Fye, Tanya Hall, Andrew Hall, Bill Katholi, Gary McKenzie, Ephe Olliver, Ginny Olsen, Cheryl Olsen, Karen Olsen, Donald Pattison, Stuart Robbins, Harvey Shreve, Ann Smith, Paul Smith, Trudi Smith, Charles Spiker, Fritz Temple, Pat Temple, Henry Thomas, April Wylie, and Bill Wylie.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to all these people, and any whose names have been omitted by inadvertence or ignorance.

The ten most commonly banded birds were:

Blackpoll Warbler	784	Blackburnian Warbler	290
Black-throated Blue Warbler	490	Bay-breasted Warbler	225
Tennessee Warbler	452	Black-throated Green Warbler	201
Swainson's Thrush	384	Golden-crowned Kinglet	168
Cape May Warbler	328	Dark-eyed Junco	166

Long Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina - Samuel R. and Isabel H. Tipton

The banding station at Long Beach was opened in November 1972 and 1973 was the first full year of banding. Comparisons cannot be made with past years. Long Beach is on Oak Island on the southeastern coast of North Carolina near the mouth of the Cape Fear River. We use 9 mist nets and 8 small traps in the woods by the salt water marsh about 400 yards back of the sand dunes on the beach strand. We net only land birds in this location. On a nearby 47 acre plot we have made two breeding bird surveys (1973, 1974).

This part of the North Carolina coast does not appear to be on the mainline of the regular Atlantic Flyway since there is no evidence from our netting that the general mass of land birds moving south in the fall land here. However, there is some evidence from TV tower kills that a mass of birds move south above us in the fall and do not make landings. Our banding records indicate that few birds in fall migration come through our woods, and

80% of these are hatching year birds. Myrtle Warblers arriving here late in the fall are mainly hatching year birds. These warblers move around the coast considerably and show a small proportion of repeats. The myrtles and rufous-sided towhees are our most common fall birds.

We netted 46 individuals of 13 species which we believe to be birds migrating through the area on their way further south. Repeats of these birds are minimal indicating that their stay is short. Our records for the next two or three years will be interesting as a check on these ideas of our migration.

On a recent report to the Banding Laboratory we were interested in the ratio of HY birds to the total new birds banded from 6/1 through 12-31-73.

	Total	HY	%
Total new birds	393	238	60.6
Non-resident Migrants (13 species)	46	37	80.4
Myrtle Warblers	65	49	75.4

The most commonly banded birds were:

Myrtle Warbler	65	Common Yellowthroat	13
Rufous-sided Towhee	37	American Redstart	13
White-throated Sparrow	17	Gray Catbird	7
Cardinal	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Mourning Dove	13		

Fisk Station, Homestead, Florida - Erma J. Fisk

1973 was the sixth year of my annual 40 day banding from September 20 to November 4 (plus or minus), with nets set in the same habitats of wood, scrub fields and a garden pond. The number of birds taken in comparison to net hours of previous years was severely down. Whether this was due to a warm, bland fall with no storms or strong fronts to ground migrants, or to an accumulating effect of losses of habitat nationally, the use of pesticides and herbicides, the effect of Hurricane Gladys which caused much damage to June breeding birds in the north east, could not be told. I await with interest the results of the 1974 season.

In 1972, a normal year, I banded 2,038 birds of 64 species in 7,109 net hours. In 1973, with an increase to 7,907 net hours I banded only 1,348. The species count reached 63 only by the catch of one each of 10 species. Examples of the decrease in numbers of my more common migrants were:

Gray Catbird	down from 720	in 1972	to 299
Veery	down from 106		to 23
White-eyed Vireo	down from 104		to 26
Red-eyed Vireo	down from 82		to 38
Black-throated Blue	down from 108		to 82

On the other hand Black and White Warblers inexplicably increased from 26 to 42, my only sizable increase.