

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II

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Region II lost two stations in 1976. They were Friendsville, PA and Salisbury, NY. We welcomed back Binghamton, NY after a two year absence.

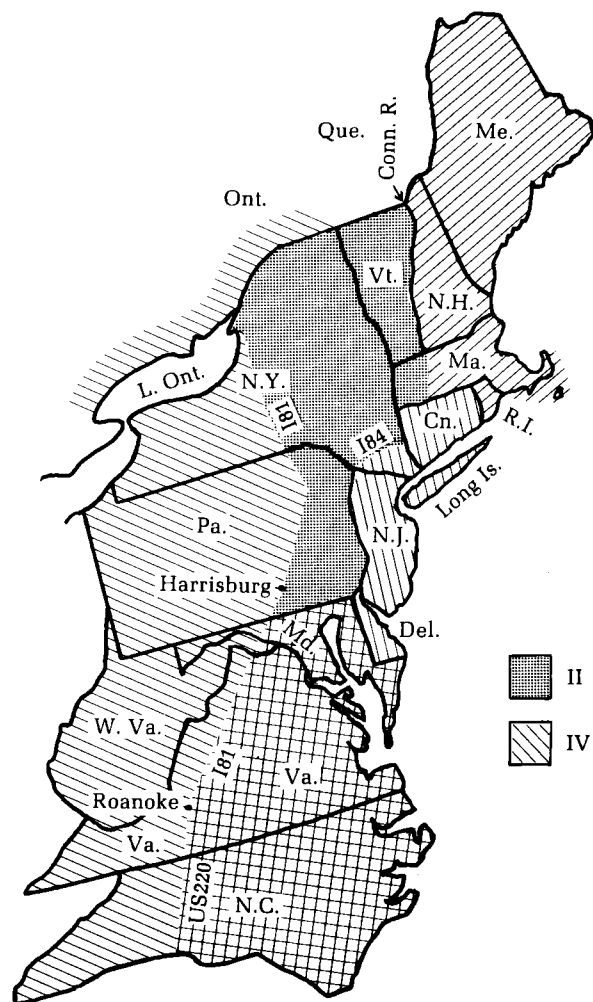
All stations reported a strong decline in the number of birds captured per 100 net hours as compared to previous seasons. The unfavorable weather in September and record breaking rains in October were held to be responsible.

An increase in Swainson's Thrushes was noted at Binghamton and Ellenville, and that species was second in abundance at Vermont Institute, although less numerous there than in 1975. A decrease in White-throated Sparrows was recorded at Binghamton, Ellenville, and the Vermont Institute.

Each station supplied data on the ages of their more common species. This data is combined in the following table. No more than five individuals of any species were designated as age unknown. The percentage of the total captures that were HY is given for 1975 and 1976.

Region II Summary

	Ferdinand Vermont	Marshfield Vermont	Vermont Institute	Binghamton New York	Ellenville New York
Days of operation	5	23	42	37	63
Number of nets used	8	6	35	8	4-12
Birds banded 1976	134	577	1110	435	694
Diff. species 1976	38	54	68	57	69
Total net hours	368	1029	5688	1072	2481
Largest daily catch	48	51	71	41	35
Birds/100 n.h. 1976	36	56	20	41	28
Birds banded 1975	55	1777	3078	—	689
Birds/100 n.h. 1975	—	72	37	—	39



Interesting or most common species 1976.

Ferdinand Vermont	Marshfield Vermont	Vermont Institute	Binghamton New York	Ellenville New York
23 W-t Sparrow	109 Purple Finch	130 W-t Sparrow	42 W-t Sparrow	62 Sw. Thrush
14 Hermit Thrush	62 W-t Sparrow	113 Sw. Thrush	36 Catbird	58 Catbird
12 Y-r Warbler	41 Yellowthroat	71 Yellowthroat	33 R-e Vireo	57 R-c Kinglet
7 Sw. Thrush	27 Am. Redstart	68 Wood Thrush	27 Sw. Thrush	41 Yellowthroat
7 Yellowthroat	22 Can. Warbler	41 Catbird	26 Magnolia W.	31 Song Sparrow
			24 R-c Kinglet	25 Am. Redstart
				20 R-e Vireo
				20 Ovenbird

Species	1975		1976	
	Number	%HY	Number	%HY
Swainson's Thrush	344	64	163	77
Gray Catbird	106	82	106	93
Red-eyed Vireo	126	71	61	80
Tennessee Warbler	133	80	72	93
Nashville Warbler	115	80	35	80
Magnolia Warbler	159	61	82	72
Yellow-rumped Warbler	164	83	77	87
Ovenbird	82	92	68	91
Yellowthroat	215	73	140	89
Canada Warbler	78	73	76	84
American Redstart	82	82	63	79
White-throated Sparrow	530	76	222	83
Song Sparrow	232	85	46	87

Ferdinand, Vermont
Mrs. Marion Metcalf

There were five banding days at the Ferdinand Station. The banding was 98% on week ends from Friday noon until Sunday night. Eight nets were in operation which included one aerial net. The total number of birds banded was 134 in 368 net hours. The number of species banded was 38. The top species were: White-throated Sparrow (23), Hermit Thrush (14), Yellow-rumped Warbler (12), Swainson's Thrush (7), and Yellowthroat (7).

The big day for Ferdinand was 18 September with 48 birds. We did as well here as in former years, possibly a bit better. Rain prevailed at times in Ferdinand and nets were closed some of the time. There were no Boreal Chickadees taken and only one seen. Highlights: a Pileated Woodpecker, two Henslow's Sparrows, and one Gray Jay; all were banded. There were no repeats and two returns — two White-throated Sparrows, both banded 18 September 1975.

Marshfield, Vermont
Mrs. Marion Metcalf

The results of our banding in August and September 1976 were most disappointing. Rain was the prevailing disturbance. There were 23 banding days at the Marshfield station.

Six nets were in operation. The total number of birds banded was 577 in 1029 net hours. The total number of species was 54. The top species were Purple Finch (109), White-throated Sparrow (62), Yellowthroat (41), American Redstart (27), and Canada Warbler (22). The big day for Marshfield was 14 August with 51 birds. We noted a decrease in Yellowthroats, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, and Black-capped Chickadees. Being a small operation, and with very rainy weather, it is difficult to evaluate increases and decreases.

Birds worthy of note were one Saw-whet Owl and one Orange-crowned Warbler. There were 22 repeats and 4 returns but no foreign retraps. An interesting return was the American Redstart #124-99794 banded 17 July 1971. It returned for the first time on 14 August 1976. It was an

AHY male at the time of banding. Therefore, it must be at least a sixth year bird.



Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Woodstock, Vermont
Sarah B. Laughlin

Fall banding at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Banding Station was conducted week day mornings from 3 August through 29 October 1976. This season was disappointing in that it produced a sharp decrease in the number of birds banded. This may have been partially due to rainy weather particularly in September and October. The same number of nets (35) were used as in previous years, but the net hours were only 5688 as compared to 8225 in 1975.

Both 30 August and 20 September were peak days with 71 birds each day. The last significant date was 13 October with a total of 37 individuals banded. After this only five to ten birds were netted per day. The five top species in 1976 were White-throated Sparrow (130), Swainson's Thrush (113), Yellowthroat (71), Wood Thrush (68), and Gray Catbird (41).

The following table shows a comparison of the five most numerous species of 1975 with the numbers banded in 1976.

	1975	1976
Swainson's Thrush	265	113
Black-capped Chickadee	256	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	243	37
White-throated Sparrow	205	130
Robin	80	26

Binghamton, New York
Harriet Marsi

This station was in full operation after an unavoidable lapse of two years. The same system was used as from 1969 through 1973, i.e., eight nets were strung along the contour of a hillside and were unfurled from dawn till midmorning. In general, nets were operated during the week rather than over the weekend but there was no rigid plan for this.

A total of 435 birds of 57 species were banded, the lowest in both numbers and species since fall migration records have been kept for this station. Net hours were 1072, giving 40 birds per 100 n.h., lower also than in previous years.

By comparison, in 1973 (a year chosen because it was neither the best nor the worst year for this station) 704

birds were banded in 1470 net hours, making 48 birds/100 n.h. This year is therefore down 8 birds/100 n.h. from 1973. The critical factor might well be the lower number of net hours for this year. This was partly due to the weather which was characterized by unusually frequent and persistent rains and early cold in both September and October. However, it was also due to the fact that there were no exceptionally high netting days when it would have been worthwhile to keep the nets in operation past ten o'clock in the morning. There were many days when the nets could have been furled at nine A.M. without significantly influencing the count. On 20 September, the largest count for that month was recorded — 29 birds representing 13 species. 5 October was the only outstanding day of the whole season when 41 birds of 13 species were banded. These included Ruby-crowned Kinglet (6), Hermit Thrush (6), and White-throated Sparrow (11).

The five highest species for the period were White-throated Sparrow (42) down from 99 in 1973, Gray Catbird (36) down from 69 in 1973, Red-eyed Vireo (33) down from 39 in 1973, Swainson's Thrush (27) up from 7 in 1973, and Magnolia Warbler (26) up from 14 in 1973. All of these birds except the Magnolia Warbler have appeared on this station's Five Highest Species lists of the past. 25 Magnolia Warblers were banded in 1972, but there were 5 species with more birds than this.

Two new species were added to the fall migration list — Tufted Titmouse (5) and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2).

The total of all Fringillidae was down to 151 from 240 in 1973. The total wood warblers banded was also down from 156 in 1973 to 123 this year. The only bright spot seems to be the thrush count. This year a total of 68 thrushes were banded compared to 38 in 1973.

As in previous years, the predominance of HY birds was still notable. In August and September when the state of skull ossification was an indication of age, of 297 birds banded 234 (79%) were HY, 44 (15%) were AHY and 19 (6%) were Unknown. In October, when many HY birds had ossified skulls so this condition could no longer be used as an age indicator, of 138 birds banded, 68 (49%) were HY, 8 (6%) were AHY and 62 (45%) were Unknown.

Ellenville, New York Valerie M. Freer

The seventh consecutive season of fall banding at this station produced average numbers (694 birds of 69 species). From 4 to 12 nets were set during 63 mornings between 1 August and 30 October. The number of net hours (2481) was higher than in previous years and the resulting number of birds caught per 100 net hours was the lowest ever at 28. The September catch was near average, but August was below and October was extremely low both in numbers of birds caught and in birds per 100 net hours. Of the three months October usually produces the highest number of birds per 100 net hours, but this year yielded the lowest.

The poor October catch was undoubtedly related to the cool wet weather. Rain totaling 7.8 inches fell on ten days. It was too windy to use nets on seven days. Both August and September had above average rainfall, occurring mostly in early August and late September, but banding was not disrupted to the extent it was in October. The highest catch was on 3 September and consisted of 35 birds.

Only 12 White-throated Sparrows and 1 Dark-eyed Junco were caught compared with an average of 48 White-throats and 17 juncos per year during the previous six years. It is not known if these low numbers represent true population declines or resulted because the birds migrated later or migrated during weather that did not permit banding. Both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets were captured in record numbers in spite of the very poor October weather. Black-capped Chickadees, which have been caught in good numbers during October in other years, hit a seven-year low following a peak in 1975. The effect of the poor October weather, therefore, was mixed.

The most abundant birds captured were the Swainson's Thrush (62), Catbird (58), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (57), Yellowthroat (41), and Song Sparrow (31). All except the Swainson's Thrush have often been among the top five at this station. The brown thrushes, led by the Swainson's and Wood Thrushes, were caught in the best numbers ever for a combined total of 3.8 birds/100 n.h. (more than double the comparable figures from 1972 through 1974). The number of warblers per 100 net hours (9.4) remained low as in 1974 and 1975, well below the 1972 peak of 22.3 birds/100 n.h. More than one-third of the 234 warblers caught in 1976 were Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, and Ovenbirds. Vireos and flycatchers were caught in average numbers.

The following table gives the percentage of total captures that were young birds. Data from seven years is combined, and species were chosen only if at least 99% of those caught could be aged. In order to minimize numbers of local breeding birds, only those captured on or after 15 August are included (except for Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow and Yellowthroat for which only those on or after 1 September are included).

Species	Sample Size	Percent HY
Gray Catbird	153	80
Swainson's Thrush	95	73
Yellow-rumped Warbler	138	85
Yellowthroat	126	69
Dark-eyed Junco	135	54
White-throated Sparrow	286	53
Song Sparrow	109	77

The percentage of captures that were HY in 1976 did not vary much from the combined data of earlier years in most species. The one exception was the White-throated Sparrow. Only 12% of those caught were HY as compared with 54% for the combined previous six years.

All banding was done by Valerie Freer and Frank Fish with the assistance of Barbara Belanger.

Region IV

Donald F. Clark, Coordinator
Hicks Road, Franklinville, New York 14737

All banding stations that reported in 1975 submitted information concerning the 1976 fall migration. Mr. Peter Homann reported that due to lack of both bands and birds, he did no banding this year at Lost River, Quebec. A new station report is included: Mr. John Willet of Piney Mountain, Eckhart in western Maryland. Any bander is welcome to submit his reports to the appropriate regional coordinator.

There seems to be no consistency in the reports of the

eight banding stations. Four stations reported a decrease in numbers and four stations reported an increase. However, all stations reported that the autumn of 1976 was a cold and rainy one. The warbler migration started early with good flights and then decreased quickly in numbers. The year-round banding stations reported an almost complete absence of Evening Grosbeaks and reduced numbers of winter finches and sparrows in the late fall months.

Region IV Summary

	Lost River Quebec	Penn Yan New York	Farmersville Station New York	Alfred Station New York	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
Days of operation	—	93	79	54	14	99	25	40
Number of nets used	—	2-20	0-8	1-4	5-20	—	24	3-10
Birds banded 1976	—	3008	430	205	1597	4118	1003	4942
Different species 1976	—	—	49	—	66	99	68	79
Total net hours	—	—	1099	1007	1357	9495	3480	2611
Largest daily catch	—	—	54	—	303	224	118	506
Birds/100 n.h. 1976	—	—	39	20	118	43	29	189
Birds banded 1975	87	2071	1088	139	1723	5121	505	3889
Diff. species 1975	30	76	64	29	60	103	49	72
Birds/100 n.h. 1975	—	—	46	—	139	53	31	174

Penn Yan New York	Farmersville Sta New York	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Alfred Station New York	Powdermill Pennsylvania	Eckhart Maryland	Allegheny Front West Virginia
Song Spar 518	D-e Junco 64	Yel-rump 39	W-t Spar 189	Tenn. Warb 351	W-t Spar 208	Tenn. Warb 824
Cedar Wax 365	Tree Spar 62	Song Spar 33	R-c King 179	D-e Junc 315	D-e Junc 145	Blackpoll 621
W-t Spar 267	Tenn. Warb 41	B-c Chick 19	Sw. Thr. 144	Song Spar 214	Sw. Thr. 79	Sw. Thr. 564
Mag Warb 120	B-c Chick 33	R-c King 13	G-c King 137	W-t Spar 206	Fld Spar 77	Bl-th Blue 478
Am Gold 85	W-t Spar 29		Mag Warb 113	Yellowth 194	Ind Bunt 52	Bay-breast 296
D-e Junc 82	Nash. W. 25		Blackpoll 94	Mag Warb 190		Cape May 263
Sw. Thr. 78	Blue Jay 16		Her. Thr. 66	Am Gold 185		Bl-th Grn 249
Bay-breast 74	Mag Warb 16		G-c Thr. 48	R-e Vireo 133		Mag Warb 189
B-c Chick 72	Catbird 14		Nash Warb 46	R-c King 127		G-c King 170
Tenn. Warb 71	R-bG&R-eV 10		Yel-rump 45	Fld Spar 123		Blkburn 151

Lost River, Quebec, Canada

Peter Homan

I arrived a week later than usual and the bands came even later than that. But since there were hardly any birds (some Bay-breasted Warblers, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, and a few other warblers and Red-eyed Vireos) I thought it useless to put up any nets.



Penn Yan, New York

Malcolm Lerch

Banding was conducted in the fall of 1976 for a total of 93 days. 3008 birds were banded from August through November. There were 25 returns. September was the most productive month with 1146 birds banded of 71 different species. 10 House Finches were captured. This species is new to this area. In addition, 1 Brewster's and 1 Lawrence's Warbler were banded.

The Song Sparrow was the top bird with 518 captures and Cedar Waxwings were second with 365 banded. 2 to 20 nets were used according to the conditions of the day.

Farmersville Station, New York

Donald F. Clark

August was rainy and colder than normal with few birds in the area. The migration started with a bang on 1 September and was good for ten days. Then, it fizzled out for the rest of the fall. Few warblers were caught or seen after 15 September. The thrushes, blackbirds and sparrows were way below normal. Evening Grosbeaks did not arrive at all this fall. In November 1975, I banded 246. In 1976, no one reported a sighting in the entire county. The first snow fell in late October, and we had snow on the ground for most of November and all of December. All people operating feeding stations remarked at the few birds seen at their feeders.

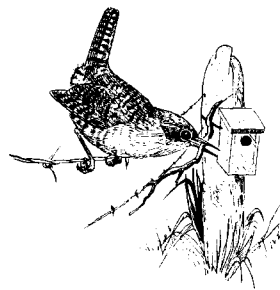
The best day was 2 September when 54 birds were banded. There were no new species of birds banded at this station. There were 24 returns and 135 repeats. One Tree Sparrow return was at least 5½ years old.

Two recoveries of autumn banded birds were received from the Banding Office. A Screech Owl banded 16 September 1973 was found dead in a building (barn) on 19 January 1977. Although not verified, the chances are it died of starvation in the worst winter weather on record. Buffalo, New York had almost 200 inches of snow setting a new record for snowfall for each month. The area where the bird was found is in a snowbelt south of Buffalo and had even greater amounts of snow. The bird was banded at Farmersville Station and recovered about five miles north of where it was banded. An American Goldfinch banded on 9 November 1975 was trapped and released by Mr. T.J. Grisez of Warren, Pennsylvania on 21 February 1977.

Alfred Station, New York

Elizabeth W. Brooks

Banding operations at this banding station located at 1435 Waterwells Road in Alfred Station, New York (coordinates 421-0774) were carried on, using from 1 to 4 mist nets and 2 three-celled Potter traps, on 54 days during the period 8 September to 10 November 1976. A total of 1007 net hours of operation produced a total of 205 new birds banded with 85 repeats and 9 returns. Since banding was not begun until 8 September and several people reported waves of migrating warblers before that date, no comment can be made about the relative numbers of early season migrating birds. There were waves of warblers on 8, 28 and 29 September. Heavier banding encounters occurred on 18, 19, and 23 October. The 3 Nashville Warblers caught on 23 October were late records for this region. Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, and Lincoln's Sparrow were new species for this banding station.



Presque Isle, Erie Pennsylvania

Ronald F. Leberman

This was the fifteenth year of banding at Presque Isle. The same locations and net lanes were used as in previous years with from 5 to 20 nets in use per day. Banding was carried out on 10 days in September and 4 days in October for a total of 14 days; no banding was done in August for the first time this year. 11 September was the best day with a total of 303 birds banded. A grand total of 1597 new birds were banded of 66 species in 1357 net hours, making a total of 118 birds banded per 100 n.h.

Although six more species were netted this year than last year, no new species were added to the overall list. No really unusual or rare birds were netted. We had a total of 4 returns and 1 fall banded recovery. A White-throated Sparrow banded by Ronald Leberman on 27 September as an HY bird was recovered on 23 October 1977. It was trapped and released at the banding station of J.B. Willetts at Piney Mountain, Eckhart, Maryland about 200-250 miles due south. Banding ended on 10 October with extremely cold and wet (snowy) weather.

Banders were Mary Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman (Station Leader), Jean H. Stull, and James G. Stull. We wish to thank the many persons that helped with the record keeping and equipment.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve
Rector, Pennsylvania
Robert C. Leberman**

For the third consecutive fall, banding totals at Powdermill were down. Although the 1976 net hours were approximately the same as during the previous year, the total of new bandings dropped almost 20%: a decline from 5121 birds in 1975 to just 4118 in 1976.

Late August and the first half of September were fairly productive banding periods, especially for warblers (32 species of warblers were banded at the Reserve during the autumn months), and for many of the flycatchers. But by the end of September, banding was slow. The kinglet flight was very sluggish; only 127 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were banded, while in 1975 our total was 442. There was no evidence of a Black-capped Chickadee flight this season, following last year's heavy invasion, and Blue Jays were seen and banded in exceptionally low numbers. The migration of most thrushes and sparrows was also poor.

There was one foreign recovery for the period. An American Goldfinch that had been banded as an ASY male on 12 April 1974 by Kendrick Y. Hodgdon at Cumberland, Maryland was netted at Powdermill on 13 October 1976, at least four years old.

I would like to thank Josh Van Buskirk for helping tend the nets on several weekends, and J. Paul Perkins and Frank Yocom who spent a number of days working at the Reserve. Thanks are also due Dr. Mary H. Clench and Mrs. Helen Brownlee for their help.

We have received three recoveries of autumn banded Powdermill birds from the Banding Laboratory. An immature American Woodcock (833-83180) that had been



netted at the Reserve on 10 October 1974, was shot two miles south of Chester, New York on 18 October 1976. An HY male Scarlet Tanager (1181-88340) banded at Powdermill on 17 September 1976 was found dead at Bessemer, Alabama almost a month later on 16 October 1976. An HY White-throated Sparrow (1141-66723) banded on 9 October 1973 was killed by a cat at Royersford, Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia) on 4 November 1976.

**Piney Mountain
Eckhart, Western Maryland
John B. Willetts**

My third year of banding at my residence in the western Maryland mountains (Allegany County) has by far been the best yet. This is mostly due to the fact that more nets were used and they were manned more hours than in preceding years. I had much more help this year also.

This bicentennial year, using 24 nets a total of 25 days (11 September to 21 November) and logging 3480 net hours, I banded a total of 1003 birds of 68 species. This results in 28.8 birds per 100 net hours. I also captured 129 repeats bring the total birds caught to 1132 (32.5 birds per 100 net hours). Twenty species of warblers were caught this year.

Peak days were 12 September with 118 birds, 19 September with 100 birds and 14 October with 83 birds. Of special note was a Saw-whet Owl on 30 October 1976.

The White-throated Sparrow has always been my number one bird, (1974 — 108 with 53% HY, 1975 — 145 with 54% HY, and 1976 — 208 with 75% HY). This year finds two new birds with a five star rating: Swainson's Thrush and Indigo Bunting.

New species caught this year include: Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Purple Finch, American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Species absent from last year include the Palm, Kentucky, and Canada Warblers and the Yellow-breasted Chat.

26 Field Sparrows were caught and repeated at least once. It was found that they remained in my area feeding in the approximately two acres of open brushy land from 1 to 31 days. The average stay was found to be 14 days.

On 30 November, I received a call from a friend that neighbors had found a bird on their back porch and it was barely alive. A check showed it to be a Nashville Warbler (HY-U). This was in Clarysville, Allegany County, Maryland. The bird showed some signs of regaining strength as I warmed it up but was found dead in the cage about an hour later. Outside temperature was approximately 10°F.

This year was a very exciting one for me because of the number of birds and different species caught. I appreciate the help of assistants this year. They were

Kathy Klimkiewicz, Philip Herrick, Bill Devlin, and Bill Twigg.

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

The nineteenth year of bird banding on the Allegheny Front Mountain was another very successful one. Even though bad weather hampered the late season operations, some impressive records were attained. The station was in operation two days in August, twenty eight days in September, and ten days in October, with the earliest date being 6 August and the latest 16 October. Except for shut downs due to bad weather, operation was continuous from 2 September to 9 October. Bad weather started on 30 September and then on rain and fog forced shut downs on several days, particularly on weekends.

A total of 4942 birds of 79 species were banded in a station effort of 2611 net hours, giving a capture ratio of 1892 birds per 1000 net hours. The number of species ties the highest total previously recorded. Both the number of birds banded and the capture ratio are the second highest in the history of the station.

The usual pattern of captures at this station is a peak in late August or early September followed by a long lull with few captures, and then major movements in the last third of the month with the heaviest flights coming late. This year the pattern deviated somewhat from the usual. There was a good movement early in the month of September, but no lull. Captures continued in good numbers rather steadily and reached a peak on 19-20 September, somewhat early. There was another good peak on 29 September but this movement and any possible October movement was cut off by the bad weather. The peak day was 20 September with 506 bandings. Three other major days were 12 September with 397, 19 September with 418, and 29 September with 334. Six other days had bandings between 200 and 300 and seven days between 100 and 200.

No new species were added to the station list which remains as 107 species. The grand total of birds banded at this station is now 42,384. Five birds banded in earlier years were recaptured this year: a Gray Catbird, two Yellowthroats, and two Dark-eyed Juncos. One of these birds was banded in 1973, two in 1974, and two in 1975. Missing this year was the junco which had been taken for six consecutive years starting in 1970. Needless to say all of these birds are local residents at the station. The most exciting news along these lines was the report that a Tennessee Warbler banded at Allegheny Front in the fall of 1974 was recovered in Guatemala in November 1975. This is the first long distance recovery for this station. It should also be reported at this time that in the fall of 1975 a Wilson's Warbler was netted at Allegheny Front that had been banded near Charleston, West Virginia by Connie Katholi in the fall of 1974. This is only the second foreign retrap at this station.

Once again this year the Tennessee Warbler led the list in number of captures, with the Blackpoll Warbler second. The habitual number three, the Black-throated Blue Warbler was beaten out this year by the Swainson's Thrush whose 564 bandings set a new high for the species (beating out previous high 1966 by 28 birds). The Wood Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, and American Redstart were banded in record high numbers as were the two kinglet species. Special note should be taken of the 121 Golden-crowned Kinglets banded on one day 16 October. Black and White Warblers and Ovenbirds were also caught in higher than normal numbers. The only species that was conspicuously low in captures was the Blue Jay. The usual heavy flights of Blue Jays along the ridge never materialized this fall.

A preliminary statistical treatment of the data indicates that both the captures per net hour during September and the number of "Base Birds before 10 A.M." during September may show a barely significant increasing trend since 1970. Since both of these parameters are independent of the station effort, one must look for other reasons for this increase but none are immediately apparent.

Each year the number of visitors to the station increases and so a very large part of the work at the station is now of an educational and demonstrative nature. This year we were unable to operate our usual special public demonstrations and so the visitors watched the main banding operations. As in the past, numerous organized groups from colleges and universities as well as bird clubs and natural history societies visited us.

The banders who participated this year were Art Dunnell, John Linehan, Avis Newell, Epehe Olliver, Frances Pope, John Willetts and co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. John and Genevieve Findley again served as chief net tenders, ably assisted by their grandchildren.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages and bags of birds, and in keeping records: Jo Ashworth, Ray Ashworth, Terry Beavers, Bill Burke, Sue Burke, Helen Evans, Jim Evans, Kathleen Finnegan, Walter Fye, Janet Ganter, Philip Herrick, E.E. Hutton, Joe Imbrogno, Virginia Johnson, Douglas Jolley, Randy Kyle, George Mayfield, Carol, Fred, Christopher and Jason McCullough, Les McDowell, Margaret Ort, Don Pattison, Glen Phillips, Charlotte Pryor, Kathy Reeves, Esther Reichelderfer, Carl Rowe, Joe Schreiber, Don Shearer, Martha Shearer, Ruth Wilkinson, and Leon Wilson.

Heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to all these people, and to any others whose names have been omitted by either ignorance or inadvertence, comes from all of us at the Station. Our thanks also go to the people of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor R.F. Mumme and to the personnel at the Petersburg Ranger Station, District Ranger W.K. Lerer and his assistants Jim Bruce and Mary Mikowski for their cooperation in the project.