

(2) Set up one 12-m mist net at each of about ten permanent net-sites in the study area.

(3) Operate these nets in a standardized manner for about six morning hours per day and for one day in each of about eight to twelve consecutive ten-day periods from May to August. Each station should begin netting after most migrant individuals have passed through the study site.

(4) Band all unbanded birds and identify, age, and sex all birds captured, including recaptures.

We urge banders from all parts of North America to become part of this exciting project. For more information, please write *The Institute for Bird Populations*, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1436.

**David F. DeSante and Kenneth M. Burton**  
The Institute for Bird Populations  
P.O. Box 1346  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956



## *Eastern Regional News*

***Eastern Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1923**

**President's Message - Barbara M. Ross**

The annual meeting committee has the weekend of 2-4 April 1993 planned and ready for our commitment to participate. We urge all members to attend and make the most of the workshops, papers, and speeches. The Nominations Chairman, Gale Smith, and his committee are hard at work drawing up a slate of officers. There will be a new class of four councilors nominated. If you wish to serve, or know someone who should be contacted, please advise Gale, RD #2, Box 97-D, Kempton PA 19529. EBBA is the sum of all of us and needs everyone's support. The 1993 dues notices have been mailed. Please be prompt in paying your dues. Don't forget "Operation Wing Chord." Your data should be sent to Susannah Graedel, 3 Talmage Road, Medham, NJ 07946.

**ATTEND THE 70TH ANNUAL MEETING 2-4 APRIL 1993, PAINTED POST, NEW YORK**

Join the Eastern Bird Banding Association members for their 70th annual meeting on 2-4 April 1993 at a picturesque rural setting at **Watson Homestead Conference Center** near **Corning, NY**. Members of the **Chemung Valley Audubon Society** will assist with registration; **Robert McKinney**, field trips.

Paper presenters are: **Robert Beason, Kevin Berner, Kenneth Burton, Andy Damalas, Mary Doscher, Bill Evans, Ed & Judy Henckel, Kevin McGowan, Ward Stone, and Robert Yunick.**

Report from the Banding Lab.

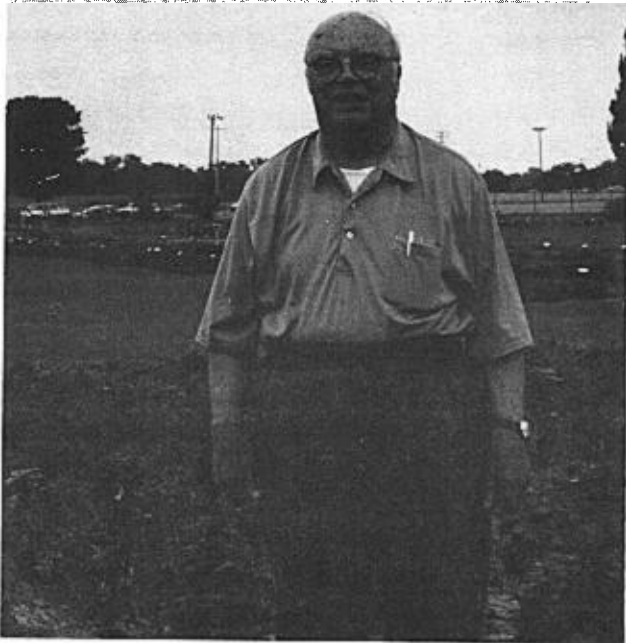
Workshop presenters are: **Kevin Berner, Kenneth Burton, Mary Doscher, Tom McDonald, Lloyd Swart and Robert Yunick.**

Friday evening speaker: **Chuck Yohn** Saturday banquet speaker: **Keith Bildstein**

To contribute to the **bucket raffle**, let **Janet Shaffer** know at RD #6, Box 338, Bedford, PA 15522. To reserve **exhibit space**, contact **Cathie & Roy Slack** at RD #1, Box 532, Besaw Road Phoenix, NY 13135 or call (315) 598-4326.

Members should have received **registration forms** during January. If anyone has questions, contact **Mary & John Forness** at 3086 Haskell Road, Cuba, NY 14727 or call (716) 968-1978.

## Memoriam



It was with shock and great sorrow that the birding community learned of the death of Merrill Wood on September 23, 1992, in State College, Pennsylvania.

Merrill was a professor of Biology at Penn State for 38 years, retiring in 1973. Banders knew him best as the author of *A BIRD-BANDERS GUIDE TO DETERMINATION OF AGE AND SEX OF SELECTED SPECIES*. This collection of keys of northeastern birds was all that was available to banders for many years. He was also author of *BIRDS OF PENNSYLVANIA* which was published in 1979.

Merrill's bird banding permit was #3589 and he had been an active bander for over 65 years. He joined the AOU in 1927 and became a patron in 1986. He was a life member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, a

member of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the American Birding Association. He joined the Eastern Bird Banding Association a few years after it was founded, and attended his first meeting in Philadelphia in 1928. He regularly attended EBBA annual meetings and contributed articles to *EBBA News*. He also served as President and Treasurer of the organization for a number of years; and in 1980, was made an honorary member.

Besides banding, Merrill spent considerable time birding within a 200 mile radius of State College. He kept copious records and had a world life list of 1163 birds as of June 1992. He was an active member of the State College Bird Club, participated in Christmas Bird Counts, and contributed quarterly to *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Right up until the time of his death, Merrill continued his study and observation of bird life. The memory of that devotion will challenge and inspire us all. Sincere condolences are extended to Merrill's daughter, Emily Wood Harpster of Atlanta; his son, Merrill Jr. of Augusta, GA; and to his five grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

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### **AN INVITATION TO EBBA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP (MAPS) PROGRAM**

Now in its fifth year, the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program is a cooperative, constant-effort, mist-netting program established by The Institute for Bird Populations (see *News, Notes, Comments* this issue). The Institute is attempting to enlist an additional 19 MAPS stations in the Northeast Region and 25 in the Southeast Region to reach totals of 60 and 40 stations, respectively, operating in those regions in 1993.

The methodology used by the MAPS Program is simple and straightforward, and the program provides an excellent opportunity for Eastern banders to make an important contribution to avian biomonitoring.

We strongly urge banders from the EBBA region to become part of this exciting project. A workshop on the MAPS Program will be given at the annual EBBA meeting, 2-4 April 1993 at Painted Post, New York. All interested persons are invited to attend this workshop!

For more information, please write: **The Institute for Bird Populations P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 or call: (415) 663-1436**

# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

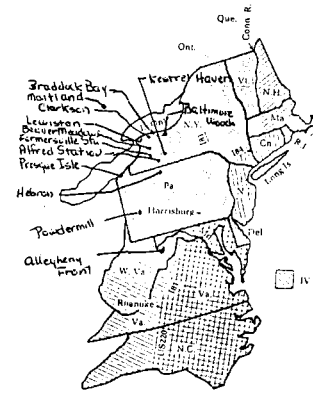
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**, Coordinator  
1435 Waterwells Road  
Alfred Station, NY 14803

Fall 1991 saw the birth of a new AFR IV station--Junco Nest, operated by Dave Junkin--and the temporary loss of Baltimore Woods, which was not in operation in 1991 but should be back in 1992. Altogether, the 13 stations banded 21,530 individuals of 121 species.

Eight stations reported a positive season; four stations had negative overall results. Warblers were up at Braddock Bay, Farmersville, Alfred Station, and Allegheny Front, though spruce bud specialists continue their downhill trend. Many stations commented on the summer drought which extended into fall. In addition to net hours, traps (jay, sparrow, chimney(!)) were used at several stations.

John Gregoire graciously provided analysis of injuries and abnormalities noted by AFR IV reporters. He says that in sharp contrast to observations in previous years, only two deer ticks and two Hippoboscid flies were reported. The former were found on a HOWR and a HETH at Presque Isle while the latter parasitized a BHCO and SOSP at Kestrel Haven. Toe tumors were present at many locations as were absent claws, mostly on hallux, malformed bills (BLJA, LEFL, HOFI) and scaly growths on tarsi. One SCJU exhibited a bill growth resembling an Auk's bill. White spots on SCJU greater secondary coverts were noted at Alfred and Kestrel Haven. Braddock Bay photographed a WTSP with heterochrosistic orange lores, possibly attributable to a diet-induced carotenoid problem. Kestrel Haven had seven WCSP with retained juvenile feathers in greater secondary coverts and rectrices.

John has also volunteered to provide analysis on 22 selected species that are migratory at all AFR stations. His analysis of AFR IV '91 fall results shows that many species were well into migration before our traditional fall start date. Many icterids, sparrows, warblers, and thrushes fall into this group as evidenced by both extreme dates and numbers banded. Twenty of the 22 on our target list had some data. It appears that most flycatchers and thrushes moved in early August through early September. YBFLs(56) had reached Presque Isle and Powdermill by early August, although some remained at Alfred to 25 Sep



tember. RCKIs (636) were at Allegheny Front by 12 September with banding fairly well distributed in timing along the route. GCTHs (108) were sparse, with some at Allegheny Front by 13 September; many were recorded prior to 15 August in the north. SWTHs (723) were well distributed and may have begun movement in July, peaking in mid-September. PHVIs (74) were sparse but early at northern stations, with Powdermill and Allegheny Front accounting for 66. TEWAs (611) are another that may have left the breeding grounds before or during molt; Powdermill may have had an over-summering bird (25 July) and Allegheny Front had a TEWA on 15 August with the peak on 12 September. OCWAs (13) ranged from 20 September at Lewiston to 13 October at Allegheny Front. Allegheny Front had 597 of the 649 CMWA, peaking on 12 September but arriving as early as 16 August; CMWAs were rare in New York, with only eight banded in early September. Palm Warblers moved from mid-September into early October but were sparse at northern stations; 56 WPWAs were banded and only two YPWAs--the latter at Kestrel Haven on 12 October and Powdermill on 27 October. BBWAs (307) peaked in Ontario on 18 August and were present in West Virginia by 19 August; most New York stations had a few during the second week of September. Allegheny Front had 1141 of 1244 BLPWs banded, with the peak on 27 September which followed a New York peak in mid-month. CONWs (48) were largely finished moving by mid-September and represented by single birds at all but the larger stations. WIWAs (74) were nicely spread geographically, but in low numbers; most were gone by mid-September. ATSPs (670) arrived in Ontario by 19 October; New York by 29 October; and southern Pennsylvania by 8 November. FOSPs (54) were as early as 8 October at Lewiston and Allegheny Front; Hebron had a late one on 8 December. LISPs (128) were sparse in the north but displayed a steady



**Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1991.**

| Maitland River Ontario | Lewiston NY | Clarkson NY | Braddock Bay NY | Beaver Meadows NY | Junco Nest NY |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 64 RWBL                | 57 GRCA     | 31 WTSP     | 230 WTSP        | 56 HOFI           | 88 SCJU       |
| 53 GCKI                | 32 WTSP     | 30 SCJU     | 169 BCCH        | 49 AMGO           | 22 BCCH       |
| 39 SWTH                | 23 SWTH     | 26 HOFI     | 92 HETH         | 12 BCCH           | 11 WTSP       |
| 33 SCJU                | 20 BCCH     | 24 SOSP     | 90 RCKI         | 7 SCJU            | 10 HETH       |
| 33 OVEN                | 13 OVEN     | 23 GRCA     | 37 SOSP         | 6 WCSP            | 8 RCKI        |
| 33 BCCH                | 12 HETH     | 10 WCSP     | 33 GCKI         |                   | 6 SOSP        |
| 31 RCKI                | 9 MAWA      | 8 BLJA      | 33 GRCA         |                   | 6 HOFI        |
| 26 MYWA                | 8 COYE      | 7 PISI      | 30 BLPW         |                   | 5 AMRO        |
| 20 SOSP                | 7 RCKI      | 7 AMGO      | 28 MYWA         |                   |               |
| 20 WIWR                | 6 MYWA      | 5 BCCH      | 25 REVI         |                   |               |

**Table 2 (cont'd.) Most commonly banded species - 1991.**

| Farmersville Station NY | Kestrel Haven NY | Alfred Station NY | Presque Isle PA | Hebron PA | Powdermill PA | Allegheny Front WV |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------|
| 338 HOFI                | 183 SOSP         | 56 SCJU           | 352 GCKI        | 173 INBU  | 645 MYWA      | 1141 BLPW          |
| 90 AMGO                 | 69 MYWA          | 37 MAWA           | 201 RCKI        | 140 SOSP  | 401 SOSP      | 1133 BTBW          |
| 70 SCJU                 | 43 BCCH          | 31 BCCH           | 125 WTSP        | 138 SCJU  | 368 GRCA      | 643 BTNW           |
| 53 COYE                 | 40 GRCA          | 27 COYE           | 124 SWTH        | 96 HOFI   | 343 SCJU      | 597 CMWA           |
| 40 GRCA                 | 35 AMRO          | 27 SOSP           | 84 MAWA         | 39 WTSP   | 312 WTSP      | 549 TEWA           |
| 37 BCCH                 | 34 SCJU          | 21 GCKI           | 83 GRCA         | 27 GRCA   | 290 CEDW      | 496 GCKI           |
| 25 SOSP                 | 29 HOFI          | 20 RCKI           | 62 WIWR         | 27 COYE   | 287 COYE      | 399 MAWA           |
| 15 MAWA                 | 20 WCSP          | 19 CHSP           | 59 BRGR         | 21 REVI   | 279 AMGO      | 367 SWTH           |
| 13 PUF1                 | 17 EAPH          | 13 NAWA           | 57 GCTH         | 16 AMGO   | 249 SWSP      | 341 SCJU           |
| 12 RBGR                 | 14 WTSP          |                   | 54 HETH         | 13 RCKI   | 213 MAWA      | 257 BBWA           |
|                         |                  |                   |                 | 13 RSTO   |               |                    |
|                         |                  |                   |                 | 13 MAWA   |               |                    |

**Maitland River Bird Observatory 435-0812**  
 Huron County, Ontario, Canada  
 John B. Miles

In 1991 the Maitland Bird Observatory was in operation for fall banding from 20 July to 27 October. Banding was carried out on two days in July, 18 days in August, 11 days in September, and 9 days in October. A total of 634 birds of 57 species were banded, which is about average. The station was operated by John B. Miles and Steven Miles. Banding demonstrations were done for visiting groups from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists, and the Kitchener Field Naturalists Clubs.

Banding equipment used was consistent to that of previous years, with up to 40 mist nets in operation as well as a sparrow and a jay trap. Spruce bud worm-eating species, such as Tennessee Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler, continued their recent trend of reduced numbers moving through this location in the fall. The Red-winged Blackbird roost across the Maitland River from the banding station was used in 1991, resulting in an improvement over the poor results of 1990.

Noteworthy species banded in 1991 included the station's second Connecticut Warbler and a Rusty Blackbird.

**Lewiston**  
Niagara County, NY  
*Jerald J. Farrell*

**431-0790**

The fall 1991 banding season started on 7 September and ended on 8 October for this banding station. There was a total of seven days of banding totaling 27.5 netting hours. An average of 16 nets totaling 440 net hours resulted in 54.5 birds/100 net hours. There were seven local retraps. Best day was 7 September with 44 birds banded of 12 different species. Of 240 birds banded, there were 39 different species, 16 of which belonged to the warbler group.

The season was very disappointing because of the lack of birds, especially warblers, flycatchers and vireos. The weather was very good and there were no planned banding days lost. There was a high number of HY catbirds, indicating a good nesting season for this species. Magnolia Warbler count fell from 51 banded in fall 1990 to a low of nine this year. There was not a single flycatcher handled at this station, and only one Red-eyed Vireo representing its family.

This is the 16th year for this station, which I operate in spring and fall concentrating on migrant warblers. There has now been a total of 7268 new birds banded of 102 species. Again this year I am sorry to report that I have yet to handle a single foreign retrap at this banding station.

**Clarkson**  
Monroe Co., NY  
*William D. Symonds*

**431-0775**

The sixth year of fall banding at the Clarkson Station began on 15 August and continued until 15 November. The station was in operation for 45 days, mainly on weekends. From one to four nets were used in the same locations as in previous years (near a raspberry patch and in second growth of staghorn sumac, thimbleberry, and wild grape). Nets previously positioned near feeders were replaced by several traps. A total of 211 birds of 30 species were banded during 898 net hours of operation for a rate of 23.5 birds/100 net hours. There were 25 repeats, 13 returns, and 2 foreign re-encounters. There was a 57% HY ratio of birds handled at the station.

Despite similar net hours, this fall was extremely disappointing, with only about 40% as many birds caught as in 1990. White-throated Sparrow, Slate-

colored Junco, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and Black-capped Chickadee were all down by over 50%. Gray Catbird and Blue Jay showed the only significant rise in numbers. Warblers, flycatchers, vireos, and thrushes were slightly better than 1990 but were still very low.

The largest daily catch was 31 birds on 13 October. Nine new species were banded in the fall at this station, including an American Woodcock netted at 1130 on 30 August. Despite the drop in total number of birds banded, the number of species was up by six from 1990.

Noteworthy returns included a Blue Jay and a House Finch, both in their fifth year. Information was received on two House Finches: one banded in October 1990 at Clarkson was found dead three miles south in October 1991; and a second, banded in Gaines, NY, in September 1985, was retrapped at Clarkson in October 1990, a movement 17 miles east.

**Braddock Bay Banding Station**      **431-0774**  
Monroe County, NY  
*Elizabeth W. Brooks*

Fall banding was conducted at Braddock Bay during 1991 for the seventh consecutive year. Only the results of the passerine banding are reported here. Banding was done at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station by Elizabeth Brooks, Robert McKinney and Sharon Skelly with help from several volunteers.

There were 987 birds banded representing 60 species. From one to 17 mist nets were used in a setup consistent with previous years which included a variety of habitat (wet deciduous woods, osier, weedy fields, and hedgerow). There were 1289 net hours of operation on 20 days between 11 August and 20 November, with a resulting 77 birds/100 net hours banded. Our best days were 11 October (147 banded), 14 October (136), and 23 October (130). Banding 77 Black-capped Chickadees on 23 October was noteworthy as was the banding of the station's first-ever Connecticut Warbler on 8 September.

There were 54 repeats and seven returns including a cardinal in its sixth year and a chickadee in its fourth year.

In general, results for 1991 were slightly below average for birds per 100 net hours and total birds, while

the number of species was slightly above the six-year average. Warblers had a better showing than in the previous two years as did vireos, kinglets, and flycatchers. Thrushes were down, although Hermit Thrush made a good showing. Black-capped Chickadee totals were not as high as in 1987 and 1990, but there was good movement on 23-24 October when 121 were banded (58% HY).

There was a massive movement of winter finches over the station in late October, but none chose to land in the specially prepared weedy fields--at least not when the nets were open.

We are grateful to the following for their help and support: Jeff Bouton, Mike Davids, Jeff and Joan Dodge, Joanna Klima, Brian Mongi, Tom Muller, Frank Nicoletti, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Bill Symonds, and Barbara Verdone. Appreciation is extended to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, the Genesee Ornithological Society, and the Rochester Birding Association for grants for equipment. Special thanks go to Bill Kaiser for his support and for permission to band on his land.

**Beaver Meadow Audubon Center 424-0782**  
North Java, Wyoming County, NY  
*David Junkin*

The Beaver Meadow bird banding team banded on eight Tuesdays from 3 September to 11 November 1991 as part of the normal banding program at the nature center carried out throughout the year. During six of the Tuesday banding days, demonstrations were given to elementary school groups. Other demonstrations were for a large college class (over 30 students) and for individuals and families.

Because of a new policy of not leaving closed nets up over night, the use of nets was much curtailed this year. Only 50 net hours on six days were posted with a catch of 25 birds of 11 species. Traps at the Visitor Center feeding station were used for 353 trap hours on nine days, capturing 117 birds of eight species, with 48 American Goldfinches and 52 House Finches dominating the catch totals. There were six White-crowned Sparrows trapped, which was the highest number for this species since banding began in 1979. There were 12 retraps.

The Tuesday crew included Stephen Bradley, Jane Cole, Taddy Dann, Betsy Davis, and Dave Junkin, with Steve and Dave working at the other demonstrations.

**The Junco Nest 423-0781**  
Bliss, Wyoming County, NY  
*David Junkin*

In this first fall of operation, nets were operated on 15 days using from two to six nets. Net hours varied from four to 47.5 per day. Generally, Sunday mornings and all day Mondays were the times of operation, though consecutive days 7-10 October were worked. The timing of this vacation coincided with the greatest leaf fall of the season, meaning much leaf cleaning because of strong winds.

The goal set of catching 100 new birds for the 7-13 October period came up one bird short. The goal was completely arbitrary but something to work toward. In that span, 13 repeats were handled. Amazing to me was the fact that 88 juncos were caught with the next nearest species, chickadee, with 22 individuals. Juncos nest here and are seen in numbers through the year, but their total compared to other birds was unexpected.

I was pleased with the total of birds per 100 net hours, as totals at other inland stations I have been a part of haven't been as good in recent years. Banding will have to be more concerted for a longer period of time in the future to establish a worthwhile data base.

**Farmersville Station 422-0782**  
Cattaraugus County, NY  
*Donald F. Clark*

Banding records from the Farmersville Station area have been submitted to the Atlantic Flyway Review since 1969. This year, 800 new birds were banded of 53 species. It is the third highest total in the 24 years of records. The past ten years have been disappointing in both numbers and species. The warbler migration had declined year after year with 1987 and 1989 particularly low. This year, 108 warblers of 17 species were banded. Most surprising were the 53 Common Yellowthroats banded. This figure is almost twice any other full year of yellowthroat bandings. There were no Yellow-rumped Warblers seen or caught.

In addition to the 800 new birds banded, there were 185 repeats, 18 returns, and one foreign retrap. An average of four nets were used with a total of 799 net hours. This resulted in a catch of 39 birds/100 net hours, double the 1990 figures. Banding was conducted on 51 days from 15 August to 14 November. The highest catch was 47 birds on 13 September. Traps were used also.

The fall weather this year was different, to say the least. Beautiful day followed beautiful day. The drought conditions were the worst in memory. Temperatures remained summer-like most of the time, with the first frost late in September. The first snowfall in western New York occurred in Buffalo and areas to the north on 2 November, where they had ten inches of snow. Yet, on the same day, we had sunshine and worked outside in shirt sleeves, and we are located in the higher elevations of the snowbelt.

A goldfinch banded in May 1990 near Willoughby, OH, was caught at Farmersville Station in November 1990. Another goldfinch, banded by John Gregoire near Hector, NY, in September 1988, was caught here in July 1990 and in October 1991. A House Finch banded here in September 1988 was recovered in Tonawanda, NY, in July 1991. Although we had between 100 and 200 Canada Geese coming in daily to our main pond, none had neck bands this year. One Mallard had a band but I was unable to catch her.

The fall food supply was abundant. It was the first time we can remember the honeysuckle fruits drying on the bush--normally, birds completely strip them before migration starts. Hawthorns and wild apples were in such abundance that the trees appeared decorated for Christmas.

The House Finch, which were nearly absent during the winter and spring months, arrived back in numbers this fall. The 338 banded were only a few of the many that used our feeders. At least 98% of the birds caught were hatching year. They appeared to come in flocks, stay for a day or so, and then disappear. Less than 10% of them repeated. Are they behaving like Evening Grosbeaks?

This year the returns were way below average. Most were birds banded in the past two years. However, one junco was caught six years after banding; one Common Yellowthroat, four years later; and of the Black-capped Chickadees, one each four, five, six, and nine years after banding.

## Kestrel Haven

422-0764

Hector, Schuyler County, NY  
*John and Sue Gregoire*

Nets deployed as in our previous four seasons, we set several records this year. We were open a station high of 64 days while banding a station low of 672 birds. We either didn't open or closed early on all too many very windy days, most during the peak of expected movement. The station added one new species to raise our fall total to 86 and station total to 96. Thirty-one returns provided the high points and included an American Tree Sparrow at four plus years, chickadees at four, five and six years, a catbird at six plus years and a Blue Jay making its first reappearance in five plus years. Last year's high rate of parasitism was not repeated as we discovered only two Hippoboscid flies and no indications of Mallophaga feather lice.

Overall, the fall of 1991 was boring. Our best day was 48 birds, for which we thank an invasion of yellow-rumps. For the rest, we experienced low numbers across the board, saw no other indication of "waves," and only hope that the vagaries of weather caused migration to fly over this station. Our mainstay bird, Song Sparrow, hit an all-time low, as did Chipping and Field Sparrows. We believe that several species passed through well in advance of our start day as our local breeders of those species were all gone by the end of July. Coupling breeding season data to our low fall numbers, we are concerned for Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, and Gray-cheeked Thrush while pleased at the higher numbers of Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Phoebe, and Ovenbird. Several other migrant species were neither seen nor captured. Movement was so slow that we opted to keep most low-catch nets closed and banded from just three nets most of the season. Experimental sets to gauge the effects of habitat change and/or movement patterns yielded no illumination.

Whereas most birds we band are predominately HY (over 75%), we have seen a steady 40% for White-crowned Sparrow over the past five years with only one aberration in 1988 of 66%. Similarly, our take of juncos is averaging only 60% HY. In the latter case, we believe we are seeing our returning winter population as opposed to migrants. White-crowned Sparrow young may take a more coastal, or Hudson Valley, route, accounting for our high adult rate.



Our season saw 672 new birds banded, 83% of them HY. We had 111 repeats and 31 returns in 64 days of operation. Our new species, Yellow-shafted Flicker, has caused us some statistical concern. Of the three banded, we can credit only one to a net. Number two was flying around the cellar and number three (probably the same "trap" as number two) was plucked out of one of our chimneys. Credit 670 to nets and two to "chimney traps."

Many thanks to Mary Beth Pickett of Avinet for her support and assistance.

**Alfred Station**                      **421-0774**  
Allegany County, NY  
*Elizabeth W. Brooks*

The 14th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 11 August and continued until 10 November with a total of 77 banding days. From one to nine nets were used in the same locations as in previous years (near feeders, along a small pond, and adjacent to a stream in buckthorn, briars, and maturing pine and spruce). A total of 451 birds of 65 species were banded during 2428 net hours of operation (18.6 birds/100 net hours).

The season as a whole was disappointing with only two-thirds as many birds caught in 1991 as in 1990. The biggest daily catch was 46 on 19 September. Only two other days saw over 20 birds banded--19 August and 12 October. Warbling Vireo was the only new species added to the cumulative totals for fall banding.

There were 152 repeats and 32 returns. The overall HY ratio was 60%. Among the returns were 21 chickadees--seven at least in their fourth year, and one each in their fifth and sixth year.

Warbler numbers improved in 1991, making up 33% of the birds banded (18% in 1989 and 25% in 1990). Weather conditions were ideal in early and mid-season but wind, cold, and snow essentially ended the season on 4 November. Four species were banded in higher numbers than the 13-year averages: Veery (+3.4 S.D.); Winter Wren (+2.8 S.D.); Ovenbird (+2.7 S.D.); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (+2.5 S.D.). No species were down below 2 S.D.

**Presque Isle State Park**                      **420-0800**  
Erie, PA  
*Jean Stull*

Our 30th consecutive year of cooperative fall banding at Presque Isle State Park was completed in 1991 resulting in 1732 birds of 66 species banded in 1967 net hours. The Leberman/Stull banding sites are located about ¼ mile apart. Eight to 20 nets were used on 30 banding days from 11 August to 22 October. An average of 88 birds were banded/100 net hours. A House Finch brought our 30-year fall station species total to 126.

A warm, dry fall season was a continuation of the summer drought which was widespread and severe.

Since most of the birds at the Presque Isle station are migrants, our returns in fall appear to be low compared to some other AFR stations. Four fall-banded birds (all Presque Isle nesters) returned: a Song Sparrow, two Yellow Warblers, and a Carolina Wren, all banded during the fall of 1990.

There were many repeats including a White-eyed Vireo--relatively rare at our station-- which remained in the area for at least eight days.

Numbers of Tennessee, Cape May, and Blackburnian warblers and Northern Waterthrushes continue to be low.

The 88 birds/100 net hours this season was exceeded during the last ten falls in 1981 (98), 1983 (100), 1986 (100.8), and 1989 (92); but because of a record number of fall banding days in 1991, our total birds banded (1732) was also a record number. Interestingly, however, in spite of never exceeding 19 banding days during any of the fall seasons from 1970 to 1980, five of these seasons result in more than 1000 birds being banded. Eight of them equaled or exceeded this year's 88 birds/100 net hours. An interrupted, but clear downward trend in numbers may be indicated.

Our highest total day was 8 October with 256 birds (mostly kinglets). The best total-birds-per-net-hour day was 12 October with 5.09 birds per net hour (again, mostly kinglets).

A very high percentage of birds which could be accurately aged proved to be hatching year. Deer ticks (*Ixodes dammini*) were found and removed from two birds--a House Wren and a Hermit Thrush--and submitted to the Ohio Department of Health at their request.

More than 200 people, including one university class, visited the station. We thank many who assisted and the Park staff for their cooperation and support.

Banders were Ronald F. Leberman, Thelma Patton, Jean H. and James G. Stull (1991 station compilers).

### Hebron

415-0780

Potter County, PA  
David W. Hauber

Fall migration banding at the Hebron banding station for 1991 proved to be somewhat better than the last two years. Banding was conducted from 16 August to 16 November at the same locations as in previous years. The number of banding days was down (45 in 1991, 58 in 1990) but net hours and birds banded were up.

Banding was done on 45 days using up to 11 nets and some traps. There were 1011 birds handled with 890 new birds banded of 58 species. There were 84 repeats and 37 returns (both figures down from previous years due, in part, to more emphasis on netting rather than trapping this fall). New fall species were Warbling Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, Winter Wren, and Wood Thrush.

Indigo Buntings topped the list of most banded with 173 (156 in 1989 and 104 in 1990). More House Finches were banded this year (96) than in 1990 (59) but still less than in 1988 (272).

Mourning Warbler (Hebron's special project) figures for the year were disappointing. We handled only 14, banding 12 new birds and checking two males retrapped within 50 feet of where they were originally caught in 1989 and retrapped in 1990. I believe that the main migration of this species begins and probably peaks in this area just prior to 15 August.

### Powdermill Nature Reserve

400-0791

Rector, PA  
Robert S. Mulvihill  
Robert C. Leberman

Serious drought conditions prevailed at our station until the last few weeks of the season. Nonetheless, the banding program netted 6,424 birds of 114 species, which is an improvement over the past few years. However, we expended a lot of effort in obtaining these captures (16,120 net hours--second highest total in the past 15 years), resulting in our poorest overall capture rate (40 birds/100 net hours) in the past 15 years.

One hundred or more birds were banded on 17 different days this fall. Our busiest day was 11 October, when 346 birds of 27 species were banded, including 130 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 49 Song Sparrows, 40 Swamp Sparrows, 28 White-throated Sparrows, and 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The highlight of the banding season was our capture of an immature Le Conte's Sparrow on 20 October, providing the first confirmed Pennsylvania record of the species.

Our fall 1991 capture rates either tied or were the highest in the past twelve years for Traill's Flycatcher, Palm Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. They were the second best ever for Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat and Rufous-sided Towhee. We had our lowest capture rates in the past 12 years for the following species: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. Capture rates were the second worst in 12 years for Least Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's and Wood Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Blackpoll and Wilson's Warbler.

Overall, out of 54 species analyzed, 1991 capture rates were within one standard deviation (S.D.) of a ten-year mean for 29 species, more than one S.D. above for six species (Traill's Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Lincoln's Sparrow), more than one S.D. below for 16 species, and more than two S.D.s below for another three species (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler).

Although fall banding totals are probably poor indicators of population trends (see Mulvihill and Leberman 1988, *N. Am. Bird Bander* 13:80-81; Mulvihill and Leberman 1991, *N. Am. Bird Bander* 16:84-85), the fact that total numbers and capture rates have been markedly depressed for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler for the past two to three years at Powdermill may be cause for concern. This is particularly true for the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, since annual variation in the number of fall migrants of this species has been very slight over the past fifteen years (especially when compared to the pronounced annual variation typical of spruce budworm specialists like Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers). Although it showed the most pronounced population trend reversal between the periods 1966-1978 and 1978-1987 of any species of forest-dwelling neotropical migrant (Askins et al., 1989, *Current Ornithol.* 7:1-57 [Table IV]), the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been largely overlooked in discussions of declining songbird populations.

We are often asked whether or not our banding data provide evidence that the populations of some songbirds are declining. Presently, they do not, but we quickly remind people that by the time population declines of songbirds become widespread and sustained enough to show up as unambiguous declines in the number of fall migrants at a banding station such as ours, it may be too late for effective conservation. Conservation, in and of itself, is a good idea that simply cannot be put off until all the data are in. Let's hope that the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is not a case in point.

We were informed of just three recoveries of fall-banded birds during the year, but all were of interest. We banded an immature female Belted Kingfisher (#1173-45632) on 19 August 1991, and it was recovered a month later in northern Florida. This is apparently one of very few long-distance recoveries of this species in the files of the Bird Banding Laboratory. An Evening Grosbeak (#8001-01948), banded at Powdermill on 28 November 1990, was recovered on its breeding grounds at Alton, NH, on 9 July 1991. Lastly, a Purple Finch banded as a HY-U on 12 September 1987 was found near Birmingham, AL, on 2 February 1991.

For their help with our fall banding activities, we are grateful to the following banding volunteers and staff of

Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Section of Birds: Larry Barth, Don Connell, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Barb Rich, Ted Rich, Bob Shaw, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and D. Scott Wood.

**Allegheny Front Migration Observ. 390-0791**

Grant County, WV

*George A. Hall*

*Ralph Bell*

The 34th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Observatory was a great improvement over the past several years. The weather was nearly perfect and the number of birds caught compared favorably with the best years of the past. The station was in continuous operation from 12 August to 14 October with seven additional late October days. Weather forced the closing of the station on only one day so that some banding was carried out on 70 days.

A total of 8212 birds of 89 species (highest ever) was banded with a station effort of 7231 net hours (highest total), giving a capture ratio of 113.6 birds/100 net hours (second poorest). While the total of birds banded was the fifth highest, this number was inflated by the late October captures which were not made during the peak years. A more comparable figure is the number of captures through 6 October which was the ninth highest total. August captures totaled 1146; September, 4945; and October, 2121. The station has now banded 146,767 birds of 116 forms.

Unlike the last two years, the continental weather patterns favored good flights at this station. The season was dry and temperatures were generally above normal. The migration pattern followed the classical pattern, with a pronounced peak at the end of August followed by a period of low captures. The major wave of the season then came on 12-15 September. Both of these waves were associated with cold fronts passing to the north. A cold front, which brought the first sub-freezing weather to the station, arrived on 19-20 September but did not produce a flight. The latter part of September and early October showed a concentration of good flight days and the largest fraction of birds came through at that time, although the daily captures were below those of the earlier flight. The late October weather was also warm and fairly dry and lacked the prelude to winter so evident in past seasons. The highest daily count was 455 on 12 September with 404 on 13 September. On

four other days, the counts exceeded 300 and on seven more days, the count exceeded 200.

The most numerous species was Blackpoll Warbler with 1141 bandings (45% above the ten-year average). The Black-throated Blue Warbler with 1133 bandings (36% above the ten-year average) was second. The Black-throated Green Warbler was also above that average. On the other hand, several species were below the ten-year average: Tennessee Warbler (44% below), Cape May Warbler (8% below), Blackburnian Warbler (41% below), and Swainson's Thrush (8.8% below). Of 45 species analyzed, 28 were caught in average numbers (within one Standard Deviation [S.D.] of the ten-year average). Of these, 13 were above the average and 12 below. Seven species were banded in numbers one S.D. above the average and ten were banded in numbers more than two S.D. above. No species were caught in numbers more than one S.D. below the ten-year average. Fourteen species either tied or exceeded the record high.

The day-long migrant counts were continued. A total of 396 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (45 on 11 September) were counted, 17,114 Blue Jays (4593 on 4 October), 3033 American Goldfinches (3845 on 11 September), and 5468 Monarch Butterflies (1421 on 18 September). The hummingbird count was well below last year, but the other counts were much higher.

During the season, 11,685 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 18 states, the District of Columbia, and from Brazil, Holland, and Newfoundland. As usual, several elementary and high school classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Barbara Bilsborough, Walter Fye, Sue

Heselton, Trudy Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders, Ralph Bell and George Hall. LeJay Graffious was again responsible for the shelter and, as usual, Genevieve and John Findley were in charge of the net lanes. Ivarean Pierce, who also headed up the Blue Jay-Hummingbird Count, and Ken Heselton were present for extended periods of time.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Lee and Sarah Bowen; Chris Broyles; Carolyn, Dorothy and Helen Conrad; Jim Cyphert; Bob, Hickory and Ruth Ann Dean; Kevin Dodge; Cindy Ellis; Elise Faike; Hall, Jenny and Roger Findley; Kathleen Finnegan; Dawn, Jay, Matt and Tom Fox; Flo Giffen; Helen and Jay Graffious; JoAnn and Phil Graham; Mike Griffith; Diane Holsinger; Harriett and Mel Hooker; Anne, George, Patrick and Tom Hurley; Jim, Jean and Mike Huey; Virginia Johnson; Steve Mace; Carol, Fred and Jason McCullough; Jack, Jolene, Jonathan, Jaccalene and Jonavieve Minear; Loretta Mullins; Ben, Evelyn and Larry Myers; Terra Oldham; Marilyn Ortt; Joan Pattison; Daniel Perry; Charles Pierce; Jan Quailey; Beth and Randy Ritter; Jenifer Rosano; Carl and Ruth Rowe; Miles Runner; Joe Schreiber; Don and Martha Schearer; Bill Shuler; Jamie, Mellissa and Rob Simpson; Dave and Sue Skinner; Earl Smith; John, Margaret and Ryan Stallings; Roy Ward; Andy Weeks; Bill and Cory Wentzel; and Jim and Martin Wiley.

We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor Jim Page, District Ranger Nancy Feakes, Recreation Specialist Monica Gallion, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to Walt Lesser of the D.N.R. for the use of the Laneville Cabin for housing and for storage of the shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

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## ***Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V***

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***H. David Leake, Coordinator***  
113 Poteskeet Trail  
Southern Shores, NC 27949

The 1991 reports are incomplete due to a reorganization of Region V. By now all banders have been notified about submitting reports for the 1992 Atlantic Flyway Review. If I have missed any banders in Region V, I encourage you to write to me immediately so that I can forward you the necessary reporting forms. This is an opportunity to share your banding results with the rest of the banding community.

|                     | <b>E.Shore VA<br/>N.W.R.</b> | <b>Jekyll Is. GA</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Days Operated       | 53                           | 28                   |
| No. Nets Used       | 25                           | 15-16                |
| Total Net Hours     | 9489                         | 2134                 |
| Largest Daily Catch | 325                          | 362                  |
| Birds Banded 1990   | 2669                         | 2074                 |
| Birds Banded 1991   | 2456                         | 2582                 |
| Diff. Species 1990  | 88                           | 53                   |
| Diff. Species 1991  | 67                           | 52                   |
| Birds/100 NH 1990   | 33                           | 104                  |
| Birds/100 NY 1991   | 25.9                         | 121                  |

| <b>Eastern Shore of VA<br/>NWF, VA</b> | <b>Jekyll Is. GA</b> |
|--|----------------------|
| 1508 MYWA                              | 1104 WPWA            |
| 134 GRCA                               | 586 COYE             |
| 119 COYE                               | 188 GRCA             |
| 72 NOWA                                | 118 AMRE             |
| 52 BTBW                                | 74 WEVI              |
| 44 AMRE                                | 65 PRAW              |
| 44 SOSP                                | 60 BTBW              |
| 42 SWSP                                | 54 HOWR              |
| 34 NOCA                                | 41 PABU              |
| 28 BAWW                                | 39 INBU              |

**Jekyll Island, GA**

**310-0812**

*Doris Cohrs*

Jekyll Island Banding Station was open from 22 September to 20 October, missing only 2 October due to rain. We had a successful banding year, banding 2582 birds, an increase of 508 birds over 1990 totals. Our birds per 100 net hours also increased from 104 in 1990 to 121 in 1991.

During our banding period, we also held many demonstrations for our local school children as well as some adult groups. Don Cohrs was our spokesman, taking great delight in sharing banding procedures along with environmental messages.

We look forward to 1992 since we have just been given a computer. We hope to master its intricacies and use it to report our 1992 results.

**Eastern Shore of Virginia  
National Wildlife Refuge**

**370-0755**

Cape Charles, VA  
*John Dillard*

The Virginia Society of Ornithology operated a banding station for the 29th consecutive year in the Kiptopeke area of the Eastern Shore. The station

that was located at Kiptopeke Beach for the past 28 years was moved to the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge this year due to projected development at the previous site. The refuge is located three miles SE of the old location. Initially, 25 nets were operated south of the public use area of the refuge. During the first three weeks, only one-fifth as many birds were banded (10/day) as compared to the same period in 1990. At the beginning of the fifth week, half of the nets were placed alongside the nature trails in the public use area where undergrowth is thick and the yield increased to 97 birds/day for October, 40% better than last year.

Since the end of the 1991 banding session, the State of Virginia has purchased the original Kiptopeke site and established Kiptopeke State Park. In 1992, the VSO will again operate a banding station at the original site.

Licensed banders who shared in administration of the station included Walter Smith, David Leake, John Dillard, Karen Terwilliger, and Don Schwab. They were helped by many volunteer assistants whose aid is greatly appreciated. Walter Smith provided the summary of results and invaluable help in operating the station.