



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

President's Message

This is my last message. The two years have gone quickly, the job was not too taxing, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Many thanks to each and every council member and past officers for their share in helping to keep EBBA a viable organization. You all have been very supportive and good people to work with.

Our nominating committee chairperson is Mary Doscher, 147 Gary Drive, Trenton, NJ 08690. We need four new councilors. Here's your chance to volunteer. The president and three vice-presidents must also be replaced. Please give Mary any suggestions you may have.

You have probably received your dues notices by now. Do pay them promptly and ease Don Mease's job. A little extra to the Frazier Fund is greatly appreciated.

The announcement of our 1994 annual meeting in Bethlehem, PA, is with this issue of *NABB*. Mary and John Forness and their helpers have worked hard to present a first-class program. We hope we will see all of you there for a terrific meeting!

Susannah Graedel's wing chord study comes to a close. Will we be able to sex those eight selected species by wing chord? Will she have received enough data? If you haven't gotten around to sending yours in, do it now!

There are changes occurring at the Banding Lab. with the creation of the new Biological Survey. I'm not sure exactly what this reorganization means or the lines of division. I do know Banding Lab personnel will be at the annual meeting and I ex-

pect they will explain it to us. It behooves us, if we're truly interested in pursuing our banding, to put in more hours, refine our techniques, and try more than ever to be research oriented. I believe we are a valuable resource and we have to demonstrate it!

See you all in March.

Barbara M. Ross

An Invitation to EBBA Members to Contribute to the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program

Now in its sixth 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 additional Eastern MAPS stations, particularly in the Southeast, to begin operation in 1994. 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 and crucial 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 EBBA Annual Meeting in 1994. All interested persons are invited to attend this workshop! For more information, please write to: **Kenneth Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1436.**

**EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION 71ST ANNUAL MEETING
18 - 20 MARCH 1994 - HOTEL BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA**

There are more than birds in Bethlehem. Within a short walking distance of Hotel Bethlehem you can find the 18th Century industrial buildings of the early Moravian settlers as well as the church, a museum, and a burial ground called God's Acre. The Kemerer Museum on New Street reflects tasks of a later period. The famous Sun Inn, an early stage coach stop in old Bethlehem, is on Main Street, as well as the Goundie House, numerous shops, and there are more than books at the Moravian Bookshop. A stroll along the Monacacy evokes an aura of a time gone by when life could be enjoyed at a slower pace.

Join the Eastern Bird Banding Association members for their 71st annual meeting on 18-20 March 1994 at the Christmas City, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The Christmas City Birders will assist with registration and field trips.

Scheduled paper presenters are:

Cathy Viverette of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary -

"Investigation into Reduced Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawk Counts at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania and Cape May, New Jersey: An Indicator of Population Decline or a Change in Geographic Distribution"

Daniel Brauning of Pennsylvania Game Commission

"Trends in Grassland Birds and Habitat"

Brad Silfies of Danielsville

"Human Variables Leading to Greater Success in Retrapping American Kestrels"

John Tautin of the Bird Banding Laboratory

"Accomplishments and Trends in the North American Bird Banding Program"

Dr. Shonah A. Hunter of Lock Haven University

"The Loggerhead Shrike in Pennsylvania"

Dr. Daniel Klem, Jr. of Muhleberg College

"Window Kills Worldwide" and "Report on Birds of Armenia Project"

Workshop presenters are:

Mary Doscher of Trenton, New Jersey

"Mending Mist Nets"

Brad Silfies of Danielsville, Pennsylvania

"Ageing Hawks"

Dr. Daniel Klem, Jr. of Muhleberg College

Windows, Plate Glass and Birds: An Overview of the Hazard and Its Prevention"

. . . More to come. . .

Reports:

Bird Banding Laboratory Report and Operation Wing Chord

Poster Session:

Brad Silfies on Hawks

Friday Evening Program:

Laurie Goodrich of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary - "What's New on the Mountain"

Saturday Banquet Speaker:

Dr. Frank Gill of the Academy of Natural Sciences - "Do Chickadees Come From China?"

If you plan to contribute to the **bucket raffle** and/or you want to reserve **exhibit space**, let **Jerald Lahr** know at **3400 Church Road, Easton, PA 18042** or call 215-867-5614.

Members should have received registration forms in a separate mailing. If you have questions, contact **Mary and John Forness 3086 Haskell Road Cuba, New York 14727** or call, **716-968-1978**

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

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

AFR IV welcomed a new station in 1992: Spring Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, operated by Robert McKinney in the western Finger Lakes region of New York State. Baltimore Woods resumed fall banding after a one-year absence. However, Lewiston did not operate and Clarkson and Junco Nest had such dismal early season results that the stations were closed.

At the ten stations that operated in both 1991 and 1992, banding numbers were down at six. Totals were slightly improved at three and significantly improved at one, Kestrel Haven, where an earlier start-up date, two full-time banders, and a new net management scheme was cited as being responsible for the upturn. But at many stations, earlier start-up and intensified effort produced disappointing results. Birds per 100 net hours declined at every station except Presque Isle, and Allegheny Front reported the poorest capture rate in 35 years. Overall, percent hatching-year numbers ranged from a low of 44% at Beaver Meadows to a high of 88% at both Farmersville Station and Kestrel Haven.

Weather was mentioned as a problem at five stations. Farmersville reported the worst weather in 24 years, with rain or snow on 46 of the possible 90 banding days. Hurricanes Dannelle and Earl affected Presque Isle negatively (except for the station's first Western Kingbird, a gift from Dannelle).

The warbler flight was described as the worst ever at Presque Isle, where they were down 55% from ten years ago, and where not a single redstart was captured. Spruce budworm specialists continued their downward trend. Yet, warbler numbers were improved at Braddock Bay, Farmersville, and Hebron. There were good kinglet flights at Braddock Bay and Powdermill. Hebron continued to be "indigo heaven" with 298

Indigo Buntings banded (one third of the station's total!). House Finch numbers dropped drastically at Farmersville but were improving at Alfred Station, just 34 miles away, after four years of decline. There was no chickadee migration.

Both Kestrel Haven and Alfred reported a high incidence of hypoboscid flies on birds, with 22 species affected. Injuries and abnormalities reported included foot pox, scaly leg, crossed bills, and missing or malformed tarsi; and the incidence of the latter two may be becoming more prevalent. For the second year, White-throated Sparrows with orange lores were handled.

In his analysis of 22 selected species, John Gregoire reported that the most unusual occurrence was the flood of White-crowned Sparrows that centered on 22-23 October. Farmersville, Braddock Bay, Kestrel Haven, and Allegheny Front all had peak counts on those dates. No Olive-sided Flycatchers, Water Pipits, Rusty Blackbirds, or redpolls were reported at any station. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were more prevalent in 1992 and were concentrated more in the central part of the flyway. In general, the ridge and western stations reported numbers of all species in almost record low occurrence. Ruby-crowned Kinglets moved between 2 September and 30 October. Gray-cheeked Thrush numbers were encouragingly up, more prevalent to the west and moving a bit later than in 1991, from 19 September to 16 October. Swainson's Thrush moved from 30 July to 16 October with numbers strongly down in west/ridge. Tennessee Warbler was more prevalent centrally than on the ridge with the entire AFR count below Allegheny Front's 1991 bandings. Only eight Orange-crowned Warblers were banded. Cape May Warblers shifted slightly to the central stations, moving from 29 August to 4 October and peaking in the first week of September. Blackpoll Warblers were significantly up in the central part of the fly-

way and very low in the west/ridge; Allegheny Front and Presque Isle encountered only a third of their 1991 numbers. Tree Sparrows arrived for the winter in New York by 25 October. Interestingly, Fox Sparrow numbers were up sharply in the central portion with 13 of 22 banded reported at Kestrel Haven, moving from 16 October to late November, peaking at Kestrel Haven on 3 November.

Included in several reports were concerns for the broader issues of migration monitoring. John Gregoire mentioned his concern over a newspaper report of hundreds of dead northern U.S. and Canadian migrants in the Yucatan, Mexico, in late October 1992. Braddock Bay and Spring Hill are

involved in efforts to manage station habitat to facilitate constant effort and permit more meaningful comparison of data from year to year. George Hall mentioned the difficulties of attaching significance to some percent hatching-year figures when totals include both migrant and local populations. John Gregoire expressed concern that net hours may be less helpful than person hours in quantifying station effort. Cats and encroaching civilization at Alfred are only symptomatic of problems on a much broader scale.

Thanks to John Gregoire for his contribution to the analysis of data, and appreciation to all the stations, big and small, for their cooperative effort to understand and quantify fall migration.

Table 1.	Fall 1992 Region IV summary.					
	Maitland River Ont.	Baltimore Woods NY	Braddock Bay NY	Beaver Meadows NY	Spring Hill NY	Farmersville Sta NY
First/Last Day	8/15 - 11/1	8/15 - 10/24	7/30 - 11/19	8/20 - 11/12	8/1 - 11/16	8/19 - 11/13
Days Operated	39	19	26	23	13	38
Nets Used	40*	10-14	1-20	0-6*	1-11*	4*
Total Net Hrs.	16,461	1715	2044	567	**	562
Largest Day	44 (10/22)	21 (10/3)	104 (10/1)	22 (11/6)	34 (8/8)	25 (8/20)
No. Banded '91	634	***	987	142	***	800
No. Banded '92	473	218	850	163	122	251
No. Species '91	57	***	60	15	***	53
No. Species '92	57	41	58	30	34	42
Birds/100 nh '91	5	***	77	50	***	39
Birds/100 nh '92	3	13	46	16	**	24
Overall % HY '92	**	55%	79%	44%	**	88%
* Plus some traps. ** Data not reported. *** Did not operate.						

Table 1 (contd).	Fall 1992 Region IV summary.					
	Kestrel Haven NY	Alfred Station NY	Presque Isle PA	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Allegheny Front WV
First/Last Day	7/18 - 11/10	8/1 - 11/10	8/2 - 10/26	8/9 - 11/15	8/1 - 11/29	8/16 - 11/1
Days Operated	83	89	26	55	99	66
Nets Used	1-18	1-11	1-20	1-11	5-40	18-20
Total Net Hrs.	5868	3118	1513	609	15,685	6875
Largest Day	55 (10/22)	30 (11/1)	118 (10/18)	146 (9/8)	201 (10/14)	349 (9/10)
No. Banded '91	672	451	1732	890	6424	8212
No. Banded '92	1726	594	783	897	5349	3866
No. Species '91	58	65	66	58	114	89
No. Species '92	84	62	63	56	104	78
Birds/100 nh '91	90	19	88	109	40	114
Birds/100 nh '92	38	19	91	130	34	56
Overall % HY '92	88%	64%	80%	**	69%	**
* Plus some traps. ** Data not reported. *** Did not operate.						

Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1992.						
Maitland River Ont.	Baltimore Woods NY	Braddock Bay NY	Spring Hill NY	Farmersville Station NY	Kestrel Haven NY	
53 SCJU (4)	34 GRCA (*)	146 WTSP (1)	23 SOSP (*)	51 SCJU (3)	440 SOSP (1)	
53 GCKI (2)	22 COYE	80 HETH (3)	13 GRCA	26 BCCH (6)	99 MYWA (2)	
29 BCCH (6)	17 BCCH	77 RCKI (4)	9 BCCH	21 COYE (4)	97 GRCA (4)	
25 RCKI (7)	12 MAWA	70 GCKI (6)	9 RSTO	20 PUF1 (9)	84 CEDW	
24 SWTH (3)	10 WTSP	60 SCJU	7 MODO	20 HOFI (1)	56 SCJU (6)	
23 HETH	8 REVI	55 YWAR	6 VEER	19 AMGO (2)	51 AMGO	
19 COYE	8 SWTH	38 SOSP (5)	5 REVI	14 SOSP (7)	50 EAPH (9)	
18 SOSP (9)	7 GCKI	33 GRCA (7)	5 CSWA	13 MAWA (8)	47 COYE	
16 RWBL (1)	7 HOFI	30 AMGO	4 OVEN	8 GRCA (5)	44 YWAR	
	6 BTBW	20 COYE	3 AMGO	6 NAWA	39 ATSP	
*Did not operate in 1991. () Position last year.						

Table 2. (contd.)		Most commonly banded species - 1992.			
Alfred Station NY	Presque Isle PA	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Allegheny Front WV	Beaver Meadows NY
97 SCJU (1)	191 GCKI (1)	298 INBU (1)	725 SCJU (4)	504 BTBW (2)	29 HOFI (1)
63 SOSP (5)	68 RCKI (2)	103 SOSP (2)	331 AMGO (8)	415 BLPW (1)	24 SCJU (4)
45 HOFI	60 WTSP (3)	58 SCJU (3)	320 SOSP (2)	361 GCKI (6)	23 AMGO (2)
34 AMGO	46 SCJU	37 COYE (7)	286 MYWA (1)	340 CMWA (4)	20 BCCH (3)
26 BCCH (3)	42 SWTH (4)	30 HOFI (4)	247 RCKI	237 SWTH (8)	16 AMRO
25 BLJA	34 SOSP	29 WTSP (5)	234 WTSP (5)	212 BTNW (3)	11 SOSP
22 CHSP (8)	30 HETH (10)	24 BCCH	188 COYE (7)	199 TEWA (5)	5 HOWR
21 GCKI (6)	27 GRCA (6)	24 GRCA (6)	187 SWSP (9)		
18 MAWA (2)	25 WIWR (7)	23 CSWA	155 SWTH	186 SCJU (9)	3 WTSP
16 COYE (4)	24 YWAR	21 RBGR	153 CEDW (6)	144 COYE	3 GRCA
				138 RCKI	

*Did not operate in 1991. () Position last year.

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

In 1992 the Maitland Bird Observatory was in operation for fall banding from 15 August to 1 November. Banding was carried out on 12 days in August, 13 in September, 13 in October, and one day in November. A total of 476 birds of 57 species was banded, which is below normal for this station. The station was operated by John B. Miles and Steven Miles. Banding demonstrations were done for visiting groups from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists Club.

Banding equipment used was consistent to that of previous years, with up to 40 mist nets as well as a sparrow trap and a jay trap in operation. Spruce budworm-eating species such as Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers continued their recent trend of reduced numbers moving through this location in the fall. In fact, no Tennessee Warblers were caught this fall!

Peak banding days were 22 October (44) and 17 October (34). Variation of number of birds banded per 100 net hours by month of banding is shown below.

Month	Net Hours	Birds Banded	Birds/100 NH
Aug.	6124	73	1.19
Sept.	5641	152	2.69
Oct.	4474	234	5.23
Nov.	222	14	6.31

In general, the migration in 1992 was very light. The most noteworthy species banded was the station's fifth Pileated Woodpecker, the first since 1983.

Baltimore Woods**425-0761**Onondaga County, NY
Douglas Whitman

This was the sixth year of bird banding at Baltimore Woods, located one-half mile south of Marcellus at the Center for Nature Education at Baltimore Woods. Banding was done by Douglas Whitman who was assisted by Cleon Williams. The BBL-approved projects are public conservation education and monitoring breeding bird populations at the wildlife preserve. The MAPS project was undertaken for the third year.

Nineteen days were spent banding 218 fall migrants of 41 species. The largest number of birds banded occurred on 3 October with 21 birds of 10 species. No fall migration banding was carried out in 1991. For this reason, there are no comparison data between 1991 and 1992. Compared with 1990, however, 1992 banding results can be considered normal for this station. Peak fall warbler migration days occurred between 20 and 25 September.

During the 19-day fall migration banding period, 160 visitors observed birds close up, asked questions, and learned about interdependence in nature (humankind included) through banding.

Braddock Bay**Bird Observatory****431-0774**Monroe County, NY
Elizabeth W. Brooks

Fall passerine banding was conducted at Braddock Bay during 1992 for the eighth consecutive year. Banding was done at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station by Elizabeth Brooks, Robert McKinney, and Sharon Skelly with help from several volunteers.

There were 950 birds banded representing 58 species. From one to 20 nets were used in a variety of habitats in the same locations as in previous years. Banding was done for a total of 2044 net hours on 26 days between 30 July and 19 November. There were 46 birds banded per 100 net hours. Best day was on 1 October when 104 birds were banded.

Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat made the "top ten" list for the first time ever, a reflection of the earlier start-up date in 1992 and increased effort in August. Hooded Warbler was a new species for the cumulative fall station list which now stands at 97 forms. All-time high counts were recorded for Downy Woodpecker (5), Great Crested Flycatcher (3), Yellow Warbler (55), Black-throated Blue Warbler (18), Northern Waterthrush (5), and Slate-colored Junco (60). All-time low numbers were recorded for Black-capped Chickadee (24).

There were 36 repeats and 15 returns. Noteworthy returns included a Yellow Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat, both in their sixth year, and a cardinal and Black-capped Chickadee, both in their fifth year.

In general, results for the 1992 season were disappointing. The number of net hours (2044) was the second highest since 1985 but birds per 100 net hours (46) was the lowest ever, and only half the seven-year average (83). Kinglets and warblers made a good showing; flycatchers were slightly improved over previous years. A Swainson's Thrush with a brood patch on 30 July was interesting.

The following individuals provided much appreciated assistance: John Bounds, Jeff Bouton, Joan Dodge, Jim Doherty, Brian and Gary Einhaus, Amy Figure, Brian Mongi, Kris Moon, Jennifer Moon, Dick O'Hara, Jeanne Skelly, and Bill Symonds. Grants from the Genesee Ornithological Society, the Rochester Birding Association, and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs are gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks go to Bill and June Kaiser for permission to band on their land and their continued enthusiastic support.

Beaver Meadow Audubon Center 424-0782

Wyoming County, NY

David Junkin

The Beaver Meadow Banding Station was run on 23 days from 15 August to 15 November. The comments in the daily journal show slow or poor movement of birds on most days, and the 16 birds per 100 net hours reflects this. On two separate

days, there were no birds caught. Seed-baited traps were used to increase the totals and these caught mainly House Finches and American Goldfinches. They provided relief from the poor netting that was normal throughout the fall. All of this probably reflects the wet weather of the summer and possible decrease in nesting success. The slow activity with birds allowed an increase in time working over old records and doing "housekeeping," so the time was well spent.

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

This is the first AFR operation for this station with banding done from 1 August through 16 November. The station is at the top of a 2000' hill on a north-facing slope with open fields, brushy areas and woodlots which are being maintained at the present stage of plant succession. Due to excessively wet weather, banding was carried out on only 13 days. A total of 122 birds of 34 species were banded, using up to 10 nets (used this year for a MAPS project), plus a four-cell Potter trap, an all-purpose trap, and one or two 20' nets at the trapping area. Two birds banded that had not been observed previously in the area were Brewster's Warbler and Hooded Warbler.

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

Banding records have been sent to Region IV of the Atlantic Flyway Review for 24 years. This fall season had the worst weather in this entire period. Of the 90 possible banding days between 15 August and 15 November, 46 had rain or snow, making it impossible to set nets or traps.

Banding began on 19 August and ran through 13 November. There were 251 new birds banded, 84 repeats, and 19 returns. There were 134 birds netted during 562 net hours, resulting in 24 birds banded per 100 net hours. There was an average of four nets used for the 31 days nets were set; traps were used on 38 days.

Migration had started by 19 August when nets were used. It was not spectacular and lasted only until 11 September, when banding screeched to a halt. Woodpeckers, flycatchers, catbirds, thrushes, blackbirds, goldfinch, sparrows and House Finches were all down in numbers. Warbler migration was better in species and numbers (except for yellowthroats), compared to the past seven or so years. They still do not compare in numbers or species with the glory years of 1970-1975. House Finches nested in the area, brought young to feeders during the early summer and then disappeared. There were 338 banded during the AFR report period in 1991, but only 20 in 1992. The total birds banded in 1991 was 800 of 53 species, which far exceeded the 251 birds banded of 42 species in 1992.

Report of a Slate-colored Junco trapped 30 October 1991 was finally obtained in mid-summer of 1992. It had been banded by Dr. K. Parkes near Stahlstown, PA, on 4 April 1991. This is about 116 miles SSW of Farmersville. A Mourning Dove banded 15 May 1990 was shot near Aylett, VA, in the fall of 1991. This is about 316 miles SSE of Farmersville.

There were 19 returns. Of these, one Blue Jay was at least five years old as was one goldfinch. Of two Black-capped Chickadees, one was seven years old and one five years old.

Nine white neck-banded Canada Geese were observed between 11 September and 24 November at the station, including two that had been seen during the late fall of 1991. Reports received after last year's AFR report was submitted indicated that six neck-banded Canada Geese observed in fall 1991 had been banded in northern Quebec (1), North Carolina (1), and New York (4).

Kestrel Haven **422-0764**
Schuyler County, NY
John and Sue Gregoire

Two full-time banders, a new net management scheme, an earlier starting date, and lots of avian cooperation combined to create the best season this station has experienced since opening in 1986. We bettered all station records less one ("biggest

day") significantly (+2 SD) during a steady fall migration that commenced with departures and dispersal in mid-July. Snow, sleet, and high winds precluded much of a November effort, but some migrants, notably mixed blackbird flocks and Fox Sparrows, were still present in mid-month. This season also had a record 21 inches of liquid precipitation; temps were well below normal.

Eighteen nets of various styles and lengths were deployed in sets of six in the same habitat areas as in past years, but we were much more free-thinking about opening and closing nets as weather, bird movement, sun, or gut feeling dictated. The result was 1726 new birds banded of 84 species and over 2200 of 87 species handled in 83 days of operation. We invested 1304 person-hours operating the station for 652 hours.

From a habitat standpoint, everything has grown six years larger. Ten thousand trees planted in 1987/88 are beginning to show in fallow fields, and the farm/sanctuary has been chemical free for that period. We don't cut hay until after the grassland nesting period, but we are surrounded by heavily managed pasture and crop land. If anything, the site has become a more attractive stopping area for migrants.

We started banding when our resident Tree Swallows departed and Bobolinks began dispersal. This earlier start left no doubt that we had been missing several species in past years. Our altitude causes rapid nesting and early departure. In ten July days, we banded 224, while 19 and 22 days in August and September yielded 435 and 416, respectively. October was a grand month with 572 birds banded in 26 days. We only had four days with over 50 birds, but could count on 20 or so each morning. As in the past, netting beyond 1100 hours yielded very few birds, although we left some nets up all day to establish that point. Night netting was unproductive.

One foreign encounter led to enjoyable correspondence with Rev. Maxime Bergeron, one of Canada's first master banders. He banded a HY goldfinch in September 1991 which we netted in August of this year. Rev. Bergeron bands near Montreal, Quebec, some 290 miles to our NNE.

Among our 45 returns were several chickadees in their seventh year, a fifth-year Baltimore Oriole, a fifth-year plus Chestnut-sided Warbler, and a fifth-year Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Nine new species graced the station, bringing our fall total to 95 banded. Common Grackle, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, and Sharp-shinned Hawk were new fall species, while new station birds were Mourning Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, and two Acadian Flycatchers, a species we documented as breeding here, i.e., possibly the first documented breeding in this part of the Finger Lakes.

Significance is hard to determine when the season total itself is almost two SDs above the six-year mean. Twenty species were above two SDs, and Least Flycatcher and Red-winged Blackbird arrived in numbers above three SDs. Of concern are Chipping and Field Sparrow. We have witnessed a tremendous decline since 1987, and this year both species were more than three SDs below a mean inflated by high 1987 numbers. Chipping Sparrows are present in good numbers as local breeders, while Field Sparrows are becoming more sparse. The populations of both species to our north may be in decline. We banded three times more Yellow-bellied Flycatchers than Field Sparrows this fall.

Twenty-two warbler species were well represented and only five were single birds, while vireos and flycatchers were most abundant. White-crowned Sparrows made their quickest pit stop ever. They literally fell out of the night on 22 October and we banded several of the hundreds present the morning of 23 October. Not a single White-crowned Sparrow was to be found after that date.

Of our 1726 banded, 88% were hatching year. Our handled total includes a particularly high number of hummingbirds, House Sparrows, and starlings removed from nets and released without bands. The big day never happened, but we enjoyed the diversity and steady arrivals during our best season thus far.

We are grateful for the continuing support of Mary Beth Pickett of Avinet, Inc. and thank the Cayuga Bird Club for their support of our research efforts. We look forward to melding our data with the Club's

visual observations in the Cayuga Lake Basin. Appreciation also to Dave Witman for record keeping and Ted and Lorraine Gregoire for donated equipment.

Alfred Station
Allegany County, NY
Elizabeth W. Brooks

421-0774

The 15th year of fall banding began on 1 August and continued until 10 November. During 89 days of operation, from one to 11 nets were used in the same locations as in previous years. A total of 594 birds of 62 species was banded during 3118 net hours of operation (19 birds per 100 net hours).

The 1991 downward trend was reversed this fall, but effort expended was the second highest. The overall impression was that more birds should have been caught. There were no really big days. The largest catch occurred on 1 November when 30 birds were banded (23 were goldfinches). Some night netting was done yielding only one Screech Owl and one bat! There were no new species for the cumulative station list.

There were 247 repeats and 31 returns including a chickadee in its seventh year and two chickadees, a Chipping Sparrow, and two House Finches in their fifth year. A junco banded here on 1 November 1989 was retrapped at Long Pt., Ontario (135 miles WNW), on 19 April 1991. A House Finch, retrapped in Alfred on 25 October, had been banded by Robert McKinney at his backyard station near Penfield, New York, four years earlier. Alfred is 61 miles WSW of the banding site.

Six species (Mourning Dove, flicker, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow) were banded in record numbers. House Finch bandings were up again after four years of low numbers, but they still were not up to the all-time high banded in fall 1983. Warblers were down in number and variety. Although 17 species were handled, no species was represented by more than 18 individuals.

The future of this station is in doubt. Sixty acres of deciduous forest and shrubby fields, which provided a buffer between the station and "civiliza-

tion," were sold to a developer and bulldozing has begun for a housing development. Neighborhood cats have become an increasing problem, and the situation will only get worse. For the safety of the birds migrating through the area, the situation will have to be evaluated in fall 1993 to judge whether it is safe to operate the station another year.

Presque Isle State Park **420-0800**
Erie, PA
Ronald Leberman

Banding results for 1992 were average. This was our 31st year of cooperative banding during which a total of 783 new birds were banded (16th overall) of 63 species in 1513 net hours. The same sites were used as in the last several years. A total of 26 days from 2 August to 26 October was the period of netting. An average of 91 birds per 100 net hours is about normal for this station. Two new species were added to the station list this year: a Screech Owl and a Western Kingbird. That brings the cumulative species list to 128 with 29,141 birds banded in the 31 years.

Weather was generally cool and damp for the period, with no major cold fronts until late October and no real waves of migrants. Jean Stull said it best when she described the season as "dismal." It had to be the worst flight of warblers ever here; and for the first time in 31 years, no American Redstarts were handled. Hurricane "Dannelle" arrived here on 25 September with light winds and rain, and the following day we netted the Western Kingbird, a new species for Erie County. Hurricane "Earl" soon followed on 29 September.

There were 28 repeats and five returns. A Northern Flicker banded as a healthy adult male on 3 September 1983 was recaptured here this past spring. Its left eye had been blinded sometime in the past 11 years. A Warbling Vireo banded here in August 1987 was retrapped in spring 1992 in its sixth year.

Five deer ticks were removed from three birds and sent to the County Health Department for study. There were 135 visitors to the station, including a Boy Scout Explorer Post.

Banders were Jim and Jean Stull and Ronald Leberman. We express sincere thanks to all who helped in many ways and especially the Park staff.

We are saddened to report the death on Sept. 28, 1993 of **James G. Stull**. Jim was a tireless worker at the Presque Isle banding station and his enthusiasm for nature and his good sense of humor will be missed.

Our condolences to his wife Jean and family.

Hebron
Potter County, PA
David W. Hauber

415-0780

Banding at Hebron for the fall of 1992 was carried out from 9 August to 15 November in the same location and using the same net lanes as in previous years. More emphasis was put on netting this year and less on the use of traps. Days spent banding were increased but net hours remained about the same.

Banding was done on 54 days with 1083 birds handled and 897 new birds banded of 56 species. There were 49 returns and 137 repeats. New species for the station for fall migration were Eastern Screech Owl (taken just after dark), Savannah Sparrow, Canada Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush. This brings to 77 the number of different species taken during four fall banding seasons.

Vireos seemed as abundant as last year; warblers slightly up in numbers (though Cape May Warbler was missing), but flycatchers were down. Indigo Bunting numbers continue to be up, hitting an all-time high this year with 298 new birds banded and 10 returns from 1990 and 1991. This was due in part to the increased net hours.

Many thanks to Kirk Newton and Chris Keir for their help during the season.

Powdermill Nature Reserve **400-0791**
Rector, PA
Robert C. Leberman
Robert S. Mulvihill

1992 was our 32nd consecutive year of fall banding at Carnegie Museum's Powdermill Nature Reserve. A total of 5349 birds was banded between 1 August and 30 November, our second lowest total in the last ten years. Daily banding totals exceeded 100 on just nine days, the best being 11 October when 201 new birds were netted. Our capture rate of just 34 birds per 100 net hours is the lowest since 1981. In general, there were few good "fall-outs" of migrants, especially during August and September when flycatchers, vireos and the earlier warblers were moving. October and November catches, however, were a little better.

Of 68 species looked at statistically, only three (all late fall migrants) were one or more SD above the average of the previous ten fall seasons: Golden-crowned Kinglet (76 banded; +3 SD); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (107; +1 SD); Dark-eyed Junco (725; +1 SD).

In contrast, 20 species were one or more SD below average: with just 48 banded, the Red-eyed Vireo was at -3 SD; Gray Catbird (161), Common Yellowthroat (188), and Indigo Bunting (34) were each -2 SD. Totals for the following species were each -1 SD: Eastern Wood-Pewee (16); Least Flycatcher (50); House Wren (24); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3); Gray-cheeked Thrush (18); Philadelphia Vireo (13); Solitary Vireo (12); Tennessee Warbler (32); Magnolia Warbler (152); Bay-breasted Warbler (7); Blackburnian Warbler (2); Black-throated Green Warbler (18); Palm Warbler (6); Connecticut Warbler (6); Scarlet Tanager (15); Purple Finch (34).

Of course, all of this means that most species were caught in statistically average numbers this fall.

A Chimney Swift netted on 8 August was an unexpected catch, as was a Common Crow on 24 October. Two "Brewster's" Warblers were banded this fall, one each on 2 August and 10 September.

Of several recent fall banding recoveries, perhaps the most interesting was of a White-throated Sparrow banded on 11 October 1991 and found 1050 km to the SSW just over a month later at Eufaula, Alabama, on 15 November. Other reports include a Purple Finch banded at PNR 13 October 1991 and recovered at Hilton Beach, Ontario (700 km NNW), on 26 May 1992; and an American Goldfinch that was banded at Powdermill on 5 November 1989 and recovered at Calmes Neck, Virginia (160 km SE), on 2 May 1992.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following people who contributed to the success of the fall banding program at Powdermill in 1992: Tom Curtis, Larry Barth, Don Koch, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Kenneth C. Parkes, Barb Rich, Ted Rich, Carol Shanahan, Bob Shaw, Mike and Evaleen Watko, and Peggy Wisner.

Allegheny Front Migration Obs. 390-0791

Grant County, WV

George A. Hall

Ralph Bell

The 35th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was not a year to write home about. The weather was generally good, and several cold fronts developed, but the migratory flight never appeared. The station was in continuous operation from 16 August to 11 October, with nine additional days in October and November. At least some banding was carried out on 66 days.

A total of only 3866 birds (fourth poorest) of 78 species was banded with a station effort of 6875 net hours (second highest), giving a capture ratio of only 56 birds per 100 net hours (poorest ever). August captures totalled 478, September 2327, and October 1061. The station has now banded 150,633 birds of 116 species. No new species were added to the list this year. Ten birds banded in 1991 were recaptured as were two 1990 bandings and one Common Yellowthroat originally banded in 1984.

There were four pronounced waves: 1 September; 10 September; 22 September; and 28 Sep-

tember, all of which were accompanied by major cold fronts. These peaks produced rather small numbers of birds compared with past migrations. The biggest day was 10 September with 349 bandings, followed by 28 September with 250. There were no other days of more than 200 bandings and only eight other days with more than 100 birds handled.

The most numerous species was the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 504 captures, followed by the Blackpoll Warbler with 415. These capture numbers were both more than one standard deviation (SD) below the ten-year average. Of 53 species analyzed, 26 were captured in average numbers (less than one SD from the ten-year average). Nineteen species were banded in numbers more than one SD below the average; and for the Gray-cheeked Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, and American Redstart, the number was more than two SD below average. Only five species were handled in numbers more than one SD above average and three of these (American Robin, Savannah Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow) were more than two SDs above average. In none of these cases was the numbers very large.

The Tennessee Warbler, with 18,981 bandings over the years, is our number one bird; but this year, the 199 captures (lowest ever) were 77% below the average. The 1991 figure had been 44% below. This suggests that something is happening to this species. Does this represent a real decline or a return to normal populations after several abnormally high years? The answer is not evident at this time.

Only 2332 warblers were banded, a figure 55% below the ten-year average. The numbers of all the Neotropical migrants were similar 2728 banded, 54% below average. When it is recalled that the ten-year average already has in it the poor years of 1989 and 1990, the decline in bandings of these species is even more alarming. These data alone do not give hard answers as to the status of the migrants; but when coupled with data from many other stations, some conclusions may be forthcoming. The age distribution of our captures has not been analyzed as yet, but superficial impressions indicate that the AHY/HY ratio was

higher than normal, suggesting a poor breeding season in the north.

The day-long migrant counts were continued this year and the numbers showed the same trend as the bandings. A total of 391 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted; 2254 Blue Jays (only 16% of the average of the two previous years); 1481 American Goldfinches (26% of the two-year average); and 551 Monarch Butterflies (compared with 5631 last year).

During the season, 1935 people signed the visitor's book, representing 12 states, the District of Columbia, Ontario, and New Zealand. As usual, several elementary and high school classes visited the station.



Banders who participated were Lynn Barnhart, Barbara Bilsborough, Walter Fye, Sue Heselton, Joan Pattison, Janet Shaffer, Trudy Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. LeJay Graffious was responsible for the shelter and, as usual, Genevieve and John Findley were in charge of the net lanes. Ivarean Pierce, who also headed the Blue Jay-Hummingbird count, and Ken Heselton were present for extended periods of time.

An additional 65 individuals aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways, for which we are grateful. We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Jim Page, District Ranger Nancy Feakes, Recreation Specialist Jill Shoemaker, 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 Lanevill cabin for housing and for storage of the shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.