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# **Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2001**

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This report begins with an apology to Bob Mulvihill and Bob Leberman! I mistakenly left Powdermill's fall 1999 data in Table 1 of the 2000 report. The correct entry is presented below.

First Day/Last Day	8/2 - 11/30
Days Operated	98
No. Nets Used	2 to 60
Total Net Hrs.	17,280 (includes 375 trap hours)
% caught in traps	estimated <5%
Lgst Daily Catch	186 on 10/11
No. Banded 1999	6,136
No. Banded 2000	6,199
No. Species 1999	105
No. Species 2000	109
Birds/100 NH 1999	51
Birds/100 NH 2000	36
% HY 1999	62%
% HY 2000	76%

We are sorry that Janet Shaffer's Bedford Valley station was not up and running this fall, but welcome back Ron Leberman's Presque Isle report and Bill Oberman's report from Calmes Neck. Long Point Bird Observatory's report will be included with the fall 2002 report. We are especially pleased to have a new reporting station: Allen Chartier's Holiday Beach Migration Observatory on the north shore of Lake Erie, the farthest west of any of Region III's stations.

Overall, fall 2001 was a good banding season for most stations, with only Selkirk banding fewer birds in 2001 than 2000 and only Selkirk and Lewiston having fewer birds/100 nh.

Weather during the 2001 breeding season was most often described as hot and dry. Most stations reported the early migration period as "benign" and generally mild, while conditions were wetter and

more unsettled during the late season. However, there was general agreement that there were infrequent cold fronts.

Traps play a significant role in results at Region III stations. A combination of traps and/or feeders are used at Ruthven, Rock Point, Selkirk, Holiday Beach, Hebron, and Powdermill and result in the capture of from 2-20% of the totals at these stations. This may be a good reason why American Goldfinch made the top ten at eight of the 13 reporting stations and was the predominant species on the best day at three stations.

While Region III's stations did not see the massive Black-capped Chickadee irruption that occurred at Braddock Bay, there were elevated numbers banded at Ruthven, Selkirk, Holiday Beach, and Herrington Manor, and nine individuals even made their way as far south as Smith Farm in early November. A modest finch irruption was evident with 132 Purple Finch banded at Rock Point, 53 at Hebron, 911 at Powdermill, 162 at Smith Farm, and even 11 at Calmes Neck.

The region's "best days" ranged from as early as 26 Aug at Hebron to as late as 1 Nov at Calmes Neck with most of the dates falling between 8 and 22 Oct.



**Table 1. AFR III Fall 2001 Summary**

	Lewiston NY	Ruthven Park ON	Rock Point ON	Selkirk ON	Holiday Beach ON	Presque Isle PA
First Day/Last Day	7/21 - 10/19	7/5 - 11/10	7/16 - 11/13	7/9 - 11/17	8/4 - 11/11	7/2 - 10/30
Days Operated	13	68	82	129	30	31
No. Nests Used	11 to 15	9 to 15	1 to 13	1 to 19	10 to 10.5	2 to 15
Total Net Hours	746	4774	5230	14,623	2348	1677
% Caught in Traps	0	3.2%	2.0%	7.65%	10%	0
Lgst Daily Catch	54 on 10/19	254 on 10/22	182 on 10/28	96 on 10/18	124 on 10/8	193 on 10/8
Most Common Best Day	GCKI (43%)	AMGO (55%)	GCKI (42%)	HETH (25%)	GCKI (39%)	GCKI (50%)
No. Banded 2000	325	2222	3506	3106	973	NA
No. Banded 2001	352	3211	5109	3099	1364	1005
No. Forms 2000	42	84	83	86	62	NA
No. Forms 2001	51	91	92	91	73	64
Birds/100nh 2000	46.9	56.4	63	24.58	46.1	NA
Birds/100nh 2001	43.57	63.6	96	19.54	58.1	40
% HY 2000	80%	NA	57%	76.95%	-	NA
% HY 2001	75.27%	84%	70%	65.15%	77%	68%

**Table 1 (cont'd). AFR III Fall 2001 Summary**

	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Herrington Manor MD	Allegheny Front WV	Smith Farm VA	Calmes Neck VA	Roan Mt TN/NC
First Day/Last Day	7/28 - 11/22	8/1 - 11/28	8/14 - 10/22	8/12 - 10/12	8/27 - 12/9	8/15 - 11/1	8/20 - 10/5
Days Operated	36	100	35	57	76	31	24
No. Nests Used	1 to 15	2 to 55	11 to 15	20 to 23	11 to 12	10 to 16	4 to 6
Total Net Hours	-	21,640	1912	7535	8660	3278	344
% Caught in Traps	20%	<5%	0	0	0	0	0
Lgst Daily Catch	36 on 8/26	531 on 10/28	44 on 9/8	284 on 9/18	129 on 10/28	63 on 11/1	123 on 9/6
Most Common Best Day	BLJA (25%)	WTSP (14%)	MAWA (25%)	BTBW (25%)	AMGO (55%)	AMGO (40%)	TEWA (83%)
No. Banded 2000	300	6199	323	3007	1003	NA	435
No. Banded 2001	526	10,637	543	3826	1372	640	576
No. Forms 2000	52	109	47	73	67	NA	46
No. Forms 2001	54	112	57	80	72	56	39
Birds/100nh 2000	51	36	26.2	50.1	15.6	NA	120
Birds/100nh 2001	-	49	28.4	50.8	15.8	19.2	168
% HY 2000	65%	76%	74%	NA	70%	NA	NA
% HY 2001	64%	89%	81%	NA	70%	66%	NA

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2001.**

	Lewiston NY	Ruthven Park ON	Rock Point ON	Selkirk Park ON	Holiday Beach ON	Presque Isle PA
	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY
1.	49 MAWA (3)*	508 MYWA (2)	908 YWAR (2)	555 GCKI (2)	162 BCCH	156 GCKI
2.	43 GRCA (4)	364 AMGO (1)	536 AMGO (1)	269 RCKI (4)	153 GCKI	153 RCKI
3.	34 GCKI (1)	265 SOSP (3)	288 GRCA (4)	166 SOSP (5)	126 RCKI	95 WTSP
4.	29 HETH	212 SCJU (7)	257 GCKI (6)	143 BCCH	106 RTHU	90 YWAR
5.	21 WTSP (7)	178 WTSP (5)	249 WTSP (5)	129 AMGO	88 MYWA	67 GRCA
6.	18 SWTH (2)	151 RCKI (4)	194 RCKI (3)	129 SCJU	80 AMGO	49 HETH
7.	17 RCKI (5)	111 GRCA (10)	171 MYWA	105 MAWA	70 MAWA	41 SWTH
8.	8 BLJA	105 BCCH	140 CEDW	103 WTSP (3)	53 WTSP	30 SOSP
9.	7 OVEN	93 HETH	132 PUFU	95 MYWA (10)	41 SWTH	21 SCJU
10.	7 MYWA (10)	77 HOFI	131 BCCH	94 HETH (7)	32 AMRE	20 WIWR
	7 WOTH	86				

\* (#) Indicates place on list last year.

**Table 2 (cont'd.). Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2001.**

	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Herrington Manor MD	Allegheny Front WV	Smith Farm VA	Calmes Neck VA	Roan Mtn TN/JNC
	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY	% HY
1.	178 AMGO(4)*	1654 AMGO(1)	83 MAWA(3)	849 BTBW(1)	204 WTSP(2)	128 AMGO	184 TEWA(2)
2.	53 PUFU	911 PUFU	51 BCCH(5)	430 BTNW(3)	191 AMGO(1)	72 ETTI	97 SWTH(1)
3.	34 SCJU(2)	837 WTSP(4)	48 SWSP(6)	374 BLPW(8)	162 PUFU	58 CACH	85 BTBW(3)
4.	26 WTSP	523 MAWA(3)	40 GRCA(2)	336 SWTH(4)	123 SCJU(3)	22 WTSP	39 SCJU(4)
5.	23 BLJA	410 MYWA(2)	35 COYE(1)	305 TEWA(7)	100 RCKI(4)	21 RCKI	24 GCKI(7)
6.	21 SOSP	382 SCJU(7)	24 TEWA(4)	167 MAWA(5)	73 SOSP(5)	19 WBNU	16 RCKI(6)
7.	18 BCCH (7)	348 GRCA(5)	19 CSWA	136 SCJU (2)	46 MYWA	17 REVI	15 GRCA(8)
8.	13 AMRE	314 SWTH(6)	16 MYWA	128 GCKI (6)	39 GCKI (6)	15 BRGR	14 CSWA(5)
9.	13 HOFI (6)	314 COYE(9)	15 EAPH (8)	127 BLJA	34 EAPH (7)	11 HETH	11 RBGR
10.	12 MODO(3)	291 SOSP(8)	15 WTSP	103 COYE(9)	33 NOCA(10)	11 PUFU	10 MAWA
							10 OVEN(9)

\* (#) Indicates place on list last year.

**Lewiston****431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**

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The 2001 fall banding season got off to a very early start. My nets (11) were opened on 21 Jul to give a banding demonstration for a "Women in the Outdoors" event. This was a first for this station and hopefully will repeat yearly. Approximately 28 women attend this demonstration.

The next time the nets (15) were opened was 3 Sep which started the formal fall banding season.

I would say that it was a very normal fall season. Weather was not a factor on scheduled banding days. The station closed after banding on 19 Oct. There were a total of 352 new birds banded of 51 different species, plus 18 local recaptures of five different species.

Again this year there were many visitors to the station throughout the fall.

**Ruthven Park****425-0795**

Haldimand County, Ontario

**Rick Ludkin, Bander**

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*Chief Assistants:* Gene Paterson, Darryl Edwards, Marylene Boulet, Pascal Petitclerc, Loretta Mousseau, Elaine Serena, Brandon Holden, and Marg Ludkin

This was Ruthven Park's seventh fall banding season. Banding and migration monitoring began on 5 Jul and ran through 68 days ending on 10 Nov. Daily coverage, especially in July and August, was impossible due to work and personal demands. Coverage was more complete in September and October (23 and 21 days respectively). Time missed in October was usually due to inclement weather conditions. In total, we banded 3211 birds of 91 forms (species and subspecies). This number is a record for the site, exceeding the previous high, set in 1999, by 666 birds. We also set new highs for 30 species and banded three "new" species for the fall: Orchard Oriole, Carolina Wren, and House Sparrow. This season also marked the refitting of one of the park's outbuildings for specific use by the banding group—complete with electricity, heat, and insulation!

It was an extremely hot and dry breeding season and a mild and dry September. October was mild but with more unsettled weather and rain. On some days wind was a factor, resulting in the early closing of some nets or not opening nets exposed to various wind directions.

Net placements have remained stable since 1996. Net lanes have been cut into the edge habitat surrounding the fields close to the historic site. Some trimming goes on every year to prevent the succession of shrubs to forest trees in the area of the net lanes.

We start banding in July to try to tag locally fledged migrants before they disperse—our target species in this regard is the Yellow Warbler. We banded 51 of them which is our second highest total since '95. We banded on 11 days in July and, although we had the highest July total since inception (351), the rate of capture (39.8b/100nh) was down noticeably from previous years.

We banded on only seven days in August, processing 158 birds at a rate of 36.2b/100nh.

September for us is the month of "anticipation" and this year it was certainly no different—it seemed as though we were always waiting for large numbers of migrants to move through....but they did not. It was not until the last week of the month that the build-up began and the expected Yellow-rumped Warblers (which is one of our most abundant fall migrants at Ruthven Park) started to arrive in appreciable numbers. Our best day in September was the 30<sup>th</sup> at which time we banded 69 birds, 28 of which were Yellow-rumps. In total for the month we banded 769 birds (which is our second highest total for the month) but at a rate of 44.5 birds/100nh (which is our second lowest). Interesting sightings for September included individual Peregrine Falcons seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

And then the lid came off in October and birds started to pour through. October 2001 was a record month for Ruthven Park: most birds banded in one month – 1795 (vs 1319 in 1999); highest single day total – 254, on 22 Oct (vs 134 on 4 Oct 1998); and highest three-day total – 450 on 20-22 Oct. There seemed to be three "waves" of different species that moved through at different times (although

with considerable overlap). Yellow-rumped Warblers tended to be present in large numbers during the first three weeks but especially during the first two (peaking at 79 banded on the 4<sup>th</sup>). The number of sparrows (various species) and juncos built steadily at the beginning of the month, peaked with 65 banded on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and then declined slowly over the next two weeks.

Finches (Purple Finches, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches) were present in small numbers throughout the month but then "exploded" as goldfinches began to flock and move (e.g., on the 21<sup>st</sup> we banded 12 combined; on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 185 of which 139 were goldfinches). Interesting in regard to the finches was that we banded record numbers of "northern" finches; e.g., 47 Purple Finches (vs 20 total between 1995 & 2000); 33 Pine Siskins (vs six total in the same period). This would seem to bear out the many observers who predicted a southern eruption of northern birds due to the poor seed crop this year. (On the other hand, we did not experience the large movement of northern Black-capped Chickadees that came through Cabot Head and Braddock Bay.) Our average capture rate of 108.9b/100nh equals our best ever mark (set in 1998) and far surpassed that of the past two years (74.1 in 1999 and 74.8 in 2000).

One very interesting sighting was an adult Golden Eagle soaring low over the river in front of the historic mansion on 21 Oct

We also had our best November in terms of numbers banded (138) although the capture rate (34.5 b/100nh) was second to that of 1999.

My thanks to the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their continuing and enthusiastic support of this project, which was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon. I also thank the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations and support have been appreciated greatly.

**Rock Point Banding Station**      **425-0793**  
Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario  
**Jim Smith**, Bander  
<benavis@SYMPATICO.CA>

*Chief Assistants:* David Millen, Rowswitha Matuschek, Jack Custers, Rick Young, Gerda and Alex Smith, and Ben, my cat control officer—his smell keeps the cats away from the nets. (Ben is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and, except for computer time, his volunteer hours match mine).

Rock Point's banding season started off with a bang on 16 Jul with four days of over 100 bird days. The rest of July continued with no day having fewer than 48 birds and most days approaching 100 birds. This period was marked by high humidity which necessitated my closing early and using fewer nets in order to not endanger birds in the sun and to keep up with the birds being caught.

August continued with some very humid weather but the birds were still moving strongly, particularly Yellow Warblers. Not until 9 and 10 Aug did we have fewer than 50 birds. Another small drop in numbers was recorded for 18 Aug with only 18 birds and then back to the normal 50+ until the end of the month.

September started off slowly with only 24 on the 1<sup>st</sup> but improved steadily to the 5<sup>th</sup> with 95 birds. Another drop in numbers was noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. High winds of 36 km/hr on 20 Sep likely affected catch totals with only six birds for the day; 27 and 28 Sep were good days with 97 and 100 birds caught.

October started off high with 93 and 95 bird days then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with high winds, dropped to only 20 birds. From the 5<sup>th</sup>, birds banded was like a roller coaster with 96, 20, 80, 15, and so on to the high for the season of 182 on 28 Oct with 22 species.

November, with beautiful fall weather continuing, had a real push of American Goldfinch, resulting in 64 banded on 3 Nov giving us a 119-bird day. Numbers remained high through to the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The high number of Purple Finch (132), Pine Siskin (93), and the new species of White-winged Crossbill (2) and Common Redpoll (3) followed reports of poor seed production in the north. An increase in Carolina Wrens (9) was noted over last year. The big movement of Black-capped Chickadees experienced at other sites was not the case at Rock Point, which experienced an in-

crease in Black-capped Chickadees banded at a steady rate of five or six a day rather than 50 or 60 in one day. The high numbers of Yellow Warblers and American Goldfinches moving along the lake is significant. Cedar Waxwings are attracted to the honeysuckle and high bush cranberries. Purple Finches were attracted to ash seeds and were caught under two such trees. The high number of HY catbirds shows that Rock Point is ideal habitat for this species.

Haldimand Bird Observatory stations (Rock Point, Ruthven, Selkirk) exchanged a few birds this year. Two Black-capped Chickadees were exchanged between Selkirk and Rock Point, a distance of about 40 km—one flying southwest to reach Selkirk and the other flying northeast to reach Rock Point. Also recaptured at Rock Point was a Downy Woodpecker from Selkirk. An American Goldfinch was recovered at Rock Point having been banded at Ruthven, which is about 20 km northwest of Rock Point. Another goldfinch banded at Rock Point last summer was recovered in South Carolina this fall.

An increase in steady volunteers has made life easier at Rock Point. Most come for one day a week, which is great. Training continues with all volunteers showing real enjoyment and improvement in the work that they choose to do.

Education continued to be of importance at Rock Point with park visitors coming to the station to watch and, in some cases, to stay and learn how to help. A banding, slide show demonstration was given for park visitors as well as an in-class show at a local school. A checklist of birds of Rock Point had input from banding data obtained at Rock Point.

Training continues for this Bander in Charge with the workshop offered by Ken Burton and Brenda Dale at the Canadian Migratory Monitoring Network conference in Nova Scotia this past October.

**Selkirk Provincial Park** 424-0795  
Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario  
John Miles, *Bander*  
<miles@kwic.com>  
*Chief Assistants:* Sue, Mike, and Chris Kimber,  
Tom Ford, Mike Furber

The fourth year of fall operation at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 9 Jul and ended 17 Nov. The station was manned daily once it officially opened except for three days, with the banding effort taking place on 129 days. Twenty-five volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander-in-charge with the running of the station.

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from a half-hour before sunrise usually for a minimum of six hours for passerine banding. In October and early November the nets were opened one to two hours earlier most mornings to capture owls.

The warm summer and mild fall was pleasant with few days of excessive winds. The wind did seem to come from the southwest more often than in past falls. The area was extremely dry all summer well into September. The rains came in October making the banding trails very muddy at times. The station did not operate due to weather only on one day, although operations were restricted on a few other days.

The Selkirk field station operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area also remain the same.

Banding was carried out using up to 19 mist nets, five ground traps, and a jay trap. The same net lanes used in the spring of 2001 were used again. One additional 12 m net was erected in the hawthorns on the west side of the pine plantation in mid September. This should now give the station the best possible coverage.

Due to the short period between the end of the spring coverage and the beginning of the fall coverage, the nets were not taken down. The site was visited at least weekly during the shutdown period. July was a good month with 446 birds banded. Peak days were 12 and 18 Jul with 34 and 33 birds banded, respectively. Yellow Warbler was the main species captured with 76 individuals banded. Bandings slowed down in August with only 393 birds banded, 60 Song Sparrows and 60

Magnolia Warblers being the most numerous. By the end of August a respectable 839 birds had been banded.

We had nice weather in September and low numbers of birds until 28 Sep when an influx of Myrtle Warblers and kinglets took place resulting in 90 birds being banded. A total of 652 birds were banded in September.

October had the usual up and down fluctuations but no major wave days. Good days were 8 and 9 Oct with 95 and 92 birds banded; 18 Oct was also good with 96 birds banded. The week of 6-13 Oct was the best week of the fall with 416 birds banded, closely followed by the week of 26 Oct through 1 Nov with 412 birds banded; a total of 1371 were banded in October.

November started off fairly well with 40 birds banded on the first; 4 Nov produced 47 birds and then numbers started to drop off as the bulk of the kinglets had passed through. The 291 birds banded in November brought the season's banding total up to a fall total of 3099 birds banded of 91 species.

There were 183 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Noteworthy birds included two Purple Sandpipers on the mud flats, several Orchard Orioles, Tufted Titmice, and White-winged Crossbills.

There were 3099 birds of 91 species banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the fall of 2001. In addition, two races, Yellow Palm Warbler and Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow, were also banded. Most numerous birds banded in the fall of 2001 were Golden-crowned Kinglet 555, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 269, Song Sparrow 166, Black-capped Chickadee 143, and American Goldfinch and Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, both with 129. Two species were banded for the first time at Selkirk in the fall of 2001: a Golden-winged Warbler and Common Redpoll.

In the fall of 2001, 341 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly, some as many as 30 to 40 times.

There were 84 returns in the fall of 2001. A Yellow Warbler banded in 1996 and a Brown-headed Cowbird banded in 1997 were noteworthy. While most returns are resident or birds nesting in the area, the recapture of two juncos banded in the spring of 2001 is noteworthy.

This fall, four foreign retraps were encountered: a Sharp-shinned Hawk, banded 22 Sep 1977, HY M, Hawk Cliff, Ont., retrapped at Selkirk Prov. Pk., Ont., 25 Oct. 2001; a Cooper's Hawk banded 29 Sep 1996, ASY F, approximately 13 km W of Ferguson, NV, retrapped at Selkirk Prov. Pk. 18 Oct. 2001; and a Black-capped Chickadee banded at Rock Point, retrapped 29 Oct 2001.

Both a Downy Woodpecker and a Black-capped Chickadee banded at Selkirk this fall were retrapped a few days later at Rock Point. The Downy Woodpecker is a bit unusual as the species is considered a resident bird. The chickadee movement was mainly east to west along the lakeshore but this bird was going east after being banded.

There were 51 visitor days recorded at the banding site in the fall of 2001.

I thank Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Park Contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Birds Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, Bird Studies Canada, the Stratford Field Naturalists, the Midland Field Naturalists, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program and the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were appreciated greatly. The donations included bird bags, 3-ring loose-leaf binders, bird feeders, tools, file cabinets, timbits and other goodies, and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

A special thanks to Mike Kimber for installing the weather station system at the banding trailer.

Finally, thank-you to the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: 1-2 weeks: Tom Ford, Mike Furber,

Chris Kimber, Mike Kimber, Sue Kimber; 1-3 days: Kim Celand, Tom Crooks, Dave Don, Allison Furber, James Furber, Matt Furber, Nancy Furber, Tim Furber, Stacie Harder, Brandon Holden, Susan Holden, Erin Lamore, Carolyn Mathews, Derek Mathews, Ann Miles, Jamie Miles, Steve Miles, Julian Sidebottom, Jim Smith, John Whitford.

**Holiday Beach Migration Observ. 420-0830**

Essex Co., Ontario, Canada

**Allen Chartier**, Bander

<Amazilia1@comcast.net>

**Chief Assistants:** Bob Hall-Brooks (trainee), Carl Pascoe (trainee), Steve Greidanus (trainee), Rachel Powless (assistant).

The Holiday Beach Migration Observatory (HBMO) is an organization, formed in 1986, devoted to monitoring migration at the Holiday Beach Conservation Area (HBCA), Essex Co., Ontario. The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) administers the HBCA. In addition to a hawk-watch/passerine count that has been conducted since 1974, HBMO operates three banding stations, two for raptors (since 1987) and one for passerines and hummingbirds (since 1997). Owl banding has been conducted at the passerine station at night from 1991-1997, and from 2001-present. The HBCA and surrounding Big Creek Marsh was designated an Important Bird Area by Conservation International in 2000, and a nest box program for the Endangered (in Canada) Prothonotary Warbler was begun in 2001. Banding of nestlings will begin in 2002.

For the past decade, the HBMO, in partnership with the ERCA and the Essex County Field Naturalists, has organized a "Festival of Hawks" as an educational event for the public, which includes tours of the area, live raptors on display, and interpretive programs using live birds, including an "Adopt-a-Raptor" program for banded raptors. This helps fund the purchase of mist nets and other supplies for the banding station. Banding demonstrations are also conducted with songbirds and hummingbirds. The festivals are held during the last three weekends in September each year, and additional impromptu demonstrations are often conducted on the Hawk Tower at other times of year whenever an "interesting" species is captured. For directions and information on our

site, go to the HBMO website at:<http://www.hbmo.org>.

The HBCA is small, only about 256 h, located east of the town of Malden Centre, Essex Co. at the east end of the mouth of Big Creek where it empties into Lake Erie. The Beach Station (GPS: 42°01'54.1" Long: 083°02'41.6") consists of ten 12-m nets arranged in an area about 50 m square, with five nets oriented directly north-south and five nets oriented east-west. A Russell Trap (counted as 0.5 nets) for capturing hummingbirds is set up from the beginning of the season (typically ~1 Aug) through ~15 Oct, and a thistle feeder trap is operated at a feeding station all season. Additional Potter Traps and Walk-In ground traps are used generally from ~1 Oct through the end of the season (typically ~15 Nov). Ten percent of our totals were captured in traps, including 74% of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and 64% of the American Goldfinches.

The Beach Station is located within 50 m of Lake Erie on a small strip of woodland south of the hawk watch parking lot and the "estuary" of Big Creek. Migration is concentrated at this site by geography and the proximity of Lake Erie only in the fall, and this is the only season when we consistently operate banding stations. The direction of diurnal migration here is from east to west, as birds are avoiding crossing Lake Erie until they reach the narrow Detroit River about 12 km to the west. The habitat surrounding the Beach Station consists mainly of shrubby beach vegetation including raspberry vines (*Rubus* sp.), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), and introduced autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) in abundance. There is also scattered eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), winter grape (*Vitis aestivalis*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and a few small patches of goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) and other herbs. A few taller trees surround the area and include several tall (15+ m) eastern cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*), and a few maples (*Acer* sp.), introduced tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and a few other unidentified trees.

The two raptor banding stations are located to the west of the park and are designated the "Marsh" and "Lake" stations; while the passerine,



hummingbird, and owl station are designated the "Beach" station. This summary covers only those birds banded at the Beach station during the day. This year (2001) was our fifth fall of passerine banding and our second fall (first full season) of hummingbird banding. Our main focus includes long-term migration monitoring, stopover ecology, and other species-specific projects. Training of two new banders at the station was begun this year, as well as ongoing training of several assistants.

August was hot and dry, while September was about normal with somewhat more precipitation than average. October was much cooler than normal, and November was perhaps one of the warmest on record. Cold fronts with accompanying north winds, conditions that promote migration in this area, were infrequent this fall.

Mourning Dove (5), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher (2), Pine Warbler, Common Grackle (4), and Pine Siskin (3) were new species for the station's cumulative fall list that now stands at 88 species.

Other noteworthy bandings included a Cooper's Hawk on 20 Oct, the second ever at Beach Station; three White-breasted Nuthatches between 30 Oct and 10 Nov were second–fourth for the station; two (Eastern) Tufted Titmice on 15 Oct were our fifth and sixth ever for the station; an (Eastern) White-crowned Sparrow on 8 Oct was the second ever for the station; and a Brown-headed Cowbird on 11 Aug was the third ever for this station.

We experienced our first major irruption of Black-capped Chickadees since the passerine station was opened in 1997, which occurred from 20 Oct – 11 Nov. Irruptions prior to banding at this site occurred in 1983, 1986, 1990, 1993 and possibly 1998 (minor). The 2001 irruption, based on hawk tower counts, was about the third highest recorded. Full details of these irruptions have been published in the HBMO newsletter, *The Northwind* (Vol. 17, No. 3, Fall 2002. Pages 7-9. Chartier, A. The 2001 Black-capped Chickadee irruption at Holiday Beach).

Notable misses included Great Crested Flycatcher and Blackburnian Warbler (first miss since 1997 for both).

Calculating standard deviations based on only five years of data is unlikely to yield statistically significant results; therefore, the following listing includes only significant high or low annual counts

Record highs were recorded for Sharp-shinned Hawk (9, tie), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (106, our first full fall banding this species), Downy Woodpecker (10, +43%), Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker (8, +300%), Black-capped Chickadee (162, +1250%. Irruption! Normally 4-12 per season), Golden-crowned Kinglet (153, +32%), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (126, +75%), Gray Catbird (11, +83%), Blue-headed Vireo (7, +75%), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (88, record +158%), Ovenbird (18, +12%), Northern Waterthrush (16, +60%), Mourning Warbler (4, +100%), Northern Cardinal (23, +35%), American Goldfinch (80, +320% - first year feeder trap used).

Significant lows were recorded for Cedar Waxwing (2), Warbling Vireo (9), Philadelphia Vireo (1), Tennessee Warbler (3, 4-yr average is 26), Nashville Warbler (17, 4-yr average is 40), Yellow Warbler (3, second lowest), Chestnut-sided Warbler (11, 4-yr average is 27), Cape May Warbler (1, second lowest), Bay-breasted Warbler (3, second lowest), Blackpoll Warbler (11, second lowest).

Record early dates were recorded for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (4 Aug), Swainson's Thrush (4 Aug), Northern Waterthrush (4 Aug). Record late dates were recorded for Blue-headed Vireo (3 Nov), Warbling Vireo (30 Sep), Nashville Warbler (3 Nov), Black-throated Green Warbler (15 Oct), Blackpoll Warbler (15 Oct), Black-and-white Warbler (15 Oct). Significant late dates were recorded for Ruby-throated Hummingbird (6 Oct), Orange-crowned Warbler (20 Oct).

There were two interesting foreign re-encounters: A Downy Woodpecker banded 29 Aug 1998 as HY-M, recaptured and rebanded on 27 Oct 2001 as 4Y-M (38 months). This bird was rebanded because of the banded leg swelling around the band. The bird had been recaptured in 2000 showing no signs of leg swelling; and a Northern Cardinal banded 21 Aug 1999 as HY-M, recaptured 28 Oct and 3 Nov 2001 as AHY-M (26 months).

I thank the Essex Region Conservation Authority for allowing us to band at the Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Also, the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory provided financial and logistical assistance.

Other 2001 assistants were: Cindy Cartwright (hummingbird banding trainee), Ellie Cox, JoAnn Grondin, Peggy Hurst, Jason Sodergren, and Sue Wright.

**Presque Isle** 420-0800  
Erie, PA  
**Ronald F. Leberman**, Bander

Banding resumed this fall after a year off. This was our 39<sup>th</sup> year for this project that started in 1960 as part of Operation Recovery.

This was our best fall since 1991 and the 11<sup>th</sup> time we have processed 1000 birds or more in our 39 years. The station was in operation a record 31 days beginning 2 Jul and ending 30 Oct. A total of 1005 birds of 64 species were banded during 1677 net hours. The day with the best total was 8 Oct with 193 birds. No new species were recorded for the over-all station list, but some of the unusual birds were a Chestnut-sided Warbler with a crossed bill, a very early (or late) White-throated Sparrow netted on 17 Jul, and three Indigo Buntings taken 7 Oct. In general, warbler numbers were down and some usual warblers such as Black-and-white, Orange-crowned, Bay-breasted and Mourning, were missing.

For the most part, the weather was fair, dry, and warm. On 7 Oct we encountered a 2-in snowstorm on the way home from Presque Isle, apparently a good thing as the next day was our best of the fall. Lake Erie water levels remained low and July and August were the driest in our 39 years; even the poison ivy wilted! Berries, seeds, and grapes were abundant; and the number of ticks and mosquitoes was lower than usual, likely due to the dry spell.

Thanks to all those who helped at the station and the many visitors (about 200). A special thank-you goes to Barb Mitchell, Sam Stull, Thelma Patton, Susan Smith, Janet Price, Gordon Marsh, Carl Hallgren III and IV, Barbra Helser, Joyce Hoffman, and the park staff.

**Hebron** 414-0780  
Coudersport, Potter County, PA  
**David W. Hauber**, Bander  
<haubers3@penn.com>  
*Chief Assistants:* Aaron Greene, Gary Witmer and family

The fall 2001 total (526) of 54 species was up from 300 birds banded the previous fall. I banded 110 Northern Saw-whet Owls and had a foreign recapture of a Bill Lane bird in three days from Owego, NY. Since caller tapes were used, these birds were not counted in the migration banding totals for the station.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve** 400-0791  
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
**Robert C. Leberman** and  
**Robert S. Mulvihill**, Banders  
<rclberm@charterpa.net>  
<mulvipnr@westol.com>

The bird-banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve, the 2000-acre biological station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, was in operation on 100 out of a possible 122 days from August through November 2001, our 41<sup>st</sup> consecutive fall banding season. Total fall banding effort (21,640 net-hours) was the third highest ever, reflecting both favorable weather conditions for banding and more than the usual amount of assistance from enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers and interns.

Notwithstanding a very few negative results, it was a positively great fall banding season at Powdermill! Overall, we banded 10,637 birds, which is a record high total for the season (previous high was 10,129 in fall 1982). We banded 100 or more birds on 45 days, including 100-200 on 31 days, 200-300 on 12 days, 300-400 on one day, and >400 on another day, 28 Oct, when we logged our third highest daily banding total (531) in the history of our banding program. Importantly, the record high overall banding total this fall was matched by a comparatively very large banding effort (our third highest), such that the calculated capture rate this season (49.2 b/100nh), was well within one standard deviation of the long-term (40-year) average of 43 b/100nh.

Species diversity in our banding sample also was above average this fall. The 112 species banded ties for fourth highest—our record high species count, 115, was set in fall 1991. The vast majority of species banded this fall (62%) had been recorded by the end of August, with another 27% making their first appearances in September, 10% in October, and just two new species (1%) added in November. No new species were added to the cumulative Powdermill fall banding list, which stands at 170 (166 species plus two hybrid forms and two recognized subspecies), but an American Bittern caught on 4 Oct was just our third ever to band.

Banding totals for no less than a dozen species constituted new record highs for Powdermill, with a variety of migratory categories represented: permanent residents (Eastern Tufted Titmouse), irruptive northern species (Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch), short-distance migrants (Winter Wren, American Goldfinch) and, best represented of all, Nearctic-Neotropical migrants (“Trail’s” Flycatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Hooded Warbler). In most of these cases, the former record high was just edged out by one to a few birds, but the 120 Wood Thrushes banded this fall doubled our previous record high total, 523 Magnolia Warblers was 140 (40%) more than our previous high set last fall, and 189 Hooded Warblers exceeded our former record count by 39 (26%). In many of these cases, these record totals are in line with significant positive fall trends at Powdermill across more than 40 years (see [http://www.westol.com/-banding/Fall\\_2001\\_Trend\\_Table.htm](http://www.westol.com/-banding/Fall_2001_Trend_Table.htm)).

Only one species, Cape May Warbler (eight banded), was caught in record low numbers this fall. In addition, conspicuous “misses” this fall included Eastern Screech-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Rusty Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. We banded up to 11 Olive-sided Flycatchers in 21 out of the first 25 years of the Powdermill banding program, but no more than two in just four out of the last 15 years (and none in the last eight fall seasons). Similarly, we banded up to 19 Yellow-breasted Chats in 28 out the first 30 years, but no

more than two in four of the last ten years (and none in each of the last three falls). Finally, this is only the third fall season out of 40 that we have failed to catch even a single Golden-winged Warbler, and it is the very first time we have “missed” banding a Rusty Blackbird.

As always, a handful of species makes up a large proportion of our total catch at any season. Nine out of ten of the species on this fall’s “top ten” list of most commonly banded birds are also on the overall (1962-2000) fall top ten list for Powdermill (this year Purple Finch replaced Cedar Waxwing on the all-time top ten list). The top ten species this fall contributed 56% to the overall fall banding total, a higher percentage than usual, undoubtedly due to the exceptionally high totals this fall for the top four species: Magnolia Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, American Goldfinch, and Purple Finch.

We were fortunate, as always, to have regular participation from a dedicated corps of dependable, long-term volunteers: Mary Helen Chiodo, Carroll Labarthe, and Carole Shanahan. In addition, several local college students (some of whom were summer field interns) helped right up until their fall terms began and on many weekends and breaks thereafter. For dedicating themselves to their studies and the banding, we heartily thank Steve Graff (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Brian Jones (Penn State University—Dubois), and Annie Lindsay (Grove City College). Two of our banding interns from previous seasons, Amy Cunkelman and Adrienne Leppold, returned to help with banding at Powdermill again this fall after one or more seasons of exciting field biology adventures in Alaska! We are also grateful for the occasional help from Jamie Fischer, Darlene Madarish, Jack and Karyl Merchant and their nine-year-old daughter, Jessica; Powdermill’s Resident Director, Dr. Joseph F. Merritt; Jami Paul; and Martin Schaefer.

And the list goes on...once again, our good friend and very talented fellow bander from Maryland, Jim Gruber, gave us the benefit of his energy and banding expertise for a week in August. Fränzi Nievergelt, a visiting doctoral student and “ringer” from Switzerland, deserves special mention for tirelessly lending a hand with net opening, net closing, and everything in between almost daily

from mid-August to early October. While helping us a great deal, Fränzi somehow managed to get work done for her doctoral research (which is what she came here to do in the first place!)—taking comparative measurements of closely related North American birds that either do or do not forage frequently in conifers (e.g., Red-breasted vs. White-breasted nuthatches). Another visitor, Diane Pick, was a tremendous help scribing our banding records every day during one of the heaviest two-week periods of the season—without her steadfast assistance we certainly could not have banded so many birds (almost 2000 during her stay) so efficiently. Fellow banders, Mark and Julie Shieldcastle, took a bander's holiday, helping us for several days in November shortly after closing their own banding station for the season at Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Ohio. As always, we feel very lucky to have a highly skilled data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who painstakingly enters, checks, and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

Readers are reminded that we have a website ([www.westol.com/~banding](http://www.westol.com/~banding)) where we regularly post our banding totals along with many notes and photographs of the birds that we band. In illustrating our website, we pay special attention to molt and plumage variations useful for making in-hand age and sex determinations.

**Herrington Manor Banding Station 392-0792**  
Oakland, Garrett County, MD  
**Connie Skipper and Fran Pope**, Banders  
<[rskipper@mindspring.com](mailto:rskipper@mindspring.com)>

The Herrington Manor station captured 543 birds this fall, up 220 birds from last year. We opened 11-15 nets on 35 days between 14 Aug and 22 Oct 2001 for a total of 1912 net hours. Our busiest day was 8 Sep, when 44 birds of 18 species were banded. The second busiest day was 10 Sep, when we banded 28 birds of 15 species.

This was the second year at this location. We were open ten days more than last year and logged in 682 more net hours. Most outstanding this year was a total of 83 Magnolia Warblers, 15% of our

total birds and more than three times the number captured last year. A total of 51 Black-capped Chickadees this year was extremely high. The number 3, 4, and 5 spots in the top ten were no surprise—Swamp Sparrow, Gray Catbird, and Common Yellowthroat as they almost always make the top ten list. Unusual, though, was that five warbler species made the list.

We added ten species to the station total, bringing it to 61 species. The most exciting bird captured was a Pileated Woodpecker. We also banded a single Prairie Warbler and a single Acadian Flycatcher, species we rarely see during migration.

Banding demonstrations were given to 331 individuals including five groups of middle school students and the Garrett Community College (GCC) Wildlife Club. Aaron Holochwest, a very dedicated GCC student, regularly assisted at the nets. He is an enthusiastic student of the birds and the banding process. Other helpers included Jean McConnell, Kevin Dodge, and Toa Kyle.

**Allegheny Front Migration Obs. 390-0791**  
Grant County, WV  
**George A. Hall**, Compiler  
<[Ghww@aol.com](mailto:Ghww@aol.com)>

The forty-fourth year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was better than last year but was still the sixth poorest season since we have had full-time coverage. The number of bandings was 67% of the long-term average. The station was in full operation from 12 Aug to 13 Oct. The weather was benign, with mild temperatures and little rain. The station was shut down because of rain or high winds on only three days and on three additional days rain caused an early close of the nets. Some useful banding was carried out on 57 days.

A total of 3826 birds (average = 5659) was banded with a station effort of 7535 net-hours giving a capture ratio of 50.78 b/100nh. This value was essentially the same as the 50.13 obtained in fall 2000. In August, 755 birds were banded (20 days), 2080 in September (25 days), and 991 in October (12 days). The station has now banded 188,599 birds of 119 species. No new species were captured this year.

Eleven birds banded in earlier years were recaptured: three banded in 2000, four in 1999, two in 1998, one in 1996, and the prize of the year—a Slate-colored Junco originally banded here as an HY on 13 Aug 1991 was caught on 20 Sep 2001. At ten years of age, this is just short of the longevity record for the species (10 years 9 months).

The migration very nearly followed the classical pattern. After two weeks of low daily capture numbers, the first wave of migrants came 28-31 Aug. A period of moderate numbers in early September was followed by a series of waves that peaked on 11, 18, 22 Sep and 5 Oct. The best day of the season was 284 bandings on 18 Sep. This was an unusual one-day wave preceded by four days and followed by two days of poor bird flights. Migration waves normally look like the one that peaked on 22 Sep with the second highest day's count, 276. Three other days had counts over 200, and seven other days had more than 100. Thirty-five days had fewer than 50 bandings.

The most numerous species was again the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 849 captures, which is 20% above the ten-year average. The Black-throated Green Warbler was second with 430 (12% above the average). The Blackpoll Warbler, the usual leader, dropped to third with 374 bandings (37% below the average). Of 35 species selected for analysis, 28 were captured in numbers lower than the ten-year average, but 23 of those were less than one standard deviation (SD) below the average; four species (Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak) were one SD below, and the Hermit Thrush was 2.5 SD below the average. For all of the seven species with banding numbers greater than the ten-year average, the difference was less than one SD above average.

The warblers as a group showed a decline of 18% from the ten-year average. This improvement from 42% below last year was due in part to last year's low total which lowered the ten-year average. Two of the "Spruce Budworm Specialists" continued to decline. The Cape May Warbler declined 70% and the Bay-breasted Warbler had a 43% decline, but the Tennessee Warbler, which is not so closely tied to the budworm cycle as the others, was 5% above

the average. The Blackburnian Warbler had been in low numbers for several years, but the low numbers of Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's Warbler were noteworthy.

The low numbers for Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco may be because the heavy migration of these species came after the station was closed for the season.

The visual migrant counts listed 844 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (highest count), 13,312 Blue Jays (third highest), 5428 American Goldfinches (highest count), and 727 Monarch Butterflies. There were 548 raptors of ten species counted, including two Bald Eagles, three Golden Eagles, and three Peregrine Falcons.

During the season, 1728 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 21 states, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras, Japan, and Switzerland. As usual, several elementary and high school classes as well as some college classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Ken and Sue Heselton, Carol and Fred McCullough, Randy Ritter, Judy Ward, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. LeJay Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter. Randy Ritter was campground host. JoAnn Graham made most of the Blue Jay-hummingbird counts. Tom Fox was chief of the brush-clearing crew. Others who were present for extended periods of time were Bill and Doris Agee, Phil Graham, Beth Ritter, and Carl and Joan Rowe in addition to 28 individuals who aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways.

We thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Chuck Meyers, District Ranger Elizabeth Schuppert, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to the D.N.R. for the use of the shed for storage of the banding shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

**Calmes Neck****390-0775**

Clarke County, VA

**J. William Oberman**, Bander

A new plan of net opening—two weekdays per week—resulted in a big jump in birds/100nh but also a reduction in the number of species banded. It was an unremarkable season.

**Smith Farm****382-0781**

Madison County, VA

**Edgar Smith**, Bander

&lt;botbead@aol.com&gt;

A major cold front on 28 Oct resulted in an unprecedented eight consecutive days (28 Oct – 4 Nov) during which I banded 42% (578 birds) of all birds banded during this season's 76 days of operation. Thanks to those eight days, this was the best fall season in seven years.

Weather in general was warm and dry with no other significant fronts. The season started very slow, as usual, with only 208 birds banded through September in 2700 net hours. The first-ever Savannah Sparrow was banded on 21 Oct, and we had a small showing (9) of uncommon Black-capped Chickadees in early November. Thrush numbers remained low except for Hermits (26). Flycatchers other than Eastern Phoebe (34) were almost non-existent.

There were 51 returns, none notable, and no foreign recoveries.

My thanks to Carol Bratton who assisted me this fall, especially for producing the schedules on *Band Manager*!

**Roan Mountain****360-0820**

Carter County, TN / Mitchell County, NC

**Richard L. Knight**, Bander

&lt;rknight@preferred.com&gt;

The autumn of 2001 marked the fourth year in the last six that fall banding was conducted at Garver's Gap on Roan Mountain. The habitat is relatively unchanged in that time. The weather this season

was dry, with near typical temperatures. At this high mountain pass (1680 m), strong winds are frequent and several days were unsuitable for mist-netting. Nets were located in the same lanes as in previous years, plus one new site. Nets were set up from sunrise until noon. A combination of 6-m, 9-m, and 12-m nets were used with net-hours adjusted accordingly.

The diversity and overall number of captures were near normal. The number of Tennessee Warblers was up, largely due to a massive movement on 6 Sep when more than one thousand passed through the gap (102 banded)! Mourning Dove was new to the station list and is unusual at this high elevation. Most of the juncos and Golden-crowned Kinglets likely were local residents.

There were three recaptures this season—a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded 29 Aug last year (possibly from the local breeding population) and two juncos also banded last year. One hummingbird was released unbanded.

My thanks to the Unaka District of the Cherokee National Forest (TN) and the Appalachian District of the Pisgah National Forest (NC) for permission to band birds on lands that they administer.



Golden-crowned Kinglet  
by George West