



ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

REGION 6 - DONALD F. CLARK

Region VI of the Atlantic Flyway Review consists of 6 inland stations. Five of these banding stations are located in the hill country of southern New York State, western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. The sixth station is located a thousand miles away at Homestead, Florida.

Bradley's Marsh Banding Station had been included in this region. However, Miss Mary June Wolcott wrote that the banding station should be covered in Inland Bird Banding News. The station is located on the Mississippi Flyway and coverage in this column would not be appropriate. Many thanks to her for the fine reports she's presented in AFR during the past years.

This year the fine reports from Powdermill Nature Reserve indicated for the first time the net hour statistics. These have been long needed by those of us that band year around in areas away from the coast. It gives us a much more practical statistical base for comparison.

A brief comparative summary of the six station operations follows:

Table I. Statistics

	Powdermill N.R. Pennsylvania	Allegheny Front West Virginia	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Binghamton New York	Farmersville Sta. New York	Homestead Florida
Days of Operation	77	31	8	53	36	39
Number of Birds Banded	5651	2522	729	595	531	1734
Different Species	95	67	56	59	61	70
Nets used	7-50	-	-	6	3-9	-
Average nets used	28.5	-	-	6	5.4	-
Net-hours	20110	1521	814	-	1610	5191
Birds per 100 net-hrs.	28	166	90	-	33	33
Largest daily catch	296	-	343	65	64	-
Date most captured	17Oct	-	11Oct	28Sep	14Oct	-

Table 2 - Five most commonly banded birds in 1970

Powdermill N. R.	Allegheny Front	Presque Isle	Binghamton	
Song Sparrow	Blackpoll	R.C.Kinglet	Red Eyed Vireo	1
White Thr.Sparrow	Blk.Thr.Blue W.	W.T. Sparrow	Catbird	2
Field Sparrow	Tennessee Warb.	G.C.Kinglet	Swainson's Thr.	3
Yellowthroat	Swainson's Thr.	Slate-c.Junco	Cape May Warb.	4
Catbird	Cape May Warb.	Hermit Thr.	Tennessee Warb.	5

Farmersville Sta.	Homestead		Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Pa.
Myrtle Warbler	Catbird	1	By: Robert C. Leberman
Field Sparrow	Redstart	2	
	Painted-		
Song Sparrow	Bunting	3	At Powdermill Nature Reserve, a
Blk-cap Chick.	W.E.Vireo	4	research station of Pittsburgh's Car-
Catbird	R.E.Vireo	5	negie Museum, located 3 miles south

of Rector in the Ligonier Valley of Western Pennsylvania (400-0791), autumn banding in 1970 totalled 5,651 birds. This is 11% above the average catch for the same period during the previous five years.

The number of nets in use on any one day during the period ranged from a minimum of seven (on a single day) to a maximum of fifty (on two weekends); the average per banding day was 28.5 nets. The number of birds per 100 net hours, far below that of most coastal stations, results in part from our location in a broad mountain valley where the birds are not concentrated; in addition, our efforts are not intensified at peak flight periods but are evenly spaced throughout the season, averaging 8.5 hours per day, six days a week.

No especially rare or unusual species were caught at the Reserve in the fall. October 16 (259 birds) and 17 (296 birds) were the peak banding dates.

One foreign recovery was netted during the autumn; a Song Sparrow that had been banded as an adult near Brooktondale, New York on October 25, 1969 by Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Tate Jr. This bird was netted and released at Powdermill on October 24, 1970 - just one day short of a year after it was banded.

The writer was in the field during the entire period. Special thanks are due Mr. A. C. Lloyd of the Museum staff who was on hand to assist with the banding on ten weekends during the fall, Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes and Dr. Mary H. Clench each spent a weekend working with the project in the field, and occasional assistance was provided by Mrs. John C. Murphy, Miss Virginia Lloyd and Mr. David E. Willard.

A complete summary of the 1970 Powdermill banding operations is available by writing Dr. Mary Clench, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213. (The complete summary is a fine piece of work and the authors are to be congratulated! Ed.)

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

By: George A. Hall

The thirteenth year of bird banding operations on the Allegheny Front Mountain in Grant-Tucker Counties, West Virginia produced the third largest yearly total of birds banded. The station was manned for four days in August, 21 days in September, and six days in October. The weather was very favorable this year, and only on one day did extremely bad conditions force a shut-down of the project.

A total of 2522 birds of 67 species were banded in a station effort of 1521 net hours. This gives a capture ratio of 1660 birds per thousand net hours. This extremely high total results in part from a very good migration and in part from a growing tendency to shut down the operation in the afternoons and at other times when few birds are moving. No birds that had been banded in previous years were recaptured this year.

For the first time no new species were trapped at this station and the overall station list remains at 102. A total of 17911 birds have been banded.

During the past year we have learned of four recoveries of birds banded at this station. Three of these were Blue Jays, one recovered in Alabama, and two in northeastern Pennsylvania, bring the total recoveries of Blue Jays to 5. One other bird recovered was a Tennessee Warbler banded in the fall of 1969 and recovered in May of 1970 at Powdermill.

Eight species were caught in record numbers this year and in particular the 319 Black-throated Blue Warblers; the 207 Cape May Warblers; and the 206 Bay-breasted Warblers far exceeded any numbers captured in previous years for these species.

The banders who participated in the project this year were: Ralph Bell and George Hall (co-leaders), Connie Katholi, Jack Linehan, Ann Shreve, and Cora Williams. Numerous other persons gave help of all kinds but we can mention only those long suffering spouses, Messrs. Katholi, Shreve and Williams.

Presque Isle, Erie, Pa.

By: Ronald F. Leberman

At Presque Isle State Park, 1970 was in many ways quite like 1969 in similar numbers of birds banded, species and net hours. No new net lanes were added and some used were not reused this time (due to wash-out, fallen trees etc.). Weather was good on all eight days of operations, no rain, warm and normal winds. No unusual or new species were added to the list. 729 birds were banded during this period in 814 net hours. The first day we managed two new birds in 21 net hours, however we set a new high for one day banding with 343 birds on the eleventh of October in 120 net-hours. The banders this year were Mrs. Charles J. Leberman and Ronald F. Leberman.

Binghamton, New York

By: Harriet Marsi

This bird-banding station is located on a 40 acre abandoned farm, one mile southwest of Binghamton, New York (420-0755). The farm is on a sloping hillside facing northwest. A fairly well used road is above it. Below it, on either side of a stream is a new, growing housing development. In August and most of September, fog associated with the stream settles in the hollow during the night. It rises slowly and often has not passed over this station until after ten o'clock in the morning.

My nets (usually six in number) are strung along a contour of the hill. The hillside is abandoned pastureland that has grown up at least 90% to thornapple - most of these 10 to 12 feet high. There are a few wild crabapples, poplars and red maples.

The station was operated from August 13 through November 2, 1970. Generally all six nets were up from 0600 to 1000. 595 birds were banded of 59 different species. There were ten returns but no foreign retraps. All banding was done by the writer.

Farmersville Station, New York

By: Donald F. Clark

This was my second year of specific record keeping for the fall migration period. Banding was done on 36 days. The weather on the whole could only be described as "atrocious". Twenty-three out of the thirty-six banding days were considered poor days. There was rain on 17 days, snow on two, and strong winds on five days.

A total of 531 birds of 61 different species were banded. 33 birds per 100 net-hours were captured. There were 29 returns and 98 repeats. No foreign retraps were caught. In the two years, 938 birds of 68 species have been banded.

In the majority of species, fewer individuals were banded in 1970 than in 1969. However, 162 Myrtle Warblers were banded in 1970 compared with 4 in 1969. 64 Field Sparrows were banded in 1970 as compared to 36 in 1969. Very few White-throated Sparrows were banded and no White-crowns were even observed in the area this year.

This station is located about one mile south of Farmersville Station in Cattaraugus County of New York State. Coordinates are 422-0782. Banding was done by Donald F. Clark assisted by his wife Jane.

Homestead, Florida

By: Erma J. Fisk

Banding was done from September 23 through November 6 with five days of absence. Unfortunately these included the cold wave of October 17-18 that gave the peak migration flight all down the Atlantic Coast. All birds were wing-measured, weighed, aged and sexed. White eyed Vireos and many of the Yellowthroats were carefully studied, the former for the Water Reed Virus Laboratory. Detailed data were taken on all empidonax.

Eleven species were lacking from previous years, five new ones were added. 1734 birds of 70 species were newly banded. There were 94 returns to an area of one and one-half acres. There were 5191 nethours in 39 days. The nets were closed only one day by rain, but furred irregularly at midday due to the hot sun.

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I thank coordinator Donald F. Clark for his Region VI report, as well as all the station leaders for their contributions thereto. Editor.

"WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT:" - A REQUEST FOR BANDERS
TO LOOK BEFORE THEY LEAP, OR PUBLISH AND PERHAPS PERISH

By Brian Sharp

In EBBA News, Vol. 31, No. 2, p. 84, Hapgood Parks published three erroneous recovery records, two of which have since been cited. Although Hap twice submitted articles to EBBA pointing out the errors, neither was published and records have stood unretracted for over two years. More recently, (EBBA News, 34(3)) Leroy Wilcox mentioned the "interesting" recovery in California of a herring gull he banded in New York. It is the purpose of this article to set the record straight, before further mis-citings occur.

Hap's two "Purple Finches" (band numbers 57-40730 and 57-40886) and his "Black-capped Chickadee" (band number 101-39499) actually turned out to be two Canada Geese and a Slate-colored Junco, respectively. The hunter's letter indicated that Leroy's "Herring Gull" was a "duck." The band numbers reported to the Banding Laboratory in those cases were incomplete (missing a digit of the prefix), misread, or not entirely legible. It should be mentioned that the Banding Lab was already aware that two of Hap's recoveries were erroneous before the bander's cards were sent to him by mistake.

The implication of two "Purple Finches" trapped within a day or two of each other in Connecticut and re-trapped, still together eight years later in Illinois, was perhaps too much of a temptation. After