

## ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW REGION SIX

Weather seemed to be the big difference between the fall migration of 1971 and previous years. It was a pleasant, warm period of time with below normal rainfall. At Farmersville station, the late October "first killing frost" was the latest in memory. Stations reported few frontal activities resulting in good migration flights.

Birds seemed to go through the Western New York area in fewer numbers but over a much longer period of time. Region 6 stations reported 26 new species to their fall records from this migration. All but one station indicated more birds banded than in 1971. However, Allegheny Front reported 1971 as the second poorest year in its fourteen years of records.

It is interesting to compare results of the Binghamton station and the one at Farmersville Station. Both banding areas are approximately the same in latitude with Farmersville Station about 80 miles further west. Mrs. Marsi reported noticeable decreases in Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos. I had noticeable increases in these same species. Myrtle Warblers increased at the Binghamton station but declined greatly at Farmersville Station. One wonders if the migration pattern shifted slightly due to the difference in weather.

A brief comparative summary of the six station operations follows:

	Powdermill N.R. Pennsylvania	Allegheny Front West Virginia	Presque Isle Pennsylvania	Binghamton New York	Farmersville St. New York	Homestead Florida
Days of Operation	77	25	11	38	43	43
Numbers of birds banded	6722	977	972	848	693	1447
Different species	104*	57	61	62	74	75
Largest daily catch	309	198	307	70	67	-
Date of largest catch	9/18	9/11	10/3	10/18	10/2	-
Number of Nets used	-	-	-	8	2-10	6-15
Average number of nets used	27.9	-	-	8	5.8	-
Total Net Hours	18835	939	1154	1216	2152	6896
Birds per 100 net hours	35.8	104.3	84.2	69	32	21

(\* plus one hybrid)

### Powdermill Nature Reserve Robert C. Leberman

At Powdermill Nature Reserve (Carnegie Museum's research station located three miles south of Rector at 400-0791 in the Ligonier Valley of southwestern Pennsylvania), our 1971 fall banding program was highly successful.

The biggest single day was September 18 when 309 birds, including 96 Tennessee Warblers, were netted; the day before (September 17) yielded 247 birds, and 100 of these were Tennessee Warblers. The third largest daily total was reached on October 17 when 235 birds were banded; high counts on this date included 41 Myrtle Warblers, 40 White-throated Sparrows, and 23 Field Sparrows. The five most frequently banded birds during August, September and October were:

Tennessee Warbler	561
Myrtle Warbler	549
Field Sparrow	340
Song Sparrow	332
White-throated Sparrow	314

An immature Kirtland's Warbler netted on September 21 was the outstanding catch of the season. This, the first documented record of the species for Pennsylvania, is the only fall migrant ever to be banded outside of Michigan. Perhaps because of unfavorable winds for migration, the warbler remained in the area at least through October 2, and was recaptured twice, allowing us to record its gradual weight gain (1.8 g) and giving several people the opportunity to add the species to their life lists. Another rarity, "Lawrence's Warbler" was netted on August 11 (the second station record), and two Short-billed Marsh Wrens in September were new to the Powdermill banding list.

In four of the previous six autumns Carolina Chickadees' have been banded at Powdermill, and one was netted again this October. The Reserve is situated at least 50 miles from (and at considerable higher elevation than) any known breeding locality in western Pennsylvania, suggesting a previously unsuspected fall dispersal into our valley.

Since our 1970 report appeared in *EBBA News*, the Bird Banding Laboratory has notified us of a number of recoveries of fall migrants banded at Powdermill. Details will be published elsewhere, but several of the more interesting records are summarized here: