

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:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Age/Sex</u>	<u>Banded on</u>	<u>Recovered at</u>	<u>Rec. on</u>
Traill's Flyc.	HY-U	09-12-71	Belize City, British Honduras	10-08-71
Robin	AHY-F	08-10-67	Thomaston, Georgia	02-28-71
Swainson's Thr.	U-U	09-24-66	Sinchi-Yacu, Peru (*)	
Cedar Waxwing	HY-U	09-12-68	(Chiapas?), Mexico	01-17-72
Magnolia Warbler	HY-U	09-13-70	Pte. Claire, Que.	05-23-71
Myrtle Warbler	AHY-M	10-06-67	Jacksonville, Fla.	02-22-71
Myrtle Warbler	HY-U	10-08-70	San Antonio, Texas	01-30-71
Myrtle Warbler	HY-M	10-22-66	Sylvarena, Miss.	02-22-72
Slate-col. Junco	HY-M	10-25-69	Long Pt., Bird Obs. Ontario	04-24-70
Field Sparrow	HY-U	09-01-68	Alexandria, Va.	05-05-71

(*) Killed by Indian blowgun during winter 1969-70 or 70-71.

The Traill's Flycatcher recovery is particularly exciting in that it represents the first record of the species for British Honduras. The Swainson's Thrush recovered in Peru is the most distant Powdermill recovery to date and our second from South America for this species; in 1964 another of our fall banded birds was found near Bogota, Columbia. The Mexican Cedar Waxwing is also a second; in 1963 one of our waxwings was reported from near Mexico City and at that time was the first banding recovery of the species south of the U.S. border.

Again this season I was in the field during the entire August-October period. As in previous years, my work was greatly aided by A.C. Lloyd, who spent 10 weekends working with the project during this time. Others who assisted in a variety of ways include Dr. Mary H. Clench, Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, Mrs. Marie M. Griffin, Mrs. John C. Murphy, Mrs. Erma J. Fisk, and David E. Willard.

Allegheny Front Mountain Observatory George A. Hall

The fourteenth year of bird-banding observations on the Allegheny Front Mountain in Grant-Tucker Counties, West Virginia was the second poorest year since the station moved to its present location. Only 1967 was poorer. The station was manned for 22 days in September and 7 days in October. However on four of these days rains and fog forced a total shutdown and on several days bad weather curtailed activity.

A total of 977 birds of 57 species were banded in a station effort of 939 net hours. This resulted in a capture rate of 1043 birds per 1000 net hours. The low total of net hours comes as a result of the tendency to close down after the main flight of the day is over in the late morning. On only two days were more than 100 birds banded; September 4 = 120 and September 11 = 198.

One new species, the Cerulean Warbler, was added to the station list this year, bringing the total number of species banded to 103. A total of 18,888 birds have been banded. Three birds were captured that had been banded in earlier years at the station, and as usual very few if any birds banded this season were caught a second time.

The weather, which was not very conducive for a dense fall migration, can account for the poor results this year. During most of September and early October the weather systems were dominated by stationary high pressure areas. Such weather is very pleasant but does not lead to a good south-bound bird migration. During September only three pronounced cold fronts advanced far enough to affect the flight at this station. After one of these on September 9, the largest daily catch of the year (198 birds on September 11) occurred. A cold front on September 16 produced a good flight (but not outstanding) on September 17, followed by rain and fog for several days. The third front on September 20-21 may have produced a flight but the station was not manned at the time.

The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets handled was a record number for the station, but Swainson's Thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers, and Blue Jays were taken in the poorest numbers on record. Several other species were in lower than average numbers.

The banders who participated in this year's operation were Ralph K. Bell (co-leader), George A. Hall (co-leader), Connie Katholi, and Ann Shreve. Others who provided help of various kinds were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hurley, Avis Newell, Jim Surman, and William Wylie.

Presque Isle Jean Stull

The fall of 1971 marked ten continuous years of coordinated banding on Presque Isle peninsula at Erie, Pennsylvania. The station was manned on weekends from September 11 to October 17 when weather permitted. Visitors were welcomed.

A total of 972 birds of 61 species was captured and banded within 1154 net hours. This compares favorably with an average year at Presque Isle. The bulk of the migration began somewhat late, and seemed to have passed through by mid-October dropping considerably after the 10th. October 3 was the big day with 307 birds banded. October 10 produced a total of 142 birds.

White-throated Sparrows topped the list as usual with 235 banded. Swainson's Thrushes came in second with 109, and Brown Creepers third with 88. Twenty species of warblers, including a Connecticut, were netted. Participating banders were: Mrs. C. J. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Jean and Jim Stull.