

# Atlantic Flyway Review—Region II

Valerie M. Freer, Coordinator

1975 saw two important changes in station participation in Region II. For the first time in many years, no fall banding was done at Vischer Ferry. We regret the loss of this major station, but we are glad to welcome another major station to this review — the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

The six stations of Region II reported more than 7400 new birds banded this year. Of these, 38% consisted of only five species: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch and Swainson's Thrush. Overall birds per 100 net hours remained about the same as last year at 51. Two stations (Ellenville and Marshfield) noted a decline in the usual numbers of Canada and Yellow-rumped Warblers, but an unusually high number of Yellow-rumped Warblers were caught at Friendsville, the farthest station from the coast.

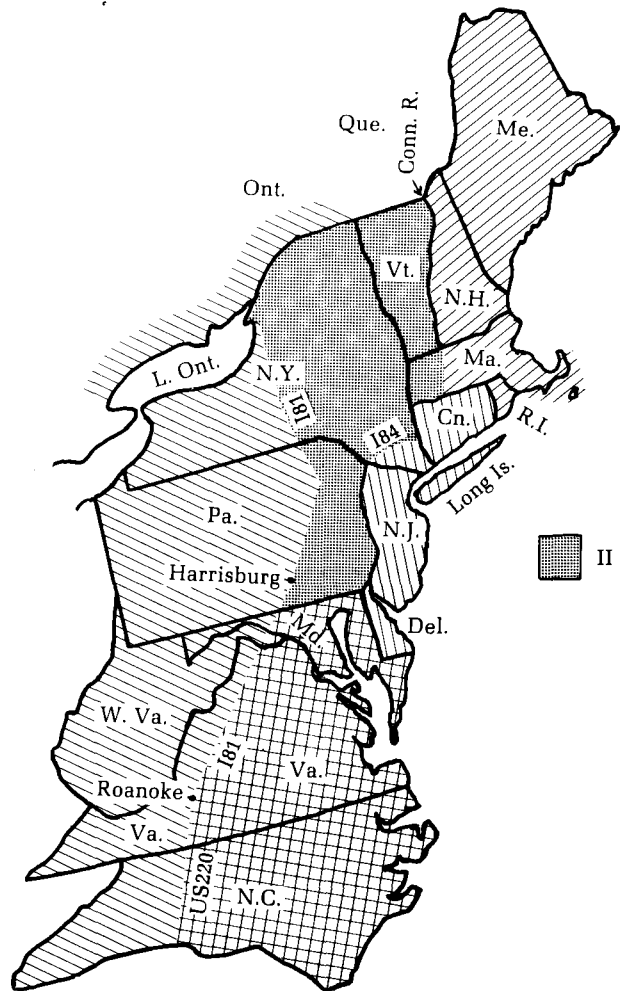
Ellenville, Friendsville and two Vermont stations submitted data on the age of their most common species. The combined figures, expressed as the percentage of HY birds were:

	Sample Size	%HY
Black-capped Chickadee	392	71
Swainson's Thrush	344	64
Gray Catbird	106	82
Red-eyed Vireo	126	71
Tennessee Warbler	133	80
Nashville Warbler	115	80
Magnolia Warbler	159	61
Yellow-rumped Warbler	164	83
Ovenbird	82	92
Yellowthroat	215	73
Canada Warbler	78	73
Redstart	82	82
Purple Finch	124	56
American Goldfinch	438	89
Dark-eyed Junco	183	62
White-throated Sparrow	530	76
Song Sparrow	232	85

Each species had very few or no individuals of unknown age.

There was substantial agreement in the percentage of HY birds among the stations. One notable exception, however, was in Yellow-rumped Warblers: at the New York and Vermont stations, 74% were HY (91 birds), and at Friendsville, PA, 95% were HY (73 birds).

RD#, Box 21G, Ellenville, NY 12428.



	Vermont Institute	Marshfield, Vt.	Ferdinand, Vt.	Salisbury, N.Y.	Ellenville, N.Y.	Friendsville, Pa.
Days of Operation	88	45	3	38	56	—
Number of Nets	35	7	7	7	4-11	6
Net Hours	8225	2478	200	548	1750	—
Number of Birds	3078	1777	55	745	689	1090
BP/100 NH	—	—	—	1.35	39	—
Species Banded	—	72	20	64	64	—
Largest Daily Record	159	106	—	170	—	102

## Vermont Institute of Natural Science

### Sarah B. Laughlin

The banding area at the Institute is in a small valley with an elevation of 1100-1200 feet. Approximately one-third of the habitat is a second growth forest consisting of White Pine, Paper Birch, Quaking Aspen, White Ash, Black Cherry, American Elm, Eastern Hemlock, Sugar Maple and Red Spruce. Another one-third of the habitat is a mature White Pine forest. The rest of the area is on a down-sloping abandoned apple orchard.

During this fall banding season, we used 35 mist nets with a total of 8,225 net hours. We were in operation week-days (mornings only) from 5 August through 31 October, using the assistance of many volunteers. 3,078 birds were banded.

The most numerous species were Swainson's Thrush (265), Black-capped Chickadee (256), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (243), White-throated Sparrow (205), and Robin (80). These numbers were in excess of the numbers normally banded at this station.

Although few in number, Evening Grosbeak (20), Boreal Chickadee (3), and Northern Waterthrush (4), have not been banded here since 1972. The Golden-crowned Kinglet was more abundant than usual this year with 56 banded.

Peak days were: 25 August, 83 individuals, mainly migrating warblers; 8 September, 106 individuals (69 Swainson's Thrush); 1 October, 106 individuals (50 Black-capped Chickadee); and 4 October, 159 individuals (70 Black-capped Chickadees and 28 Ruby-crowned Kinglets).

Although relatively rare at the Institute, the Golden-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Parula Warbler and Palm Warbler were banded this fall.

No foreign recoveries were made but several returns included: a Scarlet Tanager, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, White-throated Sparrow and Gray Catbird banded in 1970; a Black-and-white Warbler, Veery and an Ovenbird banded in 1971.

No important decline in either species or numbers was noted this fall. In fact, this has been one of our most interesting seasons since the opening of the station in 1969.

### Marshfield, Vt.

#### Mrs. Marion Metcalf

Located in Washington County, the Marshfield Banding Station is based on a half-acre island in a 90-acre pond. Two-thirds of the island is surrounded by water, one-third by swamp. The vegetation is the same as previous years. The station operated for 45 days starting in August with 1-8 nets operated, usually 7. 1,777 birds representing 72 species were netted in 2,478 net hours. All birds were banded, skulled, weighed and wing measurement taken.

Eye color and head-stripe color were noted on 80% of White-throated Sparrows. Out of the total number of days, 12 were rainy, 21 were cloudy and 12 clear and sunny. Peak days were 16 September (cloudy) 79 birds, 24 September (cloudy, temp 52°) 66 birds, 25 September (clear) 93 birds, 26 September (clear) 106 birds and 3 October (temp. 36°) 97 birds.

The most unusual happening for this station was the early arrival of Evening Grosbeaks. They began arriving 9 September and continued until 7 October.

The most numerous species were as follows, with a comparison table since 1968.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Magnolia Warbler	29	35	31	50	22	67	39	96
Black-capped Chickadee	51	52	7	74	12	25	17	83
White-throated Sparrow	89	148	191	277	123	84	5	267
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	47	15	26	60	41	28	18	254
Swainson's Thrush	2	10	18	53	18	39	14	61
Purple Finch	370	292	232	493	260	138	179	85
Evening Grosbeak	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	65

There were 173 repeats with 36 returns. Most noteworthy was a first return of a Blue Jay banded 11 September 1966. The returns included 11 Black-capped Chickadees, 5 Song Sparrows, 2 Common Yellowthroats, 4 White-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Blue Jays, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, and 8 Purple Finches. There were no foreign recoveries.

We noted the absence of Goldfinches, Myrtle and Canada Warblers, but did have some other birds of special interest: 1 Rusty Blackbird, 3 Orange-crowned Warblers, 1 Boreal Chickadee and 3 Saw-whet Owls. Two first-time banded species were a HY White-eyed Vireo and an HY Yellow Palm Warbler.

I would like to add a note here for comment or discussion only — no evidence. Looking at the legs of the Blackpoll Warblers, I observed a difference in color. HY birds seemed to have a dull yellow leg, some AHY birds had clear yellow legs. Could it be that HY or 1st year birds have dull yellow legs and SY or older birds have clear yellow legs?

### Ferdinand, Vt.

#### Mrs. Marion Metcalf

For the fourth season we continued the banding operation in the Black Spruce forest and its edges. The station is located in Essex County in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Seven nets were in operation with a total of 200 net-hours.

Fifty five birds of twenty species were banded. For the first time, this year we also used an aerial net which produced quite well.

The station was in operation on the 19th, 20th and 21st of September. Much to our disappointment we only captured 1 Boreal Chickadee. Rain prevented banding on one other day. There were 10 repeats; returns included 1

Black-capped Chickadee and 3 Gray Jays (1 was banded 30 September 1972 and the others 21 September 1974.) There were no foreign recoveries.

With such a small operation, there was nothing outstanding. Most numerous birds captured were 9 Black-capped Chickadees, 10 White-throated Sparrows and 5 Common Yellowthroats; there also was 1 Gray Jay.

In the previous 2 years, we netted Blackpoll Warblers, but this year only 1. With such a limited amount of time, we probably missed them.

## **Salisbury, NY**

### **LeRoy C. Stegeman**

Poor health limited banding at Salisbury in 1975. Nets were operated from 9 May to 1 June (except for bad weather) and 22 September to 29 October. Six nets were used during the spring and seven during the fall. In the fall, seed-baited traps were also used and kept active until 3 November.

Spring net-hours were not recorded, but in the fall there were 548 net-hours with a capture of 745 birds — an average of 1.35 birds/net-hour.

Two new species banded at the station were the Warbling Vireo and the Blue-winged Warbler. A total of 1329 birds of 64 species were banded. The five most numerous species were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (175), White-throated Sparrow (162), White-crowned Sparrow (118), Black-capped Chickadee (74), and the American Goldfinch (67).

The peak days were: Spring — 13 May with 49 birds and 16 May with 64 birds; Fall — 29 September with 61 birds, 6 October with 84 birds and 7 October with 170 birds.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was more numerous this fall. The other differences were slight and probably a result of the change in the surrounding area. For the past few years no forage crops were planted near the banding area and probably the area was less attractive to the birds.

## **Ellenville, NY**

### **Valerie M. Freer**

1975 was the sixth consecutive year in which organized banding was done at this station. An average total of 689 birds of 64 species were banded in 1750 net hours, yielding a total of 39 birds/100 net hours. From 4 to 11 nets were set (in same location as previous years) on 56 days between 1 August and 31 October.

The most common species caught were: Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow, Yellowthroat and Swainson's Thrush (the latter two tied for fifth place). Song Sparrows, usually on the most-common list, were caught in only half their usual numbers for some unexplained reason. Swainson's Thrushes were caught in unusually high

numbers, but only one Veery was taken. Black-capped Chickadees were banded in the highest numbers in six years, and one Boreal Chickadee was caught. It was a good fall for Tennessee Warblers, but the other warblers were less common, with Yellow-rumped, Cape May, and Canada Warblers reaching new lows.

A series of fronts in August apparently stimulated migration; early dates were recorded for a number of species (Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers.) The entire season was warmer than usual. A very light frost on 15 September was followed by mild weather, with the first killing frost not until 31 October. The weather was wetter than usual. The peak capture date was 22 September following five days of rain and the passage of a cold front. The peak October date was the 5th, as flocks of chickadees and kinglets moved through.

All banding was done by Barbara Belanger, Frank Fish and me, with the assistance of Mildred Fish.

## **Friendsville, PA**

### **Claire Gottschall**

The banding station is located 12 miles southwest of Binghamton, NY (co-ordinates 415-0760). The area used for mist netting is part of our farm containing a corn crop, vegetable garden, barnyard and a second-growth area near a large pond.

The fall of 1975 produced a record number of American Goldfinches banded — 438. This species has been in the top five for five of the six years the station has been in operation. The next four most numerous species were Song Sparrow (157), Yellow-rumped Warbler (77), Dark-eyed Junco (66) and Yellowthroat (51). In striking contrast to fall 1974 when 246 Bobolinks were banded, there were only 4 banded in 1975, using the same methods and net lanes.

All banding was done between 6 and 10 A.M. each day, as in the past — weather permitting. A total of 6 nets were used, producing 1090 birds banded. The peak day was 22 September with 102 birds banded of 17 species. One new species was banded this fall — a Red-headed Woodpecker. This station continues to produce mostly finches and blackbirds, although the 73 Yellow-rumped Warblers was a record.

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## **Resignation**

It is with deep regret that we announce that Dr. Darwin Wood has tendered his resignation from the Literature Review staff because of poor health. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We will need a replacement for Dr. Wood as soon as possible. If anyone subscribes to either the *Auk* or the *Condor* and would consider helping, please contact Richard W. DeHaven, P.O. Box C, Davis, CA 95616.

## Life Member

### Mabel Warburton

Mabel Warburton was born on the shores of the Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania, and it was along this waterway her first interest in birds was stirred.

A graduate of Morrisville High, she attended Stroudsburg State, married, and is the mother of two daughters. With her husband, Ben, she became an avid bird watcher, but once having held a bird in her hand (at Dr. Fluck's Bird-Banding Station) she was "hooked" on banding. She studied with Dr. Fluck for three years and with Lewis Reichel at Pennypack Bird Sanctuary for two years. She was among the first to band at Island Beach Operation Recovery and stayed throughout its life span. Director of the Operation for five years, she is still banding at this location along with her home station in Yardley, and also at Pennington, New Jersey.

Mabel's greatest birding moment was capturing the first Cassin's Sparrow in the eastern United States, and her lesser triumphs included the banding of a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and a Lark Bunting — all at Island Beach. Her species count now stands at 175.

While bird-banding is her first love, she also works in a museum, studies history, antiques, and geneology, and her writings appear regularly on



the pages of *EBBA News* (now *North American Bird Bander*). She has two faithful sub-permittees — daughter, Charl Warburton, and Fran Hornick.

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## Who is . . . ?

The First Vice-President of EBBA, *Robert J. Pantle*, is an assistant supervisor of Data Processing, Dairy Records Processing Laboratory at Cornell University. Originally from Endicott, New York, he now lives in Candor, New York with his wife and one child.

Bob's banding interests revolve around Tree Swallows, bluebirds, and warblers. Specifically, he has an avid interest in the breeding biology of the Eastern Bluebird and the Tree Swallow. He is currently working up seven year's data on the Tree Swallow.

Bob has spent seven years as a volunteer, working in the North American Nest Record Card Program at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University and is currently the editor of *The Blue Jay*, the local bird club's newsletter. His spare time is devoted to photography.

## A recommended journal

Readers of *North American Bird Bander* are urged to subscribe to *Bird-Banding*, the journal of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association. In each of the issues of this fine magazine, there are at least two papers which deal with such techniques as aging, sexing and netting of birds.

Although NABB fills a requirement in this regard, *Bird-banding* still remains the nation's principal journal of ornithological investigations involving bird banding as a sampling technique. It is true that the magazine tends to be somewhat technical in nature, but I feel that banders who work at larger stations should have no problem with most subjects. To become a member, you should contact Mrs. Lydia L. Kennard, Treas., R.R. 5, Box 150, Bedford, NH 03102.

F.S. Schaeffer.