

# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II ■

Valerie M. Freer, Coordinator  
RD #1, Box 21G, Ellenville, NY 12428

The same stations reported in Region II for the fifth consecutive year. The total number of birds banded in the Fall 1981 season (4263) was a bit below average for the 5-year period, but the total number of net-hours shows a continuing decline during the 5 years. It looks as though banders are becoming more efficient in their setting of nets, opening them only in the best locations during the best hours. As a result, the combined birds per 100 net-hours stood at 66 (about the same as in 1980), much higher than in earlier years.

Weather conditions were moderate, with a scarcity of strong fronts early in the banding season. It is of interest to note that a stationary system in late August and early September produced many birds at Binghamton and very few at Ellenville, less than 100 miles away. Several stations reported frequent strong winds in September and October, hampering their banding.

When station totals were combined, the top 5 species captured were Common Yellowthroats, White-throated Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, Magnolia Warblers and Gray Catbirds. These made up 27.5% of the total, a figure somewhat lower than in past years. (In 1975, for example, the top 5 made up 38% of the total catch.) Magnolia Warblers appeared on this list for the first time since 1976, when they ranked #5 in a much smaller total catch.

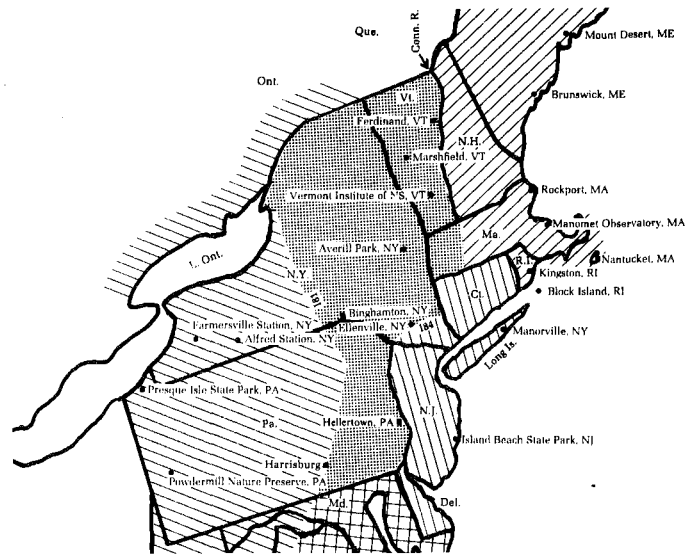


Table 3 shows the percentages of HY birds captured at the Region II stations. That percentage has remained quite stable in many species; Gray Catbirds, Swainson's Thrushes, and Canada Warblers have varied by 10% or less in the past 5 years. The percentage of young Magnolia Warblers was unusually high at about 85%, compared with an average of 72% for the preceding 5 years. This suggests an unusually successful breeding season.

The percentages of HY birds can also be used in determining migration routes as described by Ralph (*Wilson Bulletin* 93: 165-187). He proposes that high percentages of young denote

**Table 1. Region II Summary**

	Hellertown Pennsylvania	Binghamton New York	Ellenville New York	Averill Park New York	Vermont Institute	Marshfield Vermont
Days of operation	20	45	60	16	27	25
Number of nets used	5	14	3-11	20	3-17	6
Total net-hours	241	1610	1165	621	1251	1156
Largest daily catch	44	102	29	55	90	147
Birds banded, 1981	289	1028	628	377	895	880
Birds banded, 1980	533	736	677	377	916	805
Different species, 1981	42	66	65	54	64	58
Different species, 1980	47	62	63	42	63	54
Birds/100 n.h., 1981	120	64	54	61	72	76
Birds/100 n.h., 1980	113	51	63	51	75	64

**Table 2. Most common species in 1981**

Hellertown PA	Binghamton NY	Ellenville NY	Averill Park NY	Vermont Institute	Marshfield VT
51 Song Sparrow	98 Red-eyed Vireo	79 B-c Chickadee	51 Blue Jay	140 C Yellowthr	130 Purple Finch
45 W-thr Sparrow	98 Magnolia Warb	61 Song Sparrow	40 Gray Catbird	63 Tennessee Warb	74 Tennessee Warb
29 Yel-rump Warb	80 Gray Catbird	45 Gray Catbird	35 Purple Finch	56 Song Sparrow	58 Magnolia Warb
	67 C Yellowthr	39 D-e Junco	26 B-c Chickadee	47 Sc Tanager	48 W-thr Sparrow
	66 Sw Thrush	30 W-thr Sparrow	25 D-e Junco	35 B-c Chickadee	47 Yellow-rump Warb

the periphery of a species' migration route. He regards a banding station to be in the mainstream of a migration route if, compared to other stations, the percentage of young is lower and the species makes up a higher percentage of the total catch of passerine birds.

At two similar New York stations (Ellenville and Binghamton) Tennessee Warblers made up less than 1% of the total catch, and all were young. At Marshfield and VINS, Vermont, Tennessee Warblers made up almost 8% of the catch, and about 91% were young. According to Ralph's theory, Ellenville and Binghamton must be on the periphery of their migration route, and the Vermont stations must be nearer to the mainstream of their route. This is in agreement with the data in Ralph's paper; he proposes a coastal and coastal plain migration route for Tennessee Warblers. In contrast, Ralph suggests that Least Flycatchers migrate along the Appalachians. At Ellenville and Binghamton, Least Flycatchers made up about 3% of the total catch and about 67% were young. At the Vermont stations, Least Flycatchers make up less than 1% of the catch and 94% were young. These figures place the New York stations nearer to the mainstream of the migration, again in agreement with Ralph's theory.

Continued careful gathering of age data at AFR stations in the eastern U.S. should in time clarify the fall migration routes of many species.

**Table 3. Percentages of HY birds at Region II stations, 1981**

Species	Number	% HY <sup>1</sup>
Black-capped Chickadee	116	85-92
Gray Catbird	193	90-91
Swainson's Thrush	129	72-75
Red-eyed Vireo	176	73
Tennessee Warbler	148	91-93
Nashville Warbler	80	81-84
Magnolia Warbler	208	84-85
Yellow-rumped Warbler	107	88-94
Bay-breasted Warbler	60	98
Yellowthroat	275	75-78
Canada Warbler	86	78
American Redstart	95	76
Dark-eyed Junco	120	56
White-throated Sparrow	217	71-76
Song Sparrow	188	79-86

<sup>1</sup> Where a range of percentages is given, the number of birds of unknown age was greater than one.

**Vermont Institute of Natural Science 433-0723**  
**Nancy L. Martin**

The VINS banding station operated on 27 mornings in the fall of 1981. Total birds banded (895) and number of species (64) were about the same as the past 2 years, in spite of 10 fewer days of operation. This was due to a good September warbler flight.

Top day was 15 September, when 90 birds of 32 species were banded. Setting 3-4 nets on the floodplain of the Ottauquechee River in Woodstock on 2 late October days resulted in the banding of 87 birds of 14 species, mostly sparrows. Scarlet Tanagers (47 banded) were their most numerous in

10 years. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks set a new station record with 21, almost double the previous high.

The first new species of the season was a Yellow-breasted Chat, banded on 2 September. The afternoon the station was closed for the season, 30 October, 3 birds were netted, all most interesting: a Boreal Chickadee, an immature Northern Shrike (first for the station) and, with the shrike, a Black-capped Chickadee originally banded as an AHY-F on 1 May 1975 in South Woodstock.

**Marshfield, VT 441-0722**  
**Mrs. Marion Metcalf**

Banding was done on 4-day weekends, Friday to late afternoon on Mondays. The weather was excellent with the exception of one rainy day. There was a notable increase in Bay-breasted Warblers and a decrease in all thrushes. The top day in August was the 21st with 38 birds. In September the top day and top weekend were the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, with 21, 147, 144, and 75 birds respectively. October's peak day was the 4th with 23 birds. Worthy of mention were two Orange-crowned Warblers, a Palm Warbler, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a Saw-whet Owl. Returns included 4 Black-capped Chickadees, a Blue Jay, a Song Sparrow, a Northern Waterthrush, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, and 15 Purple Finches. One of the finches was banded in 1976 and returned in 1977, 1980, and 1981.

**Ferdinand, VT 444-0714**  
**Mrs. Marion Metcalf**

This was our 10th year of banding in the Black Spruce Forest of Ferdinand. We returned there on 17 September for 3 1/2 days. In addition to the regular nets we again used one aerial net. This was our best year of banding, both in terms of weather and in number of birds banded. We had no repeats but 2 good returns: a White-throated Sparrow banded 13 September 1979 returned 19 September 1980 and 19 September 1981, and a Nashville Warbler banded 12 September 1979 returned 18 September 1981. Worthy of mention were 3 Boreal Chickadees, 1 Saw-whet Owl, and 1 American Woodcock.



**Binghamton, NY 420-0755**  
**Harriet Marsi**

The station pattern was the same as in previous years with nets open from dawn to 10:00 AM. Arrangements were made with the neighbors to confine their cat until that time. On 2 occasions the banding was so busy that the neighbor was called, and extra help was given agreeably.

The net lanes originally ran through an abandoned pasture and are now mostly grown over with thornapple. One long trail follows a hillside contour. After 20 years, the expected plant succession is apparent, and the nets are topped on either side by red maple and a jungle of shrubby plants. So far, this change has not seemed to affect the numbers or kinds of species or the number of birds banded. An attempt is being made to keep the vegetation down at the far end of the lanes, where a naturally wet area has slowed succession.

The 1981 fall weather was generally favorable for banding. A stationary weather front at the end of August and into early September, with both heat and humidity dominating, seemed to have trapped and held large numbers of small birds. The banding area fairly dripped with vireos, warblers, and flycatchers. Between 26 August and 7 September (nets open 6 days only) 303 birds were handled: 73 on 27 August, 102 on 1 September. This stalling was followed by another smaller wave 8-10 September when 104 birds were banded, 87 on 9 September. There was no conspicuous weather trend at this time, just clear, warm September at its best.

October banding leveled to a more relaxed pace. There were several windy days, a few frosty ones, and a number when the birds were just not around. The peak day was 5 October with 29 birds.

Compared to other years, 1981 was outstanding. No species seemed seriously down in numbers other than the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The 7 banded this year was the lowest since 1969 when only 2 were banded. The peak year was 1973, when 27 were banded.

Many previous highs were broken: Least Flycatcher, 37; previous high 23 in 1977. American Robin, 39; 28 in 1969. Swainson's Thrush, 66; 27 in 1976. Common Yellowthroat, 67; 63 in 1980. Canada Warbler, 28; 17 in 1980. American Redstart, 43; 25 in 1980. Magnolia Warbler, 98; 54 in 1977. Total of all wood warblers 378; 305 in 1977. Total thrushes 179; 123 in 1977.

There were no recoveries but there were several returns: of 15 Black-capped Chickadees, mostly banded in 1979 and 1980, one banded 27 September 1978 returned 21 September 1981. Two Common Yellowthroats, 1 Wood Thrush, and 1 Gray Catbird banded in 1980 returned. The most interesting return was a Chestnut-sided Warbler banded 21 August 1979 returned 9 September 1981.

Unusual birds were 4 Evening Grosbeaks netted on 31 October, a Red-breasted Nuthatch netted 16 September, and the Boreal Chickadee banded 1 November 1981. One other Boreal Chickadee was banded here 20 October 1969.

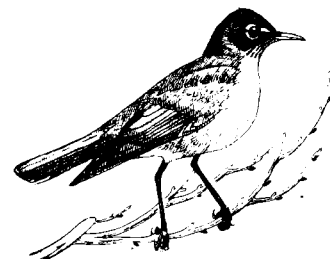
**Ellenville, NY 414-0742**  
**Valerie M. Freer**

During 1981 the Ellenville station was in operation on 60 mornings between 1 August and 1 November. Weather conditions seemed to be the most important factor in holding the number of new birds banded to 628, a low-average figure for this station. The August weather was very dry. During the last half of the month and into the first week of September we were in a stalled weather system. No fronts passed through, and few birds were caught. The first strong cold front of the year arrived on the night of 8 September, accompanied by 2" of rain and windy weather on the 9th. Late September and early October were wet and cold and especially windy, often requiring the furling of nets. The first hard frost occurred on 11 October, and there were some days of good weather during the 3rd week of October. A cold front dropped temperatures at the end of the month, and fairly good numbers of birds were caught during the last week. The peak banding day of the season was 22 August (29 birds), and the top 2 days were 12 and 13 September (45 birds).

The population of Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared to suffer another setback, as only 11 were banded (down from a peak of 57 in 1976). This species was at very low numbers in 1977 and 1978 but had been improving in 1979 and 1980. Golden-crowned Kinglets, always much less common than Ruby-crowns at this station, were caught in record high numbers (19). Gray Catbirds have been one of the most common species here, averaging 63 per fall, but in 1981 only 45 were caught. In past years the average number of Ovenbirds banded was 19, but this year only 11 were caught. The total number of warblers banded (99) was very low as compared with an average of 168 per fall (for all years except 1972, which was an astounding year for warblers here — 550 banded!).

On the more positive side, we had plenty of Black-capped Chickadees. Our total of 79 banded was exceeded only in 1980 when 84 were caught. And in the small flocks of chickadees in the nets in late October we found two Boreal Chickadees, the 3rd and 4th ever caught here. (The other 2 were caught in 1971 and 1975, also flight years for Black-capped Chickadees.) Song Sparrow numbers remained high, with 61 captures (vs. an average of only 37 in earlier years).

Three new species were caught: Warbling Vireo, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin, bringing the station fall total to 100 species. Banding was done by Barbara Belanger, Frank Fish, and Valerie Freer.



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**Averill Park, NY 423-0733**  
**J.C. Covert III**

Weekend banding was done from late August until the 2nd weekend in October, with the exception of Labor Day weekend.

The best weekend was 29-30 August, with 91 birds of 22 species. 17 Gray Catbirds, 17 Purple Finches, and 14 Blue Jays made up more than half the birds banded. The best September weekend was the 12th and 13th, with 53 birds of 17 species, including 12 Black-capped Chickadees, 8 Gray Catbirds, 7 Blue Jays, 6 Swainson's Thrushes, but only 3 Purple Finches. 10-11 October was nearly as productive as the September weekend, with 48 birds of 16 species; Dark-eyed Juncos dominated, as 22 were netted and banded.

The most notable changes from the previous fall were Gray Catbirds, down to 40 from 109 (about 10 below the 1977-78-79 average); Purple Finches up from 2 to 35; and House Finches at 22 (the first House Finch capture was only 2 years ago). The warbler family, in general, increased from 9 species to 14, but we have banded only 1-3 of each species both years with the exception of Ovenbirds, with 6 banded in 1981 and 8 in 1980. Five members of the thrush family experienced decreases: Swainson's from 32 to 18, and Wood Thrush from 30 to 9, headed the list.

The Tufted Titmouse is not usual for this station in the fall; however, 6 were banded in October and others remained in the area into the early winter months.



**Hellertown, PA 403-0752**  
**Elaine & Donald Mease**

The fall banding season began 4 September and ended 2 November 1981. Five 12-meter nets were used. The netting was done on weekends, 2-4 hours in the early morning and for 2 hours before sundown.

Weather conditions were normal this year, although there seemed to be strong winds on the days we could band.

Daily catches were higher later in the season when sparrows and other ground- and shrub-birds moved in. Our largest daily catches were on 25 October, with 44 birds; 5 October, with 32 birds; 29 October, with 29 birds; and 9 September, with 28 birds (almost all warblers).

A total of 289 birds of 42 species were banded. There were no foreign encounters. We had 7 returns: 4 House Finches, 1 Field Sparrow, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, and 1 White-throated Sparrow.

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## History of EBBA (cont.)

by Mrs. Roger W. Foy

### 1941

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore, PA  
Vice President: Dr. Harold B. Wood  
Secretary: Geoffrey Gill, Long Island, NY  
Treasurer: George Dock, Jr., Scarsdale, NY  
Publication: EBBA Nus, Vol. 4, No. 1 through 12  
Editor: Geoffrey Gill

EBBA Nus grew into a monthly *Friendly Report* to Members of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

With the March 1941 issue of EBBA Nus a ballot was attached. The purpose of this ballot was to determine (among other things) the locality of future annual meetings and election of officers.

The fourth regional meeting of the members of EBBA from Long Island was held 22 March in the Manhasset Junior-Senior High School.

In the May issue of EBBA Nus the officers were listed: President, Secretary, and Editor were the same as above. Another Vice-president was added — Miss Lisa von Borosky, Brooksville, FL. Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, White Plains, NY.

On 29 November, Long Island and neighboring banders held an outdoor meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the area adjacent to the athletic field of the Manhasset Junior-Senior High School.

### 1942

President: Dr. C. Brooke Worth, Swarthmore, PA  
Secretary: Horace Groskin, Ardmore, PA  
Treasurer: Robert K. Ungemah, White Plains, NY  
Publication: EBBA Nus, Vol. 5, No. 1 through 12  
Editor: Geoffrey Gill, Long Island, NY

This was the year that EBBA members started receiving *Inland News* as part of their membership dues. *Inland News* was sent to the members six times a year, attached to EBBA Nus.

Dues were still one dollar (\$1.00) a year. For this amount members received, in addition to the above two publications, *Bird-Banding*.

On 25 April the banders of southern New York State and nearby areas met at the banding station of Robert Ungemah in White Plains.

The year 1942 saw many members entering the service for World War II. The board of Directors was announced: Beecher S. Bowdish, NJ; George Dock, NY; Geoffrey Gill, Long Island, NY; Horace Groskin, Ardmore, PA; Raymond J. Middleton, PA; Jesse V. Miller, Long Island, NY; Robert Ungemah, White Plains, NY; LeRoy Wilcox, Long Island, NY; and Dr. Harold B. Wood, Harrisburg, PA.