

# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

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Weather seemed to play an important role in the fall migration of 1985. The months of September and October were warm, sunny, and pleasant with few frontal air masses that spur on migration. November was just the opposite with record rainfalls in most areas.

Powdermill noted that early migrants in September were low, October birds about average, and November flights above average. Maitland River reported the worst migration ever. Presque Isle had the second lowest total banded in the past ten years. Farmersville Station, Beaver Meadow, Newark Valley, and Powdermill could be considered near average. Allegheny Front had their third highest total. Again the northern stations seem to catch fewer birds these past years while the two southern stations keep consistently high.

In the northern area, there seemed to be few if any, peak days throughout the period. Sparrows, vireos, flycatchers,

and thrushes were low at Farmersville Station. Powdermill also reported lower numbers of thrushes and flycatchers. However, Newark Valley and Powdermill both reported record or above-average numbers of sparrows. The northern stations again reported a decrease in warblers. The House Finch hit record numbers at Farmersville Station.

I wish to correct an error I made in the 1984 report. Robert S. Mulvihill was the senior author of the Powdermill Atlantic Flyway report for 1984 and his name was omitted. My apologies to Bob for this omission. Betsy Brooks has moved to the Rochester, New York area from Alfred Station, New York. She is now actively banding near Lake Ontario. Pleasant Valley did not submit a report this year.

Any bander interested in having his banding results published in the Atlantic Flyway Review is welcome. Please submit them to the appropriate coordinator.

Table 1. Region IV Summary.

	MAITLAND RIVER, ONTARIO	ROCHESTER NEW YORK	BEAVER MEADOW NEW YORK	FARMERSV STATION NEW YORK	NEWARK VALLEY NEW YORK	PRESQUE ISLE PENN	POWDER-MILL PENN	ALLEGHENY FRONT WEST VA
Days of Operation		21	20	47	37	19	101	52
Number of Nets Used	36	1-6	7-10	3-4	9	—	0-55	—
Total Net Hours	17262	398	566	476	1168	865	12359	5156
Largest Daily Catch	43	81	56	22	85	135	254	1128
Birds Banded 1985	587	487	201	361	983	582	7570	8506
Birds Banded 1984	752	—	206	225	978	333	7916	5818
Different Species 1985	68	39	22	36	62	58	109	80
Different Species 1984	65	—	28	40	59	52	106	80
Birds Per 100 NH 1985	3	123	36	32	84	67	61	165
Birds Per 100 NH 1984	4	—	37	17	79	43	48	113

Table 2. Interesting or most common species in 1985.

MAITLAND RIVER ONTARIO	ROCHESTER NEW YORK	BEAVER MEADOW NEW YORK	FARMERSVILLE STA. NEW YORK
45 Swain Thrush	168 A Goldfinch	42 A Goldfinch	145 House Finch
41 GC Kinglet	92 WT Sparrow	38 A Robin	46 SC Junco
32 Bay-Br Warbler	31 BC Chickadee	24 WT Sparrow	30 BC Chickadee
31 BC Chickadee	31 Hermit Thrush	17 DE Junco	28 Evening Gros
30 RC Kinglet	24 Rusty Black	15 G Catbird	19 Song Sparrow
	19 DE Junco	11 BC Chickadee	12 G Catbird
	17 Swain Thrush	9 Evening Gros	11 YR Warbler
	14 C Redpoll	9 House Finch	
	8 Magnolia Warb.		
	7 Tree Sparrow		
	7 Song Sparrow		

**Table 2. Interesting or most common species in 1985 (continued).**

NEWARK VALLEY NEW YORK	PRESQUE ISLE PENN	POWDERMILL PENN	ALLEGHENY FRONT WEST VIRGINIA
319 Song Sparrow 72 WT Sparrow 66 C Yellowthroat 57 Purple Finch 49 Field Sparrow	59 Swain Thrush 52 WT Sparrow 49 Bay-Breasted Warbler 38 YR Warbler 37 Magnolia Warbler	521 Evening Gros 516 YR Warbler 511 DE Junco 494 WT Sparrow 373 Purple Finch	1441 Tenn Warbler 1130 Cape May Warbler 1103 Blackburnian 949 BI-Throated Blue 578 Blackpoll
44 Swamp Sparrow 42 G Catbird 41 YR Warbler 31 House Finch 31 BC Chickadee		362 A Goldfinch 355 G Catbird 312 Song Sparrow 286 Magnolia Warbler 271 C Yellowthroat	539 BI-Throated Green 396 Magnolia Warbler 314 Bay-Breasted Warbler 255 Swain Thrush 139 C Yellowthroat

**Maitland River Bird Observatory**  
**Huron County, Ontario, Canada 435-0812**  
**John B. Miles**

The banding results for 1985 were the worst since this station started operation 10 years ago. Peak days just did not occur. The best days were 43 on 21 September, 39 on 15 September and on 12 October. The station operated from 27 July, when the first migrants were noted, until 27 October. Coverage was mainly on weekends but was continuous from 11 August to 2 September. Up to 36 mist nets were used plus one Jay trap. 587 birds were banded.

Usually late August to early September is when good numbers of warblers and vireos move through this area. Considering the number of nets used and that the area is scrub cedar and deciduous bush along a major river system, my captures indicate a very poor movement through the area. The station is operated from dawn to dusk.

The most unusual bird banded for this area was a red phase Screech Owl.

**Manitou Beach, N.Y. 431-0774**  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**  
**Kevin C. Griffith**

This was the first year of operation for this banding station located at Manitou Beach in Monroe County, N.Y. This area is adjacent to the "pear orchard," a locale well known by area birders for good fall and spring activity and is approximately 100 yards from the shore of Lake Ontario. Nets were located among shrubs, at the edge of a fallow field, and/or in mixed deciduous woods.

From one to six nets were used during 397.5 net hours of operation on 21 days during the period. A total of 487 birds were banded of 39 species (122.5 birds per 100 net hours of operation). There were 18 repeats. Vandalism during a peak period on 14 September produced a loss of 10 net hours.

Banding began on 31 August and ended on 25 November. Most active days were 26 October (81 birds), 25 October (71), 9 October (62), and 7 November (52).

Noteworthy records were a late veery on 5 October and a solitary vireo on 14 October. There were thousands of migrating goldfinches (and smaller numbers of redpolls and siskins) in the area between 25 October and 7 November. During one hour of operation on 25 October, 64 goldfinches were banded using three nets. Nets had to be taken down to keep the situation manageable. An immature bald eagle checked out our site on 7 November.

Banding demonstrations were held for Greece Continuing Education students.

Appreciation is extended to Jeff Bouton, Bill Symonds, Sharon Skelly, and Dave Tetlow for their assistance. We are particularly grateful to Bill Kaiser for his enthusiastic support and permission to band on his land.

**Beaver Meadow Audubon Center**  
**North Java, N.Y. 424-0782**  
**David Junkin**

The banding station, in its 8th year of operation at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, is manned most Tuesdays and Saturdays by 12 banders who hope for a great day but are happy for any bird to work with. These people know that there are greener pastures on more used flyways, yet they

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share a common bond of friendship and challenging work. New banders are brought along the educational quest to observe established patterns in birdlife as well as to show others the banding story. The Audubon Center's mission is education, and the banders always give others a chance to learn more about the environment, which is especially fruitful with live birds.

Banders helping are Jay Burney, Jane Cole, Taddy Dann, Betsy Davis, Tom Harper, Dave Junkin (master permittee), Carol Pedersen, Frank Slish, Ree Thayer, Barbara Walker, Rich Wells, and Mike Zebehazy.

**Farmersville Station, N.Y. 422-0782**  
**Donald F. Clark**

The fall of 1985 was the 17th year of fall banding reports from this station. A total of 361 birds of 36 species were banded. This was better than 1984 but still on the low side of average. Banding was conducted from 15 August to 15 November for a total of 47 days. Two to four nets were used with a total of 476 net hours. Birds caught in nets: 154, with a total of 32 birds caught per 100 net hours. Birds caught in traps: 207. There were 103 repeats and 25 returns.

On the whole, the fall migration was poor. Very few sparrows were seen. White-throated Sparrows and Song Sparrows were low. Fox Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows were completely absent. Vireos, flycatchers and warblers were in low numbers. The House Finch population hit a new high, although Purple Finch and American Goldfinch seemed to be down in numbers. Evening Grosbeaks appeared after being absent during the winter of 1984-1985.

September and October were beautiful months with the first frost late in October. November was the wettest in history—there was rain on 14 of the 15 days included in this report.

A Wood Duck was caught in a mist net on 11 September. A House Finch banded on 14 October 1983 was found dead on 21 February 1985 by J. K. Snyder near Rural Valley, Pa. This is about 120 miles SWxS from this refuge.

**Newark Valley, N.Y. 421-0761**  
**Judith A. Bell**

For the third consecutive year, fall migration banding was conducted at this semi-rural station. A total of 983 birds

of 62 species were banded and processed. The station was in operation on 37 days beginning on 18 August and ending on 1 November, from dawn until 10 a.m. each day. Nine nets were used for 1168 net hours, resulting in 84 birds per 100 net hours. There were 32 returns and 191 repeats. Peak activity came on 1, 23, and 26 September, and 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, and 14 October. The largest daily catch was 85 birds on 14 October.

Of the 62 species banded, 10 were new for this station. This brings the station's total to 71 species for the fall migration. Most interesting of these new birds were an Orange-crowned Warbler, two Connecticut Warblers and a Winter Wren. One of the Connecticut Warblers was an AHY-M that was exceptionally heavy; it weighed in at 23.5 grams.

Record numbers of Song, Swamp, and Lincoln's Sparrows were banded, but all warblers showed decreases. Especially noteworthy was the 44% decrease in Common Yellowthroats, a common species at this station. Purple Finches were in evidence in good numbers this year after their absence last year.

**Presque Isle State Park 420-0800**  
**Erie, PA**  
**Jean Stull**

The banding station at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA, marked its 24th continuous year of banding efforts in 1985. It was operated on 19 days from early August to mid-October. We banded a total of 582 birds of 58 species in 865 net hours (67 birds per 100 net hours). A Prothonotary Warbler on 10 August 1985 was new for the station. A very early Swainson's Thrush on 10 August was interesting but there were no major weather fronts to move birds through in good numbers. During the last 10 years, only the 1984 totals were lower.

A single day of shorebird banding on 25 August yielded 15 birds of three species. Our best day was 15 September when we banded 135 birds of 26 species in 130 net hours. There were no foreign recoveries but several returns of breeding birds.

Participants in the banding at Presque Isle were banders Jean Stull, James G. Stull, Mary Leberman, and Ron Leberman. The assistants were Thelma Patton, Sam Stull, and others.

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**Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791**  
**Rector, PA**  
**Robert S. Mulvihill**  
**Robert C. Leberman**

Banding at Powdermill Nature Reserve during the fall of 1985 showed a progression that could be described roughly as poor (September), better (October), and good (November). The season was less mild than the past few autumns and, unlike last fall, the end of the season was much wetter than the beginning. Rainfall throughout southwestern Pennsylvania broke long-standing records in November—at Powdermill nearly 10 inches fell during the month.

Weather may have played a significant role locally, affecting passerine migrants in general at different points during the season. For the most part, species whose migration period extends from late August through most of September were caught in numbers below the average of the past nine fall seasons. Species with protracted migrations, extending into October, had a comparatively better later flight. Birds that migrate predominantly in October were captured in average or above-average numbers, while those whose migrations continued through November did still better.

The program was in operation for 101 days during the season (the same as last year). One hundred or more birds were caught on 25 days; 200-300 on four days. Peak dates were 25 September (171), 24 September (181), 16 October (205), 18 October (253), and 6 November (254). Conspicuously absent this season was a mid-September peak, and the November peak date is unusual for our station. The catch that day included 31 American Goldfinches, 59 Purple Finches, 31 Evening Grosbeaks, 47 White-throated Sparrows, and 16 Fox Sparrows.

Contrary to our impression of the season's banding as being average at best (i.e., based on species' totals), our capture rate for the fall of 1985 is the highest ever recorded for the Powdermill program. This unusually high ratio of birds—100 net hours—reflects less volunteer help during the season, resulting in a more judicious use of nets (as evidenced by a substantially reduced number of total net hours compared with recent years), and many banding days that were abbreviated by weather conditions (e.g., extreme heat early in the season and heavy precipitation later). Owing particularly to November rains and to the presence of large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, we relied more heavily on traps this season than any other.

This season's list of most commonly banded birds reads about as usual for our station, although there is a bias toward species that are fall migrants. Species missing from the list that have been represented at least once in the past few years include several earlier fall migrants: Swainson's Thrush, Cape May Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Black-capped Chickadee, and Swamp Sparrow.

Only four species were caught in record numbers this season: Solitary Vireo (53), Fox Sparrow (86), House Finch (97) and Evening Grosbeak (521). More than half of the species banded in 1985 were captured in numbers below average and below their totals for last year. Our overall catch of 7570 birds, however, was just slightly below last year's and somewhat above average.

No new species were added to the Powdermill banding list this fall, but a Northern Mockingbird caught on 26 October was only our fifth ever and the first in almost 10 years. A Blue-winged Teal netted on 9 October was the fourth one for the Powdermill program (three others were caught on 9 September 1981).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with 95 banded, had a good flight, some 25% above average. Among the flycatchers, Yellow-bellied (72) and Least (80) were just slightly (10-15%) below average. Eastern Wood Pewees (16) were 58% below average, Acadian Flycatchers (17) were just average, and Eastern Phoebe (52) were 20% above average. For the first time in seven years we failed to catch an Olive-sided Flycatcher, but individuals were seen at the Reserve twice during the season.

There was substantial movement of Black-capped Chickadees (196), although compared with heavier flight years (e.g., 490 in 1983), the migration could only be considered moderate. The chickadee flight was heavy through the middle of October but dropped off suddenly almost a week before such flights ordinarily peak at Powdermill.

Golden-crowned Kinglets, with 39 banded, were almost 50% above average. Improved numbers of this species in recent years may be at least partly the result of an increasing breeding population in western Pennsylvania. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, on the other hand, were netted in such low numbers that even the generally poor early fall passerine migration does not suffice to explain it. Our total of 117 Ruby-crowns was 40% below average, less than one third of last fall's total and the fewest since the fall of 1977, when our few captures could be explained by the previous, unusually severe winter. Ruby-crowns did fit the general migration pattern inasmuch as they were caught in comparatively lower numbers earlier in the season than later.

The *Catharus* thrushes were all somewhat below average: Veery (9), down 27%; Gray-cheeked Thrush (60), down 5%; Swainson's Thrush (235), down 41.5%; Hermit Thrush (34), down 33.5%. Wood Thrushes, with 34 banded, were 11.5% below average. For the second year in a row, Cedar Waxwings were not attracted to the abundant shrub-level berry crops at Powdermill, opting instead to gorge on the equally abundant wild cherries in the trees well above net level.

Gray Catbirds made their best showing at the Reserve in over 10 years; the 355 banded was 58% above average and one of our highest fall totals for the species ever. With a record 53 banded, Solitary Vireos were 128% above average. Other vireos, however, did not fare as well: White-eyed Vireo (5), 52% below average; Philadelphia Vireo (17), 47% below average; Red-eyed Vireo (85), 36% below average.

Of 28 species of wood warblers analyzed, only 10 were recorded in above-average numbers (just four of these, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Connecticut, and Mourning, were banded in numbers well above average). Nine species were average or just slightly below and nine were well below average. Of those species which were above average, several have migration periods that peak in late September or October (e.g. Yellow-rumped, Connecticut, Black-throated Green, Palm and, to some extent, Magnolia). Once again, weather patterns during the first three quarters of September were apparently not conducive to a substantial grounding of migrant passerines in the mountain valley in which Powdermill is situated.

Some species of warblers that had a relatively poor September flight were comparatively better represented in October (e.g., Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Palm), but when the September flight accounted for the greater proportion of total individuals caught, the overall flight was usually below average. The following made particularly good showings overall: Yellow-rumped Warbler (516), 50% above average; Black-throated Green Warbler (72), 36% above average; Connecticut Warbler (31), 100% above average (our second highest fall total for the species); Mourning Warbler (21), up 31%. Poorly represented were Tennessee Warbler (117), 48% below average; Nashville Warbler (28), 45% below average; Cape May Warbler (87), 37.5% below average; Ovenbird (54), down 31% (an Ovenbird caught on 23 November represents one of the latest records for western Pennsylvania); Northern Waterthrush (25), 38% below average; Canada Warbler (30), down 31%.

*Spizella* sparrows all had poor flights: American Tree Sparrow (11), 62.6% below average; Chipping Sparrow (29), 40% below average; Field Sparrow (74), down 42%. Fox

Sparrows, however, with 86 banded, had their best flight ever at the Reserve, almost 130% above average. This record flight was surprising considering that it came on the heels of the species' poorest spring and previous fall flights at Powdermill.

As a group, *Melospiza* sparrows did well: Song Sparrow (312), just average; Lincoln's Sparrow (73), 34% above average; Swamp Sparrow (179), up 24%. White-throated (494) and White-crowned (21) Sparrows were both slightly above average, and Dark-eyed Juncos (511) were up 18%.

Most of the *Emberizid* finches, then, predominantly October migrants, were caught in average or above-average numbers, contributing to an overall better migration in October than September. *Cardueline* finches, even later migrants on average, were also numerous, and we recorded our best November total ever despite heavy precipitation during the month.

Purple Finches (373) were 70.5% above average; House Finches (97) were a remarkable 833% above average (this species continues to increase at all seasons at Powdermill); Pine Siskins (33) were up 43.5%; American Goldfinches (362) were just 7% above average. Evening Grosbeaks (521) are so seldom caught during the fall season at Powdermill that a comparison with the average would be superfluous—the grand total for the previous nine fall seasons is only 159.

Below is a monthly breakdown of the banding totals for the past five fall seasons. The numbers in parentheses indicate each month's percentage contribution to that year's total. Note the comparatively poor September total for this year, the more nearly normal October total and the very good November total.

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Aug.	868 (12.1)	1100 (10.8)	997 (10.7)	758 (9.6)	822 (10.9)
Sept.	2611 (39.6)	3653 (36.1)	3392 (36.6)	3310 (41.8)	2267 (29.9)
Oct.	2037 (30.9)	4709 (46.5)	3827 (41.3)	3306 (41.8)	2878 (38.0)
Nov.	1079 (16.4)	667 (6.6)	1053 (11.4)	540 (6.8)	1603 (21.2)
TOTAL	6595	10129	9269	7916	7570

Many thanks go to those who contributed to the success of the banding program this year: Drs. D. Scott Wood (program supervisor) and Kenneth C. Parkes, Marilyn Niedermeier, Barbara Rich, Larry and Linda Barth, Nancy Kirsch, and the many others whose interest fuels our efforts.

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**Allegheny Front Migration Observatory**  
**Grant County, W.VA. 390-0791**  
**George A. Hall**

The twenty-eighth year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was one of the better years of the project. The station was in continuous operation from August 15 to October 8, with two additional days in late October. Weather closed the station on three days so that banding was carried out on 52 days. Generally the season was mild and dry, with little or no rain during September, and only one day with below freezing temperature.

A total of 8506 birds (third highest count) of 80 species was banded in a station effort of 5156 net hours (second highest) giving a capture ratio of 165 birds per 100 net hours (eighth highest).

One new species, the Eastern Kingbird, was added to the station list which now stands at 114, with a grand total of 106,380 birds banded. On September 7 the 100,000th bird banded at this station (a Blackburnian Warbler) was photographed and sent on his way south wearing a gold-painted band. Three birds banded in 1984 and two banded in 1983 were recaptured this year. Since the last report, we have had word of three foreign recoveries of birds banded at this station. A Blue Jay banded in October 1981 was recovered in Apalachin, N.Y., in October 1984; a Black-throated Blue Warbler banded in September 1983 was recovered in the Dominican Republic in October 1984; and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded in September 1984 was recovered 22 days later in Port St. Joe, Florida. In September 1984 we captured a Cape May Warbler that had been banded in April 1984 at Smith Point, Texas.

The migration started in a fairly normal fashion with a few birds coming through in August followed by the usual minor peak around the first of September. This was followed by the heaviest short-term flight in the history of the station with 3800 birds banded between September 5 and 10, 907 on the 7th, 1128 (an all-time daily high) on the 8th, and 714 on the 9th. On the 10th, 571 birds were banded and several hundred birds were released unbanded because of the shortage of man-power to process them in a reasonable time. Oddly, the local weather during this flight was hot and sunny with no sign of frontal activity. However, a pronounced cold front had moved across Canada during this time. The usual early September lull followed this heavy flight and while late September produced some good days, the flight at that time was not as heavy as in most years. There were 12 days with totals over 200, and five with totals over 400. On the other hand, 12 days had banding totals of less than 20.

The most numerous species was the Tennessee Warbler (1441), followed by the Cape May Warbler (1130), and most remarkably by the Blackburnian Warbler for which the 1103 banded was almost twice the highest number handled previously. Seven species were banded in record high numbers. Of the species for which capture numbers were large enough for analysis, 22 were banded in above-average numbers, 21 at the average, and 12 in below-average numbers. Of these latter, the Swainson's Thrush and the Blackpoll Warbler were handled in only about 55% of the average numbers.

During the season, a total of 1468 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 14 states, the District of Columbia, as well as five foreign countries: Colombia, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, and United Kingdom. Two elementary school classes and four college classes were among the visitors.

The banders who participated this year were Walter Fye, John Jones, George Mayfield, Ephe Olliver, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, and Charles Ziegenfus, together with co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. The shelter was again erected by LeJay Graffious. Genevieve and John Findley again served as chief net-tenders. Harriett and Mel Hooker provided assistance throughout the season, and after a few years of absence, Kathleen and Mike Finnegan worked most of the season with us. The McCullough and Minear families as usual were dedicated in their service to the station.

The following people aided in tending nets, carrying collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Rodney Bartgis, Charles Bedrod, Kyle Bush, Virginia Byers, Nancy Campbell, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Cecily Czapansky, Robert Dean, Kathy DeVaul, Cindy Ellis, David Ellis, Mark Eye, Osbra Eye, Annabelle Fye, Florence Griffin, Barb Graff, Joann Graham, Phil Graham, Andrew Hall, Ken Hesselton, Sue Hesselton, Linda Hollenberg, Diana Holsinger, June Huy, Jim Huy, Karen Huy, Mike Huy, Gene Hutton, Virginia Johnson, Jinny Kick, Bob Kick, Fred Koert, Martha Kulp, Bill Lewis, Cleo Mayfield, Anne McGrew, Jerry McGrew, Janice Musser, Ben Myers, Janice Myers, Harry Osborne, Louise Osborne, Glen Phillips, Ivarean Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Esther Reichelderfer, Stan Roach, Betty Rossen, Shirley Ruane, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Carolyn Ruddle, Joe Schreiber, Juanita Slusher, Bill Smith, Carrie Stanovick, Roy Ward, Bill Wentzel, Brad Wentzel, John Willetts, Jean Woods, Dolores Wilson, and Robert Wilson.

We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Ralph F. Mumme, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, and the others at the Petersburg Ranger Station for their cooperation and support of this project. Thanks also to Walt Lesser of the D.N.R. for use of the Laneville Cabin for housing and for storage of our shelter.