

Regional



Founded 1923

Eastern Bird Banding Association

EBBA ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 26 - 28, 1991

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LOOK FOR THE QUESTIONNAIRE ACCOMPANYING THE 1991 EBBA DUES NOTICE

EBBA officers and council are vitally interested in finding out about the activities, interests and concerns of EBBA members. The questionnaire is designed to clicit information about banding projects and suggestions which will be helpful in planning future EBBA meetings. Members are asked to return the completed questionnaire promptly with their dues payment. A report about the insights gleaned from the answers provided will be given at the April meeting in Wilmington and also in *NABB* later in the year. EBBA council is hoping for a high level of participation and a prompt response. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

North American Bird Bander





The 67th Annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association was held on April 27 - 29, 1990 at the Sheraton Inn- Rochester Airport Rochester, New York . The Meeting was Hosted by the Gennessee Ornithological Society. Following are a few photographs of that meeting.



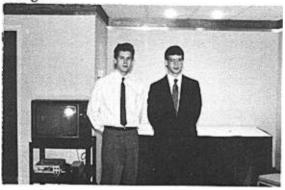
Janet Shaffer (L) and Judith presenting Honorary Membership to Chris Rose



Hannah B. Suthers (C), Age and Sex Identification Workshop



Stephen W. Kress, Research Biologist with the National Audubon Soc. and Cornell Univ., giving the banquet program, "Flame Birds and Other Tropical Delights."



Donald Casper and Steven Pantle (R.I.T. seniors) showing their documentary video on raptor banding at Cape May Point, New Jersey



A group of EBBA members at a Braddock Bay hawk blind.

Plan now to attend this year's Annual EBBA meeting in Delaware (see previous page for details).

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator 1435 Waterwells Road Alfred Station, NY 14803

We welcome three new stations to the 1989 Region IV report: Lewiston, New York (Jerry Farrell); Baltimore Woods, New York (Douglas Whitman); and Hebron, Pennsylvania (David Hauber).

Banding totals were up at five stations; down at seven. Weather was mentioned as a contributing factor for disappointing early season nettings at Maitland, Braddock Bay, and Allegheny Front. But stations with poor early season results more often than not had a productive late season. The reverse was true at Kestrel Haven and Powdermill. There were no really big days at all at Alfred Station.

While it is more difficult to interpret yearly ups and downs at the smaller and/or newer stations, data from long-term, large-scale operations become more valuable with each passing season. Powdermill experienced totals that were the lowest since 1978 and Allegheny Front had its most disappointing year in its 32-year history. Don Clark at Farmersville Station never saw a flock of migrating warblers all fall. Presque Isle listed ten warbler species with three to five consecutive years of low catches; Powdermill identified three declining warbler species, and Allegheny Front named eight species. Warblers most frequently identified as in significant downward trends were Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Ovenbird. The shortage of *Empidonax* flycatchers was noteworthy—Presque Isle did not band a single one.

On the positive size, it was a good year for Indigo Buntings at Kestrel Haven, Alfred Station, and Hebron. Kinglets did fairly well—Ruby-crowns banded in record high numbers at Allegheny Front; Golden-crowns up at Allegheny Front (465 banded and 671 released unbanded!) and Presque Isle. White-winged Crossbills banded for the first time at Alfred Station and Maitland gave a hint of the winter finch season to come. And good news or bad depending on your outlook, while House Finch still made the top ten at four stations, both Farmersville Station and Kestrel Haven commented on the declining numbers of this species in 1989.

	Maitland River Ontario	Lewiston New York	Clarkson New York	Braddock Bay New York	Baltimore Woods New York	Farmersville Station New York
Days Operated	31	10	13	16	19	47
Number Nets Used	38	15	6	2-16	9	4
Total Net Hours	12,251	42	292	857	1,304	829
Largest Daily Catch	91	61	19	142	37	28
Birds Banded 1989	852	333	53	770	226	383
Birds Banded 1988	612	192	26	775	248	447
Dif. Species 1989	63	53	17	44	44	42
Dif. Species 1988	49	44	9	62	45	35
Birds/100 NHS 1989	7	56	18	90	17	22
Birds/100 NHS 1988	6	66	43	86	20	23

Table 1. Region IV Summary

	Kestrel Haven New York	Alfred Station New York	Presque Isle Pennsyl.	Hebron Pennsyl.	Powder- mill Pennsyl.	Allegheny Front W. Virginia
Days Operated	21	90	13	57	100	60
Number Nets Used	6	1-7	8-20.	1-4	1-51	-
Total Net Hours	823	2,413	1,136	314	9,973	5,870
Largest Daily Catch	101	30	220	58	276	486
Birds Banded 1989	760	548	1,043	774	5,501	4,152
Birds Banded 1988	897	549	653	463	6,221	6,344
Dif. Species 1989	55	63	60	57	97	82
Dif. Species 1988	54	55	48	17	103	80
Birds/100 NHS 1989	99	23	92	120	55	70
Birds/100 NHS 1988	75	19	87	-	43	104

Table 1. Region IV Summary (cont.)

 Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species - 1989.

Maitland River Ontario	Lewiston New York	Clarkson New York	Braddock Bay New York	Baltimore Woods New York	Farmsvlle Station New York
139 GCKI 80 SCJU	46 MAWA 25 COYE	9 SOSP 9 HOFI	286 WTSP 91 HETH	33 GRCA 23 COYE	165 HOFI 33 AMGO
68 RCKI	24 GRCA	9 AMGO	90 RTHA	22 MAWA	24 GRCA
45 BCCH	23 NAWA	7 CEDW	45 BCCH	18 WTSP	16 BCCH
42 SWTH	15 RCKI	3 GCTH	26 AMRO	14 BCCH	15 SOSP
37 MYWA	13 OVEN	3 WCSP	24 GCKI	13 BWWA	15 WTSP
37 RWBL	13 WTSP	2 MODO	22 RCKI	10 TEWA	13 SWSP
32 OVEN	12 TEWA	2 GRCA	21 SOSP	9 REVI	12 AMRO
31 HETH	11 CMWA	2 WTSP	20 GRCA	7 AMRO	10 MYWA
26 COGR	10 BCCH		18 SWTH	7 CSWA	9 SCJU
	10 HETH				
Kestrel	Alfred	Presque		Powder-	Allegheny
Haven New York	Station New York	Isle Pennsyl.	Hebron Pennsyl.	mill Pennsyl.	Front W.Virginia
	Station				W.Virginia 465 GCKI
New York	Station New York	Pennsyl.	Pennsyl.	Pennsyl.	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP	Station New York 119 SCJU	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA
New York294SOSP59MYWA45CHSP38GRCA	Station New York 119 SCJU 43 SOSP 40 WTSP 30 MYWA	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU
New York294SOSP59MYWA45CHSP38GRCA30FISP	Station New York119SCJU43SOSP40WTSP30MYWA27MAWA	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP 38 GRCA 30 FISP 27 INBU	Station New York119SCJU43SOSP40WTSP30MYWA27MAWA24BCCH	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR 45 GCTH	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU 33 CHSP	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE 242 RCKI	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW 254 CMWA
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP 38 GRCA 30 FISP 27 INBU 22 AMRO	Station New York 119 SCJU 43 SOSP 40 WTSP 30 MYWA 27 MAWA 27 MAWA 24 BCCH 23 BLJA	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR 45 GCTH 43 SCJU	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU 33 CHSP 16 AMGO	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE 242 RCKI 241 REVI	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW 254 CMWA 247 SWTH
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP 38 GRCA 30 FISP 27 INBU 22 AMRO 20 BCCH	Station New York119SCJU43SOSP40WTSP30MYWA27MAWA24BCCH23BLJA17RCKI	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR 45 GCTH 43 SCJU 41 RCKI	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU 33 CHSP 16 AMGO 16 COYE	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE 242 RCKI 241 REVI 240 HOFI	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW 254 CMWA 247 SWTH 219 MYWA
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP 38 GRCA 30 FISP 27 INBU 22 AMRO 20 BCCH 16 EAPH	Station New York119SCJU43SOSP40WTSP30MYWA27MAWA24BCCH23BLJA17RCKI14GRCA	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR 45 GCTH 43 SCJU 41 RCKI 34 GRCA	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU 33 CHSP 16 AMGO 16 COYE 15 WCSP	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE 242 RCKI 241 REVI 240 HOFI 233 GRCA	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW 254 CMWA 247 SWTH 219 MYWA 199 RCKI
New York 294 SOSP 59 MYWA 45 CHSP 38 GRCA 30 FISP 27 INBU 22 AMRO 20 BCCH	Station New York119SCJU43SOSP40WTSP30MYWA27MAWA24BCCH23BLJA17RCKI	Pennsyl. 194 WTSP 181 GCKI 77 HETH 62 SWTH 48 WIWR 45 GCTH 43 SCJU 41 RCKI	Pennsyl. 157 HOFI 156 INBU 98 SOSP 66 WTSP 54 SCJU 33 CHSP 16 AMGO 16 COYE	Pennsyl. 365 AMGO 363 MYWA 320 SCJU 272 SOSP 256 COYE 242 RCKI 241 REVI 240 HOFI	W.Virginia 465 GCKI 440 BTBW 350 TEWA 309 SCJU 290 BTNW 254 CMWA 247 SWTH 219 MYWA

Maitland River Bird Observatory435-0812Huron County, Ontario, CanadaJohn B. Miles

The station was in operation for 31 days during the fall migration period from 6 August to 29 October with coverage usually on weekends. A total of 852 birds of 63 species were banded. The migration in late August and September was poor without any noticeable waves. October was a good month for this station with over 500 birds banded.

During the banding period, 38 mist nets were used along with up to three ground traps. This is fairly consistent with prior years' coverage.

The best birds caught were five White-winged Crossbills, which were new for this station. Peak days were 9 and 21 October with 91 birds banded, 14 October with 84 birds, and 15 October with 73 birds.

Lewiston

431-0790

Niagara County, New York Jerald J. Farrell

This station was started in 1976 with three net lanes located in mixed mature hardwoods bordering a 32-acre pond. In 1985, new net lanes were established in scrub slashing with no trees taller than 18 feet. The project was established primarily to band migrating warblers. A total of 96 species have been captured and released over the duration of this project. There were 53 species banded during fall 1989 with Orange-crowned Warbler being new to the station.

There were many visitors to the station throughout the season and this type of interaction between bander and birder is encouraged.

Clarkson

431-0775

Monroe County, New York William D. Symonds

Banding was conducted in Clarkson for the fourth consecutive fall but was limited to 13 days due to job commitments. Six nets were used.

There was one foreign recovery of a fall-banded bird. A House Finch banded on 30 November 1986 was trapped and released alive near Albion on 8 April 1989. Albion is 18 miles west of Clarkson. **Braddock Bay Banding Station** Monroe County, New York Elizabeth W. Brooks Sharon M. Skelly

Two banding projects were carried out at Braddock Bay during the fall of 1989. For the third year, raptors were banded at Hogan Point and at the main blind off Manitou Beach Road during August and early September. Passerine banding was done for the sixth consecutive year at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station. Banders included Jeff Bouton, Elizabeth Brooks, Frank Nicoletti, Dan Niven, Sharon Skelly and Dave Tetlow with help from several volunteers.

There were 770 birds banded representing 44 species. Up to 16 mist nets were used for passerine banding for a total of 857 net hours on 16 days from 6 August to 13 November. Net/trap hours for raptor banding were not calculated, so our figure of 90 birds/100 net hours only reflects passerine banding efforts. There were 44 repeats and 6 returns.

Total net hours increased from 818 to 857 (excluding raptor banding), but our overall results were slightly down from last year. Despite being in operation only 16 days, our coverage was spread evenly over the season which should have given us a fairly accurate representation of the total migration. Migration was disappointing with weather conditions seldom conducive for good flights or grounding conditions. Warbler and flycatcher numbers were poor but Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow numbers were very good. The late season finches never dropped down to net level. Total species was down from 77 in 1987 and 62 in 1988 to just 44 in 1989 and no new species were banded this year.

There were five interesting re-encounters of our 1989 fall banded birds. A Rusty Blackbird banded on 15 October was found dead one month later in Clifton Forge, VA. A Red-tailed Hawk banded on 6 August was found dead 22 days later in Bath, NY (72 mi. SSE); another banded on 15 August was found dead in Allegany, NY on 5 March 1990 (94 mi. SSW); a third banded on 14 August was retrapped and released at Short Hill Mountain, VA, 51 days later (285 mi. S); while a fourth bird banded on the same day was retrapped and released at Hawk Cliff, Ontario, 41 days later (183 mi. W).

Appreciation is extended to Braddock Bay Raptor Research, Inc., Mike Davids, Jeff and Joan Dodge, Jason Franz, Kevin Griffith, Larry Keating, Brian and Eileen Keelan, Tom McDonald, Brian Mongi, Bob Oswald and Jeanne Skelly. A special vote of thanks goes to Bill Kaiser and Gary and Gretchen VanNoy for their support and permission to band on their land.

Baltimore Woods Onondaga County, New York Douglas Whitman 425-0761

Although 1989 was the third year of bird banding at Baltimore Woods, this is the first year for reporting in the Atlantic Flyway Review. The station is located one half mile south of Marcellus at the Centers for Nature Education at Baltimore Woods. The BBL-approved banding projects are public conservation education and monitoring breeding bird populations at the wildlife preserve. The station is within the 160-acre Baltimore Woods preserve. Nets are located in an area of approximately five acres at 720 feet elevation on a glacial floodplain transected by meandering Baltimore Brook. Vegetation of the riparianscrub habitat includes vibernum, alder, black willow, wild grape, black raspberry, wild apple, cherry, maple, beech, and hemlock. Bordering the banding area are abandoned farm fields undergoing natural plant succession, hedges, mature woodland, and a gravel bed.

Baltimore Woods lacks geographical features which route large numbers of migrating birds through the banding station. The numbers of birds banded at this station remain considerably lower than, for instance, stations bordering large bodies of water. Results from year to year, however, may show trends which are significant for this type of geography and habitat, and/or when compared with major migration route data.

In 1989, 19 days were spent banding 226 fall migrants of 44 species. The largest number of birds banded occurred on 26 August with 37 birds of ten species. During the 19-day fall banding period, 211 visitors observed birds close up, asked questions, and learned about interdependence in nature—humankind included—through banding. All banding was done by Doug Whitman with assitance from Cleon Williams.

Farmersville Station422-0782Cattaraugus County, New YorkDonald F. Clark

The fall of 1989 was the twenty-first year of banding reports for Region IV of the Atlantic Flyway Review. A total of 383 new birds of 42 species was banded. Banding started 15 August and continued through to 15 November. However, snow, rain, and high winds prevented banding on all but three days in November.

Two to six nets were used on 34 days during this period while traps were set on 47 days. There were 182 birds netted in 829 net hours for a total of 22 birds netted per 100 net hours. This is about average at this station. There were 109 repeats and 38 returns.

A spring-banded American Goldfinch was recovered just a few days before 15 August at Lima, NY, about 50 miles NE. A fall-banded House Finch from Sheffield, PA, was caught here in the spring. This is about 60 mi. SE of Farmersville. A Canada Goose with a red neck band spent a week loafing on our pond with a flock of 200 geese during October.

Although there were fewer birds banded, there was an increase in species. We saw no flocks of warblers at any time. However, 12 species of warblers were netted. In most cases, just one individual of a species was caught. Thrush numbers were down and for the first time in 24 years; we did not hear, see, or catch a Veery. The House Finch population is still high but not the numbers of last year. Sparrows were caught in low numbers but better than 1988.

Kestrel Haven Town of Hector Schuyler County, New York John and Sue Gregoire 422-0764

Nets were deployed as described in previous years but weather and harvest demands lowered our banding days to 21 and net hours to 823. November was impossible due to 15 straight days of high winds, rain, and snow. Our best day was on 30 September with a station high 101 banded. We had one day in August with 83 banded and a 67-bird day in October.

Hatch year percentages were high with most species demonstrating a good return from the effects of drought during the past two years. Spring rains didn't appear to deter nesting success and several local breeding species had multiple broods. Our only surprises were the decrease in House Finch and increase in Indigo Bunting. Nets set and first cup of coffee in hand, we were pleased, and fortunate, to see one warbler net bounce and almost collapse under the weight of an adult female Cooper's Hawk—a new species banded for this station. Our cumulative fall species total is now at 74.

Unusual this year, the entire migration was over by 2 October. We only had a few lingering migrants and new arrivals through the remainder of the month. A concomitant early start was noted with very large numbers of sparrows arriving around 12 August.

Statistically, we banded 760 birds of 55 species in 21 days and 823 net hours of effort for a remarkable 99 birds banded per 100 net hours. We believe this to be a poor comparative stat in that lower numbers often only reflect all that time that nets are open and no birds appear—an experience common to us all. Our high number only means that we were lucky to do well in the relatively few hours we could open.

Alfred Station

421-0774

Allegany County, New York Elizabeth Brooks

This was the 12th year of fall banding at my backyard station where from one to seven nets were situated near feeders, bordering a small stream and pond and among shrubs, mature pine and spruce. Banding was done on 90 days from 1 August until wintry weather arrived on 17 November. A total of 548 birds were banded of 63 species during 2413 net hours of operation (22.71 birds/100 net hours).

There were no really big days. Biggest daily catch was on 1 November when 30 birds (mostly juncos) were banded. Fifteen or more birds were banded on eight additional days (17 August; 6 September; 3, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 October). There were 165 repeats and 25 returns.

In summary, fall 1989 was disappointingly slow, with no good waves of migrants. More species were banded than in any previous year but with many species represented by just one or two individuals. The only species showing higher than normal numbers were White-throated Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Indigo Bunting. Noteworthy catches were a Broad-winged Hawk (from whose mouth a snake's tail protruded during processing) and an intergrade flicker. Two HY White-winged Crossbills banded on 28 August were interesting.

Presque Isle State Park Erie, Pennsylvania Jean Stull 420-0800

Cooperative fall banding at Presque Isle State Park marked its 28th consecutive year in 1989. A total of 1043 birds of 60 species were banded over a 13-day period from 27 August to 15 October in 1136 net hours. This averaged about 92 birds/100 net hours with eight to 20 nets used each banding day.

If large numbers of passerines were blown in by the rainy, weakened, tail end of Hurricane Hugo in mid-September, they were missed. No major weather fronts changed expected banding totals and temperatures remained relatively mild throughout the period.

The station's highest total day and the highest total birds/ net hour day was 15 October when 220 birds were banded in 142 net hours, an average of 1.5 birds per net hour. Most of the birds that day were Golden-crowned Kinglets (51) and White-throated Sparrows (83). These two species are quite consistently in the top ten at this station.

In spite of only one August banding day in 1989, the only fall season in the last ten which exceeded 1989's total was 1983 when 1294 birds were banded. The total of 92 birds/ 100 net hours, however, was exceeded during that time period in 1981 (98), 1983 (100), and 1986 (100.8). Thirty September produced the best variety with 29 species.

Golden-crowned Kinglets (184) and Winter Wrens (48) were banded in record numbers, but no *Empidonax* flycatchers were captured. Thrushes were banded in average numbers. A slight rally was indicated for Brown Creepers and Red-eyed Vireos after a five-year decline and three Connecticut Warblers were unusual. Low catches of several warbler species for three to five consecutive years include: Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian (none at all this season), Bay-breasted, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Blackpoll.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet banded at Presque Isle on 8 October 1988 was caught and released at Kanata, Ontario, on 30 September 1989. The only Eastern Wood Pewee encountered was one which had been banded on 28 May 1988 and returned on 27 September 1989. A Northern Cardinal banded 5 May 1987 returned 15 October 1989. Not part of our fall data, but interesting nevertheless, was a Yellow Warbler banded here as an AHY on 15 May 1982 which has now returned six times, the latest on 27 May 1989, indicating its age to be at least eight years. We are, of course, assuming that it nests in the vicinity of the station.

We made no effort to catch shorebirds this season because of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers habitat degradation at Gull Point, the park's eastern-most tip where shorebirds traditionally stop to rest and feed. We welcomed dozens of visitors and are grateful to many who assisted. Banders were: Thelma Patton, Ronald Leberman, James G. Stull, and Jean H. Stull.

The loss of **Mary Leberman**, one of Presque Isle's first banders, who died on 28 August 1989, is deeply felt by all who knew her. She will be sorely missed at the banding station.

Hebron

415-0780

Potter County, Pennsylvania David W. Hauber

This was the first full year of operation for the Hebron banding station and the first year we can report on a complete fall migration season. This station is located in north central Pennsylvania approximately eight miles NW of Coundersport and one mile NE of Hebron. Banding is being carried out on a 110-acre hilltop farm (elevation 2225') approximately two-thirds of which is cultivated fields and one-third is mature hardwood forest. Most of the migration banding is done in a five-acre, seven-yearold clear cut adjacent to the farm. The clear cut is growing up to blackberry bramble undergrowth with a few young trees (cherry, aspen, ash, and maple). Several nets and traps were also set up around our home.

Banding was conducted on 57 days between 15 August and 15 November, resulting in 996 birds handled with 774 being new individuals of 57 species. There were 178 repeats and 44 returns from the limited banding done since we began 17 September 1988.

Of some significance are the 156 Indigo Buntings banded. This seems to have been due to a great number of this species roosting in the overgrown bramble of the clear cut overnight and traveling to an adjacent corn field to feed during the day.

One to four nets were used on 52 days for a total of 314 hours during which 378 unbanded birds were caught and banded for a total of 120 birds/100 net hours.

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

Although our fall 1989 banding effort (net hours), total number of birds banded, and number of species banded

were all the lowest since 1978, the ratio of birds caught/ 100 net hours was the second highest. More than 100 birds were banded on just ten days this fall; the busiest was 17 September when 176 birds were netted (including 59 Swainson's Thrushes, 30 Magnolia Warblers, and 24 Red-eyed Vircos among the 41 species handled). In general, the early part of the migration (August and early September) was normal or better for most species; thereafter, banding totals were low for most birds.

Banding totals for the following nine species were up or down two or more SD's:

Acadian Flycatcher	+5 SD (42 banded)
Veery	+7 SD (45)
Red-eyed Vireo	+2 SD (223)
Kentucky Warbler	+4 SD (18)
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	-3 SD (30)
Tennessee Warbler	-2 SD (57)
Nashville Warbler	-2 SD (17)
(Western) Palm Warb.	-2 SD (7)
Field Sparrow	-2 SD (53)

Banding demonstrations were given to several university classes during the season, and the station was a site for daily field trips during the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held in Pittsburgh in August.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following people who contributed to the success of the Powdermill banding program this season: Jim and Trish Gruber, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Barb and Ted Rich, Theresa Gay Rohall, Bob Shaw, Judy Ward. Mike and Evaleen Watko, Peggy Wisner, and D. Scott Wood.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory 390-0791 Grant County, West Virginia

George A. Hall

The thirty-second year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was the most disappointing year in the history of the station. The station was in continuous operation from 13 August to 16 October, with two additional October days. The station was closed because of weather on seven days and so some banding was carried out on 60 days. The rains with hurricane "Hugo" closed operations for a day, but no damage was done. There was snow on 8 October and also later in October.

A total of 4152 birds (second poorest year in which we have had full coverage) of 82 species were banded in a

station effort of 5870 net hours (second highest), giving a capture rate of 70.1 birds/100 net hours (lowest). Only 1553 birds were banded during September, usually the highest month. The big October flight of kinglets and juncos served to put the season totals in a better range. One new species, Henslow's Sparrow, was added to the station list which now stands at 116 forms with 133,564 birds banded. The hummingbird count stood at 241 released from the nets and 297 flying past the station.

Seven birds banded in 1988 and one banded in 1987 were recaptured this year, but of special interest was a Common Yellowthroat originally banded on 26 August 1982 which was recaptured on 16 August.

The early season had very poor results and the highest daily count in August-September was 163 on 10 September. Persistent high pressure areas dominated the Northeast and for many days the wind came out of the E, which is unfavorable for captures at this station. In October, there was one day of over 400 captures (486 on 13 October), one above 300 and only two above 200 captures.

The most numerous species this year was the Goldencrowned Kinglet with 465 bandings (and 671 released unbanded). In second place was the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 440 banded (down 39% from last year and down 48% from the ten-year average). Swainson's Thrush, after having made some recovery last year, declined again and was 43% below the ten-year average. The biggest declines below the ten-year average were the Blackburnian Warbler (down 83%), the Bay-breasted Warbler (down 83%) and the Blackpoll Warbler (down 81%). Of the 42 species analyzed, 20 were in average numbers (within one Standard Deviation (SD) of the 15-year average); 15 were more than one SD below; and only seven were more than one SD above that average. Most of these seven were October migrants not well sampled before 1988. Four species (Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellowrumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Sharp-shinned Hawk) were netted in record high numbers, while 11 species (Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler) were banded in the lowest numbers since before 1973.

There seems to be general agreement that bird populations (particularly warblers) are declining, but just how much this decline is responsible for our poor season and how much is the result of the unfavorable weather conditions cannot be established at present. During the season, 1583 people signed the visitors' book. These visitors came from 15 states, the District of Columbia, and from Denmark, East Germany, India, Japan, and Sri Lanka. As usual, several elementary and high school classes visited the station.

The banders who participated in 1989 were Walter Fye, Connie Skipper, Trudy Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, Leon Wilson, Charles Ziegenfus and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and George Hall. LeJay Graffious was again responsible for the shelter, and as usual, Genevieve and John Findley were in charge of the net lanes. Harriett and Mel Hooker and Ivarean Pierce provided assistance throughout the season, while Sue and Ken Heselton and Kathleen and Mike Finnegan were present for extended periods of time.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Ashton Berdine, Virginia Byers, Mike Clark, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Dennis Dawson, Kathy Devaul, Cindy Ellis, Hal Findley, Jeff Findley, Jenny Findley, Dawn Fox, Jay Fox, Matt Fox, Tom Fox, Anabelle Fye, JoAnn Graham, Phil Graham, Ray Kiddy, Richard Legg, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Jack Minear, Jolene Minear, Jonathan Minear, Jaccalene Minear, Jonavieve Minear, Janice Musser, Ben Myers, Evelyn Myers, Eph Olliver, Bill Pfingsten, Charles Pierce, Charlotte Pryor, Patrick Rhoades, Beth Ritter, Randy Ritter, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Joe Schreiber, Dave Skinner, Susan Skinner, Earl Smith, Kevin Ward, Bill Wentzel, Cory Wentzel, Jim Wiley, Martin Wiley, and Elsic Ziegenfus.

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