



# Eastern Regional News

**Eastern Bird Banding Association**

**Founded 1923**



## MEMORIAM

It is with regret and a deep sense of sorrow that I inform you of the passing of *Nadia (Mickie) Mutchler* on September 6, 1991.

As a bander for over 25 years and a long-time member of EBBA, Mickie has been a mainstay for the Eastern Bird Banding Association and, over the years, has given freely of her time in an effort to make EBBA and the *North American Bird Bander* all that she felt it should be. She served EBBA in many capacities: She was editor of the EBBA Newsletter for 12 years; assisted in the creation of NABB; was the chairperson of the Nominating Committee for several years; and currently was serving as a councillor and chairperson of the Membership Committee. She had also taken on the task of reorganizing the Atlantic Flyway Report and was starting to organize a raptor station summary.

EBBA was not the only beneficiary of her tireless efforts in the birding community. Mickie was the compiler of the Bethlehem, PA, Christmas Bird Count for 12 years before she moved to New York State. She was a long-standing member and volunteer worker for the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association. She was also a member of the Pennsylvania Raptor and Wildlife Association. As a member of the Sullivan County New York Audubon Society, she assisted in the spring and winter bird counts. Mickie also wrote a booklet entitled, "Little Striped Bird," in an effort to make sparrow identification easier.

She will be sorely missed. Those of us who had any contact with Mickie have many pleasant memories of her. Those memories will keep Mickie alive in our hearts. Her spirit will always be a part of EBBA.

On behalf of the Association, I offer Tom, her children, and grandchildren our sincere condolences on their loss.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, R.R. #2, Box 191, Kempton, PA 19529-9449.

Gerald K. Lahr, President



## EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association will be held **March 27-29, 1992**, at the Keller Conference Center in **State College, PA**. Members of the State College Bird Club will be assisting with registration, field trips, and bucket raffle.

Speakers will include Chan Robbins, Office of Migratory Bird Management; Margaret Brittingham, Forest Resources, Penn State; Daniel Brauning, Pennsylvania Bird Atlas; and Shirley Fonda, Bird Rehabilitator.

Contact **Dorothy Bordner**, 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801, to contribute to the **bucket raffle**. To reserve **exhibit space**, contact **Cathie and Roy Slack**, RD 1, Box 532, Besaw Road, Phoenix, NY 13135. If interested in **presenting a paper**, contact **Janet Shaffer**, RD 6, Box 338, Bedford, PA 15522.

Information regarding registration and accommodations will be forthcoming.

### CORRECTIONS

NABB Vol. XVI No. 2, pg. 46: EBBA Banders' Questionnaire 1991, Species most Frequently Banded table:

BRCH should be BRCR  
CHOW should be GHOW  
COEA should be GOEA

### ATTENTION

#### EBBA MEMBERS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION

At the last EBBA conference in Wilmington, Delaware, I volunteered to be the contact person for the Southeastern Region. There are 84 banders in this region and I am interested in collecting information for Atlantic Flyway Review in this region and compiling a summary of data for publication in *North American Bird Bander*.

Since there has been little or no information published in NABB from this area in the past few years, I hope we can contribute by increasing the distribution of data from this region. I can be contacted at the following address:

H. David Leake  
113 Poteskeet Trail  
Southern Shores, NC 27949  
Phone (919) 261-6850

I hope to hear from you soon.

### ATTENTION NORTH CAROLINA BANDERS

Professor Charles Apperson of the Department of Entomology at North Carolina State University is currently engaged in a Lyme disease research project and is asking for our assistance. In the northeastern U.S. where thousands of cases of Lyme disease occur each year, the tick vector is known to be the deer tick. In North Carolina and the rest of the southeast, only a small number of Lyme disease cases are reported. The tick vector of Lyme disease in North Carolina has not been identified.

Research completed in the northeastern U.S. indicates that birds are important hosts of deer ticks. Professor Apperson is interested in determining if migratory birds are transporting ticks as they fly south for the winter.

If you are willing to examine the birds you are banding for ticks, Professor Apperson will send you the necessary materials for collecting the ticks and sending them back to him. You can write to the following address:

Professor Charles Apperson  
North Carolina State University  
Box 7613  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7613  
Phone: (919)515-2703

# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV

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

Results from the 1990 fall banding season ranged from "best ever" at Clarkson to "third lowest in 25 years" at Farmersville Station. Weather was mentioned as a problem at Presque Isle, Alfred, Kestrel Haven, and Allegheny Front. Most stations had better late-season than early-season results. Flycatchers were most often mentioned as being down in numbers. Warbler results were characterized by many stations as having quality rather than quantity. Alfred, for example, banded 22 warbler species but 14 species were represented by less than five individuals. "Northern" warblers (Tennessee, Nashville, Bay-breasted) linked to the spruce budworm crash were down at Powdermill, Maitland, and Allegheny Front yet Cape May Warbler had conflicting results (up at Powdermill; down at Allegheny Front).

There was good Black-capped Chickadee movement, making the "top ten" at ten of the 13 reporting stations. Chickadees were migrating in large numbers at Braddock Bay between 17 October and 5 November; they peaked on 14 October at Powdermill, while at Farmersville, numbers remained high from

17 August to 27 September and spiked again between 11-20 November. At Braddock Bay during the late-October period when most chickadees appeared to be migrants, the age ratios were 52% HY, 33% AHY, and 15% U. At Alfred, the ratios were 37% HY, 53% AHY, 11% U.

Read the text of each contributing station's report and note how much more than mere accumulation of numbers is occurring: a new MAP project at Baltimore Woods; correlation of banding totals with local breeding bird censuses at Kestrel Haven; Mourning Warbler studies at Hebron; night-netting experimentation at Alfred; HY Red-tailed Hawk and chickadee migration studies at Braddock Bay. Allegheny Front has begun more organized efforts at reporting birds (and butterflies!) passing over their station.

AFR IV contributing stations' fall 1990 banding totals ranged from 107 to 4991 and total species from 20 to 99. We are a widely diversified group but all are making interesting contributions to ornithological research.

Table 1. Region IV Summary

	Maitland River Ontario	Lewiston New York	Clarkson New York	Braddock Bay New York	Baltimore Woods New York	Beaver Meadow New York	Farmersville Station New York
Days Operated	34	11	46	**26	19	10	48
Number Nets Used	*38	16	1-5	1-16	11	*1-5	4.5
Total Net Hours	14,697	744	656	1157	1731	82	769
Largest Daily Catch		56	56	103	40	27	28
Birds Banded 1989	852	333	53	770	226	56	383
Birds Banded 1990	522	389	554	1119	238	107	299
Diff. Species 1989	63	53	17	44	44	10	42
Diff. Species 1990	58	50	26	66	43	20	29
Birds/100 NH 1989	7	56	18	90	17	33	22
Birds/100 NH 1990	4	52	84	66	14	55	18

\* Plus some traps.

\*\* Excluding raptor banding.

**Table 1 . Region IV Summary (cont.)**

	Kestrel Hvn NY	Alfred Sta. New York	Presque Isle PA	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Allegheny Front WV
Days Operated	63	87	25	58	98	69
Number Nets Used	1-10	1-9	8-20	1-11	3-55	-
Total Net Hours	1915	2857	1274	565	10,842	6446
Largest Daily Catch	64	39	305	48	163	264
Birds Banded 1989	760	548	1043	774	5501	4152
Birds Banded 1990	950	645	1060	746	4939	4991
D ff Species 1989	55	63	60	57	97	82
D ff Species 1990	64	71	65	54	99	78
Birds/ 100 NH 1989	99	23	92	120	55	70
Birds/ 100 NH 1990	60	23	83	88	53	77

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

The station was in operation from 11 August to 28 October. Banding was carried out 15 days in August, 11 days in September, and 8 days in October. A total of 522 birds of 58 species were banded which is a low total for this station. The station was operated with the assistance of Steven Miles. During the fall migration, banding demonstrations were done for visiting groups from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Statford Field Naturalists, and The Kitchener Field Naturalists Clubs.

Banding equipment used was again consistent with that of previous years with up to 38 mist nets as well as a sparrow trap and jay trap in operation. Spruce budworm-eating species such as Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers continued their recent trend of reduced numbers moving through this location in the fall. Total 1990 bandings of these species were the lowest of any year since this station began in 1975. The Red-winged Blackbird roost across the Maitland River from the station was not used in 1990 resulting in the lowest numbers of this species since 1976.

Noteworthy species banded in 1990 included the station's first fall Golden-winged Warbler, a Chipping Sparrow and a Field Sparrow. Both sparrow species, which are common Ontario birds, do not usually appear at this station which is located in a wooded river valley flood plain.

**Lewiston 431-0790**  
Niagara County, NY  
Jerald J. Farrell

The fall 1990 season at this location started on 27 August and ended on 15 October with a total of 11 banding days totalling

46.5 net hours. An average of 16 nets totalling 744 net hours resulted in 52 birds/100 net hours. There were nine retraps. Best day was 15 October with a total of 56 birds banded. Out of the total of 389 birds banded, there were 50 different species, 22 of which belonged to the warbler group.

There were no great surprises over the season. The number of birds banded was approximately the same per 100 net hours and the top species fell right in line with previous years. Very few planned banding days were lost due to weather.

This banding station is in operation for both the spring and fall warbler migration periods and has just completed its 15th year. Over that time, there have been 6859 birds banded and a total of 102 different species. There have been many interesting local retraps over the year, but not a single foreign retrap was captured and only six of the station's birds were recovered from distant locations, none of which were by other banders.

**Clarkson 431-0775**  
Monroe County, NY  
William D. Symonds

The fifth year of banding for the Clarkson Station was the best on record, but a closer examination of the data reveals some interesting contrasts.

A total of 554 new birds were banded of 26 species with 185 repeats, 22 returns, and 2 foreign retraps (both House Finch) during 656 net hours of operation on 46 days. The station was in operation from 6 August to 15 November, using 1-5 mist nets. There were 84 birds banded/100 net hours of operation with the largest daily catch being 56 birds on 20 October.

In general, the migration was poor during August and September with only 56 birds banded in contrast to the 498 birds

**Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1990.**

Mailand Rvr Ont		Lewiston N.Y.		Clarkson N.Y.		Brad. Bay N.Y.		Balt. Woods N.Y.		Beavr Mdwos NY		Frmrslle Sta. t NY	
79	SCJU	51	GRCA	199	HOFI	333	RTHA	43	COYE	37	AMGO	78	AMGO
76	GCKI	51	MAWA	162	SCJU	231	BCCH	27	MAWA	22	HOFI	53	BCCH
46	BCCH	31	COYE	79	WTSP	138	WTSP	16	REVI	16	BCCH	50	SCJU
43	RCKI	22	RCKI	26	AMGO	35	HETH	15	BCCH	6	PUFI	44	HOFI
19	OVEN	21	SWTH	17	SOSP	34	GCTH	14	TEWA	5	SCJU	10	BLJA
19	MYWA	20	WTSP	17	BCCH	32	SWTH	11	BTNW			9	MODO
15	SOSP	19	BCCH	15	WCSP	32	SOSP	9	BWWA			5	GRCA
13	BRCR	16	SOSP	5	PISI	27	GCKI	8	EAWP			5	WBNU
13	HETH	14	GCTH	4	NOCA	24	RCKI	8	NAWA			5	WTSP
12	SWTH	13	AMRE	4	GCKI	24	GRCA	7	GRCA			5	GCKI
Kestrel Hvn NY		Alfred Sta. NY		Presq. Isle PA		Hebron PA		Powderml PA		Alleg. Frnt WV			
269	SOSP	68	BCCH	363	GCKI	115	SCJU	370	SCJU	998	BLPW		
75	GRCA	60	SOSP	88	WTSP	104	INBU	286	CMWA	494	BTBW		
71	AMGO	59	GCKI	79	RCKI	63	SOSP	225	AMGO	420	SWTH		
63	BCCH	44	SCJU	56	MAWA	59	HOFI	204	REVI	308	TEWA		
35	MYWA	41	MAWA	46	YWAR	44	AMGO	204	HOFI	299	CMWA		
34	GCKI	34	WTSP	36	WIWR	28	COYE	204	COYE	297	GCKI		
29	RCKI	33	COYE	32	BRCR	27	WTSP	187	SOSP	292	BLJA		
26	COYE	27	AMGO	31	HETH	21	MAWA	183	GRCA	263	SCJU		
25	WTSP	20	RCKI	30	GRCA	20	CSWA	183	WTSP	204	BTNW		
23	SCJU	15	BLJA	26	REVI	19	TEWA	144	BCCH	144	MAWA		
		15	MYWA	26	SOSP	19	BCCH						
						19	GRCA						

banded from 1 October to 15 November.

Record numbers of Slate-colored Juncos, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were banded while only seven thrushes and no warblers, vireos, or flycatchers were banded. Scarlet Tanager and Fox Sparrow were new species. A Northern Shrike banded on 25 October was the second record for the station.

Four Slate-colored Juncos had white-tipped wing coverts and a White-throated Sparrow had orange lores.

**Braddock Bay Banding Station**                      **431-0774**  
 Monroe County, NY  
 Elizabeth W. Brooks

Fall banding was conducted at Braddock Bay for the sixth consecutive year. Raptors were banded for the third fall at Hogan Point and at the main blind off Manitou Beach Road for 36 days beginning 30 July and ending on 11 September. Passerine banding was done at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach station, at Hogan Pt., and at two backyard locations near the main station, all in the town of Greece. Banding was done by Jeff Bouton, Elizabeth Brooks, Kevin Griffith, Tom McDonald, Frank Nicoletti, Dan Niven, Bob Oswald, Sharon Skelly, Bill Symonds, and Dave Tetlow, with help from several volunteers.

There were 1119 birds banded representing 66 species, an improvement in numbers and species over the previous two years but not up to the numbers of 1987 (2415 of 77 species). From one to 16 mist nets were used for passerines for a total of 1157 net hours on 26 days from 11 August until 3 November.

Our best day was on 26 September when 103 birds were banded. There were 66 birds/100 net hours banded at the passerine stations. Six new species included Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, and Common Grackle.

There were 31 repeats and 8 returns. Returns included six birds in their second year, one in its third year, and a cardinal in its fifth year. Fall 1990 HY Red-tailed Hawks banded at Braddock Bay have already been re-encountered at Sparta, Hawk Cliff, and Welland, Ontario, as well as Cape May Point, NJ, and Madison, GA.

Interesting passerine foreign re-encounters included a HY Black-capped Chickadee banded at Braddock Bay on 31 October 1990 that was trapped and released in Albion, NY (23 miles WSW) on 4 April 1991.

Generally, sparrow, thrush, and warbler numbers were disappointing. There was a large movement of chickadees along the lake shore during the last two weeks of October and 231 individuals were banded. Of 112 chickadees caught on 17, 18, 30 and 31 October, 52% were HY, 33% were AHY, and 15% were aged unknown.

Many area birders visited the stations during the season; a banding demonstration was held for several local church school classes.

Appreciation is extended to Joan and Jeff Dodge, Jason Franz, Karen Huey, Larry Keating, Wayne Klockner, Lakeview Community Church, Bob Marcotte, Dick Mathers, Brian Mongi, Jeanne Skelly and Lloyd Swart. A special vote of thanks goes to Gary and Gretchen Van Noy and Bill Kaiser for their support, interest, and permission to band on their land.

**Baltimore Woods** 425-0761  
Onondaga County, NY  
Douglas Whitman

1990 was the fourth year of bird banding at Baltimore Woods. The BBL-approved projects are: public conservation education and monitoring breeding bird populations at the wildlife preserve. The Monitoring Avian Productivity (MAP) Project was undertaken this year. Nineteen days were spent banding 238 fall migrants of 43 species. The largest number of birds banded occurred on 16 September with 40 birds of 15 species.

Compared with 1989 fall migration data from this station, Gray Catbird fell from the most common species in 1989 (33 birds) to the least common (7) on the top ten species list.

Peak warbler migration days occurred on 16-18 September. Overall, 62 warblers of 13 species were banded in the three-day period, with Black-throated Green and Tennessee Warblers being most common, and one Connecticut Warbler, the rarest.

During the 19-day fall migration banding period at this station, 152 visitors observed birds close up, asked questions, and learned about interdependence in nature--humankind included--through banding.

**Beaver Meadow Audubon Center** 424-0782  
North Java, NY  
David Junkin

The Beaver Meadow Audubon Center banding station was in operation for ten days in the fall of 1990 between 15 August and 15 November. Four people banded during that time using nets and traps on four days and nets alone on two days and traps alone on four days. The 82 net hours were less than we had tried since 1979 when the Beaver Meadow program was started. Netting brought in 45 birds giving us one of the best birds-per-net-hour ratios we have ever experienced.

Banders were Jane Reed Cole, Taddy Dann, Betsy Davis and Dave Junkin, with assistance from Don Clark and Rich Wells.

The report for 1989 was so poor I didn't bother to turn one in, though in retrospect I realize that that interrupted a pattern, no matter how dismal our records appeared to me.

We experienced low numbers of warblers, sparrows, and thrushes in proportion to other species. But our banding was later than most warblers and earlier than sparrows and thrushes. We did not use the nets enough to really draw conclusions about populations.

**Farmersville Station** 422-0782  
Cattaraugus County, NY  
Donald F. Clark

1990 was the 22nd year banding records have been sent to Region IV of the Atlantic Flyway Review. A total of 299 new birds were banded. Banding started on 15 August and ran through 15 November 1990. There were 125 repeats, 73 returns, with 137 new birds netted in 769 net hours. This resulted in 17.8 birds/100 net hours--on the low side for this station. September was the third lowest and October the fourth lowest monthly catch in the past 25 years. An average of 4.5 nets were used for the 31 days of netting.

A Hairy Woodpecker banded 11 October 1975 was retrapped in May. This bird is at least 16 years old and equals the longevity record published by Kathy Klimkiewicz. An American Goldfinch banded in September 1988 by J. Gregoire in Burdett, New York, was recaptured on 28 July and 1 August 1990. A House Finch banded here in November 1983 was recaptured by Bob McKinney at Rochester, New York, in June 1986 and again in August 1988. An Evening Grosbeak banded here in November 1987 was recovered in April 1989 at Moncton, New Brunswick. A Slate-colored Junco banded here in October 1986 was recovered sometime in April 1990 near Dansville, New York.

The red neck-banded (XM88) Canada Goose observed in October 1989 was claimed not to be in their computer files by the Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife and Research Unit. A yellow neck-banded (ORJ7) Canada Goose was observed on 26 October 1990. The Fish and Wildlife Division at Cornell University replied that they are no longer providing information to people who report these numbers. Therefore, I feel there is no incentive left to cooperate in these projects. It is a rather short-sighted concept if they ever wish help in future programs. An orange neck-banded (IAM3) Canada Goose was observed in November 1990. If any reader could identify the banding sites for these geese, I would appreciate the information.

There was a significant decline in both numbers and species from 1989. Only five warblers of four species were caught. One thrush and one robin were banded. The berry crop was abundant this fall. Black cherries were so plentiful they actually paved our roadways. There were no flycatchers or vireos and even the sparrows were low in numbers. Of the newly banded birds that could be aged, 87.7% were HY and 12.3% , AHY. This is a higher percentage of HY birds than normal for this station.

Black-capped Chickadee and American Goldfinch were banded in higher numbers. The five Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Red-breasted Nuthatch were surprises--usually they come during the winter months. There were 32 chickadees that returned during this time. One was banded in 1982, three in 1985, one in 1986, one in 1987, seven in 1988, ten in 1989, and nine during the winter months of 1990.

#### **Kestrel Haven**

**422-0764**

Town of Hector  
Schuyler County, NY  
John and Sue Gregoire

We banded on 63 days during fall migration 1990. This was a new station high as was the 17.5 inches of rain and snow accumulated during the period. The vagaries of weather forced us to watch from the kitchen window on too many rainy, windy, and birdy days; but it also introduced several new species to the station. Spring migration numbers and summer breeding surveys alarmed us as neotropical migrants were much lower than the norm and breeding pairs/singing males were significantly below expectations (e.g., one of a norm of 12 Red-eyed Vireos in the 60 acres). Several local breeders departed prior to the mid-August start of banding leaving us with a critical information gap on two species of concern: Chestnut-sided Warbler and Indigo Bunting. We encountered neither species this fall, perhaps indicating a more than local low for these species.

In reviewing our data and concerns for the compilation of this report, we were reminded of the potential value of information available at all of the reporting stations. Unfortunately, we never see a well-compiled and analyzed report nor is such

information requested. Rather than reviewing departures from the norm, breeding success, neotropical status, etc., we are reduced to providing the grossest of competitive level comparison data which does not reflect the scientific value of our efforts. We propose, and volunteer to assist with, a much more detailed reporting and compilation structure that leads to timely reporting of our findings in NABB and elsewhere; the work and data are available in all our field records/notes. As an example, it certainly wouldn't be much of an extra effort to report % HY as an indicator of breeding success, as all stations are run by master banders and skulling information should be simply a matter of counting the data. We can and should go much deeper than the example given.

Departing the soapbox, we experienced a steady migration which was mundane in numbers (high of 64 on 8 October) but superb in quality. The strong frontal systems from the west and northwest combined with the blocking effects of a few "backdoor" fronts and heavy, sustained winds from the south to present us with nine new species for a fall cumulative of 85. Normally, such additions are single birds, so we were delighted to handle several of each new species.

This was the year of the catbird and kinglet, as we had record numbers of all three--one local catbird had three clutches. New this year were Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Black-and-White Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. Significantly high numbers were Black-capped Chickadee, E. Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, and Canada Warbler. Thankfully, the low expected for Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, etc., based on spring/summer local data, did not occur on a wide-spread basis and may have been geographically isolated. We are awaiting breeding census data compiled in the nearby Finger Lakes National Forest by a Cornell researcher in order to compare locally. Nashville Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow numbers were much lower than expected, while the lack of Indigo Buntings and Chestnut-sided Warblers remains a mystery; perhaps they all left early.

Banding on every possible day, we achieved 950 of 64 species in 1915 net hours. We handled a total of 1151 including 164 repeats and 37 returns. Of all birds banded, 89.3% were HY. All species banded in excess of ten individuals displayed a HY percentage of 85 or better. Of our returns, several were annual visitors now reaching four and five years. Two were Yellow Warblers banded in the spring of 1987 as SY-M and F. Local returns remained good, including one Song Sparrow banded in October 1986 as AHY, a Slate-colored Junco banded in November 1986 as AHY, and several chickadees and goldfinch--all over five years.

Reported re-encounters included one from fellow bander Don Clark who checked and released a goldfinch on 28 July 1990

that we banded as a HY-M on 10 September 1988. This was a westerly movement of some 75 miles. A robin banded as HY-U in the fall of 1988 was found dead in Duncansville, PA, in June of 1989 (220 miles SW) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded in October 1984 as HY-F was reported dead in Punta Gorda, FL, in March 1990, its seventh year.

Our thanks to the hard working folks at the Banding Lab in Laurel, MD, whose extra efforts have simplified our reporting and provided us with a welcome rapid turn around of recovery data.

### **Alfred Station**

**421-0774**

Allegany County, NY  
Elizabeth W. Brooks

Fall banding was carried out for the 13th year since full-time banding began in 1975. Beginning on 1 August and continuing until 15 November, the station was in operation on 87 days. From one to nine nets were used in the same locations near feeders, along a small stream, and alongside a small pond surrounded by shrubs and mature pine and spruce, as they have been for the past 12 years. A total of 645 birds were banded of 71 species during 2857 net hours of operation (22.58 birds/100 net hours).

As in 1989, there were no really big days. Largest daily catch was on 5 November when 39 birds (mostly juncos) were banded. Twenty or more birds were banded on 3 September and 8 and 10 October. There were 206 repeats and 40 returns. Most returns were chickadees (23) and Blue Jays (8). Oldest returns were a chickadee in its seventh year, a Blue Jay in its ninth year, and another Blue Jay in its eleventh year.

Overall, fall 1990 results were the second highest since banding began in 1975, with only 1982 numbers higher. Number of species (71) was a record, but 27 species were represented by only one or two individuals. A record 22 species of warblers were banded but only eight species were represented by more than five individuals. New species for fall were E. Screech-Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl, Whip-poor-will and Yellow Warbler. An experiment with night netting on calm, clear nights produced quality rather than quantity, with the Whip-poor-will (five days later than the regional date guide's last fall date), and the Saw-whet (18 days earlier than the regional guide's early date). Species banded in higher-than-normal numbers were Golden-crowned Kinglet (+3.2 S.D.), W. Palm Warbler (+2.4 S.D.), E. Wood-Pewee (+3 S.D.), N. Cardinal (+2.3 S.D.), and Hermit Thrush (+2.1 S.D.). Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow were all up by more than 1.5 S.D.; robin declined (-1.5 S.D.).

Of special interest were two White-throated Sparrows both with orange rather than the normal yellow lore spot.

### **Presque Isle State Park**

**420-0800**

Erie, PA  
Ronald F. Leberman

A bird banding station has been in operation at Presque Isle State Park for 29 years. In 1990, two records were set. One was the new record for the most days of operation (25), beating out the old record of 23 from 1964. The other record was for 17.85 inches of rain, making this the wettest fall on record. Despite all the rain, 1060 new birds were banded (ninth highest) of 65 species, using 1274 net hours for less than one bird per net hour or 83 birds per 100 net hours. Eastern Kingbird was the only new species. The best day this fall was 305 birds netted on 14 October (mostly kinglets).

Weather at the station was mild for the most part with no major cold fronts until mid-October. No frost or snow was present, but many days of winds from the south and east resulted in poor numbers. The Stulls did not attempt to band shorebirds at Gull Point again this year; perhaps when the habitat improves, banding can resume there. But at this time, it is critical to the birds that they be undisturbed during their short stop-over on the point.

Flycatcher numbers were down again this year--perhaps due to all the rain. Sparrows were also down, but a nice surprise was our first Fox Sparrow in eight years. Vireos were above average in numbers and a White-eyed Vireo netted on 11 August still had a brood patch, suggesting that it was breeding in the area. All our three other White-eyed Vireos were taken in mid-October. Warbler numbers were fair to good and most above the 29-year average with the exception of Myrtle Warbler which was way below average with only four banded this fall. Wrens, kinglets and thrushes were present in good numbers.

A deer tick was removed from a Black-and-White Warbler and the tick given to the park office officials for study. A cardinal and a Black-capped Chickadee, both banded in fall 1989, returned. Two interesting re-encounters were a Common Grackle, banded in September 1986 and found dead in Erie, PA, in June 1990; and a Slate-colored Junco, banded in October 1989 and found dead at Mill Village, PA, in November 1989.

Banders were Ronald F. Leberman, Thelma Patton, James G. Stull and Jean H. Stull. Our thanks to all those who helped and to the park staff and employees who helped in many ways.

### **Hebron**

**415-0780**

Potter County, PA  
David W. Hauber

1990 was the second full year of operation for the Hebron banding station. Banding was carried out in the same locations as last year with netting being done in a five-acre clear cut and netting and trapping in the yard at our home. With an increase



in the number of nets, our netting hours are up but the number of birds banded is down.

Banding was conducted on 58 days between 11 August and 15 November. A total of 978 birds were handled with 746 new birds banded of 54 species. Both the total of new birds and total species are down from 1989. There were 147 repeats and 85 returns. One to 11 nets were used on 53 days for a total of 565 net hours. Five hundred unbanded birds were netted and banded for a total of 88 birds/100 net hours.

An interesting finding from 1990 is the decline in our area of House Finches. In the fall of 1988, 272 House Finches were banded. In 1989, I banded 157 with 40 returns from 1988. In 1990, 59 were banded with 14 returns. I have not had House Finches at my feeders since mid-November and others in the area who generally are overrun with them are reporting none or very few.

The special project at the Hebron banding station concerns Mourning Warblers. Banding for this species in 1989 and 1990 has been carried out in two clear-cut areas that are growing back with blackberry bushes. In 1989, I banded 53 Mourning Warblers (18 were HY birds). 1990 banding produced 34 new Mourning Warblers and 11 returns from 1989. These figures are for the entire year, so they include both migration seasons as well as the nesting season. All of the returns were birds banded as adults the year before. None of the HY birds from 1989 were recaptured in 1990. In 1991, I hope to be able to get into several other clear cuts as well as the two I have been working to see if, among other things, I can find any of the HY birds.

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

More than 100 birds were banded on 11 days this fall, but this is the first time in many years that we failed to capture more than 200 birds on any day. Our busiest day was 16 September, when a total of 163 birds was banded, including 20 Chipping Sparrows, 16 Cape May Warblers, 15 Red-eyed Vireos, 14 Magnolia Warblers, and 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, among 36 species. In general, the fall migration for many species was a little later than usual at Powdermill, and several birds were banded on unusually late dates. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, for example, was netted on 17 October; a Yellow-throated Warbler on 22 September; and a Canada Warbler, banded on 21 November, was rehandled on the 30th.

Our 1990 fall banding total of 4939 birds was the lowest since 1976, when just 4106 birds were banded. However, our effort this fall (in terms of net hours) was the second lowest since 1978, and our overall capture rate (45.5 birds/100 net hours) was only a bit lower than the 1988-1989 average of 49.5.

Similarly, an analysis of fall 1990 capture rates of 52 species compared to those species' ten-year average tells a somewhat different story than would a simple comparison of species' banding totals. If we accept a departure of two or more standard deviations from the mean as an approximation of statistical significance, then out of the 52 species analyzed, nine were caught in above-average numbers (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Indigo Bunting). Just five species (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler) were below average. Our 1990 capture rate for the remaining 38 species was within two standard deviations of the ten-year mean; 19 of these were within one S.D. of average.

As a group, "northern" warblers made a poor showing, especially Tennessee, Nashville, and Bay-breasted Warblers. In this same group, however, Cape May Warbler had by far its highest capture rate in the last ten years at Powdermill. Thrushes were also down, except for Gray-checked, but it is important to notice the sometimes pronounced annual fluctuations in capture rate for these species over the past ten years at Powdermill.

As we have cautioned before (*N.Amer. Bird Bander* 13:80-81; *N.Amer. Bird Bander* 15:74-75), analysis of trends in migrant "populations," through comparison of yearly banding totals and/or capture rates, is greatly confounded by factors (e.g., weather) that affect both migration timing and routes and capture efficiency at the banding station. Furthermore, samples of migrants almost certainly are comprised of birds from across a broad geographic area, from disjunct breeding populations that may be experiencing distinctly different trends in reproductive success, as well as in survival on their tropical wintering grounds. Clearly, by the time that localized decreases in breeding bird populations have coalesced into the kind of broad decline that would show up as an unequivocal, overall reduction in the number of fall migrants captured at any given banding station, the time for conservation measures might well be past for many species. Therefore, geographic areas of declining productivity and overwinter survival of migrant species, as well as the causes for these declines, need to be pinpointed as soon as possible.

The recent formation of the Institute for Bird Populations, and specifically that organization's Monitoring Avian Productivity (MAP) project under the direction of David DeSante, is an important step in this direction. Through this cooperative, continent-wide breeding season effort, bird banding results may eventually contribute in valuable ways to our understanding of the population dynamics of song birds and to the cause of their conservation in ways that migration season banding data simply cannot.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following people who contributed to the success of the fall banding program at

Powdermill in 1990: Jim and Trish Gruber, Bonnie Mulvihill, Marilyn Niedermeier, Barb Rich, Ted Rich, Theresa Gay Rohall, Bob Shaw, Mike and Evaleen Watko, Peggy Wisner and D. Scott Wood.

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

The 33rd year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was another disappointing one with respect to the number of birds banded. The migratory flight was not as poor as it was in 1989, but it still does not compare with the "golden years" of the early 1980's. The station was in continuous operation from 13 August to 15 October and 12 additional October days. Weather forced the closing of the station on five days so that some banding was done on 69 days.

A total of 4991 birds (13th best year) of 78 species were banded with a station effort of 6446 net hours (highest total), giving a capture efficiency of 77.4 birds/100 net hours (third lowest). Only 376 birds were banded in August but the September total of 2605 birds was a great improvement over last year. The October total of 2010 was less than last year despite greater coverage. No new species were banded and so the station list is at 116 forms with 138,555 birds banded.

During the last half of August, a high pressure system sat over the area and the migration was a mere trickle. There were four moderate waves in September with the bulk of the migration occurring between 25 September and 7 October. On only four days was the capture total in excess of 200 and the highest daily count was only 264 on 16 September. The great kinglet flight of 1989 did not repeat this year.

The most numerous species was the Blackpoll Warbler with 998 bandings (25% above the ten-year average), the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 494 bandings (42% below the ten-year average) was second, and the Swainson's Thrush with 409 bandings (almost exactly the ten-year average) was third. Of 63 species analyzed, 33 were banded in average numbers (within one S.D. of the ten-year average); 13 were banded in numbers greater than one S.D. above that average, and 17 were more than one S.D. below the average. However, for the warblers, eight species were in average numbers, 14 were more than one S.D. below average, and none were more than one S.D. above the average. Four species (White-breasted Nuthatch, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and Fox Sparrow) were netted in record high numbers.

The thrush migration was a great improvement over recent years, with the return of good numbers of Swainson's Thrushes and the record numbers of Gray-cheeks and Hermits. Wood Thrushes remain low, however. The Blackpoll was the only warbler that had a bright picture. The high warbler counts of past years were swollen by the reaction of the so-called Spruce Budworm specialists to an outbreak of that pest. The outbreak

is now over and this is reflected in the greatly reduced numbers of those specialists (Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers). Since some species that are not affected by the budworm populations have also declined, it is evident that it is simplistic to assign a single cause to the very real decline in some warbler species.

A new feature was added to the project this year with day-long counts of the numbers of certain species of migrants that passed over the station. A total of 703 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted (154 on 28 August); over 11,000 Blue Jays (3186 on 5 October); 2500 American Goldfinches (305 on 29 August), and 725 Monarch Butterflies (226 on 14 September).

During the season, 1874 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 21 states, the District of Columbia, and from Belgium, Denmark, England, and Germany. As usual, several elementary and high school classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Barbara Billsborough, Walter Fye, Sue Heselton, Trudy Smith, Jo Lane Stern, Judy Ward, 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 provided assistance throughout the season as did Ivarean Pierce who also headed up the Blue Jay-Hummingbird count. Ken Heselton was present for extended periods of time.

The following people aided in tending nets, collecting cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: John Bell, Mike Clark, Carolyn Conrad, Dorothy Conrad, Helen Conrad, Kathy Devaul, Linda Dunwoody, Steve Dunwoody, Cindy Ellis, Brian Findley, Hal Findley, Jeff Findley, Jenny Findley, Kenneth Findley, Dawn Fox, Jay Fox, Matt Fox, Tom Fox, Anabelle Fye, Barb Graff, JoAnn Graham, Phil Graham, Mike Griffith, William Hershberger, Susan Hinzman, Linda Hollenberg, Anne Hurley, George Hurley, Patrick Hurley, Tom Hurley, Ray Kiddy, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Jason McCullough, Jack Mineer, Jolene Mineer, Jonathan Mineer, Jaccalene Mineer, Jonavieve Mineer, Janice Musser, Ben Myers, Evelyn Myers, Bill Pflingsten, Charles Pierce, Craig Pitts, Charlotte Pryor, Beth Ritter, Randy Ritter, Stuart Robbins, Carl Rowe, Ruth Rowe, Joe Schreiber, Bill Smith, Earl Smith, Andy Weeks, Bill Wentzel, Brad Wentzel, Cory Wentzel, Trella Whaley, Jim Wiley, Martin Wiley, Betty Wilson, Hartsel Wilson, Leon Wilson, and Elsie Ziegenfus.

We also thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor Jim Page, District Ranger Jerry Bremer, Recreation Specialist Monica Gallion, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to Walt Lesser of the D.N.R. for the use of the Laneville Cabin for housing and for storage of the shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

# AFR: Raptor Banding Summaries

## Braddock Bay - Hawk Banding

432 Manitou Beach Road  
 Hilton, NY 14468  
 Jeffrey Bouton  
 Jeffery Dodge

A total of 691 hawks were captured at Braddock Bay this spring (March through May 1991). This is the second highest capture total for hawks in the history of the project. The diurnal raptors were captured in the usual manner at one of our four banding stations (Main, North, Hogan Point, and our newest location Payne Beach). Additional birds were captured in the owl nets at the Kaiser/Manitou Beach Passerine Banding Station, or road trapped in the immediate vicinity using bal-chattris. Record high capture totals were recorded for Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks, and American Kestrel. Had it not been for lack of Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1991 would have been a banner year for hawk banding at Braddock Bay.

A record high 15 of previously banded hawks were captured. Three of these were returns. The first, #745-91980, was banded originally as an adult female Cooper's Hawk on 22 March 1989 and was recaptured 16 March 1991. The second was an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk, #1493-57709, banded 24 August 1990 and recaptured on 20 March 1991. The third, a third-year sharpie, #952-86882, was captured incidentally in passerine banding nets at the Kaiser/Manitou Beach Station on 8 May 1991 and was recaptured in the same location on 14 May 1991. One of the twelve foreign recaptures was banded as a second-year male Cooper's in October 1990 near Toronto, Ontario, Canada and was recaptured at Braddock Bay on 8 April 1991. We are still waiting for more information on the remaining eleven.

Other highlights include the capture of our first two Rough-legged Hawks. The first was a light morph adult captured at Payne Beach Station on 28 March, and the second was an immature light morph in heavy molt captured on 16 May. On 6 May, an adult Broad-winged Hawk was caught in a mist net at the Main Station. This is only the second adult Broad-winged ever captured at Braddock Bay. Also, three adult male Northern Harriers and an adult male Northern Goshawk was captured. The peak capture of 59 birds recorded on 29 April is one of the lowest in the history of the project. Hopefully, next year the Sharp-shinned Hawks will decide to return and we will double our totals.

Many helped make this a successful season. Special thanks go out to all of our staff of licensed banders and volunteers-Dave Tetlow and Tom McDonald at Hogan Point; Frank Nicoletti at Payne Beach; Dan Niven and Bill Symonds at Main. We would also like to thank our guest banders-Joey Mason and Mike Maurer from Massachusetts; Judy Bell from the Southern Tier; Alan Hide from Massachusetts; Kim Stahler from Ohio. We must not forget the rinky dink hawkbanders (dickie bird banders who secretly love trying their hands at catching real birds)-Betsy Brooks, Lauren Parmelee, Sharon Skelly, and Bob Oswald. Gaboons Jason Franz, Dick Mather, and Brian Mongi offered many hours of help.

Hawk Captures by Month During Spring 1991 at Braddock Bay, New York

Species	March	April	May	Total
Northern Harrier	4	10	3	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	231	81	319
Cooper's Hawk	26	85	22	133
Northern Goshawk	2	13	5	20
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	2	0	5
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	2	2
Red-tailed Hawk	21	35	14	70
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	1	2
American Kestrel	35	82	0	117
Merlin	0	4	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>691</b>

## Braddock Bay - Owl Banding

Braddock Bay Raptor Research conducted an owl banding project during the spring of 1991 for the fourth consecutive year. The banding operation was conducted from 5 March to 5 May. A total of 52 out of 62 nights were covered with 9059 net/hours, with an average of 174.2 net/hours per night. Record high capture totals were tallied for Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared, Short-eared, Great Horned, and Barred Owls. No Eastern Screech-Owls were captured this year. Only one previously banded owl was encountered—a Northern Saw-whet, #614-18322, captured while roosting in a pine tree on 29 March. A total of 352 owls of 5 different species were captured and banded this season.

This study was conducted on both state and private land located on the west side of Braddock Bay near Rochester, New York. The area is bordered by Lake Ontario to the north, Manitou Beach Road to the east, Lake Ontario State Parkway to the south, and Rose Marsh to the west. There is a thin strip of coniferous trees on the eastern edge of the area where seven mist nets were placed. Seven mist nets were along the southern and eastern edge of the main field and the main hawk banding station nets were also used nightly which included the dove

triangle and two north field nets. The north field nets were set in a "v" and a game caller with a recording of a calling Saw-whet Owl was placed in the center of the "v". Two five-inch mist nets were strung at the south end of the field.

The mist nets were open daily at dusk and were closed at dawn. Net checks were made every hour and a half, more often in bad weather or on busy nights. The owls were brought to the research headquarters for full processing. Each bird was banded with a USFWS aluminum leg band, aged, sexed, weighed, and measured. Any existing molt was diagrammed and the birds were examined for any obvious abnormalities. The birds were then released in an area devoid of nets to prevent subsequent recapture.

Highlights of the season included the banding of two Barred Owls, 16 Saw-whets, one Long-eared, and the season's first Great Horned Owl. Thirty Saw-whets were banded in one night, 14 of them coming in just before dawn.

The principal observer for this project was Laurie Cleary of Findley, Ohio. Funding for the project was provided by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and a grant from the Genesee West Audubon Society.

### Total Owls Captured Spring 1991 by Month

Species	March	April	May	Total
No. Saw-whet Owl	122	152	3	277
Long-eared Owl	20	41	0	61
Great Horned Owl	1	4	0	5
Barred Owl	2	0	0	2
Short-eared Owl	0	7	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>352</b>

