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# **Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2002**

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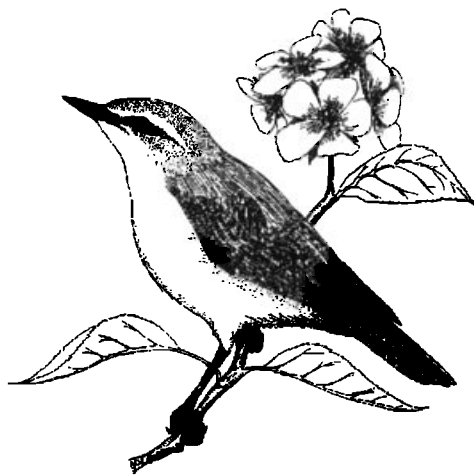
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**, Coordinator  
1435 Waterwells Road  
Alfred Station, NY 14803  
brookser@infoblvd.net

We are sorry to report that Bill Oberman is no longer operating his banding station at Calmes Neck, VA. We thank him for his many years of banding reports. On the positive side, we welcome the addition of Brad Silfies' report from his migration banding station at Little Gap near Danielville, PA. This will be a nice addition to the geographic spread of Western Ridge reporting stations.

Although 23,819 birds were banded in Region III during fall 2002, totals were down 25% from 2001; only Herrington Manor banded more birds in 2002

than 2001. Likewise, b/100nh was down at seven out of ten stations. The most active day ranged from as early as 17 Aug at Lewiston to as late as 27 Oct at Hebron with most of the larger stations' dates falling between 4 & 6 Oct or 20 & 22 Oct. The most commonly handled species on the biggest days were Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler (three stations each), and Tennessee Warbler (two stations). Magnolia Warbler was listed on this year's but not last year's top ten most commonly banded species at four stations and American Robin at three stations.

Weather conditions were cited as contributing to lower totals at many stations. Drought conditions and extreme heat, especially in the early part of the fall, were noted at Lewiston, Rock Point, Selkirk, Holiday Beach, Bedford Valley, Presque Isle, and Smith Farm.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler  
by George West

	<b>Lewiston NY</b>	<b>Ruthven Park ONT</b>	<b>Rock Point ONT</b>	<b>Selkirk ONT</b>	<b>Holiday Beach ONT</b>	<b>Presque Isle PA</b>	<b>Hebron PA</b>
First Day/Last Day	8/10-10/28	7/14-11/9	7/16-11/5	7/3-11/18	7/21-11/17	7/4-10/27	8/6-11/28
Days Operated	10	58	70	132	36	18	40
No. Nets Used	11 to 15	6 to 16	10 to 14	19	10 to 10.5	3 to 12	1 to 15
Total Net Hrs.	707	4225	4692	15,398	3012	1035	-
% Caught in Traps	0.0%	4.0%	2.0%	3.4%	12.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Lgst Daily Catch	27 on 8/17	223 on 10/6	177 on 10/4	121 on 10/22	130 on 10/5	107 on 10/20	66 on 10/27
Most Com Bst Day	GRCA (26%)	MYWA (48%)	MYWA (33%)	RCKI (57%)	MYWA (30%)	GCKI (33%)	AMGO (38%)
No. Banded 2001	352	3211	5109	3099	1364	1005	526
No. Banded 2002	211	2852	3467	3078	1233	469	427
No. Forms 2001	51	91	92	91	73	64	54
No. Forms 2002	40	85	81	89	72	49	49
Birds/100nh 2001	43.6	63.6	96.0	19.5	58.1	160.0	-
Birds/100nh 2002	29.9	61.7	72.0	19.01	40.9	50.0	-
% HY 2001	75%	84%	70%	65%	77%	68%	64%
% HY 2002	82%	77%	65%	-	84%	69%	77%

	<b>Little Gap PA</b>	<b>Powdermill PA</b>	<b>Bedford Valley PA</b>	<b>Herrington Manor MD</b>	<b>Allegheny Front WV</b>	<b>Smith Farm WV</b>	<b>Roan Mt TN/NC</b>
First Day/Last Day	8/5-11/3	8/2-11/30	8/13-10/19	8/23-10/21	8/11-10/17	9/7-12/4	8/31-10/8
Days Operated	33	88	30	34	58	69	27
No. Nets Used	4 to 10	5 to 60	-	15 to 16	20 to 23	12	4 to 7
Total Net Hrs.	603	15,895	641	1948	7471	6920	452
% Caught in Traps	0.0%	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Lgst Daily Catch	52 on 10/13	276 on 10/23	-	43 on 8/31	296 on 9/4	70 on 10/26	71 on 9/13
Most Com Bst Day	RCKI (44%)	-	-	CEDW (16%)	TEWA (25%)	RCKI (31%)	TEWA (69%)
No. Banded 2001	-	10,637	-	543	3826	1372	576
No. Banded 2002	292	5663	-	576	3684	1148	719
No. Forms 2001	-	112	-	57	80	72	39
No. Forms 2002	41	110	-	58	78	69	47
Birds/100nh 2001	-	49.2	-	28.4	50.8	15.8	168.0
Birds/100nh 2002	48.4	35.4	-	29.6	49.3	16.5	159.0
% HY 2001	-	NA	-	81%	-	70%	NA
% HY 2002	50%	NA	-	80%	75%	75%	89%

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2002.**

	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Pk, ONT		Rock Point ,ONT		Selkirk Park, ONT		Holiday Beach, ONT		Presque Isle, PA		Little Gap, PA	
		HY %		HY %		HY %		HY%		HY %		HY %		HY %
1	35 GRCA(2)*	100%	346 MYWA(1)	82%	390 AMGO(2)	69%	533 GCKI(1)	NA	143 MYWA(5)	98%	73 GCKI (1)	63 RCKI	8%	
2	31 MAWA(1)	76	307 AMGO(2)	65	348 RCKI(6)	57	443 RCKI(2)	NA	94 RCKI(3)	72	60 RCKI (2)	30 GCKI	18	
3	17 BCCH	63	211 SOSP (3)	83	261 WTSP (5)	48	160 SCJU(6)	84	90 GCKI (2)	73	44 WTSP (3)	29 SCJU	48	
4	16 AMRO	78	179 RCKI(6)	NA	216 GRCA(3)	84	117 MAWA(7)	100	88 RTHU(4)	78	37 HETH(6)	18 BTBW	55	
5	12 AMRE	100	153 SCJU(4)	78	203 YWAR(1)	82	114 SOSP(3)	100	79 WTSP(8)	100	35 YWAR(4)	14 BCCH	50	
6	11 YWAR	89	132 WTSP(5)	82	157 GCKI(4)	50	109 MYWA(9)	100	67 AMGO(6)	37	34 GRCA(5)	11 WTSP	55	
7	10 WOTH(10)	100	131 CEDW	69	144 MAWA	52	102 YWAR	100	64 MAWA(7)	98	14 SOSP(8)	11 MAWA	55	
8	6 GCKI(3)	75	85 GCKI	NA	138 MYWA(7)	64	82 GRCA	100	42 AMRE(10)	98	14 SWTH(7)	9 REVI	66	
9	5 SWTH(6)	67	82 HOFI(9)	88	95 SCJU	87	74 AMRO	88	36 NAWA	97	13 GCTH	8 OVEN	50	
10	4 HETH(4)	100	78 GRCA(7)	74	95 SOSP	75	67 HETH(10)	98	33 SWTH(9)	88	10 HOWR	8 HETH	60	

\* Indicates place on list last year.

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2002.**

	Hebron, PA		Powdermill, PA		Herrington Manor, MD		Allegheny Front, WV		Smith Farm, VA		Roan Mountain, TN/NC	
		HY %		HY %		HY %		HY %		HY %		HY %
1	121 AMGO(1)*	82%	533 AMGO(1)	47%	46 COYE(5)	76%	530 TEWA(5)	83%	172 WTSP(1)	73%	185 TEWA(1)	98%
2	47 SCJU(3)	51	391 WTSP(3)	46	43 SWSP(3)	65	528 BTBW(1)	60	142 RCKI (5)	NA	130 SWTH(2)	98
3	22 WTSP(4)	82	358 GRCA(7)	92	42 MAWA	81	422 BLPW(3)	73	116 SCJU(4)	69	85 BTBW(3)	86
4	21 SOSP(6)	29	348 DEJU(6)	35	41 BCCH(2)	85	301 BTNW (2)	81	97 AMGO(2)	64	69 SCJU(4)	80
5	17 EWCS	65	271 MAWA(4)	59	39 GRCA(4)	90	210 SWTH(4)	81	63 SOSP(6)	89	37 GCKI(5)	68
6	16 CHSP	44	255 RTHU	92	32 REVI	84	199 MAWA(6)	81	54 MAWA	74	28 MAWA(10)	100
7	16 COYE	94	237 SWTH(8)	87	26 AMRO	81	134 BLBW	64	45 EAPH(9)	44	27 OVEN(10)	100
8	15 HOWA	87	210 SOSP(10)	56	23 CEDW	52	125 SCJU(7)	83	28 GRCA	71	14 WOTH	100
9	14 MAWA	100	197 COYE(9)	80	21 TEWA(6)	95	122 CMWA	59	26 HETH	92	11 WPWA	100
10	11 MODO(10)	45	150 SWSP	58	20 CMWA	90	114 GCKI(8)	70	25 INBU	6		
10					20 EAPH(9)	55						

\* Indicates place on list last year.

**Lewiston****431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**

jsfarrell3940@juno.com

The 2002 fall banding season started earlier than normal (10 Aug) and ended later than normal (28 Oct); days of operation ended up three less than in 2001, with the total being only 10 days. The main reason for this reduction was weather related. There were a total of 211 new birds banded of 40 species; 25 local retraps were also handled.

This turned out to be the worst fall banding season, both as to numbers and species, for the 27 years the Lewiston Banding Station has been in operation. I would like to blame the low numbers on the very bad weather conditions; but on active banding days, the birds available were also in low supply. There has been a very noticeable reduction in total birds banded over the past five years. I hope this trend does not continue!

Again this fall, the Lewiston Station was very involved with education. On 10 Aug there was a Women in the Outdoors Event at which a banding demonstration was held. On 9 Sep the station hosted biology students from Canisius College. Another banding demonstration was presented for the Pheasants Forever Youth Day Program. All of these functions worked out well with much being learned about the banding of birds.

**Ruthven Park****425-0795**

Haldimand County, Ontario

**Rick Ludkin, Bander**

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Marylene Boulet, Darryl Edwards

This marks the eighth year of fall banding at Ruthven Park. Although banding started on 3 Jul, it was sporadic through July (four days) and August (six days). Regular migration coverage started 26 Aug and went through to 9 Nov. During this latter period, the station was usually open unless there was inclement weather or, rarely, previous unavoidable commitments.....like work.

The Ruthven area sustained drought conditions from early June through the end of July when there

was some reprieve. August continued hot and dry and hot conditions continued into early October.

The Ruthven field station has operated in the same location since 1996. Net placements have been cut into the transitional scrub surrounding the fields and forests close to the historic mansion. Banding is done in "the Piggery," one of the historic buildings (which has been refurbished with heat and electricity to house the banding program).

Birds were caught using 16 nets arrayed in 10 different placements or lanes. Net placements have been static for several years. We also used four ground traps.

We band in July and early August to sample the emerging local birds that have nested in the area and especially the Yellow Warblers that start to head south shortly after fledging. We ended up banding 148 birds in July. This is down considerably from the 351 banded last year but is really just due to reduced banding effort this year. However, the total of 57 Yellow Warblers banded is the second highest fall total (77 in 1997).

We banded 192 birds in August at a capture rate of 44.1 b/100nh. This is our third highest capture rate for this month even though we did not band much at the beginning of the month when, traditionally, we catch good numbers of recently fledged birds. (Things usually "slow down" at Ruthven after the first 7-10 days of August and do not pick up again until September when the bulk of Neotropical migrants move through.)

Migration monitoring and consistent banding started at the end of August and carried through September and October except for days of inclement weather (or unavoidable work obligations). We banded 732 in September and 1,474 in October, which was our second highest monthly total ever (1,795 in 2001). Interestingly, we set new season "highs" for a number of long-distance Neotropical migrants: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (10), Gray-cheeked Thrush (28), Swainson's Thrush (39), Red-eyed Vireo (60), Blue-winged Warbler (10), Northern Parula (3), Cape May Warbler (6), Chestnut-sided Warbler (22), Blackburnian Warbler (9), Northern Waterthrush (6), Scarlet Tanager (10), Indigo

Bunting (14). Our single biggest daily "catch" of the season (and second overall) occurred on 6 Oct when we banded 223 birds (vs 254 – 22 Oct 2001).

We ran the station on four days in November (ending 9 Nov) during which time we banded 177 birds, including good numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos. We think that the fall migration was running about 10 days late this year and that there were still lots of birds to catch well on into the month—just no time to give to catching them.

Our total of 2,852 birds banded (85 forms) is the second highest fall total since our inception in 1995 second to the 3,211 banded last year. We had two new species for our fall banding totals this year: Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle! [I double-checked the old records as I could not believe that we had not handled these birds before in the fall.]

This fall we retrapped 339 birds—some numerous times. We also had 116 returns from prior banding seasons.

We had one foreign retrap: on 16 Jun we caught a Tree Swallow (band # 2151-46501) that had been banded originally on 9 Jun 1998 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, ON, under Len Simser's permit.

We were also notified of two foreign recoveries: #2220-11186, an American Goldfinch originally banded 29 Mar 2002 was recovered 14 Apr 2002 by Jim Smith at HBO's Rock Point Station; and #1641-85649 an Eastern White-crowned Sparrow originally banded 7 May 2002 was recovered 24 May 2002 by Andre Huppe on the Richelieu River, PQ.

A field station cannot run without the dedicated help of volunteers. We had many this season: 2-3 weeks: Loretta Mousseau, Darryl Edwards; 1-2 weeks: Marylene Boulet, Pascal Petitclerc; 4-6 days: Louise Unitt; 1-3 days: Elaine Serena, Marg Ludkin, Nancy Furber, Maureen Moore, Robin Brennan, Sydney Brennan, Myrtle, Byers, Diane Green, Roswitha Matuschek, Jim McCaw, Arlene McCaw.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust and the staff of Ruthven Park for their continued and enthusiastic support of our operation! This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

**Rock Point Banding Station 425-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario

**Jim Smith, Bander**

benavis@SYMPATICO.CA

Chief Assistants: Roswitha Mataschek, David Millen, Rick Young, Dora Young, Gisele Mills, Gerda Smith

The 2002 fall season was marked by high humidity and heat during the two summer months. A new protocol implemented this year meant that nets were closed down early in the day to protect birds from hanging in the nets during the hotter part of the morning. September and October remained warm. Very few days were lost to inclement weather. The leaf cover remained with only understory leaves on bushes dropping right up until closing in November. Some trees remained green far longer than in previous years. Only three days of frosty nets were encountered in October.

Consistent banding was not done during the anticipated Yellow Warbler migration from mid-July to mid-August because of my health. A post-viral rheumatism, from which I am now fully recovered, frustratingly kept me out of the field during that key time. Consistent banding did start six days a week from 26 Aug through to closing on 5 Nov.

This season showed a large reduction in the northern species experienced last year. Only two Purple Finches were banded this year and no Red-breasted Nuthatches, siskins, crossbills, or Common Redpoll. A Northern Shrike banded on the last banding day was a treat and a first banding for me.

The White-eyed Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, and strangely, since they are often seen, Rusty Blackbird were personal firsts for me. Although a lure tape was used for about an hour before dawn, no Northern Saw-whet Owls were caught and only one was seen.

American Goldfinch numbers, although still my top bird, have shown a steady decrease in bandings over the last three falls of operation (833, 536, 390). They remain interesting in relation to recapture data. Ten American Goldfinches were returns from previous years. Three individuals recaptured at different times: one male and two females were first banded in fall 2000 and not recaptured again until this season. One bird was caught each season except spring 2002. Three originally banded in fall 2000, recaptured in spring 2002 and again this season. Two were first banded in fall 2001 and not recaptured until fall 2002. One was banded in fall 2000, recaptured spring 2001, and not recaptured again until this season.

Of 492 birds retrapped during the season, 97 of them were multiple retraps with Black-capped Chickadee and Gray Catbird being the predominant recapture species, some being recaptured and processed seven times. Of the 492 birds, 39 were returns from the spring 2001 banding season, and 41 were returns from a previous banding season. This leaves 315 birds that were single retraps after 24 hours from this season. Individual resident breeding birds, such as Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warbler, have been recaptured each season since fall 2000 but not in the numbers expected considering the number banded.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers were up from the last two falls but Golden-crowned numbers were down. Sparrow numbers remained consistent with the last two years except for Song Sparrow numbers, which show a steady decline.

No foreign retraps or recoveries were recorded for this season.

As a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, migration monitoring was conducted and recorded not only for banding and recoveries but also through a daily census route and casual observations throughout the banding day. These data are submitted to Bird Studies Canada.

Twenty-eight visitors were recorded for the season. One banding demonstration was given for a cub pack, and one school visit and one club visit

to present a slide show were done. An article was written for the local paper. A student from Sir Sandford Fleming College stayed for two weeks and was trained and was an asset in all aspects of the banding operation.

It is with sincere appreciation that I acknowledge the time and effort given to the banding station by those regular volunteers who gave at least one day a week on a regular basis. I also acknowledge those who came and helped out even for a short time. I thank Haldimand Bird Observatory and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for monetary help. Not least is the support I have from my family for the early hours up and the early hours to bed.

**Selkirk Provincial Park** **424-0795**

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario

**John Miles, Bander**

miles@kwic.com

Chief Assistants: Sue, Mike, and Chris Kimber,  
Tom Ford, Mike Furber

The fifth year of operating in the fall at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 3 Jul and ended 18 Nov. The station was manned daily once it officially opened, except for seven days for inclement weather or personal commitments, with the banding effort taking place on 132 days. In addition to the bander-in-charge, 24 volunteers spent one or more days assisting with the operation of the station.

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from one-half hour before sunrise for a minimum of six hours for the passerine banding. On a couple of days, the banding commenced after early morning rains had ceased. In October and November, most days the nets were opened one to two hours before dawn to catch owls. On a couple of nights, volunteers ran the nets all night.

From early June to late July it was hot and dry. From 3–27 Jul, rainfall totalled 0.38 inches with the largest fall being 0.25 inches. However, during the early hours of 28 Jul, 4.40 inches fell and another 0.55 inches fell within an hour during the mid morning, another 0.53 inches fell during the evening of the 29th. While the month's rainfall of

5.35 inches ended up over average, the six weeks of drought caused many plants to wilt and die.

August continued hot and dry with only 0.01 inches of rain the first two weeks; 0.69 inches fell over the remainder of the month for a total monthly rainfall of 0.70 inches. September continued hot and dry, although the rainfall for the month was better with 2.31 inches recorded. Summer-like conditions continued into the first third of October before more normal conditions developed.

The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and the study area remains the same. Banding was carried out using 19 mist nets, three ground traps and a jay trap. No changes in the net placements were made and the set-up appears to be the most efficient for the area.

As in 2001, due to the relative short period between close down in mid-June and the early start-up in July, the nets were left in place and not taken down. The site was visited at least weekly during the shut-down period.

July was a fairly good month with 462 birds of 43 species banded. Best day was the 24th with 27 birds banded, but there were several days in the low-to-mid 20s. Most numerous were Yellow Warblers with 62 banded, followed by American Robin with 50. As has been the pattern at Selkirk, August was not nearly as productive in numbers banded with 373 birds done but the species variety was a little better at 46. Thirty-seven birds banded on 24 Aug was the best day of the month, but for many days to reach 10 birds banded was a challenge. The big thing about August this year was that the expected migrants were a week to 10 days later than normal. Whether this was due to a wet cold spring that delayed nesting or the warm hot dry summer is hard to say, but this pattern continued right into about mid-October when more normal weather patterns developed.

Things picked up in September as the migration finally got under way in earnest: 538 birds of 54 species were banded. A good day occurred 6 Sep with 63 birds banded and again on the 16<sup>th</sup> when 51

birds were banded, but in between there were numerous days when the banding totals did not reach 10 birds.

October has been the best month each fall, but this year it did not start off too great. October first produced all of one banded bird, but the day's total doubled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to a fantastic two birds banded. More normal October numbers started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 76 birds banded and thereafter for the rest of the month there were few days when the number of birds banded was less than 30. Peak days were 22–23 Oct with 121 and 107 birds banded, respectively. All told, after a slow start, 1424 birds of 45 species were banded. October is kinglet month at Selkirk and this was borne out again with 475 Golden-crowned and 420 Ruby-crowned banded.

Again, the station was run into the middle of November. Juncos and American Tree Sparrows usually arrive in numbers in early to mid-November. This year was no exception; 281 birds of 26 species were banded before close down, although new migrants were still arriving, but the winter weather was arriving, making the banding site messy. The 48 birds banded on 4 Nov and 44 on the 12<sup>th</sup> are good days at Selkirk anytime; 85 Slate-colored Juncos and 55 Golden-crowned Kinglets were the most frequently banded species in November.

There were 3078 birds of 89 species banded at Selkirk in the fall of 2002 which is the third best fall at Selkirk and only 21 birds less than in 2001. A Pine Warbler was banded for the first time in the fall at Selkirk this year.

In fall 2002, 338 retrapped birds were processed. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly—some over 20 times. In the fall of 2002, there were 63 birds retrapped which were returns from a previous season. While most of these are resident or nesting birds in the area, the recapture of a junco banded in the spring of 2002 is interesting, since it is a migrant.

Among the noteworthy returns were a robin, Song Sparrow, and two American Goldfinches banded in 1997, and a Red-winged Blackbird and a goldfinch banded in 1998.

One foreign recovery was an Acadian Flycatcher banded 29 May 2002 at Selkirk, retrapped at Backus Woods 24 Jul 2002. Backus Woods is two to three miles north of Port Rowan. This, as far as I know, is the first recovery of a Canadian-banded Acadian Flycatcher. Of special note: this male was paired at a spot where Acadians have nested for the past three years. The female was banded at the same time the male was retrapped. The survey crew found three pairs and one unmated male in their survey and were not successful in catching the other birds. They were very surprised to find the male banded and not with a LPBO band.

Among the birds banded at other of the Observatory's field stations and retrapped at this station was a Yellow Warbler banded at Rock Point 31 May 2002 and retrapped at Selkirk on 1 Aug 2002.

Other foreign recoveries were a Black-capped Chickadee banded 1 Nov 2001 that was retrapped at Braddock Bay, NY, 4 Apr 2002; and a House Wren banded 4 Jun 2001 recovered at Maitland on 5 Jun 2001.

There were 83 visitor days recorded this fall at the banding site. Included were a group from the day camp of the William MacDonald Museum and a group from the Niagara Falls Field Naturalists, both of which were given banding demonstrations.

I extend my appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Park contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the park. Hans has been very supportive in many ways. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Birds Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program, the Norfolk Field Naturalists and George Pond. Thanks also to the Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, 3-ring loose-leaf binders, file cabinets, timbits and other goodies, and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very

difficult: 2-4 weeks: Mike Furber; 4-6 days: Mark Bacro. Blake Edwards, Tom Ford, Allison Furber, Tim Furber; 1-3 days: Andrew Bacro, Elizabeth Bacro, Andrew Bacro, David Bacro, Hannah Bacro, Ruth Bacro, Holly Britton, Tom Crooks, Dave Don, Jamie Furber, Matt Furber, Nancy Furber, Jim Heslop, Barry Jones, Michael Kimber, Erin Lamore, Ann Miles, Steve Miles, George Pond.

**Holiday Beach Migration Obs. 420-0830**

Essex Co., Ontario

**Allen Chartier, Bander**

Amazilia1@comcast.net

Chief Assistants: Bob Hall-Brooks (trainee), Carl Pascoe (trainee), Steve Greidanus (trainee), Rachel Powless (assistant)

The Holiday Beach Migration Observatory (HBMO) is an organization, formed in 1986, devoted to monitoring migration at the Holiday Beach Conservation Area (HBCA), Essex Co., Ontario. For directions and information on our site, go to the HBMO website at: <http://www.hbmo.org>.

This summary covers only those birds banded at the Beach station during the day. This year, 2002, was our sixth fall of passerine banding and our third fall of hummingbird banding. We opened on 21 Jul this year in an attempt to intercept a higher number of migrating Yellow Warblers, but we were not successful, as most of them had migrated in August this year. This early opening of the station did provide us with some early arrival records, however. Training of two new banders at the station was completed this year, as well as continuing training of others. We expanded our passerine program this year to include a study of "directional tendency," in addition to our long-term migration monitoring, stopover ecology, and other species-specific projects. Training protocols have been developed, and procedural protocols are in progress.

Drought conditions from summer continued from late July through early September, with temperatures about normal. Cooler and wetter conditions prevailed through October and November. Northwest winds following cold fronts provide optimum conditions for migrants at our site, and these conditions were notably rare this season.



Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Parula, and Scarlet Tanager were new species for the station's cumulative species list, which now stands at 92 species.

Other noteworthy bandings include an American Woodcock on 9 Nov, our third fall record for the station; a Golden-winged Warbler on 14 Sep, the second ever for the station; a Lincoln's Sparrow on 28 Sep, the second ever for the station; two Red-winged Blackbirds on 21 Jul, the first for the station in fall; and two House Finches, one on 27 Jul and one on 15 Sep which were the second for the station in fall.

Notable misses included Eastern Wood-Pewee (5-yr average is 3.0), Red-breasted Nuthatch (5-yr average is 2.8), and Blackburnian Warbler (second year in a row missed; five-year average is 5.2).

Calculating standard deviations based on only six years of data is unlikely to yield statistically significant results; therefore, the following listing includes only significant high/low annual counts. The previous five-year average for these species is provided in parentheses.

**Record highs** were recorded for Eastern Phoebe – 8 (3.2): tie, Winter Wren – 9 (4.6): +30%, Wood Thrush – 4 (0.6): +100%, Gray Catbird – 21 (6.2): +95%, Brown Thrasher – 4 (0.4): +100%, Orange-crowned Warbler – 3 (1.0): +50%, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler – 143 (33.6): +166%, (Western) Palm Warbler – 3 (0.8): +300%, Fox Sparrow – 20 (3.0): +250%, Song Sparrow – 19 (5.8): +100%, White-throated Sparrow – 79 (42.6): +140%.

**Significant highs** were recorded for Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 88 (27.2): only 2<sup>nd</sup> full season banding this species, Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 94 (68.0): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, Nashville Warbler – 36 (28.4): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, Yellow Warbler – 23 (9.8): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, Blackpoll Warbler – 31 (23.8): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, American Redstart – 42 (31.0): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest, American Goldfinch – 67 (26.2): 2<sup>nd</sup> highest.

**Significant lows** were recorded for Blue Jay – 12 (25.0), Brown Creeper – 1 (7.0), Cedar Waxwing – 1 (13.6), Warbling Vireo – 4 (12.8), Chestnut-sided Warbler – 13 (23.6), Magnolia Warbler – 64 (77.2), Cape May Warbler – 2 (3.4), Black-and-white Warbler – 6 (14.0), Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco – 5 (10.6).

The first arrival dates of several species was about two weeks later than the five-year average.

**Record early dates** were recorded for Ruby-throated Hummingbird (27 Jul), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (3 Aug), Least Flycatcher (27 Jul), Wood Thrush (21 Jul), Brown Thrasher (27 Jul, may have nested), Common Yellowthroat (21 Jul)

**Record late dates** were recorded for Ruby-throated Hummingbird (12 & 13 Oct), Eastern Phoebe (2 on 16 Nov), Winter Wren (3 on 16 Nov, also record day total), Hermit Thrush (17 Nov), Wood Thrush (29 Sep), Gray Catbird (16 Nov), Brown Thrasher (16 & 17 Nov), Warbling Vireo (26 Oct), Red-eyed Vireo (26 Oct), Orange-crowned Warbler (2 Nov), Cape May Warbler (9 Nov). A significant late date was recorded for Nashville Warbler (27 Oct - 2<sup>nd</sup> latest).

Noteworthy returns from a previous season included an American Robin banded 14 Aug 1999 as HY-U, recaptured 21 Jul 2002 showing BP, aged as AHY-F - 705 days (35 ½ months).

Carolina Wren banded 12 Aug 2001 as HY-U and recaptured four times between 18 Aug and 8 Oct 2001, recaptured 11 Aug and 2 Nov 2002, showing BP and egg in oviduct on 11 Aug, aged as AHY-F - 447 days (14 ½ months).

Carolina Wren banded 18 Aug 2001 as HY-U, recaptured 2 Nov 2002 in same net and net run as above bird - 441 days (14 ½ months).

I thank the Essex Region Conservation Authority for allowing us to band at the Holiday Beach Conservation Area. Also, the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory provided financial and logistical assistance (I am on the board of HBMO). Other 2002 assistants were: Tom Bartlett, Cincy Cartwright, Ellie Cox, Dave Danano, JoAnn Grondin, Peggy Hurst, Bob Pettit, Jason Sodergren, Bev Wannick, Dan Webb, and Sue Wright.

**Presque Isle** **420-0800**  
Erie, PA  
**Ronald F. Leberman, Bander**

The fall bird banding at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA, started on 4 Jul and ended on 27 Oct with

a total of 18 days of operation. Because I took on a part-time job, banding days were about half of last fall's 31 days and the results were also about half. A total of 469 birds of 49 species were banded. One new species was added to the overall station list: an immature Cooper's Hawk banded 21 Oct. A total of 135 species have been banded over the 40 years of fall banding. This year's total was the seventh lowest.

Other interesting birds banded were an American Woodcock and an Orange-crowned Warbler. In general, the area's food supply was good and July, August, and September were hot and dry; October was cooler, wetter and windy, with no major cold fronts or bird flights. Warbler and flycatcher numbers were down markedly. Thrushes and sparrows fared better. Our best banding total for one day was 20 Oct with 107 birds. We encountered few mosquitoes and no deer ticks this fall.

There were 28 returns from a previous banding season, including a Yellow Warbler banded as an adult in May 1996.

There were two foreign recoveries: a Gray Catbird (#971-23732) banded at Presque Isle on 11 May 2002 was netted and released by Jim Smith at Dunnville, Ontario, on 1 Jun 2002 about 60 mi E of Long Point; and a Slate-colored Junco (#1691-66513) banded here on 29 Sep 2001 was caught by a cat on 8 Nov 2001 at Youngstown, OH.

I thank all those that visited and helped in many ways at the station this fall, including Barb Mitchell, Sam Stull, Thelma Patton, Susan Smith, Larry Johnson, Pat and Dona Peters, Evelyn Anderson, Ken Anderson, and many others. Thanks, too, to the Park Staff.

#### **Hebron**

**414-0780**

Coudersport, Potter County, PA

**David W. Hauber, Bander**

haubers3@penn.com

Chief Assistants: Gary Witmer & family, John Fedak

The only unusual bird captured in the fall of 2002 was an intergrade Northern Flicker which had one primary and one rectrix on each side with a red shaft.

Again this fall, we participated in Project OwlNet. These figures are not included in the information in the tables as we used a lure tape to call in the owls. We banded 116 Northern Saw-whet Owls from 23 Sep to 20 Nov 2002. There were four foreign retraps: one banded by Wayne Laubscher 9 Nov 2001 retrapped 7 Oct 2002; one banded by Dave Junkin near Bliss, NY, on 27 Oct 2002 and retrapped 30 Oct 2002; one banded at Berry Mountain, near Loyaltown, PA, on 3 Nov 2001 and retrapped 20 Oct 2002; and one banded at Shaffer's Creek, near State College, PA, on 5 Nov 2001 and retrapped 20 Nov 2002.

This station has recovered two NSWOs from Dave Junkin (both direct line – three and five days) and two from Shaffer's Creek since 1998. Also captured were two Eastern Screech-Owls while calling for saw-whets.

#### **Little Gap**

**404-0753**

Northampton County, PA

**Brad Siffies, Bander**

bssiffies@entermail.net

Chief Assistants: Greg George, Amanda Talpas, and Adam Miller

This is the first year for the Little Gap passerine banding station which adjoins a raptor banding station that has been in operation since 1973. We are located on the Kittatinny Ridge, a traditional hawk-migration corridor, at an average elevation of 1280 feet. The nets are located on the south side of the ridge on a trail that travels a rather steep rocky slope. We are just east of the south raptor banding station and operate early in the day, even when this station is open.

The predominate trees are red oak, red maple, American chestnut (only to about 15 ft), white birch, sassafras and white pine. Mountain laurel is common throughout up to a height of six feet. Wild grape is also very common and is probably a main reason that few trees grow above 20-30 feet. Many of the large oaks were wiped out in the early 80s by heavy gypsy moth infestations and are now standing snags or fallen logs. There is no water on the mountain other than birdbaths by the station. The mountain just west of the station, about 200 ac, has been hit by several wildfires in the past 15 years and is characterized by scrubby growth, uncharacteristic of much of the mountain.

We thank Jerry Lahr for all his help and support for this project and the late Tom Mutchler, who started the raptor station and donated nets for the passerine station.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve**                    **400-0791**  
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
**Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill,**  
**Banders**  
rcleberm@charterpa.net; mulvipnr@westol.com

The bird-banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve, the 2,000-ac biological station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History located in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, was in operation on 88 out of a possible 122 days from August through November 2002. This was our 41<sup>st</sup> consecutive fall banding season. Total banding effort for the fall 2002 season was 15,895 net-hours (avg. 182 nh/day). Both the number of days of operation and total net-hours of effort were less than fall 2001 (102 days of operation; 21,640 hours; 212 nh/day), when an unusually heavy migration of many species and more than the usual amount of help on hand encouraged us to make a near record banding effort. This fall's overall effort was close to the average of the previous 40 fall seasons (15,275 net hours). The fall migration banding results also were about average in 2002, in contrast to the record setting results last fall.

We banded 5,663 birds from August through November 2002. This total, although just a little more than half of last fall's record total of 10,637, is well within one standard deviation of our long-term average of 6,301. We banded 100 or more birds on 16 days during the season (compared to 45 days last fall). Peak banding dates were 18 Sep (202), 25 Sep (267), 17 Oct (216) and 23 Oct (276). We banded 17% of our cumulative total during August, 37% in September, 34% in October, and 13% in November, which is a typical monthly breakdown for the Powdermill station.

The overall capture rate this fall, 35.4 b/100nh, was below (but within one standard deviation of) the long-term average, 42.8 b/100nh. Considering only days when at least 100 net-hours effort were recorded, our busiest day in terms of capture rate was on 25 Sep (73.2 b/100nh).

Species diversity was one measure that was above average this fall: We banded 110 species in fall 2002, which ties for our fifth highest species total (the 112 banded last fall tied for fourth highest). As usual, the vast majority of species banded this fall (60%) had been recorded by the end of August, with another 22% making their first appearances in September, 12% in October, and a somewhat higher than usual seven species (6%) were added in November (Sora, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow).

No new species were added to the cumulative Powdermill fall banding list, which stands at 170 (166 species plus two hybrid forms and two recognizable subspecies). Conspicuous "misses" this fall (i.e., species for which an average of one or more has been banded during fall) included Baltimore Oriole, Barn Swallow, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown-headed Cowbird, Eastern Kingbird, Evening Grosbeak, Great Crested Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Olive-sided Flycatcher (this extends to nine the number of consecutive fall seasons that we have failed to band or observe this species), Pine Siskin, Prairie Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow.

Conversely, the following good "gets" (species for which we average less than one banded per year) bolstered this fall's species diversity: Blue-winged Teal, Chimney Swift, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Orchard Oriole, and Sora. Another good "get" was two Yellow-breasted Chats—the first fall YBCHs that we have banded since 1998.

As always, a handful of species makes up a large proportion of our total catch. This fall's "top ten" list shares the same eight species with last fall and with our overall "top ten" list. If the recent trend continues, the most abundant species in the last two fall seasons, American Goldfinch, will soon supplant the former perennial leader, Dark-eyed Junco. Unlike last fall, when more than a dozen species were banded in record high numbers, there were very few unusually high or low banding totals this fall. Only Carolina Wren (26) and Winter Wren (66) were banded in record high numbers (capture rates for these species also were the

highest we have recorded). Only Field Sparrow (33) was banded in record low numbers (and also a record low capture rate). In stark contrast to last fall when 207 were banded during a moderately heavy flight, our fall 2002 total of just 26 Black-capped Chickadees tied the all-time low and set a new record low fall capture rate for that species.

Some other species banded in much smaller numbers this fall compared to last included American Goldfinch (532 in 2002 vs 1654 in 2001), Pine Siskin (0 vs 187), Purple Finch (42 vs 911), White-throated Sparrow (392 vs 837), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (79 vs 410). Although they did not contribute much to the overall banding total this fall, the 51 Cape May Warblers and 88 Fox Sparrows were much higher than in the previous fall when eight (a record low) and 33 were banded, respectively.

Twelve species were above average both in terms of raw banding total and capture rate, including the following Neotropical migrants: "Traill's" Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Another five species were above average with respect to either raw total or capture rate, including Warbling Vireo, Northern Parula, and Kentucky Warbler. Eight species were below average for both raw total and capture rate, including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, and House Wren; two additional species, Prairie Warbler and Baltimore Oriole, were below average for raw banding total only. In many cases, results from fall 2002 are in line with significant increasing or decreasing long-term trends based on fall migration banding totals from 1962-2001.

We were fortunate, as always, to have regular help from several dependable volunteers during fall 2002: Mary Helen Chiodo, Randi Gerrish, Carroll Labarthe, Darlene Madarish, and Carole Shanahan. For their help again this year we also thank Brian Jones (Frostburg State University) and Annie Lindsay (Grove City College), both of whom helped right up until their school terms began and on many weekends and breaks thereafter. Adrienne Leppold, a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania, returned to help with banding at Powdermill for her fourth consecutive migration

season but, once again, not before spending another nesting season in Alaska—this time helping with a study of the breeding biology of cliff-nesting seabirds. For occasional help with the banding, we also thank David Liebmann and Nathan Tarr.

We always benefit greatly from the annual week-long visit in August by our good friend and very talented fellow bander from Maryland, Jim Gruber. This fall we also were privileged to receive assistance for a few days in September from Dr. David Norman, a highly accomplished ringer (the European word for bander) from England. Dr. Norman first became aware of the Powdermill banding station through our website ([www.westol.com/~banding](http://www.westol.com/~banding)). He then contacted us by e-mail about the possibility of extending a planned visit to see a colleague in Princeton, NJ, in order to see the Powdermill operation in action and to lend a hand if needed. His visit (and his assistance) came at a very opportune time—it coincided with our second busiest day of the season, 25 Sep, when we banded 267 birds of 44 species. Last but not least, we are extremely fortunate to have a highly skilled data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who painstakingly enters, checks and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

#### **Bedford Valley**

**395-0783**

Bedford County, PA

**Janet Shaffer, Bander**

Fall migration banding was conducted in Bedford Valley, PA, fall 2002 beginning 13 Aug and continuing on and off for 30 days to 19 Oct. Since no banding was done during a similar period in 2001, comparisons are made with 2000.

The figures for 2002 contrast greatly with 2000. Our area has suffered at least three years of drought, but it is hard to establish why numbers fell so dramatically.

My best day was 15 Oct when just **five** birds were banded! Since so few new birds were banded, figures on age are not included.

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>
no. days banded	29	30
no. new birds bd.	145	40
no. diff. species	37	25
no. returns/rpts.	20	15
no. net hours	814	641
b/100nh	17.8	6.2

Though banding effort was down by over 20%, the number of birds banded was down by over 72%. Chipping Sparrow was the bird most frequently banded in 2000, with 36 new birds and five repeats. But in 2002, only five new Chipping Sparrows and two repeat birds were encountered. This was an incredibly poor banding season in this area.

**Herrington Manor Banding Station 392-0792**  
Oakland, Garrett County, MD  
**Connie Skipper and Fran Pope, Banders**  
rskipper@mindspring.com

This was our third fall banding at this station, the best yet in terms of numbers and species. We banded 576 birds, 33 more than our previous high. We opened 15 -16 nets on 34 days between 23 Aug and 21 Oct, for a total of 1948 net hours. We had 38 net hours more than in 2001. B/100nh were 29.6, an increase over 2001's statistic of 28.4 b/100nh. As expected, considering our station's surrounding habitat, Common Yellowthroats, Swamp Sparrows, and Gray Catbirds were all in the top five and accounted for 22% of our total birds.

Because we have only three years of data, our standard deviations are large. Therefore, none of our species exceeded the statistically significant level. However, we had 14 Swainson's Thrushes, nearly three times that of the past two years. Thrushes as a group (Wood, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, Hermit and Veery) were much higher than in previous years. We banded two Wood Thrushes and two Veerys, both new to this station. We banded an amazing number of American Robins (25) far surpassing the total of three that we banded in 2000 and 2001. Perhaps this can be explained by the good crop of fruit on the viburnums and other shrubs in our wetland location. The previous two years had a poor to nonexistent fruit crop. Red-eyed Vireos were also

present in much higher numbers with 32 banded compared to just two in 2000 and 12 in 2001. We banded 12 Indigo Buntings this year as compared with two in 2001 and none in 2000.

New species added to the station list this year were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wood Thrush, Veery, European Starling, Pine Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow. The station total is now 69 species.

Once again we hosted the entire seventh grade from a local middle school. We gave a formal banding presentation to 246 students who visited in small groups of 25 or less. We had 51 additional visitors, plus seven individuals who visited frequently. One special regular visitor, the world-class wood sculptor of birds, Gary Yoder, took dozens of photographs and did a number of sketches. Aaron Holochwost, a Garrett College student, provided invaluable help tending nets.

**Allegheny Front Migration Obs. 390-0791**  
Grant County, WV  
**George A. Hall, Compiler**  
Ghw@aol.com

The 45<sup>th</sup> year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was another season of modest results. The number of bandings was only 66% of the long-term average, making this the fifth poorest season since we have had full-time coverage.

The station was in operation from 11 Aug to 17 Oct. Although the weather was generally good, the station was shut down by rain or high winds on six days; and on four additional days, rain caused an early close of the nets. Some useful banding was carried out on 58 days.

A total of 3684 birds (45-yr average = 5595) of 78 species was banded with a station effort of 7471 net hours, giving a capture ratio of 49.3 b/100nh. This value is essentially the same as in 2001 (50.78), and 2000 (50.13). In August, only 351 birds were banded (19 days); 2453 in September (25 days), and 880 in October (13 days). The station has now banded 192,282 birds of 120 species. An American Kestrel, who sought to have lunch on a Blackpoll Warbler entangled in a net, provided the one new species banded this year.

Fourteen birds banded in earlier years were recaptured: seven banded in 2001, four in 2000, one in 1999 (a junco that was caught four times), one in 1998, and a prize record of an Eastern Towhee originally captured in 1993.

The migration pattern was somewhat different than the normal one. August bandings were fewer than normal, although 44 species had been banded by the end of the month. The first wave occurred 3-4 Sep after the first period of bad weather. This wave was followed, as usual, by a series of poor days. The 296 bandings on 4 Sep was the highest daily count of the year.

The main warbler migration started about 14 Sep. Instead of the usual progression of three days of heavy flights separated by several days of inactivity, there were four waves crowded into nine days with banding numbers between 150 and 200 each day. A more typical wave occurred from 1-4 Oct. The 206 bandings on 14 Sep was the second best day, and only these two days had more than 200 bandings. Only 12 additional days had more than 100 bandings and 42 days had fewer than 50 bandings.

The Tennessee Warbler was the most numerous species with 350 bandings which is 12% above the ten-year running average. Almost tied for the lead was the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 528 captures (21.7% below the average); third place went to the Blackpoll Warbler (the usual leader) with 422 (19.5% below average); and the Black-throated Green Warbler had 301 bandings (15.4% below average). The most numerous non-warbler was the Swainson's Thrush with 210 captures (16% below the average). No other species had as many as 200 captures.

Of the 35 species selected for analysis, 27 were caught in numbers less than the ten-year average. However, only one (Ruby-crowned Kinglet) was more than one standard deviation (SD) below the average. Eight species were caught in numbers greater than the average: five less than one SD above average, one species (Eastern Towhee) one SD above, and two species (Winter Wren and Tennessee Warbler) two SD above average.

The warblers as a group had a decline of 6.5% from the average, an improvement from 18% last year. The spruce budworm specialists also had smaller declines (Cape May Warbler 22% and Bay-breasted Warbler 26%). The decrease in the decline from 2001 results from the ten-year average being smaller in 2002. The ten-year average has been decreasing for many years, and the value for the decade 1992-2001 used here is only 59% of the value for 1982-1991.

The visual migrant counts listed 608 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (fourth highest count); 2641 Blue Jays (sixth poorest), 4217 American Goldfinches (third highest); 905 Monarch Butterflies (sixth highest); and 1207 dragonflies (second highest).

During the season, 1650 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 18 states, the District of Columbia, and Bolivia, Germany, Japan, and Switzerland. As usual, several elementary and middle school classes, including the long-time visitors from the Pendleton County Middle School and the Adventist School from Elkins.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Ken and Sue Heselton, Carol and Fred McCullough, Randy Ritter, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. LeJay Graffious and John Jacobs were responsible for the banding shelter. Randy Ritter was campground host. JoAnn Graham made most of the Blue Jay-hummingbird counts. Others who were present for extended periods of time were Bill and Doris Agee, Tom Fox, Phil Graham, Beth Ritter, and Carl and Joan Rowe in addition to 18 individuals who aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways.

We thank the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest, Supervisor Chuck Meyers, District Ranger Elizabeth Schuppert, and others of the Potomac District Ranger Station for their cooperation and support. Thanks also to the West Virginia D.N.R. for the use of the shed for storage of the banding shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

**Smith Farm****382- 0781**

Madison County, VA  
**Edgar Smith, Bander**  
 botbead@aol.com

October and November brought significant rains after a long drought. First frost and snow on the nearby mountains arrived 18 Nov, and I closed the station early on 4 Dec because of unseasonable cold.

Warbler diversity was high this fall with 24 species and both Palm Warblers. However, I banded only one each of 10 warbler species. Myrtle Warblers were notably low with only nine banded. By contrast, Magnolia Warbler reached a new high of 54 and was my sixth most commonly banded species. This is the first time any warbler other than Myrtle has been in the top ten.

Winter Wren (8) and Brown Creeper (7) also reached new highs, while permanent residents Carolina Chickadee (8), Carolina Wren (9) and Northern Cardinal (11) all reached new lows (drought?).

Both Swainson's (19) and Gray-cheeked (12) thrushes were banded in encouraging numbers.

Returns were average at 56; none unusual.

**Roan Mountain****360-0820**

Carter County, TN / Mitchell County, NC  
**Richard L. Knight, Bander**  
 rknight@preferred.com

Autumn bird banding was conducted at Carver's Gap on Road Mountain for the third consecutive year and the fifth year out of the last seven. The station was open for 27 days, from 31 Aug through 8 Oct. The weather during this period was very mild and dry. It was so mild that no frost occurred during the banding season. At this high elevation (5512 ft) site, the first frost of the season often forms by mid-September. Also, winds were less disruptive than usual. These conditions made for a very pleasant season. Methodology remained consistent with the efforts of previous years.

The number of birds banded this season (719) was well above the five-year average of 577. Also, the

number of species (47) was one more than the previous high. Five species were new to the station list (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Prairie Warbler) bringing the total to 65 species. In addition, three hummingbirds were released unbanded. The top four species banded have remained the same every year, although not always in the same sequence. Most of the juncos and Golden-crowned Kinglets are likely local breeders. The capture rate has remained high.

Of interest this season were four juvenile Hermit Thrushes banded between 7 & 17 Sep, presenting the best evidence to date for breeding here, near the southeastern terminus of their known summer range. A notable recapture occurred on 19 Sep when a Chestnut-sided Warbler, originally banded as an HY-M in August 2000, was netted; it had been recaptured last year also. This may be a locally breeding individual. The only other recapture was a junco banded last year.

My thanks to the Cherokee National Forest (TN) and the Pisgah National Forest (NC) for permission to band birds at this site.



**Hermit Thrush**  
 by George West