

# ALLEGHENY FRONT MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

**Fall Migration 1999**

**Grant County, West Virginia**

The forty-second year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory can be considered to be an average season. While the number of birds banded was the third highest in the past decade it was much lower than in earlier years. The station was in continuous operation from August 15 to October 16. The station was closed because of rain (including two hurricanes) on six days and one day because of high winds. On two additional days operations were closed down early because of the weather. Useful banding was carried out on 56 days.

A total of 5662 birds (average = 5875) of 84 species was banded with a station effort of 6796 net-hours giving a capture ratio of 83.31 birds per 100 net-hours. In August 903 birds were banded, 2777 in September, and 1982 in October. The station has now banded 176,066 birds of 119 species. No new species were captured this year.

Twenty-two birds banded in previous years were captured. These included a Magnolia Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat banded in 1993, a Yellowthroat and a Purple Finch banded in 1995, and four birds banded in 1997. In 1998 a Magnolia Warbler was netted at A.F.M.O. two days after it was banded at Coudersport, PA. An exciting Recovery is the report of a Hermit Thrush banded here in 1995 was trapped near Yakutat, Alaska on September 3, 1999.

The pattern of migration (see figure on page 4) followed the classical form but was greatly influenced by the rainy days. The days on which the station was closed because of rain were invariably followed by major flights. After a dry August with low daily numbers of bandings the first wave of migrants came August 27-29. After a week of little activity the rains of Hurricane Dennis caused a two-day shut-down which was followed by a wave lasting for about 6 days during which 821 birds were banded. Hurricane Floyd gave rise to a small wave lasting 4 days. Rain on September 21 triggered the biggest flight of the season. From September 22-27 1258 birds were banded. A major frontal system with strong winds closed the station on September 30 but 613 birds were banded on October 1, the highest daily count of the season. In addition to this high count one day had more than 300 birds, seven days had more than 200 and seven more had more than 100.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler with 1035 bandings was the most numerous species. This figure is 62% above the 10-year average, The Blackpoll Warbler with 625 bandings (31% below average), and the Black-throated Green Warbler with 494 (41% above average) were next in line. Of 32 species for which meaningful analysis can be made 23 were banded in numbers greater than the ten-year average but only four were more than one standard deviation (S.D.) above the average, only one (Philadelphia Vireo) was two S.D. above and only one (Hooded

Warbler) was three S.D. above average. Of the nine species handled in numbers less than the average only two (Veery and Cape May warbler were more than one S.D. below the average. The 3996 warblers were 27% above the 10-year average . Of the "Budworm Specialists" the Tennessee Warbler was 33% above the 10-year average, the Bay-breasted Warbler was 31% below the average and the Cape May Warbler with only 98 bandings (third poorest) was 61% below.

The visual migrant counts were continued. An all-time high of 18,706 Blue Jays was counted with a fantastic one-day count of 8297 on October 3. Other seasonal counts were 252 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (10-year average -443), 3689 American Goldfinches average 3064, and 1134 Monarch Butterflies.

During the season 1459 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 13 states, District of Columbia, Ontario and England, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa. As usual several elementary and high school classes as well as several college classes and senior citizen groups visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Ken Heselton, Sue Heselton, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Joan Bell Pattison, Randy Ritter, Janet Shaffer, Judy Ward, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leader Ralph Bell. LeJay Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter. Randy Ritter was campground host and resident bander. JoAnn Graham made most of the BlueJay-Hummingbird counts. Others who were present for extended periods of time were Phil Graham, Beth Ritter, and Carl and Joan Rowe. The following people aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Bill Agee, Doris Agee, Danny Cathell, Kelly Catlett, Howard Cork, Megan Cox, Ruthanne Dean, Charlotte Duffield, Cindy Ellis, Amy Fauber, Lou Ann Fauber, Ed Fauber, Dawn Fox, Jay Fox, Matt Fox, Tom Fox, Jason Friggens, Walter Fye, Mark Garland, Mike Griffith, Elaine Howe, Bob Hogan, Linda Hollenberg, Patrick Hurley, Mark Johnson, Jonavieve Lockhart, Ben Myers, Evelyn Myers, Larry Myers, Tim Newlin, Don Pattison, Charlotte Pryor, Jan Quailey, Chuck Riddle, Miles Runner, Joe Schreiber, Leigh Ann Schwartz, Steve Sushinski, Jeanne Tinsman, John van Kirk, Martin Wiley, and Llew Williams.

We also 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 Wait Lesser of the D.N.R. for the use of the shed for storage of the banding shelter. The Brooks Bird Club supplied some financial support.

George A. Hall  
November 24, 1999

Species List 1999

	Number	First	Last	Peak No	Date
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Oct. 1	Oct. 16		
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Aug. 29			
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Oct. 16			
N. Saw-whet Owl	5	Aug. 29	Oct. 11		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Sept' 24	Oct. 6		
Downy Woodpecker	9	Sept. 9	Oct. 9		
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Sept. 14			
Northern Flicker	1	Oct. 1			
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4	Sept. 9	Oct. 1		
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Aug. 17			
"Trail's" Flycatcher	1	Aug. 16			
Least Flycatcher	1	Aug. 29			
Eastern Phoebe	1	Oct. 5			
White-eyed Vireo	1	Oct. 6			
Blue-headed Vireo	14	Sept. 23	Oct. 16	5	Oct. 6
Warbling Vireo	1	Sept. 7			
Philadelphia Vireo	32	Sept. 8	Oct. 6	15	Oct. 1
Red-eyed Vireo	61	Aug. 16	Oct. 6		
Blue Jay	132	Sept. 22	Oct. 16	43	Oct. 6
Carolina Chickadee	3	Aug. 22	Oct. 13		
Black-capped Chickadee	35	Aug. 16	Oct. 16		
Tufted Titmouse	3	Oct. 5	Oct. 8		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	Aug. 27	Oct. 14		
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	Sept. 22	Oct. 14		
Brown Creeper	28	Sept. 20	Oct. 16	6	Oct. 8
House Wren	1	Sept. 29			
Winter Wren	17	Aug. 17	Oct. 16		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	245	Sept. 8	Oct. 16	59	Oct. 7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	227	Sept. 18	Oct. 16	39	Oct. 7
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Aug. 23	Sept. 24		
Veery	10	Aug. 17	Oct. 1		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	12	Sept. 9	Oct. 5		
Swainson's Thrush	332	Aug. 15	Oct. 13	50	Sept. 11
Hermit Thrush	50	Aug. 15	Oct. 16	7	Oct. 7
Wood Thrush	28	Sept. 8	Oct. 12	6	Oct. 1
American Robin	6	Aug. 30	Oct. 16		
Gray Catbird	8	Sept. 2	Oct. 5		
Brown Thrasher	1	Oct. 2			
Cedar Waxwing	8	Aug. 16	Sept. 23		
Blue-winged Warbler	2	Aug. 29	Sept. 11		
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Aug. 17			
Tennessee Warbler	377	Aug. 22	Oct. 15	51	S/8,0 /1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Sept. 18	Oct. 3		
Nashville Warbler	126	Aug. 27	Oct. 16	27	Oct. 1
Northern Parula	8	Sept. 22	Oct. 1		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	93	Aug. 15	Sept. 26	19	Aug. 29
Magnolia Warbler	428	Aug. 15	Oct. 7	57	Sept. 26
Cape May Warbler	98	Aug. 17	Oct. 5	19	Sept. 8
Bl.-throated Blue Warbler	1035	Aug. 15	Oct. 15	87	Sept. 24
Yellow-rumped Warbler	25	Aug. 16	Oct. 13	10	Oct. 7
Bl.-throated Green Warbler	494	Aug. 16	Oct. 9	104	Oct. 1
Blackburnian Warbler	178	Aug. 16	Oct. 13	35	Aug. 28
Prairie Warbler	2	Aug. 17			

Palm Warbler	7	Sept.10	Sept. 24		
Bay-breasted Warbler	61	Aug. 28	Oct. 9	8	Sept. 25
Blackpoll Warbler	625	Aug. 29	Oct. 13	143	Oct. 1
Black & White Warbler	40	Aug. 16	Oct. 6		
American Redstart	42	Aug. 15	Oct. 1	5	Sept. 9
Worm-eating Warbler	3	Aug. 18	Aug. 27		
Ovenbird	141	Aug. 15	Oct. 5	14	Sept. 20
Northern Waterthrush	2	Aug. 20	Sept. 23		
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	Aug. 15	Sept. 13		
Connecticut Warbler	9	Sept. 10	Sept. 24		
Mourning Warbler	1	Aug. 15			
Common Yellowthroat	144	Aug. 15	Oct. 2	9	Sept. 12
Hooded Warbler	23	Aug. 16	Oct. 3		
Wilson's Warbler	20	Aug. 20	Oct. 3		
Canada Warbler	7	Aug. 16	Sept. 23		
Scarlet Tanager	10	Aug. 17	Sept. 23		
Eastern Towhee	18	Aug. 16	Oct. 15		
Chipping Sparrow	2	Aug. 21	Sept. 26		
Field Sparrow	9	Aug. 18	Sept. 29		
Savannah Sparrow	3	Aug. 17	Sept. 18		
Fox Sparrow	5	Oct. 6	Oct. 16		
Song Sparrow	13	Aug. 16	Oct. 16		
Lincoln's Sparrow	11	Sept. 8	Sept. 26		
Swamp Sparrow	15	Aug. 16	Oct.13		
White-throated Sparrow	58	Sept. 27	Oct.16	16	Oct. 8
White-crowned Sparrow	1	Oct. 12			
Dark-eyed Junco	150	Aug. 15	Oct. 16	22	Oct. 13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18	Aug. 18	Sept. 24		
Indigo Bunting	10	Aug. 15	Sept. 9		
Purple Finch	2	Aug. 22	Sept. 9		
American Goldfinch	19	Aug. 26	Sept. 26		

