

ALLEGHENY FRONT MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

Fall Migration 2001 **Grant County, West Virginia**

The forty-fourth year of bird-banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was better than last year, but was still the sixth poorest season since we have had full time coverage. The number of bandings was 67% of the long-term average. The station was in full operation from August 12 to October 13. The weather was benign, with mild temperatures and little rain. The station was shut down because of rain or high winds on only three days and on three additional days rain caused an early close of the nets. Some useful banding as carried out on 57 days.

A total of 3826 birds (average=5659) was banded with a station effort of 7535 net-hours, giving a capture ratio of 50.78 birds per 100 net-hours. This value was essentially the same as the 50.13 obtained in 2000. In August, 755 birds were banded (20 days), 2080 in September (25 days), and 991 in October (12 days). The station has now banded 188,599 birds of 119 species. No new species were captured this year.

Eleven birds banded in earlier years were recaptured: Three banded in 2000, four in 1999, two in 1998, one in 1996, and the prize of the year: a Slate-colored Junco originally banded here as an HY on August 13, 1991 was caught on September 20, 2001. At ten years of age, this may be the longevity record for the species.

The migration very nearly followed the classical pattern (Figure on page 4.) After two weeks of low daily capture numbers, the first wave of migrants came August 28-31. A period of moderate numbers in early September was followed by a series of waves, which peaked on the 11th, 18th, 22nd, and October 5. The best day of the season was 284 bandings on September 18. This was an unusual one-day wave preceded by four days and followed by two days of poor bird flights. Migration waves normally look like the one which peaked on September 22 with the second highest day's count, 276. Three other days had counts over 200, and seven other days had more than 100 and 35 days had less than 50 bandings.

The most numerous species was again the Black-throated Blue Warbler with 849 captures, which is 20% above the ten-year average. The Black-throated Green Warbler was second with 430 (12% above the average). The Blackpoll Warbler, the usual leader dropped to third with 374 bandings (37 % below the average). Of 35 species selected for analysis, 28 were captured in numbers less than the ten-year average, but 23 of these were less than one standard deviation (S.D.) below the average; four species (Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak) were one S.D. below; the Hermit Thrush was 2.5 S.Ds. below the average. For all of the seven species with banding numbers greater than the ten-year average, the difference was less than one S.D. above average.

The warblers as a group showed a decline of 18% from the ten-year average. This improvement from 42% last year was due in part to last year's low total which lowered the ten-year average. Two of the "Spruce Bedroom Specialists" continued to decline. The Cape May Warbler declined 70% and the Bay-breasted Warbler had a 43% decline, but the Tennessee Warbler, which is not so closely tied to the budworm cycle as the others, was 5% above the average. The Blackburnian Warbler had been in low numbers for several years, but the low numbers of Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's Warbler were noteworthy.

The low numbers for Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco may be because the heavy migration of these species came after the station was closed.

The visual migrant counts listed 844 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (highest count), 13,312 Blue Jays (third highest), 5428 American Goldfinches (highest count), and 727 Monarch Butterflies. Five hundred forty-eight raptors of ten species were counted including two Bald Eagles, three Golden Eagles, and three Peregrines.

During the season, 1728 people signed the visitor's book. These visitors came from 21 states, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras, Japan, and Switzerland. As usual, several elementary and high school classes as well as some college classes visited the station.

The banders who participated this year were Lynn Barnhart, Robert Dean, LeJay Graffious, Ken Heselton, Sue Heselton, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Randy Ritter, Judy Ward, Charles Ziegenfus, and station co-leaders Ralph Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. LeJay Graffious was also responsible for the banding shelter. Randy Ritter was campground host, JoAnn Graham made most of the Blue Jay-Hummingbird counts, Tom Fox was chief of the brush clearing crew. Others were present for extended periods of time were Bill and Doris Agee, 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: Chris Broyles, Robin Dean, Ruth Ann Dean, Charlotte Duffield, Greg Eddy, Dawn Fox, Jay Fox, Matt Fox, Walter Fye, Mark Garland, Bob Hogan, Linda Hollenberg, John Jacobs, Mark Johnson, Gordon Knight, Jack Minear, Jolene Minear, Ben Myers, Evelyn Myers, Franzi Nievergeit, Geoff Newlin, Tim Newlin, Don Pattison, Don Shearer, Martha Shearer, Steve Sushinski, Scott Wiley, and Martin Wiley.

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George A. Hall
November 26, 2001

2001 Species List

| | Number | First | Last | Peak No, | Date |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | Aug. 30 | | | |
| N. Saw-whet Owl | 2 | Sept. 20 | | | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 1 | Oct. 3 | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 2 | Oct. 3 | Oct. 10 | | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | Sept. 21 | Oct. 12 | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | Oct. 7 | | | |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | Oct. 1 | | | |
| E. Wood Pewee | 2 | Aug. 25 | Sept. 3 | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 2 | Sept. 11 | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | 1 | Aug. 15 | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 3 | Aug. 27 | Sept. 10 | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 14 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 4 | | |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 5 | Sept. 7 | Sept. 24 | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 31 | Aug. 17 | Sept. 30 | | |
| Blue Jay | 127 | Sept. 23 | Oct. 12 | 38 | Oct. 4 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 5 | Aug. 22 | Sept. 30 | | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 3 | Sept. 29 | Oct. 5 | | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 4 | Sept. 3 | Oct. 5 | | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 6 | Oct. 3 | Oct. 11 | | |
| Brown Creeper | 19 | Sept. 27 | Oct. 12 | | |
| Winter Wren | 9 | Aug. 12 | Oct. 13 | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 132 | Aug. 31 | Oct. 13 | 16 | Oct. 3 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 62 | Sept. 6 | Oct. 13 | 7 | Oct. 3,5 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 3 | Aug. 25 | Sept. 7 | | |
| Veery | 11 | Aug. 12 | Aug. 30 | | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 18 | Sept. 23 | Oct. 10 | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | 336 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 10 | 50 | Sept. 18 |
| Hermit Thrush | 16 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 13 | | |
| Wood Thrush | 21 | Aug. 18 | Oct. 9 | | |
| American Robin | 11 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 13 | | |
| Gray Catbird | 5 | Aug. 14 | Oct. 1 | | |
| Brown Thrasher | 2 | Sept. 12 | Sept. 21 | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 1 | Sept. 12 | | | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 3 | Aug. 29 | Sept. 3 | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | 1 | Sept. 4 | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | 305 | Aug. 22 | Oct. 11 | 42 | Sept. 18 |
| Nashville Warbler | 29 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 11 | | |
| Northern Parula | 4 | Aug. 23 | Sept. 27 | | |
| Yellow Warbler | 1 | Sept. 2 | | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 49 | Aug. 14 | Sept. 27 | | |
| Magnolia Warbler | 167 | Aug. 14 | Oct. 8 | | |
| Cape May Warbler | 63 | Aug. 18 | Oct. 7 | 42 | Aug. 31 |
| Bl.-throated Blue Warbler | 849 | Aug. 12 | Oct. 12 | 80 | Sept. 22 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 20 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 12 | | |
| Bl.-throated Green Warbler | 430 | Aug. 13 | Oct. 11 | 42 | Sept. 18 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | 80 | Aug. 22 | Oct. 5 | | |
| Prairie Warbler | 3 | Aug. 30 | Sept. 8 | | |
| Palm Warbler | 6 | Sept. 11 | Sept. 29 | | |

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|------------------------|-----|----------|----------|
| Bay-breasted Warbler | 49 | Aug. 30 | Oct. 5 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 374 | Sept. 4 | Oct. 12 |
| Black & White Warbler | 23 | Aug. 19 | Sept. 27 |
| American Redstart | 25 | Aug. 13 | Oct. 2 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | 2 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 11 |
| Ovenbird | 73 | Aug. 18 | Oct. 3 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 2 | Aug. 24 | Sept. 15 |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 2 | Aug. 16 | Aug. 28 |
| Connecticut Warbler | 7 | Aug. 31 | Oct. 1 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 103 | Aug. 13 | Oct. 10 |
| Hooded Warbler | 9 | Aug. 12 | Sept. 22 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 10 | Aug. 28 | Sept. 18 |
| Canada Warbler | 7 | Aug. 18 | Oct. 5 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 13 | Aug. 12 | Sept. 29 |
| Eastern Towhee | 13 | Aug. 12 | Oct. 13 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 2 | Aug. 26 | Sept. 2 |
| Field Sparrow | 5 | Aug. 15 | Oct. 7 |
| Vesper Sparrow | 1 | Sept. 5 | |
| Savannah Sparrow | 1 | Sept. 22 | |
| Fox Sparrow | 1 | Oct. 8 | |
| Song Sparrow | 12 | Aug. 12 | Oct. 5 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 6 | Sept. 8 | Oct. 12 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 8 | Aug. 24 | Oct. 8 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 13 | Sept. 29 | Oct. 12 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 2 | Sept. 29 | Oct. 7 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 139 | Aug. 13 | Oct. 13 |
| Northern Cardinal | 1 | Oct. 10 | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 8 | Aug. 14 | Sept. 13 |
| Indigo Bunting | 2 | Aug. 30 | Sept. 19 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 1 | Sept. 2 | |
| Purple Finch | 1 | Aug. 19 | |
| American Goldfinch | 22 | Aug. 20 | Oct. 3 |

