

ALLEGHENY FRONT MIGRATION OBSERVATORY
Fall Migration 2002 **Grant County, West Virginia**

The forty-fifth 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 August 11 to October 17. 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 (average=5595) of 78 species was banded with a station effort of 7471 net-hours giving a capture ratio of 49.3 birds per 100 net-hours. 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 (26 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 banded in 1993.

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

The main warbler migration started about September 14. Instead of the usual progression of three days of heavy flights separated by several days of inactivity there four waves crowded into nine days with banding numbers between 150 and 200. A more typical wave occurred from October 1 to October 4. September 14 with 206 bandings 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 has less than 50 bandings.

The Tennessee Warbler was the most numerous species with 530 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

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 below the average. Eight species were caught in numbers greater than the average: five less than one S.D. above average, one species (Eastern Towhee) one S.D. above and two species (Winter Wren and Tennessee Warbler) two S.D. 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); 872 on September a record daily count; 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, District of Columbia, Bolivia, Germany, Japan, and Switzerland. As usual several elementary and middle school classes including the long-time 1 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 Heselton, Sue Heselton, Carol McCullough, 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, Don Pattison, Beth Ritter, and Carl and Joan Rowe. The following people aided in tending nets, carrying cages, keeping records, and in many other ways: Charlotte Duffield, Greg Eddy, Dawn Fox, Matt Fox, Walter Fye, Bob Hogan, Linda Hollenberg, John Jacobs, Virginia Johnson, Gordon Knight, Jonavieve Lockhart, Jack Minear, Joleene Minear, Tim Newlin, Joe Schreiber, Janet Shaffer, Steve Sushinski, and Jacalene Youmans.

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George A. Hall
December 4, 2002

2002 Species List

	Number	First	Last	Peak No	Date
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Oct. 5			
American Kestrel	1	Oct. 1			
American Woodcock	2	Sept. 18	Sept. 19		
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	Oct. 1			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Oct. 15			
Downy Woodpecker	3	Sept. 4	Oct. 4		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	5	Aug. 19	Sept. 19		
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Sept. 13			
Least Flycatcher	3	Aug. 25	Sept. 6		
Eastern Phoebe	3	Sept. 5	Oct. 4		
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Sept. 20			
Blue-headed Vireo	14	Aug. 11	Oct. 15		
Philadelphia Vireo	10	Sept. 14	Sept. 24		
Red-eyed Vireo	25	Aug. 15	Oct. 3		
Blue Jay	66	Aug. 23	Oct. 15	21	Oct. 4
Black-capped Chickadee	22	Aug. 23	Oct. 12		
Tufted Titmouse	5	Sept. 18	Sept. 28		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Sept. 3	Sept. 21		
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	Sept. 13	Oct. 1		
Brown Creeper	9	Aug. 17	Oct. 14		
Carolina Wren	5	Aug. 13	Sept. 16		
House Wren	3	Sept. 14	Sept. 21		
Winter Wren	21	Aug. 14	Oct. 15		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	114	Sept. 5	Oct. 15	46	Oct. 9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	39	Sept. 13	Oct. 17	8	Oct. 9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	Aug. 13	Sept. 21		
Veery	12	Aug. 17	Sept. 23		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	12	Sept. 13	Oct. 15		
Swainson's Thrush	210	Aug. 11	Oct. 11	23	Oct. 3
Hermit Thrush	43	Aug. 12	Oct. 17		
Wood Thrush	22	Aug. 27	Oct. 11		
American Robin	5	Aug. 11	Oct. 15		
Gray Catbird	6	Sept. 9	Oct. 9		
Cedar Waxwing	9	Aug. 19	Sept. 16		
Blue-winged Warbler	1	Sept. 19			
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Sept. 4			
"Brewster's" Warbler	1	Aug. 17			
Tennessee Warbler	530	Aug. 23	Oct. 15	79	Sept. 14
Nashville Warbler	30	Aug. 20	Oct. 15		
Northern Parula	4	Aug. 20	Sept. 22		
Yellow Warbler	1	Oct. 4			
Chestnut-sided Warbler	24	Aug. 12	Oct. 1		
Magnolia Warbler	199	Aug. 13	Oct. 2	23	Sept. 19
Cape May Warbler	122	Sept. 3	Oct. 12	23	Sept. 4
Bl.-throated Blue Warbler	528	Aug. 11	Oct. 15	51	Sept. 24
Yellow-rumped Warbler	19	Aug. 12	Oct. 8		
Bl.-throated Green Warbler	301	Aug. 11	Oct. 15	46	Sept. 4
Blackburnian Warbler	134	Aug. 17	Sept. 21	55	Sept. 4

Yellow-throated Warbler	1	Aug. 22		
Prairie Warbler	2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	
Palm Warbler	1	Sept. 17		
Bay-breasted Warbler	48	Sept. 4	Oct. 9	12 Sept. 21
Blackpoll Warbler	422	Sept. 3	Oct. 14	43 Oct. 1
Cerulean Warbler	4	Aug. 20	Sept. 4	
Black & White Warbler	25	Aug. 12	Sept. 23	
American Redstart	36	Aug. 11	Oct. 1	6 Sept. 4
Worm-eating Warbler	12	Aug. 12	Sept. 15	
Ovenbird	89	Aug. 12	Oct. 1	11 Sept. 20
Northern Waterthrush	3	Sept. 13	Sept. 23	
Connecticut Warbler	9	Sept. 12	Sept. 21	
Common Yellowthroat	106	Aug. 11	Oct. 9	
Hooded Warbler	11	Aug. 12	Oct. 2	
Wilson's Warbler	17	Aug. 28	Oct. 1	
Canada Warbler	10	Aug. 11	Sept. 19	
Scarlet Tanager	15	Sept. 3	Oct. 1	
Eastern Towhee	25	Aug. 15	Oct. 9	
Chipping Sparrow	1	Aug. 14		
Field Sparrow	4	Aug. 13	Oct. 15	
Savannah Sparrow	2	Aug. 14	Sept. 20	
Song Sparrow	2	Sept. 6	Sept. 20	
Lincoln's Sparrow	8	Sept. 12	Sept. 29	
Swamp Sparrow	7	Aug. 20	Oct. 9	
White-throated Sparrow	33	Sept. 30	Oct. 17	14 Oct. 9
White-crowned Sparrow	5	Oct. 7	Oct. 15	
Dark-eyed Junco	125	Aug. 11	Oct. 15	16 Oct. 4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	16	Aug. 18	Oct. 3	
Indigo Bunting	4	Aug. 22	Sept. 21	
American Goldfinch	13	Aug. 25	Oct. 3	

