

2005

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Elizabeth W. Brooks

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Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station
Monroe County, NY
Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler
brookser@infoblvd.net

The nineteenth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 29 Jul and ended on 11 Nov 2004. Licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, and Robert McKinney did banding. Banding assistants were Jessie Barry, Linda Boutwell, Peter Doherty, Virginia Duffy, Ryan Kayhart, Coby Klein, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Chris Villone, and Barb Wagner.

Banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 31 Aug and 17 Oct, with three days lost due to inclement weather. Banding was also done on five days prior to and six days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 10,758 net hours on 57 days. There were 5176 birds banded of 84 forms (4678 birds banded of 89 forms in 2003). Two male and three female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 17 Sep). The season's overall capture rate was 48.1 birds/100 net hours (b/100nh). There were no new species for the cumulative fall list that still stands at 122 forms.

The best day was 12 Oct when 402 birds (22% Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 19% White-throated Sparrows, and 18% Golden-crowned Kinglets) of 20 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 5 Oct (339), 11 Oct (321), 13 Oct (303), 9 Oct (269), and 23 Sep (210). The greatest species diversity occurred on 23 Sep when 39 species were banded.

Up to 45 12-m nets and four 6-m nets were used, most in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 44 12-m nets were six double-high net assemblies. Nets were numbered and identified as to their habitat site and the capture time (hour after sunrise to the nearest 0.5 hour) and net number was recorded for each bird handled. There were over 715 birds recaptured during fall 2004 ("repeats"), and they were all measured, fat-scored, and re-weighed.

Few birds had deformed bills or were infected with avian pox this fall. This was a welcome change after last fall's unusually high incidence of avian pox and deformed bills. Six species (White-throated Sparrow (2), Veery, Northern Cardinal (4), Hermit Thrush (2), Swainson's Thrush and Black-throated Blue Warbler (2)) showed evidence of avian pox. Ticks were removed from four White-throated Sparrows and a Veery; Hippoboscids flies were found on three White-throated Sparrows and a Swainson's Thrush. Mites and/or feather lice were noted on three White-throated Sparrows, a Blackpoll Warbler, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Of 15 returns, three were four years of age while the remainder were younger. The three were a Gray Catbird, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Northern Cardinal. Weekly banding summaries from the fall 2004 season can be found on our website at <http://www.bbbo.org>.

It was a good year for thrushes, among other species. Species banded in record high numbers in fall 2004 were: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked and Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's thrush, Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Eastern White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Northern Cardinal. On the negative side, Eastern Wood-Pewee was not banded for the first time since 1990; Baltimore Oriole was missing after being banded in 10 out of the last 13 years; and House Finch was missing again after being banded in 11 of the last 13 years.

Mark Deutschlander conducted research on nocturnal orientation of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes. Nazareth College professor Beverly Brown continued her analysis of fecal samples from mid-day migrants to identify what food resources were being utilized in the area of the banding station. On 1-3 Oct, the Observatory hosted a North American Banding Council Bander Certification Evaluation Session for the Eastern Bird Banding Association. Students from Beverly Brown's class at Nazareth College, Mark Deutschlander's senior seminar on bird migration at Hobart and William Smith College, Kristi Hannam's Animal Behavior Class at SUNY Geneseo, and Sara Morris' Vertebrate Zoology Class at Canisius College all visited the banding

station. Pat Lovallo represented BBBO at the Fall Fun Day sponsored by the Girl Scouts' Stoney Hill Service Team at Braddock Bay Park. Many individuals visited the banding station on an informal basis.

Our fall research assistant was Peter Doherty, and Ryan Kayhart was our senior intern. Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Doug Smith for all his habitat management. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Liz Barry, Kevin Dockery, Jesse Ellis, Judy Engerman, Cricket Fegan, Peggy Fuller, Marilyn Guenther, Michelle Hall, Mike Harvey, Jennifer Heckler, Donna Hilborn, Anya Illes, Ben Kopec, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Dan Niven, Debbie Reed, Jesse Roberts, Michelle Rogne, Lee Scofield, Jeanne Skelly, Lois Smith, Greta Stephany, Ruth Stork, Tami Walsh, and Scott and Teresa Wolcott. A special thanks to Bob and Charlene Reed for housing and to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Alfred Station

421-0774

Allegany County, NY.

Elizabeth W. Brooks

brookser@infoblvd.net

The 28th year of fall banding at Alfred Station (1435 Waterwells Road in the Town of Alfred) began on 10 Jul and ended on 23 Nov. From one to four nets were used on 57 days, for a total of 547 net hours. A total of 223 birds of 27 species were banded. The peak day was 25 Oct, when 25 birds were banded. There were 83 repeats and 23 returns. Of the 23 returns of birds banded in Alfred during previous seasons, five were over four years of age. There were two Blue Jays, one in its fourth year and one in its fifth year! Sixteen Black-capped Chickadees returned, one of which was in its fourth year and another in its sixth year. A House Wren was in its fourth year. All others were younger than four.

One Hippoboscid fly was found on a Slate-colored Junco. Three White-throated Sparrows had orange lores.

As in the previous seven years, no banding was done at this location from 12 Sep to 15 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay. This makes meaningful analysis difficult. The number of birds banded has remained steady for the past five years, but the number of species (27) was nearly half the 25-year average (47.8). B/100nh (42.9) was double the 27-year average (21.8).

Several slide presentations on bird banding were given to local clubs and a banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 11 Sep.

Kestrel Haven Avian

422-0764

Migration Observatory

Burdett, Schuyler County, NY.

John and Sue Gregoire

khmo@att.net

We had a fantastic season despite very un-cooperative November weather, which allowed only a few hours netting. We broke 5,000 for the second consecutive year with 5,002 new birds banded of 93 species in 113 days of operation. We also had 1,470 repeats, 128 returns, and 236 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds which were not banded. The total birds netted was 6,836, making our measure of efficiency 124 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 169 b/100nh overall. Hatching-year birds were again right on the 19-year norm of 87%. It is hard to believe that we have been at this for 19 consecutive falls at this site. Long-term, constant-effort banding at the site continues to lead to better data, particularly in support of species longevity, routing, and timing of migration and weather effects on migration.

We added Northern Shrike to bring our station total to 130 species plus five forms. The shrike was a youngster who had been terrorizing the net lanes for a few days; after banding, he departed the area.

We had 40 days with more than 50 birds banded, including eight days with over 100 banded. Twelve species were banded in numbers exceeding 100 including a notable resurgence of House Finches. Given the large number of young birds, they seem to be making a comeback from the population depressing *Mycoplasma* epidemic. This was only our second fall with very few White-crowned Sparrows; their normal month-long stopover was