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Eastern Regional News - Region II

North American Bird Bander

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2005

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Our stations all did very well this fall! The longevity of this cooperative research project is also noteworthy. This fall we have stations reporting their 44th, 36th, 29th, and two at their 20th fall season. The eldest, Vestal, has been in continuous operation since 1961; Harriet Marsi started the effort and later turned over responsibility to daughter Gail Kirch. Valerie Freer's station comes next followed by the rest of us "kids." We welcome new stations/banders to join us.

Several banders comment on weather. Surprisingly, only Braddock Bay seemed unbothered by the heavy winds and rains of October. These were a mixed blessing in that the peculiar weather systems also stalled migration over a broad front that contributed to the large totals and distribution reported. The hurricanes of late September and October were not necessarily to blame for the wetness. A combination of events, with a storm coming out of central Canada, became very slow moving. This coincided with lots of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, there was a strong blocking mechanism in the North Atlantic (North Atlantic Oscillation) that allowed the tropical moisture from the tropical storm and hurricane remnants to flow northward in the upper atmosphere, where it became caught in a pattern of weak troughs and fronts. That was the blessing and curse as the weather did not move, the birds were blocked from southward movement, and the phenomena lasted a long time. The National Weather Service reported our area experienced the warmest year, and summer, on record.

Several species stand out at all the stations. American Goldfinches were everywhere, as were huge numbers of Myrtle Warblers and White-throated Sparrows. Black-capped Chickadees were banded in numbers shy of the big irruption year of 1999 but far above the norm. Braddock

Bay had awesome numbers of Winter Wrens and Brown Creepers. While we can speculate that Myrtles were irrupting and perhaps some of the others, one has to consider the long weather delay that bunched up the southward flow. Perhaps this year was but a more complete sampling of the migratory flow.

As wind power becomes more attainable, we are faced with the dilemma of embracing this clean, alternative energy at the cost of the lives of migrating birds and bats. Many of the proposed sites are virtually without nesting and migration data. Enter AFR! One large project in western New York conducted an extensive Environmental Impact Study drawing on Breeding Bird Atlas data, NEXRAD data, acoustic study and the migration data as reported by Braddock Bay and Kestrel Haven, the nearest constant-effort sites to the project. A station within the project area was polled but the lack of constant-effort and small sample size/ infrequent banding sessions presented an unfortunate picture that, despite evidence to the contrary from the other sites, was wrongly characterized by the lead agency as "weak migration over the proposed site." There are many lessons to be learned here apart from the growing value of AFR data to environmental studies.

We need more reported data and that simply means that people with banding permits need to begin contributing to cooperative research. There is really no reason for not doing so and I believe that this should be a mandatory responsibility that comes with the federal permit. We have reached that point in banding history where simply marking birds is not enough. It must be done within a scientific context and even the busiest of banders could contribute some time at an established station if running a new effort were not feasible.

We also need to present our data in an easily accessible format. In the New York case, researchers were able to access Braddock Bay and Kestrel Haven data easily because those data were available on web sites (and concomitantly easy to "google"). Sadly, that seems to be the

stopping point of neo-literature searches! When we suggested that *NABB* be examined, we discovered that AFR is at best glossed over in the on-line archive and not retrievable by author or station. Past and future AFR contributions must be listed in the *NABB* Table of Contents and also properly tabulated in the on-line site by station and author. If we do not make this priority, *NABB* and AFR lose relevancy to modern avian research. This is particularly important to third party use of our reports.

There are other cooperative projects. Get engaged! There is no reason why a MAPS station can not also contribute to AFR. The data are valuable and complementary. The study of migration timing and routing is dependent on many data sources over as much territory as possible. Bio-surveillance for H5N1 virus in wild birds is beginning. Keep informed. The USGS avian influenza site is a particularly good starting point: http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp/

Finally, we once again appeal to banders in Ontario, Pennsylvania, and New York to join this cooperative research project. We need you and environmental research needs your data. A schedule to the banding lab is not enough. Please write or call for more information as everyone has something to contribute.

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

The twentieth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 8 Jul and ended on 14 Nov 2005. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Linda Boutwell, Mike Burkett, Sharon Dehn, Peter Doherty, Virginia Duffy, Ryan Kayhart, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, and Barb Wagner.

Weather permitting, banding proceeded for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day

between 28 Aug and 21 Oct. Just one day (31 Aug) was lost due to rain and wind. Banding was also done on 12 days prior to and seven days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 12,374.5 net hours on 74 days. There were 6470 birds banded of 92 species (5176 birds banded of 84 forms in 2004). Five male and eight female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 22 Sep). The season's overall capture rate was 52.3 b/100nh. Barn Swallow was a new species for the cumulative fall list that now stands at 123 forms. The best day was 30 Sep when 426 birds of 28 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 10 Oct (370), 9 Oct (341), 13 Oct (316), 12 Oct (268), 27 Sep (243), 8 Oct (226), and 11 Oct (210). The greatest species diversity occurred on 13 Oct when 31 species were banded.

Up to 42 12-m nets and four 6-m nets were used, most in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 42 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 700 birds recaptured during fall 2005, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed. Ectoparasites and problems with avian pox were minimal this fall. Just three birds were handled with hippoboscids, three birds had ticks, and six birds showed evidence of avian pox.

This was an excellent migration, with a steady pace of migrants from beginning to end of the season. There were record numbers banded for 15 species! The total for each species is given below along with the average number banded each year for the past 19 years given in parenthesis: Downy Woodpecker (21, 5.9); Hairy Woodpecker (5, 0.6); Great Crested Flycatcher (8, 1.3); White-breasted Nuthatch (8, 1.1); Brown Creeper (163, 43.2); Carolina Wren (4, 0.8); House Wren (23, 7.9); Winter Wren (141, 49.8); Hermit Thrush (450, 154.7); Gray Catbird (175, 71.9); Nashville Warbler (38, 13.9); Myrtle Warbler (251, 38.9); Bay-breasted Warbler (12, 4.1); Northern Cardinal (30, 13.4); and American Goldfinch (288, 47.9). It was also a good season for Veery with 27 banded, the highest total since 1987.

Table 1. AFR II Summary of Operations - Fall 2005

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Sta.	Kestrel Haven	Northview	Vestal	Ellenville
Start	8 Jul	10 Jul	3 Jul	7 Jul	30 Jul	1 Aug
Stop	14 Nov	23 Nov	18 Nov	11 Nov	21 Nov	8 Nov
Total Days	74	61	100	49	74	43
No. Nets	1 to 45	1 to 4	1 to 24	1 to 7	2 to 11	5 to 8
Net Hours	12,375	493.5	4,921	468	1,563	1,059
No. Best Day	426	21	250	29	94	61
BD Date	30 Sep	27 Oct	12 Oct	19 Oct	21 Sep	20 Oct
Reason BD	32% GCKI; 29% RCKI	62% SCJU	64% MYWA	28% SCJU	76% AMGO	41% SCJU
Best Diversity	31 on 13 Oct	7 on 27 Oct	29 on 10 Oct	10 on 6 Aug	24 on 11 Oct	16 on 6 Aug
Banded 2004	5176	223	5002	590	1221	405
Banded 2005	6470	198	5102	439	1713	710
Species 2004	74	27	93	57	66	52
Species 2005	92	32	91	47	69	60
B/100nh 2004	48	41	124	96	67	42
B/100nh 2005	52	40	153	94	109	67
% HY 2004	80%	55%	87%	82%	78%	62%
% HY 2005	85%	82%	88%	74%	89%	72%

Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2005

Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Kestrel Haven			Northview			Vestal			Ellenville		
Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
WTSP(1)	1516	89%	SCJU(1)	70	70%	AMGO(1)	1265	93%	GRCA(1)	87	86%	AMGO(6)	410	91%	SCJU(2)	99	34%
RCKI(3)	722	83%	BCCH(2)	37	94%	SOSP(2)	725	95%	SOSP(2)	51	73%	SCJU(7)	140	87%	REV(9)	73	88%
GCKI(5)	502	92%	SOSP(5)	13	92%	MYWA	368	96%	SCJU	49	78%	REV(1)	137	78%	BCCH(6)	70	89%
HETH(2)	450	95%	CHSP	10	78%	WTSP(8)	234	98%	BCCH(4)	29	72%	BCCH(4)	122	95%	RCKI(1)	58	N/A
AMGO	288	63%	AMGO(3)	7	88%	GRCA(7)	214	92%	RTHU(6)	26	62%	GRCA(3)	103	96%	GRCA(3)	53	87%
MYWA	251	100%	COYE	6	33%	HOF(4)	211	94%	AMGO(5)	24	63%	WTSP(2)	97	80%	GCKI(16)	49	N/A
BCCH	237	80%	FISP	6	100%	COYE(3)	162	83%	COYE(3)	16	63%	CEDW(8)	64	84%	OVEN(16)	35	100%
GRCA(6)	175	89%	DOWO	4	75%	YWAR(5)	155	89%	WTSP(8)	13	100%	PUFI	58	74%	WTSP(4)	29	79%
MAWA(4)	170	84%	WBNH(10)	4	75%	SCJU(9)	129	74%	BAOR	12	100%	SOSP	48	94%	HETH(18)	26	96%
SWTH(7)	165	88%	HOWR(8)	4	100%	RCKI(11)	125	100%	AMRO(5)	11	45%	OVEN(10)	48	92%	COYE(5)	18	50%
						BCCH(12)	114	97%				COYE(5)	46	80%			
% of Total Banded		69.2%			81.3%			68.0%			72.0%			80.4%			72.0%

Notes: (#) = Indicates ranking last fall.

N/A = Not Attempted.

On the negative side, European Starling was missing for the third year in a row after being captured in 10 of the past 15 years; and Common Grackle was missing after being captured in six of the past 15 years.

The Observatory hosted the Eastern Bird Banding Association's seventh NABC Bander Certification and second Trainer Certification on 7-9 Oct 2005. Many individuals visited the banding station on an informal basis.

Our fall Field Assistant was Ryan Kayhart. Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Doug Smith for his assistance with building management. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Jake Barnett, Nancy Chevalier, Sara DeLeon, Kevin Dockery, Melanie Driscoll, Jesse Ellis, Judy Engerman, Sue Evans, Cricket Fegan, Marilyn Guenther, Michelle Hall, Mike Harvey, Donna Hilborn, Wes Hochachlea, Anya Illes, Peggy Keller, Mari Kimura, Ben Kopec, John Lehr, Pat Leonard, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Jane Miller, Harold Mills, Dan Niven, Jill Pearce, Jesse Roberts, Michelle Rogne, Lee Schofield, Micky Scilingo, Glenn Seeholzer, Jeanne Skelly, Lois Smith, Greta Stephany, Ruth Stork, Rob van der Stricht, and Scott, Malken Winter, and Scott and Teresa Wolcott.

A special thanks to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, Bob and Charlene Reed, and Doug Smith for housing and to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Alfred Station
Allegany County, NY
Bander: Elizabeth W. Brooks
<brookser@infoblvd.net>

421-0774

The 29th year of fall banding at Alfred Station (1435 Waterwells Road in the Town of Alfred) began on 10 Jul and ended on 23 Nov 2005. From one to four nets were used on 61 days, for a total of 493.5 net hours. A total of 198 birds of 32 species were banded (40.1 b/100nh).

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 81.5%. Hatching-year

percentages for the ten most common species were Slate-colored Junco, 70.2%; Black-capped Chickadee, 94.4%; Song Sparrow, 92.3%; Chipping Sparrow, 77.8%; American Goldfinch, 83.3%; Common Yellowthroat, 33.3%; Field Sparrow, 100%; Ovenbird, 100%; Downy Woodpecker, 75%; White-breasted Nuthatch, 75%; and House Wren, 100%. The peak day occurred on 27 Oct when 21 birds were banded; 62% of those banded were juncos. The day with the most species was also 27 Oct with seven species banded.

There were 70 repeats and 18 returns of birds banded in Alfred during previous seasons. The most noteworthy return was a Broad-winged Hawk caught in the same panel of the same net in which it was first captured in Aug 1999 as an ASY bird. This bird had to be at least in its ninth year. Two chickadees returned in their fourth year, a Downy Woodpecker, three chickadees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a junco all returned in their third year.

Hippoboscids were found on an American Robin and Song Sparrow; a junco had a 2 mm tumor on one foot; a White-throated Sparrow had orange lores; and a Black-Capped Chickadee had a healed fracture of one tarsus.

As in the previous six years, no banding was done at this location from 11 Sep to 14 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay. This makes meaningful analysis difficult. The number of birds banded has remained steady for the past four years, but the number of species (32) remains well below the long-term average (48). Birds/100nh (40.1) was nearly double the 26-year average (23.4).

Several slide presentations on bird banding were given to local clubs. A banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 10 Sep.

Kestrel Haven
Avian Migration Observatory
Burdett, Schuyler County, NY
Banders: John and Sue Gregoire
<khmo@att.net>

422-0764

We had a fantastic season and banded over 5,000 birds for the third consecutive year! We banded 5102 new birds of 91 species in 100 days of

operation. We also had 1,303 repeats, 121 returns and 170 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 6,696 making our measure of efficiency 153 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 201 b/100nh overall. Hatching-year birds were slightly higher than the 20-year norm at 88%. Thanks to a huge influx of Myrtle Warblers and several sparrow species, we overcame the effects of some really nasty weather that obviated November banding and reduced net hours in other prime months. The station list remains at 130 species plus five forms banded. We had two foreign Song Sparrows and a foreign American Goldfinch. Their source remains a mystery as the banders have yet to report/respond.

We had 39 days with more than 50 birds banded of which 16 were over 100 banded. On 12 Oct we set a new station high daily-banded record with 250 birds. In fact, the period from 10 Sep through 21 Oct was awesome. We banded almost every day and most days saw better than 50 or 100 birds banded. Eleven species were banded in numbers exceeding 100 including a notable irruption of Myrtle Warblers. We banded our 10th and 11th Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows. As usual, they arrived following an "Alberta Clipper" frontal event.

While most species were captured within normal parameters, a few are significant and worthy of mention. Numbers of field-nesting sparrows were again very low as a result of continued habitat loss. Goldfinches continued in spectacular numbers! We banded the most Black-capped Chickadees since the 1999 irruption, and our highest-ever number of Gray Catbirds, Myrtle Warblers, and Palm Warblers. Brown Thrashers exceeded their norm by a factor of four and Song Sparrows were a full one-third above norm. Both kinglets, Indigo Buntings, Lincoln's, Swamp and White-throated sparrows were well above norm. The only negative was a significant decrease in Common Yellowthroats that were banded at almost half their average of the last three years and well below the 20-year norm. House Finches continue to increase in number and we encountered no mycoplasma infections until winter feeder birds arrived after the banding season.

Returns were terrific! A Common Yellowthroat at 10+ years at least matched the reported species longevity record. Our eldest return was a Hairy Woodpecker at 11+ years old. Of the 121 returns of 21 species, 40 were in excess of four years of age. These numbers are truly remarkable when one considers the hazards of so many round-trip migrations. The 40 of 14 species shred out as follows:

- One Hairy Woodpecker at 11+
- Two Downy Woodpeckers at 4 and 7
- Three Black-capped Chickadees at 4, 5 and 6
- One Tufted Titmouse at 6
- Four Gray Catbirds at 4+, 5 (2) and 8+
- One Yellow Warbler at 6
- Two Ovenbirds at 4 and 5+
- Three Common Yellowthroats at 5, 6+ and 10+
- One Northern Cardinal at 5
- One Slate-colored Junco at 4+
- Three Song Sparrows at 4, and 6 (2)
- One Common Grackle at 4+
- Three Purple Finch at 5, 5+ and 7
- Fourteen American Goldfinch at 4 (6), 4+ (3), 5(3), 5+, and 6.

We also had a report of an SY-M American Goldfinch that was recovered 30 mi east in Cortland, NY, and a 6Y-F Sharp-shinned Hawk that was recovered at a neighbor's place within a mile of the station. The identity of two Song Sparrows and an American Goldfinch that arrived here banded await reports to the BBL the banders. We would certainly favor a return to the old "pink card" system!

Overall health was quite good and parasites were minimal. We had one minor case of pox on a Song Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow. Hippoboscids flies were present in normal numbers. We saw no conjunctivitis until three wintering House Finches arrived post-season.

It was exciting to have so many Brown Thrashers. In a normal year we may see one or two. This year we had at least three pair breed and we think we banded all the adults and offspring! A single intergrade flicker was banded. It presented with bilateral red shafts on P5 and 6. A truly notable AHY-M Cedar Waxwing had wax on both the rectrices and the tertials, a very rare occurrence.

Finally, we solved a mystery. Occasionally, over the years, we had arrived at a net to find a slobbery mess of feathers. While lots of sticky saliva was present, holing of the net was minimal. This season we caught the culprit—a white-tailed deer. Later we watched deer eating apples and the amount of mastication was amazing as was the slobber. Now, we had the problem of not only keeping deer from running through the nets, but also of stopping for brunch. A friend brought over a large sack of fresh pig manure claiming that a garden enhanced by pig manure kept the deer away permanently. She also said something about elephants also being afraid of porkers. We put some manure at each end of all the nets. That seemed to have worked for the remainder of the season. Of course, we didn't have any elephant problems either...

Our fifth year of identifying and marking dragonflies—incidentally netted—resulted in identification of 56 individuals of 15 species. The station total of odonates is now at 71 species. Incidental to banding, we netted *Anax junius*, *A. longipes*, *Epiaeshna heros*, *Aeshna umbrosa*, *Ae. tuberculifera*, *Ae. canadensis*, *Boyeria vinosa*, *Erythemis simplicicollis*, *Libellula lydia*, *L. pulchella*, *L. luctuosa*, *Sympetrum vicinum*, *Celithemis elisa*, and *Somatachloa walshii*. Particularly exciting was our capture of *Cordulegaster erronea*, a rare species for this area and the fourth *Cordulegaster* species identified here. The *Anax longipes* was also a county record. It bred at one of our ponds making this only the second upstate New York breeding location known for this more southern/coastal species.

A feature article on Kestrel Haven, banding and migration by Jim Pfiffer appeared in the Elmira, NY, *Star-Gazette* on 20 Nov. Kestrel Haven banding and point count data for the last several years were used in biological site studies for two massive wind power projects in nearby counties. A new project in our home county will also make use of our long-term data.

We also field-tested prototype banding pliers for the Bird Banding Lab and helped Speedtech develop an avian activity prediction algorithm for their Eco-Edge instrument. In addition to banding data, our daily point count data and weather logs

were invaluable to this effort. In the coming months KHAMO will field-test the prototype instrument.

We thank Don and Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, Belle Cullings, A.L. Donahue, Jylle Benson-Gauss, David Guaspari, Victoria Bond Kelly, Jay Schissell, Jeff Shampnois, and Robin Tuttle, for their generous support. Several others contributed equipment, advice and assistance. These include Stillman's Greenhouse, Gary Herzig, *Natural New England*, Spidertech, David Laylin of Speedtech, Mary Graham and Barlow Rhodes. Special thanks to Vicky who continues to enhance the website.

Northview Sanctuary

421-0762

Candor, Tioga County, NY

Bander: Robert J. Pantle

<bpbird@frontiernet.net>

Banding started on 7 Jul 2005 and went through 11 Nov 2005; banding was done on 49 days. My station banding efforts were somewhat abbreviated due to summer employment.

Using one to seven nets, I could muster only 468 net hours, capturing 439 new birds of 47 species. There were also 30 repeats and 32 returns. The peak banding day was on 19 Oct when 29 birds were banded.

Among the 32 returns were a nine-year-old Blue Jay and two five-year-olds, a five-year-old Gray Catbird, and a four-year-old Tufted Titmouse. Other returns include Black-capped Chickadees, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, Ovenbird, and Downy Woodpeckers, all under three years of age.

If the weather was record-setting for 2004 (record rainfall), 2005 will be remembered for its high temperatures. It was the second hottest on record in this area for July and August, according to the National Weather Service. Many days were over 90° F. Nets were furled on many days because of excessive high temperature.

For the last six years this station has been banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Return data are being collected. In July of this banding season an interesting report was forwarded to me via Kevin McGowan (Cornell University) about a banded

Ruby-throat that was frequenting a feeder close to my banding station (straight-line distance, approx. 4 mi). Apparently, the bird was very regular at a window feeder and with binoculars they were able to make out two of the band numbers—two consecutive zeros; no letters were noted. I perused my hummingbird banding records and found that hummingbird bands that I used five years ago had two consecutive zeros. I received permission to use my Bob Sargent hummingbird trap to capture the bird and verify the band number. We spent the better part of a day trying to capture this bird but did not see it or have an opportunity to capture it so were unable to verify the band number. I can only speculate that this was one of the birds I had banded five years ago.

The major captures at this station continue to be Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow, and Slate-colored Junco—my top three species.

Powderhouse Road Station **420-0775**
 Vestal, Broome County, NY
Bander: Gail Kirch <gkirch@stny.rr.com>

The 2005 banding season will be remembered for its weather and its birds. A wet spring was followed by a dry and very hot summer. The heat quickly evaporated what rain we had. There was no killing frost until after banding had ceased for the season. The berry crop (native dogwood, viburnum and the alien Autumn Olive) was average but began falling early as it dried out. I figured that the sparrows that come in October would not linger if they stayed at all. I was wrong. It was an exciting fall. Seventy species tied the previous high in 2001. Birds/100nh were typical during August and September. October and November numbers were very high partly due to the large flocks of American Goldfinches, which began 21 Sept and ended 21 Nov. Even wind did not slow them down. Along with them were Purple Finches (58), and strong and steady numbers of chickadees and warblers. One net caught the majority of these birds. Birds came in over my farm pond, flew through a hedge of Autumn Olive and into the net. This net is the last one on my route and there would be 30 or more birds. After freeing the biters (chickadees, tanagers, grosbeak, cardinals and purple finches) it was a relief to come across all the goldfinches—birds that untangled easily and did not fight and

bite! On days with more than 50 birds (8), Harriet Marsi came and recorded the data. My MAPS banding has taught me how to age the individual feather tracts. This knowledge made aging most birds by plumage easy. I skulled only those birds whose plumage didn't allow me to age them. This speed was an important factor as I did not want to keep the birds any longer than necessary. Dan Froehliche's "Aging North American Landbirds by Molt Limits and Plumage Criteria" (has colored photos) was of great help to me when it came out in time for the 2004 MAPS season.

I have always considered my banding site to be a "sparrow/finch" station. I compared 2001-2005 to 1991-1995 in four categories (sparrow/finch, warblers, thrushes, "berry-eaters-Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Vireos) to see if this was still true.

GROUP	% 1991-1995	% 2001-2005
Sparrow/Finches	23.5	29
Warblers	8	9
Thrushes	7	4
Berry-eaters	18	23

Sparrows/finches and "berry-eaters" have increased. Thrushes have continued their downward trend. The warblers have remained steady, a surprise to me as I felt I was banding more of them in recent years. While the habitat has changed, I try to "manage" the banding area by removing any young trees. Heavy winter snows have also helped trim out the shrubs, lessening my job each spring.

Highlights: 3 Orange-crowned Warblers, the first had no orange, the second had a "full " orange crown and the third had a few orange feathers; the first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker for this station and a first for this hillside (Harriet Marsi); 4 Warbling Vireos, the first for this station.

Mixed feelings: the 122 chickadees came in small waves, no big influx (a blessing, as I band alone). The 122 new birds came on top of 21 banded during MAPS. I have many recaptures.

No-Shows: White-crowned Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch—all species I expected to get.

Overall, it was a good year!

Ellenville Station
Ellenville, Ulster County, NY
Bander: Valerie M. Freer
<vfreer@hvaccess.com>

414-0742

The 2005 fall banding season results were outstanding: the number of new birds banded was the second highest for all 36 years of operation at this location. Fall 2005 also ranked second in new birds per 100 net-hours.

Several species were banded in new high numbers: Red-eyed Vireo (73 banded vs an average of only 22 per fall for the previous 35 years), Black-capped Chickadee (70 vs 30), Hermit Thrush (26 vs 8), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (49 vs 12). Ovenbirds were not in their highest ever numbers, but 35 (all HY) were banded vs an average of 15 per fall in the previous 35 years). Ninety-six warblers of 19 species made up to 14% of all birds banded, a smaller portion than usual, and 157 sparrows of eight species made up a near-average 22% of the total. The top five species caught this year made up half of the birds banded. Overall 72% of the birds banded were HY, compared with 62% a year ago. No new species were recorded.

There were 12 days on which more than 20 new birds were banded, including two days of over 40 birds. Almost half of the 710 total were caught in October and early November.

Temperatures were above average through October. August (4.3° F warmer than normal) and September (4.9° F warmer than normal) were near or below normal in rainfall, and banding conditions were good. October, however, brought record rainfall statewide, the most for any month in over 100 years, and 8" above normal in this region. (I measured 12" near my net lanes between 7 Oct and 15 Oct!) High winds also kept nets furled on a number of October days, but frosts did not interfere until the last week of the month.

There were very few fruits on arrowwood, but the other shrubs among the net lanes seemed to have normal quantities of fruits.

A few notes on the 36 years of fall banding at this location: 19,476 birds of 106 species have been banded for this project. Five species made up a third of all birds banded. The most common species made up about a third of all birds banded. The most common species was the Gray Catbird, caught in the most consistent numbers from year to year with a total of 1747 banded (9% of all bandings). Slate-colored Junco was second at 8% of the total, White-throated Sparrow third at 7%, Ruby-crowned Kinglet fourth at 6%, and Black-capped Chickadee fifth at 5%.



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Inland Bird Banding Association Annual Conference

IBBA's 2006 annual conference will be held on **22 – 24 Sep 2006** in Tellico Plains, Tennessee, just 45 miles southeast of Knoxville. Registration will be held Friday evening followed by a reception, orientation and welcome by representatives of Cherokee National Forest. Activities will be centered in the Tellico Plains Community Center and will include a Saturday morning field trip to

Whigg Meadow Bird Banding Station followed by a box lunch on the meadow.

A Saturday afternoon paper session will precede the evening barbeque banquet featuring hummingbird expert Bob Sargent who will speak on the role of bird banding in the study of hummingbirds. Bob and Martha Sargent are well-