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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2006 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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Braddock Bay Bird Obs.**431-0774**

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station

Monroe County, NY

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The 21st consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 8 Jul and ended on 10 Nov 2006. Licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Coby Klein, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, David Semple, John Waud and Martha Zettel did the banding. Banding assistants were Linda Boutwell, Virginia Duffy, Pat Lovallo, David Mathiason, Rachel Muheim, Doug Smith, Rob van der Stricht, Leanna Twohig, Karen Velas, and Barb Wagner. A list of birds banded during fall 2006 appears in Table 1.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 28 Aug and 18 Oct. Four whole days and part of three other days were lost due to rain and wind. Banding was also done on 10 days prior to and six days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 10,315.5 net hours on eight days. There were 4,516 birds banded of 90 species, down from 6,470 birds of 92 species in fall 2005. Five male and eight female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 11 Sep); because we now have a bander permitted to band hummingbirds, we were able to band two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds—a new species for the cumulative fall list that now stands at 124 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 43.8 b/100nh (down from 52.3 b/100nh in 2005).

The best day was 29 Sep, when 337 birds of 28 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 25 Sep (293), 26 Sep (241), and 30 Sep (200). (By comparison, last fall there were eight days when 200 or more birds were banded). The greatest species diversity occurred on 25 Sep when 34 species were banded.

Up to 35 12-m nets and four 6-m nets were used, most in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 35 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 674 birds recaptured during fall 2006, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed. Our 38 returns are summarized. Of particular interest is a Song Sparrow and Magnolia Warbler in their ninth year, an American Redstart in its eighth year, and a Northern Cardinal in its sixth year. Others over four years of age (note we list by known minimum years of age) were: Red-eyed Vireo at 4; Song Sparrow at 4; two White-throated Sparrows at 4; two Northern Cardinals at 5 and 6 years of age. A HY White-throated Sparrow banded at K-MB on 18 Oct 2006 was found dead near Evington, VA, on 14 Nov.

Evidence of avian pox was observed on eight Swainson's Thrushes, five White-throated Sparrows, four Hermit Thrushes, two Red-eyed Vireos, one Gray-cheeked Thrush and one Gray Catbird. Hippoboscids were noted on two White-throated Sparrows and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Four Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange crown feathers; six Cedar Waxwings had orange tail tips.

The final two weeks of the intensive banding period were marred by bad weather, including wind, rain, and cold. On the morning of 13 Oct, our nets were snow-covered! Many late-season migrants may have been missed during this period.

On the positive side, there were record-high numbers banded of eight species: American Woodcock (2), Traill's Flycatcher (33), Philadelphia Vireo (36), Carolina Wren (7), Brown Thrasher (4), Chestnut-sided Warbler (27), Northern Waterthrush (29), and Indigo Bunting (4).

On the negative side, European Starling was missing after being banded in 10 of the last 15 years, and Chipping Sparrow was missing after being banded in 13 of the past 15 years.

Rachel Muheim of Virginia Tech conducted research on nocturnal migration orientation cues of White-throated Sparrows. Kristi Hannam and Laura Janik of SUNY Geneseo took blood samples from some thrushes and catbirds for Hannam's research on immunocompetence of migrating birds.

Stefan Hames and Jim Lowe of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology installed electronic recording devices in our field to record nocturnal flight calls of migrating birds during the fall.

Ten students successfully completed our Bander Training Course. We welcomed students from Sara Morris's Field Biology class at Canisius College; Mark Deutschlander's students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Kristi Hannam's Animal Behavior Lab from SUNY Geneseo; and Rick Shearman's Environment and Society class at RIT.

Pat Lovallo represented BBBO at the Fall Fun Day sponsored by the Girl Scout's Stoney Hill Service Team at Braddock Bay Park. We enjoyed visits from Cathy Muller's Girl Scout troop, members of the Hill and Dale Garden Club of Fairport, and students from the Christian Calvary School in Farmington. Many individuals visited the banding station on an informal basis. Eagle Scout candidates Jared Bennett and Matthew Humnicky of Boy Scout Troop #278 of St. Mark's Church in Greece completed building a kiosk for our Memorial Garden area, and a worktable for the banding lab as well as spreading much-needed gravel on our trails.

Weekly banding summaries from the fall 2006 season may be found on our website at <http://www.bbbo.org>

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths, 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: Blair Brown, Nancy Chevalier, Jennifer Cumbo, Andy Garland, Marilyn Guenther,

Gary Herbert, Donna Hilborn, Kathleen Holt, Jim Keefer, Peggy Keller, Susan Kieren, Marian Klik, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Jane Miller, Harold Mills, Dan Niven, Justine Parada, Jesse Roberts, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Carol Southby, Greta Stephany, Ruth Stork, Dee Weber, and Scott and Teresa Wolcott.

A special thanks to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Alfred Station

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The 30th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began with a change of address. We sold our home on Waterwells Road and moved to 5540 Jericho Hill Road, less than one mile SE and almost exactly the same elevation as our former place (both in the Town of Alfred). Banding began on 18 Jul and ended on 28 Nov 2006. From one to 1.5 nets were used on 67 days, for a total of 438 net hours. In total, 230 birds of 35 species were banded (52.3b/100nh).

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 63.8%. The peak day occurred on 30 Oct, when 15 birds were banded; 27% of those banded were juncos. The day with the most species was also 30 Oct, with seven species banded. There were 54 repeats and two returns of second-year chickadees.

Hippoboscids were found on a Song Sparrow and two Blue Jays. A Common Yellowthroat had mites. A Chipping Sparrow had an old healed fracture of the left tarsus and a Red-eyed Vireo's bill was displaced side-to-side.

As in the previous seven years, no banding was done at this location from 11 Sep to 14 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay. The new location is surrounded on one side by open field and on another by fairly mature woodland. There is less development surrounding the new site, so meaningful comparisons between sites are difficult. There were record high numbers of Chipping Sparrows banded during fall.