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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2006 Powderhouse Road Station

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we couldn't do it without her! In fact, the data and reports on the site have been a prime source for many outside projects and studies by a wide variety of people and interests.

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I started on 9 Jul 2006 and went through 26 Nov, for a total of 49 days. Even though my net hours and number of nets increased for this season, fewer birds were captured and banded.

Using one to eight nets, totaling 581 net hours, I captured 422 new birds of 54 species (seven new species this year). There were also 25 repeats and 32 returns. The peak banding day was on 6 Oct when 26 birds were banded.

Among the 32 returns were a seven-year-old Black-capped Chickadee, a five-year-old Red-bellied Woodpecker, and two three-year-old Downy Woodpeckers. Ten other species returned, all of which were under three years old.

Very few cold fronts passed over south-central New York state. The first significant frost occurred on 30 Sep. For the banding period, I had recorded many days with a northeast wind, which is not conducive to an influx of birds at this station. Temperatures, based on previous years, were in the normal range and there were not a significant number of rain days when the nets had to be closed and so did not interfere with banding.

Recently, land surrounding my banding station was purchased. Much of that land was covered with multiflora rose and was good nesting habitat for catbirds, etc. For the last three years, my number one species banded has been Gray Catbird. The new owner had the land plowed and planted to field corn and now my property on two sides has cornfields. This has had a negative impact on banding at this station.

The most interesting record and/or highlight of this year happened on 6 Oct (my best day) when

I was fortunate enough to capture and band the first ever Bicknell's Thrush banded at this station. This seems to have been a good thrush year, as I had a total of 22 thrushes: 10 Robins, 4 Hermits, 3 Veerys, 3 Gray-cheeks, and 1 Swainson's.

The top three species continue to be Gray Catbird, Slate-colored Junco, and Song Sparrow.

**Powderhouse Road Station** **420-0775**  
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Banding in 2006 is a story of weather, which cooperated early in the season, but was not conducive to banding in October and early November. MAPS banding was made more interesting as I was pulling tail feathers and taking cloacal swabbing of adult migrating birds. These samples were sent to UCLA for analysis for avian influenza. After MAPS ended and during AFR banding, the sampling continued but as a part of Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA).

August and September banding was good. For the number of birds caught and birds per 100 net hours for any August since I took over this station from Harriet Marsi in 1998, 30 Aug was memorable. It was the fourth day in a row of cloudy weather which kept the birds on the ground. The wind was from the SE and rain was approaching. In the two hours my nets were up (rain forced me to close the nets), 53 new birds of 13 species were caught. Fortunately I had a helper, Andrea Martin, who recorded all the data—her first time relieving the birds and me from a long and stressful morning. The combined results of birds caught on 15 and 16 Sep was 97; 15 Sep was rainy and overcast, but 16 Sep was only cloudy with a SE wind—conditions that lead to good banding.

October banding was disappointing. The weather did not cooperate. Many mornings were cold, windy, foggy or rainy. When conditions were right for banding there were no birds. Most noticeable was the lack of Dark-eyed Juncos. We never got the large flocks, which typically are here in October and November.

Highlights: A male Hooded Warbler, the second one banded since 1989, and a Yellow-breasted Chat, also the second one in that time span.

My hillside is a Gray Catbirds' idea of the ideal place to breed and raise young. During MAPS prior to the beginning of AFR, 31 new or returning from previous seasons and 21 HY birds were processed. From 27 Jul through 30 Aug, 41 HY birds were banded. I feel that these HY birds were raised on my land. My overgrown fields provide plenty of berries from the gray dogwood, nannyberry viburnum and autumn olive. These berries last well into October, so it is no wonder that catbirds are plentiful through September.

**Ellenville Station**

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Ellenville, Ulster County, NY

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The 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of fall banding at this location produced near-average numbers of birds banded (497) and above-average numbers of both net hours (1143) and days (43). Only 49 species were banded; the average for the previous 36 years was 55 species per fall season. The number of birds banded per 100nh was also below average.

Catbirds led the top species list with 47 banded, remaining close to their average number for the previous 36 years. Two species that were well above their long-term averages were Red-eyed Vireo (43 vs the average of 22) and Golden-crowned Kinglet (38 vs the average of 12). Two species that are often on the top ten list at this station were well below their long-term averages: Black-capped Chickadee (14 banded vs the average of 30) and Song Sparrow (13 vs 22). Most other species were caught in near-average numbers or showed modest changes.

Only 80 warblers of 13 species were banded, comprising 16% of the station total, near the lowest proportion of warblers ever banded at this station. Their long-term average here is one quarter of the birds banded and can be as much as 39%, as in 1988. I netted 40 Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds between 7 Aug and 16 Sep, the most ever here, with a peak of 11 on 31 Aug. (Their numbers are not included in the totals for this report, as they were not banded.)

The numbers of birds banded in August and October are close to the corresponding monthly averages for all years. However, September produced only 23% of the total catch this year vs an average of 31% in the past; this reflects the low numbers of warblers, which are usually a major feature of September banding. November brought in 12% of the catch this year vs a more usual 5%, largely a result of later-than-usual juncos and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

It was a wet fall season. August temperatures were close to average and rainfall was above average. September was a bit cooler than normal and was the fourth consecutive month with above-normal precipitation. October was also cooler than normal and, once again, the precipitation was two inches above normal here. The first light frost was on 13 Oct. During the last half of the month, high winds prevented opening the nets or, more often, resulted in early furling.

Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) had no fruits this year but other fruiting shrubs around the net lanes produced moderate amounts. Many small honeysuckles (*Lonicera* sp.) have recently invaded, spreading rapidly in the last year or two; their fruits are gone by the start of my banding season



**Tennessee Warbler**  
by George West