

2007

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2006 Ellenville Station

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Recommended Citation

Freer, Valerie M. (2007) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2006 Ellenville Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 32 : Iss. 1 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol32/iss1/28>

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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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The 37th 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.

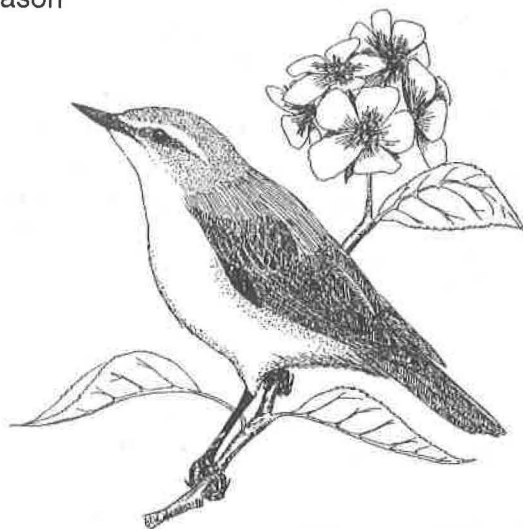
Only 80 warblers of 13 species were banded, comprising 16% of the station total, near the lowest proportion of warblers ever banded at this station. Their long-term average here is one quarter of the birds banded and can be as much as 39%, as in 1988. I netted 40 Ruby-throated

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