

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2007 Powderhouse Road Station

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Recommended Citation

Kirch, Gail (2008) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2007 Powderhouse Road Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol33/iss1/27>

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We thank Don and Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, A.L. Donahue, David Guaspari, Jay Schissell, Ruth Young, and the Painted Post seniors group for their generous support; Bob Fabia and Jan Nordblad for mist nets; Victoria Bond Kelly for her talent and time in maintaining our website; and several others who contributed advice and assistance. These include Stillman's Greenhouse, Gary Herzig, Spidertech, Barlow Rhodes, and Fred Sibley

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This station began banding on 3 Jul and continued through 4 Nov for a total of 59 days. I used 1 to 7 nets and banded 433 birds of 41 species, which was a drop of 13 species from last fall. Of special significance is the drop in warbler species at this station. Five species of warblers were missing this year: American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Ovenbird.

Among 39 returns were two five-year-old Black-capped Chickadees. All others were under four years of age.

Although average in many respects, the banding season at this station was lackluster. There were few cold fronts, with the exception of 18 Aug. The 20th of August was my best capture day. Of the 59 days I banded, there were very few days when nets had to be closed due to inclement weather. However, typical cold fronts from the NW do not produce birds at this station. "Blocking fronts," which typically are low-pressure systems just to the south, ground migrating birds and produce good banding totals.

The fields surrounding my banding area have been planted to corn and produced a good yield per acre. These fields have been fallow for many years and were excellent nesting habitat for a number of field species. Some of these species are no longer present or their numbers are much reduced. I think working the fields had a negative impact on the banding efforts here.

The most interesting highlight, and there was only one, was the capture of an Acadian Flycatcher on 28 Aug. This was the third of its kind banded here.

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The 2007 MAPS season was very successful. Catbirds, the dominant species, were all over the place and the whine of the young became background noise. As in 2006, I participated in Cloacal Swabbing and Feather Pulling for MAPS and LaMMNA (done during AFR). I had hoped that the success of MAPS would continue into the fall. August banding is usually dominated by Red-eyed Vireos. This August, I banded only 22, and in September, another 25. In previous years, 80-90 birds were banded in August and the same number in September. The reason for this decline in vireos may lie in the fact that only 35-40% of the native *Viburnum* and *Cornus* shrubs as well as the alien Autumn Olive had ripe fruit in early August. By the beginning of September, this percentage was only 50%. The shrubs with ripe berries were in small patches scattered throughout my hillside. The uneven pattern of ripeness extended into October. With no large areas of ripe berries, species such as Cedar Waxwings stayed in the trees.

Many species were absent from my nets. While this is not a "warbler" station, I average 19.4 species. This year I had only 16 species. Field and Lincoln's sparrows were also absent. There were several positive aspects of the season's banding. Catbird numbers were good and it was the second best year for Black-capped Chickadees. Forty-four cardinals was a record high. An Eastern Wood-Pewee was the first since 1995, and I caught the first Acadian Flycatcher since 1999.

The number of birds banded, the net hours and birds per 100 net hours were all average. Andi Martin helped with much of the banding and Harriet Marsi was consulted on several occasions. A footnote: my wild crabapple crop was a bumper one. I shared this fruit with the deer, as the birds were not interested.