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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2008

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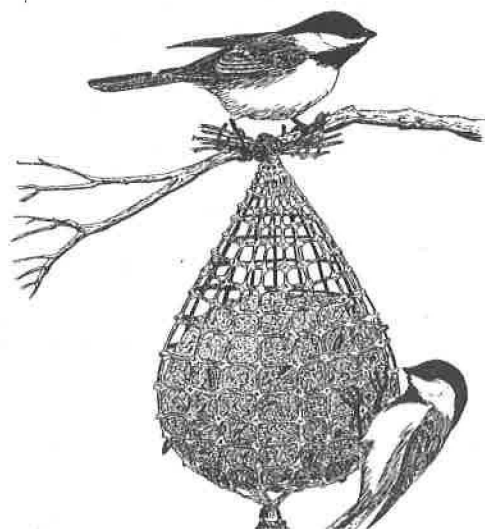
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We regret that our senior bander, Harriet Marsi, passed away in June. She had banded in Vestal since 1960, was a leader and very active in New York state ornithology.

Bob McKinney was unable to band again this year. Bob was enduring and recovering from complications arising from double hip replacement. Bob did, however, get some banding time in at Braddock Bay, had net lanes re-cleared at his station, and hopes to get back next season. Also, Bob Pantle was unable to operate his station as he recovered from an operation to correct a torn shoulder rotator cuff. The whole bunch of us is getting to be a mite less invulnerable. We look forward to having both Bobs back with us next season.

The chickadee influx reported at Braddock Bay did not extend further south during the banding season. However, they began to appear in numbers in the southern tier of New York over the winter along with a very large invasion of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills. All in all, Braddock Bay had a very successful season!

The McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) also had a fantastic year, thanks to many Myrtle Warblers and several other good captures. What happened to these birds? They barely showed at our other stations this fall! In reviewing station results over the past many years, I was struck by both the similarities and differences in the species most banded. Each station appears to have unique species that contribute to its numbers every year. Some of these are found at other (all) stations but in lesser



numbers and some are simply unique to a single station; e.g., White-throated Sparrow is the bread and butter of Braddock, while American Goldfinches have displaced Song Sparrows as the prevalent bird at Kestrel Haven. This year, all the Myrtle Warblers checked in at MBO, while Ellenville had the market on Black-throated Blue Warblers. All of this reflects the vagaries of timing and routing of the migratory flow from year to year with relatively few constants. Analysis would be so much better if we had more stations in the transect, and we encourage all banders in the area to join us in this cooperative project.

Kestrel Haven reports on a very unusual gynandromorphic American Goldfinch. That station also experienced an unusually high number of adults within species normally banded in large hatching year (HY) percentages. In particular, Eastern White-crowned Sparrows were 66% adult this fall compared to a norm of 98% HY. We believe that reflects a temporal shift in routing.

Ellenville proves that Northern Saw-whet Owls really do pass through New York State! See Valerie's description of her netting efforts. The owls were not counted in this AFR report, as a lure tape was used. Nonetheless, it was a terrific accomplishment that may induce more of us to try.

Table 1. AFR II Summary of Operations - Fall 2008

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Kestrel Haven	Northview	Vestal	Ellenville	MBO
Start	11 Jul	10 Jul	4 Jul	DID	30 Jul	1 Aug	1 Aug
Stop	12 Nov	14 Nov	12 Nov	NOT	8 Nov	3 Nov	30 Oct
Total Days	73	54	101	OPERATE	53	44	85
No. Nets	1 to 38	1 to 1.5	?	THIS	1 to 10	6 to 8	7 to 16
Net Hours	12,861	205	2,854	SEASON	1,295	1,208	5,612
No. Best Day	307	10	104		36	51	240
Best Day Date	4 Nov	9 Aug	24 Sep		18 Oct	21 Oct	9/29&10/2
Reason B D	36% BCCH	20% SOSP	50% AMGO		mostly HOFI	51% SCJU	73&64%MYWA
Best Diversity	33 on 16 Sep	9 on 9 Aug	25 on 22 Jul & 07 Aug		18 on 7 Sep	12 on 11 Aug & 16 Sep	30 on 7 Sep
Banded 2007	5526	223	3151	433	926	630	2876
Banded 2008	5144	136	2854	-	717	626	5083
Species 2007	91	26	87	41	60	57	77
Species 2008	89	30	89	-	61	57	78
B/100nh 2007	42	67	140	94	80	58	53
B./100nh 2008	40	66	111	-	55	52	91
% HY 2007	80%	61%	82%	77%	77%	62%	78%
% HY 2008	84%	69%	88%	-	85%	66%	85%

Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2008

	Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Kestrel Haven			Vestal			Ellenville		
	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
1.	WTSP	554	94%	AMGO	31	65%	AMGO(1)	496	93%	GRCA(2)	133	92%	SCJU(2)	8	51%
2.	RCKI	420	85%	SCJU	21	40%	SOSP(2)	457	95%	BCCH(4)	60	97%	GRCA(3)	67	82%
3.	MAWA	350	85%	BCCH	21	90%	GRCA(4)	278	92%	HOFI(5)	50	80%	WTSP(5)	5	48%
4.	BLPW	343	72%	SOSP	13	58%	COYE(5)	224	86%	REVI(5)	49	80%	REVI(1)	52	46%
5.	GCKI	341	95%	CHSP	6	67%	RBGR	98	80%	MAWA	34	76%	RCKI(7)	33	67%
6.	BCCH	320	91%	TRFL	4	75%	WTSP(6)	90	96%	SOSP(10)	32	97%	BCCH(4)	31	4%
7.	AMGO	307	73%	COYE	4	75%	AMRO	83	84%	COYE(9)	32	81%	PUFI(11)	25	64%
8.	GRCA	266	93%				YWAR(9)	82	90%	OVEN	29	97%	COYE(10)	24	58%
9.	HETH	186	96%				BCCH(7)	78	99%	SCJU(8)	27	81%	OVEN	18	83%
10.	YWAR	180	93%				SCJU(3)	63	76%	WTSP	23	91%	BTBW(17)	17	77%
% of Total Banded		63.0%				73.5%			68.0%			68.0%			66.0%

Notes: (#) Indicates ranking last fall.