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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2008 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory      431-0774**  
**Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station**

Monroe County, NY.

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The 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 11 Jul and ended on 12 Nov 2008. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Peter Doherty, Jon Dombrowski, David Holmes, Richard Joos, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Keefer, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, David Mathiason, Robert McKinney, Sara Morris, Gretchen Putonen, David Semple, Susan Smith, Hannah Suthers, Karen Velas, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Linda Boutwell, J. Alan Clark, Virginia Duffy, Sue Evans, Brad Mudrzynski, Emily Runnells, Peggy Keller, Tom Klotzbach, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Paul Taillie, Leanna Twohig, and Barb Wagner

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 26 Aug and 17 Oct. Parts of three days were lost due to rain and/or wind. Banding was also done on 12 days prior to and eight days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 12,861 net hours (nh) on 73 days. There were 5,144 birds banded of 89 species, down from 5,526 birds of 91 species in fall 2007. Seven male, 11 female, and nine unknown sex Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 26 Sep). There were no new species for the cumulative fall list that remains at 123 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 40 birds/100 net hours (just slightly down from 42.2 b/100nh in 2007).

The best day was 4 Nov when 307 birds of eight species were banded. Of the 307 birds banded that day, 110 (36%) were Black-capped Chickadees. Other 200+ days were 3 Oct (268) and 5 Oct (207). The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 Sep (the same day as in 2007), when 33 species were banded. Of the total new bandings, 83.5% were HY

birds. HY percentages for the top ten species were White-throated Sparrow (91.6%), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (84.9%), Magnolia Warbler (85.0%), Blackpoll Warbler (72.2%), Golden-crowned Kinglet (94.5%), Black-capped Chickadee (91.3%), American Goldfinch (73.4%), Gray Catbird (92.6%), Hermit Thrush (96.1%), and Yellow Warbler (93.3%).

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 610 birds recaptured during fall 2008, and they were all measured, fat-scored, and re-weighed. Of the 25 birds that returned from an earlier season, the following were at least four years of age:

- Red-eyed Vireo at 6 yr,
- Black-capped Chickadees at 4 yr (2),
- Gray Catbird at 4 yr,
- Yellow Warbler at 4 yr,
- Song Sparrows at 5 and 4 yr,
- Northern Cardinal at 5 yr, and
- American Goldfinch at 4 yr of age.

Avian pox lesions were found on 37 birds of ten species including Red-eyed Vireo (1), Veery (1), Swainson's Thrush (5), Hermit Thrush (8), Gray Catbird (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2), Common Yellowthroat (2), White-throated Sparrow (14), and Dark-eyed Junco (1). Hippoboscids were found on seven birds; ticks on two birds; and lice or mites on two birds. A Golden-crowned Kinglet presented with a tumor and two birds had minor-to-moderate bill malformations.

There were record-high numbers banded of 12 species, including House Wren, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Wilson's Warbler,

Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch. On the negative side, Great Crested Flycatcher was missing after being recorded in 10 of the past 15 years; White-breasted Nuthatch was missing after being caught in 10 of the past 15 years; and Rusty Blackbird was missing after being banded in 14 of the past 15 years.

Mark Deutschlander, of Hobart & William Smith Colleges, conducted research on nocturnal migration orientation cues of White-throated Sparrows. Susan Smith of Villanova University took blood samples from four species of birds for her research on energetic condition and ecological factors that limit passerines during long-distance migrations. Cloacal swabbings and feather samples were taken from 100 birds this fall as part of the Avian Influenza Monitoring Program being coordinated by the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA). The samples are being processed at U.C.L.A.

Seven students successfully completed our Bander Training Course offered through the Rochester Institute of Technology. We also hosted a North American Banding Council Evaluation Session. On 23 Aug, we hosted an Open House for Neighbors to present the initial plans for the renovation of the 'Boat House'. We welcomed guests for a tour of the banding station as part of Braddock Bay Raptor Research's Red-tailed Hawk Day. We enjoyed a visit from Kristi Hannam's Animal Behavior Lab students at SUNY Geneseo, and Sara Morris' Field Biology class from Canisius College. We hosted members of the Colony Garden Club for a tour of the banding station, followed by a presentation on migration by Mark Deutschlander. On 20 Sep, we dedicated the Memorial Garden Kiosk in memory of Margaret and Clarence Klingensmith. And we welcomed delegates and members of the New York State Ornithological Association who were attending their annual meeting in Rochester on 20-21 Sep. Many individuals visited the banding station on an informal basis.

Our fall research assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Emily Runnells and Karen Velas were our field assistants.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Chris Gates, Steve Maley, and Doug Smith for their assistance with building and grounds management. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, Megan Phillips, Debbie Reed, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Tom Verhulst, Glenn Wagner, and Kelly Wicks.

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

#### **Alfred Station**

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Allegany County, NY

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The 32<sup>nd</sup> year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 10 Jul and ended on 14 Nov 2008. From 1 to 1.5 nets were used on 54 days, for a total of 220 net hours. A total of 143 birds of 30 species were banded (65 b/100nh). In addition, four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

Hatching-year (HY) percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 69.0%. HY percentages for the seven most common species were American Goldfinch (64.5%), Slate-colored Junco (40%), Black-capped Chickadee (90%), Song Sparrow (58.3%), Chipping Sparrow (66.7%), Traill's Flycatcher (75%), and Common Yellowthroat (75%). The peak day occurred on 9 Aug, when 10 birds were banded; 20% of those banded were Song Sparrows. The day with the most species was also 9 Aug, with nine species banded. There were 38 repeats during the season.

There were 15 returns of birds from previous seasons. Noteworthy were a chickadee and a cardinal in their fourth year; and a Blue Jay, three chickadees, two Chipping Sparrows, and one Song Sparrow in their third year.