

2009

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

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- One American Robin at 4.
- Four Gray Catbirds at 4 (3) and 7+.
- One Cedar Waxwing at 6.
- One Warbling Vireo at 4+.
- One Red-eyed Vireo at 3+.
- Two Yellow Warblers at 4 and 5+.
- One Chestnut-sided Warbler at 4+.
- Three Common Yellowthroats at 4, 5 and 6.
- Three Northern Cardinals at 4, 5 and 5+.
- One Chipping Sparrow at 4.
- One Song Sparrow at 4.
- One Common Grackle at 4.
- One House Finch at 4+.
- Six American Goldfinch at 6 (3), 5+, and 4 (2).

In sum, our returns this year represented 3% of our banded total; a very nice return percentage.

Overall health was excellent. Hippoboscids flies were few and the few abnormalities were unremarkable. The rare gynandromorphic goldfinch was by far our most unusual bird ever.

Inadvertent net captures of Odonata were limited to 21 individuals of six species.

We thank Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, A.L. Donahue, David Guaspari, Jay Schissell and Ruth Young for their generous support, 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, The Hi-Lights printing (Bridgette Goodman), Spidertech, Clara McCarthy and Barlow Rhodes.

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This station did not band this season due to the operator recovering from a torn rotator cuff in his shoulder. He is doing well and we look forward to his return in 2009.

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The 2008 AFR banding season began well after a very good MAPS season. August produced the usual number of *Empidonax* flycatchers, early warblers, and local nesting hatching-year birds. Surprisingly, I banded only 17 Red-eyed Vireos in August, a month in which I usually band 50-100 birds. While the shrubs with fruit were not fully ripe at the beginning of August, they ripened steadily throughout the month. September was slow and October was slower.

There were no new species. Red-eyed Vireo numbers were down for the second year in a row, but Gray Catbird numbers were a high for the 20 years I have had this station—128. This is after banding 41 new and 10 returns during June and July. Gray Catbirds were a MAPS target bird for cloacal swabbing and feather pulls and Common Yellowthroats and House Finches were target birds for LaMNA swabbing. All three of those species made the top 10 list.

I compared the top five species of 2008 to the top five in years 1999-2008. None was on that list every year and Song Sparrow made the list only this year. I was surprised that any warbler made the list, as I am not a 'warbler' station. Magnolias were on the list three times.

My banding partner and consultant, Harriet Marsi, passed away in June. She had banded on this land since 1960.

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In the 39th consecutive season of operation, fall 2008 results were remarkably similar to those of 2007. The number of birds banded was 626 vs 630 last year, numbers exceeded only four times since 1970. Net hours were above average, and the number of