

2009

## MacKenzie Nature Observatory Report- 2008

North American Bird Bander

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# *Western Regional News*

## **WBBA ANNOUNCEMENT**

A Call for Papers – The Western Bird Banding Association is currently accepting abstracts for papers and posters to be presented at the 2009 annual meeting at the **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory in Milpitas, California, 28-30 August 2009.**

The meeting is not to be missed and will have exciting demonstrations and workshops of banding, data management, and analysis of banding data. Presentations can reflect original research, summarize existing information, or address the use of banding as a tool in avian research and monitoring. It is best if abstracts identify study objectives, describe study methods and data analysis, discuss the significance of the research, and propose future research directions.

Please submit abstracts electronically by 15 July to **C. J. Ralph (EM: [cjralph@humboldt1.com](mailto:cjralph@humboldt1.com))**, specifying paper or poster. For additional information on abstract submission and about WBBA's 2009 meeting, please visit the WBBA website:

**[www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html](http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html)**

**or contact C.J. Ralph at 707 825-2992.**

## **Mackenzie Nature Observatory (MNO)**

Mackenzie Nature Observatory's banding station is located at Mugaha Marsh (55°23'55 N 123°12'30W) approximately 14.5 km northwest of Mackenzie, BC. Mugaha Marsh is in the Rocky Mountain Trench, west of the Rockies and just east of the Parsnip Reach of Williston Reservoir.

During fall migration at this site, 2008 was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of standardized banding. Twelve mist nets were operated daily for six hr starting at sunrise. The season was slower than average; however, a good diversity of species (68) was captured during standard banding. MNO's fall banding season runs from 19 Jul - 23 Sep. During this time period, 2549 birds were banded in 4477 net hours, for 0.569 birds per net hour.

The highlights of the 2008 season included capturing five new species: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, and Western Palm Warbler. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Western Palm Warbler are all species in the northwest extreme of their range and breed on the east side of the Rockies, but are seldom recorded from the west side. Ash-throated Flycatcher is a true rarity in the province of British Columbia, and Mountain



Chickadee is an uncommon breeding species in the region but usually occurs at higher altitudes.

Prior to 2008, we had banded only two Chestnut-backed Chickadees—one in 1998 and one in 2004; in 2008, we banded four of them. Other species that broke the site's record for the number banded in one season include Western Wood-Pewee (16), Red-breasted Nuthatch (32), Hermit Thrush (25), and Yellow Warbler (166).

Many of the sparrow species were captured in lower-than-normal numbers, two of them setting all time lows with only a single American Tree Sparrow banded and 36 Dark-eyed Juncos banded, compared to a previous low of 79 back in 2001. Some of this may have been due to a late migration for several species, as birds were still moving through when we closed.

American Redstarts (347) were the number one species banded in 2008, followed closely by Ruby-crowned Kinglet (327). Other species with over 100 individuals banded were Northern Waterthrush (179), Yellow Warbler (166), Orange-crowned Warbler (139), Common Yellowthroat (119), Yellow-rumped Warbler (113), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (113).

Mugaha Marsh is in the overlap zone for eastern and western species. Both Myrtle and Audubon warblers are captured, and many were listed as unidentified because they show features of both. We capture both Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted flickers as well as Flicker Intergrades. This year we caught more hybrid sapsuckers (Red-breasted x Yellow-bellied) and hybrid chickadees (Black-capped x Mountain). Both Cassin's and Blue-headed vireos were banded **and one was banded as a Solitary Vireo.**

In 2008, there were 57 returns of 18 different species captured. One of the older ones was a Swainson's Thrush that had been banded in 2001 as an after-hatching-year bird.

In 2008, MNO received news about two recoveries of birds that were banded at Mugaha: an Audubon's Warbler banded 29 Aug 2006 was recovered in California (**lat. 394, long. 1220**) on 3 Jan 2007, and a Lincoln's Sparrow banded 23 Jul 2006 was recovered in Calgary, AB, on 21 Sep 2006.

A Northern Waterthrush that Vi Lambie banded near Mugaha on 6 Jun 2007 was recovered in Miami, FL, on 6 Apr 2008.

**Banders:** In 2008, five banders were hired to cover different parts of the season: Jukka Jantunen, Stefan Jungkind, Kenneth Burton, James Bradley, and Julian Hudson. Two other banders, Jillian Johnston and Vi Lambie, volunteered at the station. In addition, many wonderful people came out and volunteered their time. Thanks to them all.

Mackenzie Nature Observatory is a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) plus we work closely with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Delta, BC. More information about CMMN is available at <http://www.bsc-oc.org/volunteer/cmmn> where you can access and download a report that includes an analysis of species' trends at Mugaha Marsh. To see other MNO results, click on "species trends." For additional information on MNO, visit our website: [www.mackenzienatureobservatory.ca](http://www.mackenzienatureobservatory.ca)

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### **We welcome the following new members who joined during the past year:**

**Lindsay Addison**, Naples FL;  
**Olin Allen**, Laporte CO;  
**Amy Amones**, Arcata CA;  
**Neil Baldock**, Bellevue WA;  
**Adam Beeler**, Columbus OH;  
**Kelly B. Bryan**, Fort Davis TX;  
**Katie Calon**, Edmonton AB;  
**Bibliothèque d'Environnement Canada**,  
Québec QC;  
**Robert J. Clemans**, Golden CO;  
**Adam Elzinga**, Portland OR;  
**Patricia K. Evans**, Quincy CA;