

2009

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2008 Lakeshore Estates

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may have been because we consistently got all the nets open before sunrise, as these birds are common migrants most years and are very active before dawn. Worm-eating Warblers also came through in good numbers, with 131 banded in 2008 (101 in 2006). Black-throated Blues were the most common capture, with 580 banded in 2008 (558 in 2006), but American Redstarts were second overall for the first time, with 264 banded compared to 253 Ovenbirds. Ovenbird captures have been half that of Black-throated Blues in the last three years. Two changes to the site have occurred that may be the cause rather than an actual reduction in Ovenbird numbers: Hurricane Wilma broke up the canopy and the bottom shelves of our nets are now set 1 m above the ground as a deterrent to raccoon and feral cat depredation. As a consequence, we see Ovenbirds passing unimpeded under nets quite often. Red-eyed Vireo numbers were also down, with 49 banded in 2008 compared to 94 in 2007, 169 in 2006 and 72 in 2005.

Interesting captures during the 2008 fall season included several species that were banded for the first time at the site in 2007: three Philadelphia Vireos, another Baltimore Oriole, another Hermit Thrush, and three Myrtle Warblers. Sixty-three species were banded for a record diversity; the 28 species of warblers banded did not include the Bay-breasted Warblers or Yellow-breasted Chats seen onsite, but we did band our second-ever Cerulean and Blackburnian warblers, as well as two each of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers. Three Canada Warblers was a high number for that species.

We captured 18 returning birds of seven species, including Black-and-white Warbler, Painted Bunting and White-eyed Vireo. The oldest were two Ovenbirds banded in fall 2004. All returns were of either resident or wintering species.

The bird of the season undoubtedly was the immature Bananaquit banded on 15 Sep following close to two weeks of easterly wind as major Hurricane Ike took the unusual path of passing south of (rather than over) the Florida peninsula. This may represent the first continental North American banding record for this species.

Finally, Cape May Warblers continued to be abundant for the second year in a row, with 24 banded. We banded 23 in 2007, compared to previous highs of six in 2004 and 2006.

Volunteers this fall included Rafael Galvez, Nancy O'Hare, Carlos Sanchez, and Angel and Mariel Abreu, who are banders-in-training. Special thanks goes to Robert Yero the Park Manager for continuing to support our project.

Lakeshore Estates

3029-08417

Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL

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In the fall season of 2008 I began my banding activities at the Tallahassee site, not at the end of September as I did in 2006 and 2007, but on 20 Aug. Therefore, the new data should be compared with those of the 2004 and 2005 seasons when such an early start was also possible. However, past calculations have shown that the netting success in terms of $b/100nh$ did not significantly depend on the length of the banding period. By this measure, the 2008 season hit a new low point with a netting success of just 5 $b/100nh$. In 2008, moreover, only 53 percent of the newly banded birds actually were presumed migrants. This value is lower than the average from the past ten years by more than two standard deviations and might reflect in a particularly dramatic way a general decline of migrants visiting my location since I submitted my first report to the Atlantic Flyway Review 15 years ago.

Looking at my data from recent years, I conclude that it now may take extraordinary circumstances to be able to band many migrants. The last really "good" season, by my standards, was in 2004 when two hurricanes and one tropical storm brushed this area. In contrast, relatively few migrants showed up in the next season, when the ferocious hurricanes of 2005 were kind to us and spared the eastern Florida panhandle. Under these conditions, there must have been little incentive for a stopover at my inland banding location that, admittedly, has become

somewhat less attractive over the years anyway, due to the gradual loss of a weedy area as trees and shrubs took over.

To end my commentary on a positive note, I can

report that the "seed-addicted Ovenbird" I wrote about in *North American Bird Bander* 33:66 reappeared on 28 Sep 2008 for its fourth winter, and it remained near my home at least through February 2009.

North American Banding Council

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory hosted a North American Banding Council (NABC) Evaluation at both Bander and Trainer level on 25-27 Sep 2009. Congratulations to the following who passed at Bander level: **Dave Alexander** of Duluth, MN; **Amy Finfera** of Watertown, NY; **Maren Gimpel** of Chestertown, MD; **Ryan Kayhart** of Vergennes, VT; **Nigel Mann** of Davenport, NY; and **Dan Small** of Chestertown, MD.

Congratulations also to **Dave Alexander**, and **Annie Lindsay Crary** of Phenix City, AL, who passed at Trainer level.

Participating NABC Trainers were Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Mark Deutschlander, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Bob Leberman, Bob Mulvihill, Richard Joos, Erin Karnatz, Hannah Suthers, and Bob Yunick.

Betsy Brooks, NABC Trainer



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Inland Bird Banding Association 2009 Annual Meeting St. Louis, Missouri

The Inland Bird Banding Association held their 2009 Annual meeting 6 - 8 November in St. Louis, MO, hosted by the World Bird Sanctuary. The Friday evening welcome reception at the River Chase Community Center featured Brad Jacobs of the Missouri Department of Conservation, who spoke on "Building Partnerships for Bird Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean". Saturday activities included a driving tour of Lone Elk Park and a behind-the-scenes tour of the World Bird Sanctuary. Afternoon paper sessions at the Powder

Valley Nature Center included a report from the Banding Laboratory by Danny Bystrak and a Bandit workshop. Walter Crawford, Founder and Executive Director of the World Bird Sanctuary, along with his staff, presented a Live Bird Program at the annual banquet. Sunday's activities included a tour of the St. Louis Zoo Bird House. Local arrangements were chaired by Linda Tossing with committee members: Valerie Geile, Pat Lueders, Shellee Dwyer, and the WBS Banding Team members.