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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2009 Kestrel Haven

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visited the banding station to videotape banding and research activities as part of NPR's Science Friday live broadcast on 9 Oct. David Bonter, Mark Deutschlander, Andrew Farnsworth, and Sidney Gauthaux participated in the live broadcast from Cornell University. The program and video can be accessed on www.ScienceFriday.com

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Martyna Boruta and Cindy Marino were our Field Assistants. Special thanks to volunteer Heidi Henrichs who helped with data entry and Dominic Sherony who spent many hours cross-checking data from past seasons for accuracy.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Kelly Dockery and the Garden Committee, 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: Cathy Belair, Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Judy Engerman, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Andrea and Emily Patterson, Terry Perry, Megan Phillips, Debbie Reed, Lynn Runnells, Gregg Sargis, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Lona Van Orden, Tom Verhulst, and Kelly Wicks.

A special thank-you goes to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Alfred Station
Allegany County, NY
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421-0774

The 33rd year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 7 Jul and ended on 12 Nov 2009. One to two 6-m nets and one 12-m net were used on 45 days, for a total of 314.5 net hours. A total of 78 birds of 23 species were banded (24.8 b/100nh). In

addition, two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 64.3%. Hatching-year percentages for the seven most common species were Slate-colored Junco, 64.7%; Black-capped Chickadee, 92.3%; American Goldfinch, 55.6%; Downy Woodpecker, 80.0%; Gray Catbird, 0 %; Chipping Sparrow, 66.7%; Fox Sparrow, 100%; Song Sparrow, 66.7%.

The peak day occurred on 25 Oct, when seven birds were banded; 57% of those banded were American Goldfinch. The day with the most species diversity was also 25 Oct with four species banded. There were 24 repeats during the season.

There were 28 returns of birds from previous seasons. Noteworthy were a Blue Jay, a junco and two Black-capped Chickadees, all in their fifth year; a Blue Jay, a robin, two chickadees, two goldfinches, a Tree Sparrow, and a Chipping Sparrow, all in their fourth year.

Hippoboscids were found on just one bird. No birds exhibited evidence of avian pox.

As in the previous nine years, no banding was done at this location from 8 Sep to 19 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay. Banding summaries were sent to regional compilers for the Allegany County Bird Club, Buffalo Ornithological Society, and the Atlantic Flyway Review. A banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 12 Sep.

Kestrel Haven
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422-0764

Every bubble must eventually burst and ours blew up in spectacular fashion this fall with the lowest totals we have experienced since 1992, when we began constant-effort netting. Our returns were the

lowest since 1996 and our best day was the smallest since 1994. Species diversity was down to 1996 levels.

It is very hard to determine a single cause, but the constant wind made conditions unsafe for netting on many days. Beyond that, our daily point counts indicated that we were not missing all that much. Radar showed many large nighttime movements that completely overflowed us. All this was further complicated by very poor nesting conditions regionally. Many single clutch species lost their attempts and that accounts for missing or low counts in many species. Ironically, these were the only wet months in an otherwise very dry year. To top off this litany, American Goldfinch presented in extremely low numbers, way below our usual thousand plus banded. Our odonate studies revealed similarly low numbers of almost all species.

Despite that we had some memorable successes. Primary among them was the return of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher that we banded as a breeder here in 2006. We have reported on this event in past fall reports, as it was an extraordinary nesting far south of the species' Adirondack breeding range. To have this bird return, and early in the season, was terrific. To make that even better, she set a new age record for her species at five plus years of age. That is our fourth longevity record here.

Given a shift in routing, we banded our second ever Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a bird seldom seen at this altitude. Some species reflected the poor breeding season with higher-than-normal numbers of adults in our nets. Injuries and parasites were unremarkable.

We banded 1,735 new birds of 80 species in 77 days of operation. We also had 422 repeats, 79 returns, and 174 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 2,410, making our measure of efficiency 107 b/100nh for newly banded birds, and 149 b/100nh overall. Hatching-year birds were below the norm at 86%.

The station banded list grew to 132 species plus six forms banded (138) with the inclusion of a green morph Pine Siskin this year.

The eldest return was a Common Yellowthroat that was seven years old. Of the 79 returns, 18 (22%) of 12 species were in excess of four years of age. They shored out as follows:

**One Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
at 5+ (species longevity record)**

One Blue Jay at 5.

One Red-winged Blackbird at 6+.

Two American Goldfinch at 5+ and 5.

One Slate-colored Junco at 3+.

One Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 4.

One Yellow Warbler at 4.

One Common Yellowthroat at 7.

One Gray Catbird at 5.

Four Black-capped Chickadee at 6, 5+, and 4(2).

One American Robin at 4+.

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 and constantly improving our website, and several others who contributed advice and assistance. These include Stillman's Greenhouse, Fred Sibley and Barlow Rhodes.

Northview Sanctuary
Candor, Tioga County, NY
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421-0762

Northview Sanctuary is a five-acre banding station located in the central southern tier of New York state, about 18 mi south of Cayuga Lake. The station sits amongst a patchwork of cultivated fields and woodlots. Much of the vegetation is multiflora rose and honeysuckle.

Banding this year started on 17 Jul and ended 25 Oct. I had a total of 318 net hours, capturing only 193 birds of 36 species. I also tallied a very poor five