

2010

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2009 Powderhouse Road Station

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returns and eight repeats. Of the returns, all were under four years of age, less a Veery that was five. My peak day was 4 Aug, when I banded 21 birds of nine species.

The above banding effort reflects the poorest season at this station ever. Little did I realize that the month of July for this year would be recorded by the National Weather Service as the "wettest on record." This month turned out to be an exercise in opening and closing mist nets. I am sure other banders know how frustrating this can be. In addition, a health problem prevented me from expending the extra banding effort that was needed.

Locally, Tree Swallow boxes were monitored for nestling output, which again turned out to be a futile effort due the weather. Out of 10 boxes, only two were taken and fledged young.

The one uncommon bird captured this season was a Warbling Vireo, which was the first ever banded at this station.

Powderhouse Road Station **420-0775**
Vestal, Broome County, NY
Gail Kirch
(gkirch@stny.rr.com)

AFR was a 'bust' at this station in 2009. A domestic cat had discovered my net lanes. I have no proof it caught anything but I was finding dead birds around my yard. This cat is healthy, wears no collar and I see it heading in all directions. I chose to close the station on 1 Sep. I set two nets on 17 Sep, but the cat appeared within 45 min. If this cat appears in 2010, I shall try to catch it in a Havahart trap and try to find the owner.

I felt that August banding was slow, with few species and lower numbers per species. I compared this year's effort in August to averages from the period August 1994-2008. Gray Catbird was slightly above average, while Black-capped Chickadee, Ovenbird, and Song Sparrow were all below the norm. Red-eyed Vireos were significantly below average (less than 25 %). Overall effort was almost halved, yet we banded only three days less than the August average. Species were slightly lower as were birds banded.

Only birds per 100 net hours were above the average. The weather determined the number of

days I netted, which in turn affected all the other categories.

Ellenville Station **414-0742**
Ellenville, Ulster County, NY
Valerie M. Freer
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My results for the 40th consecutive season of operation, fall 2009 were dismal! In spite of near normal number of days and net-hours, only 325 new birds were netted for a yield of only 32 b/100nh, making it the fourth poorest season since 1970. An average of only eight birds per day were caught, the second lowest in 40 years.

Local people complained that summer never came this year. Across New York state, the summer was the 11th wettest in over 100 years, leading birders to blame shortage of birds on the cool and very wet weather. Breeding birds (especially ground nesters) had to be stressed in June because of cool temperatures and 14 days of measurable rainfall totaling 10 inches, five inches above normal. July was even cooler (three degrees below normal) and almost eight inches of rain fell locally on another 10 days. Another eight inches of rain fell in August (well above normal). It was not easy to get the usual number of banding days in August because of rain, but the temperature and precipitation were not far from normal in September. October was cool again, with above-normal rainfall and many windy mornings. Some of the poorly drained net lanes became quagmires.

I presumed that the poor weather would result in fewer young birds produced and would be reflected in a lower percent of young birds banded, but I was wrong. Almost 63% of all new birds were HY, close to the long-term average for this station. The averages for this poor season were skewed by catbirds, which defied the weather and the downward trend seen in other birds, and had a very good year. Sixty-nine were banded, comprising over 21% of all new birds caught. Most (84%) were HY as compared with 82% last year and 92% the year before.