

2012

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2011 Kestrel Haven

John A. Gregoire

Sue Gregoire

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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, Carolyn Jacobs, Steve Maley, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, Carol Southby and Aggie Windig 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: Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Cathy Belair, John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Bill Clark, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, John Lehr, Sarah Maclean, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Ann Nash, the Padulka family, Emily Patterson, Terry Perry, Debbie Reed, Sonya Rooney, Linda Rossi, Lee Schofield, Justin Stilwell, Ruth Stork, Andy Thiede, Alice VandeMoere, and Jeanne and Tom Verhulst.

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

Alfred Station 421-0774
Allegany County, NY.
Bander: *Elizabeth W. Brooks*
brookser@earthlink.net

The 35th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 14 Jul and ended on 13 Nov 2011. One 6-m net and one 12-m net were used on 53 days, for a total of 327 net hours. A total of 60 birds of 20 species were banded (18.3 b/100nh). In addition, two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. A list of the top birds banded appears in Table 2.

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 70.7%. Hatching-year percentages for the five most common species were Slate-colored Junco, 50%; White-throated Sparrow, 87.5%; Chipping Sparrow, 71.4%; Black-capped Chickadee, 60.6%; E. White-crowned Sparrow, 100%.

The peak day occurred on 25 Oct, when 12 birds were banded; 50% of those banded were Chipping Sparrows. The days with the most species diversity was also 25 Oct and 3 Nov, with four species banded. There were 14 repeats during the season.

There were four returns from a previous season. They included a Black-capped Chickadee in its second year and another chickadee in its first year; a Gray Catbird in its third year; and an American Tree Sparrow in its second year.

No birds exhibited evidence of Avian Pox. A Blue Jay presented with the top third of its upper mandible broken off.

As in the previous ten years, no banding was done at this location from 11 Sep to 17 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay. During August, banding was not possible on several days due to the presence of a cat.

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 10 Sep.

Spring Hill Wildlife Sanctuary 423-0772
Prattsburgh, Steuben County, NY
Bob McKinney

We regret the death of Bob McKinney this summer. Chita and family have our prayers and condolences. This is the final report from Spring Hill.

Kestrel Haven 423-0772
Avian Migration Observatory
Burdett, Schuyler County, NY
Banders: *John and Sue Gregoire*
khmo@empacc.net

This was our 26th fall AFR season and the worst ever! We started as usual around July 4th but quickly shut down due to an intense heat wave. As that abated, I suffered a personal injury that put me

down and shut the station for an extended period. As I was ready to restart, we began a period of record rainfall followed by days of high winds. The combination was tragic and marks the end of 26 years of constant-effort mist netting here. When we and conditions recovered, we ended with a nice Northern Saw-whet Owl season with 49 banded, four foreign encounters and two Eastern Screech-Owls, one a return from last fall. Saw-whet owl data were reported to Project OwlNet and are not included in the AFR summary.

We banded 709 new birds of 65 species in 38 days of operation. We also had several repeats, 30 returns and 76 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 91 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 120 b/100nh overall. The crazy schedule resulted in an abnormal number of HY birds (75%).

Our eldest return was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that was six years old. Of the 30 returns, six of five species were in excess of four years of age. They shred out as follows:

One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 6,
One Gray Catbird at 4+,
One American Robin at 4,
Two Song Sparrow at 4+, and
One American Goldfinch at 5 years of age.

We thank Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, A.L. Donahue, David Guaspari, Tony Cacciapouti, Tim Brady, Kazu and Tomoku Ito, Bill and Ann Lynn Martin, Bill Opfer, Susann Argetsinger, Barbara Handy, and the estate of Philomene Jodoin for their generous support this year; Victoria Bond Kelly for her talent and time in maintaining and constantly improving our website; Rick Smith and ATC, Ithaca, for a very special equipment assist; Acorn Designs for the beautiful cards we use as thank-you notes for recoveries; and others who contributed advice and special assistance, including Stillman's Greenhouse and Barlow Rhodes.

Northview Sanctuary
Candor, Tioga County, NY
Bander: Robert J. Pantle
bpbird@frontiernet.net

421-0762

My start date was 23 Aug and continued though 11 Nov 2011. This season was the worst fall banding ever, primarily due to the weather. After a very wet summer, during the last week in August remnants of Hurricane Irene swept through the Northeast with heavy rain. The first week in September, the tropical depression, Lee, came out of the Southwest and remained stationary. These two weather phenomena contributed to an already record-setting rain fall total for this year. The local weather bureau reported that the rainfall for 2011 was a whopping 68.7". This is 20+ inches over the average rainfall for a year in this area and was, indeed, record setting. Many local villages and towns are still rebuilding from the terrible flooding in mid-New York state.

Through the period that I was able to band, which amounted to only 20 sessions, I banded 197 new birds of 33 species, with 11 recaptures. On 17 Sep 2011, I banded 63 birds—my highest total for one day, just before tropical storm Lee moved out of this area. The low pressure caused by Lee, I feel, was a contributing factor to grounding the birds locally and to the excellent capture total.

One of the topics of interest at this banding station has been to analyze and track inland (as opposed to coastal) weather fronts that contribute to capture and banding totals.

An interesting highlight would be the 20 Indigo Buntings, 14 of which were captured and banded on 17 Sep (best day). Nineteen of the 20 Indigo Buntings (total for fall) were HY birds.

Powderhouse Road Station
Vestal, Broome County, NY.
Bander: Gail Kirch
gkirch@stny.rr.com

420-0775

Weather and a continuing feral cat problem kept this station closed during fall of 2011.