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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2011 Powderhouse Road Station

Gail Kirch

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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.

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**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.