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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2012 Alfred Station

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We collected blood samples from thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and White-throated Sparrows for Susan Smith Pagano of R.I.T. for her study using plasma indicators of fattening rates and diet to study the migration physiology and stopover site use of these birds.

Jenna Holzschuh and Mark Deutschlander studied White-throated Sparrows to determine how energetic condition influences bird orientation (migratory direction) near a large ecological barrier (Lake Ontario).

During the fall season, we welcomed students from six colleges for tours of the banding station, as well as gave tours for groups of home-schoolers. Part of the Appledore Island (Shoals Marine Lab) banding station staff ran the station on a weekend in October. Visitors from nine states signed our visitors' book this fall as well as guests from Italy and Ontario, Canada.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant, and Kevin Eckert and Amanda Spencer our Data Techs. Special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Verhulst who helped with data entry.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths, to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Sue Dougherty, Lyn Jacobs, Willie Norton and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance. Special thanks to Allan Nash for spreading more truck loads of woodchips on our trails, and for the stones for outside our door. Special thanks to Joanna Klima for the hours she spent mending nets, and her success with actually sewing a patch of new netting to repair an enormous hole in an aerial net. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: John Boettcher, Heather Bonter, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, John Lehr, Sarah Maclean, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, the Podulka family, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, Andy Thiede, Alice VandeMoere, 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

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Allegany County, NY

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The 36th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 14 Jul and ended on 21 Nov 2012. One 12-m net and two 6-m nets were used on 31 days, for a total of 235 net hours. In total, 91 birds of 21 species were banded (38.7 b/100 net hours). In addition, four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. A list of birds banded appears in Table 1.

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 78.6%. Hatching-year percentages for the four most common species were: Slate-colored Junco (75%); Black-capped Chickadee (82%); American Robin (100%); and American Tree Sparrow (100%).

The peak days occurred on 4 and 7 Nov, when 12 birds were banded each day; 75% of those banded on 4 Nov were juncos and 58% of those banded on 7 Nov were also juncos. The day with the most species diversity was 21 Oct with six species banded. There were 13 repeats during the season.

There were five returns from a previous season. They included four Black-capped Chickadees (two in their second year, one in its third year, and one in its seventh year).

No birds exhibited evidence of avian pox. A Slate-colored Junco presented with a 3 mm tumor between its body and right wing.

As in the previous ten years, no banding was done at this location from 10 Sep to 12 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 8 Sep, and I assisted Fred Beaudry with banding demos for several Alfred University classes during the year.