

2014

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2013 Alfred Station

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- Bill deformities were observed on an American Robin, a Brown Thrasher, two Song Sparrows, a Cedar Waxwing and a Blackpoll Warbler.
- A Gray Catbird presented with a fluid-filled sac.
- A Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler and White-throated Sparrow were captured with healed leg fractures.
- An American Redstart and three Golden-crowned Kinglets were missing one or two toes.
- A Common Yellowthroat was missing one eye.
- Leucistic plumage was observed in a White-throated Sparrow, and leucistic toe nails were seen in a Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird and Cedar Waxwing.
- Various growths were noted on an Ovenbird, and a Black-capped Chickadee.

Due to technical problems, the MARS trailer did not operate this fall. We collected blood samples from thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and White-throated Sparrows for Susan Smith 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. We collected blood samples from Black-throated Blue Warblers for Sara Kaiser and Scott Taylor of Cornell University. And we collected fecal samples for a graduate student at Illinois University studying avian predation on honeybees.

We collected blood samples from thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and White-throated Sparrows for Dr. Susan Smith 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 SUNY ESF, SUNY Geneseo, Hobart and William Smith Colleges for tours of the banding station, as well as gave educational programs for groups of home-schoolers. We held a 'Breakfast With the Birds' for special guests of WXXI in Rochester, and hosted an NABC Bander and Trainer Certification Session. Part

of the Appledore Island (Shoals Marine Lab) banding station staff ran the station on the first weekend in Oct. Visitors from ten states signed our Visitor's book this fall as well as guests from Kenya and Ontario, Canada.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant, and Elizabeth Lamont our Data Tech. Special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Verhulst who helped with data entry.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Sue Dougherty, Lyn Jacobs, Willie Norton, Rosemary Reilly and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance. Special thanks to Allan Nash for spreading more truck loads of woodchips on our trails. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Bob Ames, John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, John Lehr, Pat Martin, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, the Podulka family, Rosemary Reilly, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, Andy Thiede, Alice VandeMoere, Tom Verhulst and Willem Windig.

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

Elizabeth W. Brooks

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The 37th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 15 Jul and ended on 18 Nov. One 12-m net and one 6-m net were used on 27 days for a total of 173 net hours. A total of 73 birds of 23 species were banded (42.2 b/100nhs). In addition, three HY Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded.

The peak day occurred on 17 Aug when 11 birds were banded; 17 Aug was also the day with the most species diversity (eight species). There were 20 repeats but no returns from previous seasons.

Hypoboscids were found on two birds; no birds showed evidence of Avian Pox.

As in previous years, no birds were banded at this location between 13 Sep and 11 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. There were no late-season big days, as often has been the case in previous years. It is unusual to have the best day of the fall come in mid-August here.

Banding summaries were sent to regional compilers for the Allegany County Bird Club and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. A banding demo was held at Foster Lake on 7 Sep. A program on bird banding was presented to Senior Citizens in the town of Whitesville, NY on 13 Aug. Fred Beaudry and I held a banding demo for Alfred University students on 21 Nov. Bird of the fall was an AHY-M American Robin banded by Del Brooks, my 12-year old grandson!

Kestrel Haven
Avian Migration Observatory
Burdett, Schuyler County, NY
John and Sue Gregoire
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423-0772

This will be our final AFR report after 28 years of contributing to the effort. We can no longer sustain a constant-effort station and will transition to our long-term passerine and raptor projects.

We did not band in spring thanks to a trap-shy feral cat that kept its distance and a personal injury that made it unsafe for me to handle small birds. The latter part continues and was a factor in our not banding this fall for the first time since 1986.

We started Kestrel Haven as a vision for multiple habitat types converting it from barren corn fields to its current 60 acres of diversity. We are an island of sanity surrounded by an ever increasing buffer of thousands of acres of mono-cropped corn and alfalfa. Along the way we have documented the local extirpation of many field and hedgerow nesting species due to the transition from pasture and fields enriched by conventional manure to a bulldozing of all hedgerows, elimination of pasture and rotational grazing, near constant addition of anaerobic liquid manure slurry and modern harvest methods in

support of industrial level (CAFO) dairy farming that all but eliminate the value of thousands of surrounding acres to migrating and locally nesting birds. It is a very sad state of affairs. Our deepest thanks to those who have supported us over the decades.

John and Sue Gregoire

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 miles south of Cayuga Lake. The five acres sit among a patchwork of cultivated fields and woodlots. Much of the vegetation consists of multiflora rose and honeysuckle. Almost all of the small dairy farms that dotted the landscape are gone, and where there were many cultivated fields, shrubs and saplings are now growing. The current progression of these fields provide optimum habitat for the two species I band the most: Gray Catbirds and Song Sparrows.

I started banding on 31 Jul and finished on 14 Oct 2013. Weather for the late summer and early autumn were average for temperature and rain fall; however, there were few cold fronts.

I had exactly the same number of species (33) for 2013 and 2012. This station continues to be a Gray Catbird (82) and Song Sparrow (61) station. The number of warbler species banded continue to decline with only eleven species banded this past year.

There were only seven recaptures of four species: NOCA, GRCA, SOSP and WTSP, four of which were true repeats and three were returns: Northern Cardinal five years old, one two-year-old Gray Catbird and a one-year-old Catbird.

One of the highlights was the capture and banding of a hatch-year male Cooper's Hawk. This bird was captured the first week in July, indicating to me that the bird was hatched locally. The habitat has changed locally and the woodlands that are growing back in central New York state are providing nesting sites for these birds.