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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2014- Northview Sanctuary

Robert J. Pantle

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third weekend in September. Visitors from 10 states signed our Visitor's Book this fall, as well as guests from Denmark, Scotland and South Africa.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart, and Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant/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 truck loads of wood chips on our trails. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tend net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Aidan & Madeline, Bob Ames, John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, the Podulka family, Rosemary Reilly, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, 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

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Allegany County, NY

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The 38th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 22 Jul and ended on 5 Nov. One 12-m net and one 6-m net were used on 28 days for a total of 235.5 net hours. A total of 95 birds of 25 species were banded (40.3 b/100nh). In addition, six Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

The peak day occurred on **30 Oct** when **14 birds** were banded; **21 Oct** was also the day with the most species diversity (**8 species**). There were 26 repeats, and four returns—all chickadees from previous seasons, the eldest two being in their fourth year.

Hippoboscids were found on two birds; a Song Sparrow with Avian Pox was released unbanded.

As in previous years, no birds were banded at this location between 8 Sep and 10 Oct when I was banding at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory.

Banding summaries were sent to regional compilers for the Allegany County Bird Club and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. A program on bird banding was presented to senior citizens in the town of Richburg, NY, in Jul 2014.

Northview Sanctuary

421-0762

Candor, Tioga County, NY

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This is an abbreviated report for the fall AFR 2014 due to illness and a very busy work schedule. Nevertheless, I tried to band throughout the fall season.

I started banding on 6 Aug and finished on 9 Nov. The temperature and rainfall were about average through mid-Sep. I encountered one of the first cold fronts in September when I banded the most birds I had for this season: nineteen, for the top day in 2014.

I caught and banded 30 species. Gray Catbirds held their first spot with Dark-eyed Juncos taking over the second spot for the first time since I have been banding at this location. More and more Dark-eyed Juncos seem to be breeding locally in the spring and summer months. This species is present at my bird feeders year around. Warblers are becoming a rarity at my station, with only five species banded this season.

I had seven recaptures: two Gray Catbirds, two Blue Jays, one American Goldfinch, and two Black-capped Chickadees. One Gray Catbird was two years old; the other was a year old. One Blue Jay was seven years old the other was two years old. Of the two Black-capped Chickadees, one was a year old the other was a repeat. The American Goldfinch was four years old.

I continue to band at least one accipiter a year during the fall banding season: two Cooper's Hawks in 2012, one in 2013, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk in 2014.

McGill Bird Observatory 454-0739

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McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) in Montreal is a full member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and the only station in Quebec to conduct standardized spring and fall migration banding programs. MBO is operated by the Migration Research Foundation (MRF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of wildlife movements, especially as they relate to population monitoring and conservation.

In 2014, MBO operated its tenth full Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP), covering the usual 13-week period from 1 Aug through 30 Oct. A one-hour census trail was walked daily, and nets were open for five hours beginning at sunrise, except when limited by inclement weather; three days were lost and 33 days of banding were partly shortened due to rain and/or high winds. As a result of the generally favorable conditions, the banding effort of 6387.5 net hours was near average, although a bit below last year's number. Typically, all 16 nets were operated daily this fall. All nets are 12-m Manomet passerine nets, on standard 3-m poles. This fall, bander-in-charge duties were primarily handled by Simon Duval and Gay Gruner.

The total of 3814 individuals banded during FMMP 2014 was barely just below the long-term average of 3874 for the season, but well above the average of 3279 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Repeats (844) were above average while returns (59) were a little bit below. The 77 species

banded is within our average range, while the number of species observed (150) is above the nine-year fall mean of 144.

White-throated Sparrow took the first place this fall with 484 individuals banded, while Ruby-crowned Kinglet came in second with 327 individuals banded and Magnolia Warbler closed the top three with 279 individuals banded. This fall we banded our first ever Broad-winged Hawk, bringing our MBO total to 115 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/banded.html

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-Sep to mid-Oct, and our ninth week (26 Sep – 2 Oct) was by far the busiest, with 454 individuals banded. During this period, we also reached a significant milestone, banding the 50,000th bird in MBO's history. This fall was all about diversity; on a record 38 days the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including four days with more than 60. No new species were observed for the site so the all-time checklist for MBO still stands at 209 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program for the seventh time, during which we banded 157 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus four foreign recoveries. Only one other owl species was banded—an Eastern Screech-Owl on 11 Oct. Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program, with assistance from Simon Duval.

As always, other research activities and education programs were integrated with the banding program. We provided ongoing training to more than 60 volunteers this fall and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing MBO Photo ID Library

(www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/idlibrary.html).

