

2017

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2016- Braddock Bay Bird Observatory Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station

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The 31st consecutive year of fall migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was carried out for 78 days beginning 21 Jul and ending on 8 Nov 2016. Two days in August and five days in October were entirely lost to inclement weather. Three days in August and one day in September were lost due to lack of a bander-in-charge.

5,231 birds of 83 species and one additional hybrid form were banded (Table 1), exceeding Fall 2015's total by 622 birds. Four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the total of banded birds, and an additional 7 males, 7 females, and 2 unknown sex Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. There were no new species for the fall records; the fall cumulative total remains at 125 species (with 126 identified subspecies), with two additional hybrid forms and one intergrade form.

A total of 14,319 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 36.5 birds per 100 net hours, compared with 26.9 birds per 100 net hours in Fall 2015 and 28.9 birds per 100 net hours in Fall 2014.

Our blog and daily banding tallies from the Fall 2016 season may be found on our website at <http://braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com>.

The busiest day was 31 Oct when 388 birds of six species were banded in 180 net hours (215.5 birds per 100nh). On that day, 87.6% of the birds banded were American Goldfinches. The second busiest day was 5 Nov when 243 birds of five species were banded. The predominant species on that day was American Goldfinch at 238 bands, representing 97.9% of the birds banded. There were a total of 14 days on which 100+ birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 15 Sep when 30 species were banded. Of the newly banded birds,

96.7% were able to be aged; of those, 83.3% were hatch-year birds.

Up to 37 twelve-meter nets and four six-meter nets were used, in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 37 twelve-meter nets were six double-high net assemblies. Nets were numbered and identified as to their habitat site and the capture time (hour after sunrise to the nearest 0.5 hour) and net number was recorded for each bird handled.

There were record-high numbers banded of seven species which included Red-bellied Woodpecker (4), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (49), Warbling Vireo (39), Tennessee Warbler (22), Pine Warbler (3), Baltimore Oriole (37), and American Goldfinch (642).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was missing after being banded in 18 of the past 30 seasons. European Starling and Eastern Towhee were both missing for the second year in a row, after being banded in 19 of the past 30 seasons. Blue-winged Warbler was missing for the first time since 1992, after being banded in 25 of the last 30 seasons. Connecticut Warbler and Western Palm Warbler were both missing after being banded in 21 of the past 30 seasons. House Finch was missing for the second year in a row after being banded in 23 of the past 30 seasons.

1016 individual birds were recaptured a total of 1800 times during Fall 2016. These birds were all measured and weighed as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology.

There were 59 recaptures of birds from a previous season (90 days or more from same season banding date). Noteworthy among these were a Gray Catbird in its 9th year, an American Redstart and a Gray Catbird each in their 6th year, and two Gray Catbirds, one Northern Cardinal, and one Yellow Warbler all in their 5th year.

We had one foreign recapture: an American Goldfinch originally banded by David Okines at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, near St. Williams, Ontario, on 6 May 2016 as an ASY-M was recaptured by us on 31 Oct 2017.

Avian Pox lesions were found on 24 birds of seven species, the most being found on Hermit Thrush

(12) and Northern Cardinal (4). Hippoboscids were observed on three birds, mites on one bird, and scaly leg on six birds. Five birds had bill deformities, four had evidence of healed broken bones, three had missing toes, two had missing claws, one had an everted ear, and three had missing eyes. Five Cedar Waxwings showed orange tail feathers, one Yellow-shafted Flicker had at least some flight feathers with orange shafts, four birds exhibited leucism, and two Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange crowns.

The MARS trailer was in operation this fall, and collected data for Dr. Sara Morris' research into night flight calls. We collected blood samples from thrushes for Dr. Susan Smith Pagano of Rochester Institute Technology 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 feather samples for Dr. Kristen Covino from Canisius College, who will use hydrogen isotope analysis to determine the breeding origins of individual migratory songbirds that pass through BBBO.

During the fall season, we welcomed students from Canisius College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Ithaca College, SUNY Geneseo, and the University of Rochester for tours of the banding station, and we gave an educational program for a local homeschool group. Visiting the station this fall, included 212 guests and visitors from 10 states and Canada.

Four students completed our Summer 2016 Advanced Workshop, six students completed our Fall 2016 Bander Training Class, and thirteen students from Cornell University spent their annual weekend with us running the station.

Banding was done by licenced banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutchlander, Jenna Holzschuh, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, Sara Morris, Sue Smith Pagano, Andrea Patterson, and Doug Smith. Banding assistants were Michelle Gianvecchio, Julie Kleinhans, Greg Lawrence, Katie Lowenguth, Gayle Lazoration, Pat Lovallo, Maggie MacNeil, Ann Nash, Jon Podoliak, Alison VanKeuren, Barb Wagner, and Chelsea Wisner. Ryan Kayhart was our Research Assistant.

Oct - Dec 2017

Many thanks to Stephen Zicari and his Boy Scout troop who visited the station in early November to implement the first phase of their outdoor classroom, and to the Merton Williams Middle School for choosing to spend their Day of Service with us. Thanks to Steve Maley for mowing and home maintenance; to Jim Gillette for removing a fallen tree; to Lyn Jacobs and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance; to Allen Nash for spreading wood chips on our trails; and to Jeanne Verhulst for helping with data entry.

Much appreciation goes to all our faithful volunteers who scribe and tend the nets: John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Delaney Ford, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Ann Hauser, Gary Herbert, Debi Holt, Carolyn Maruggi, Chita McKinney, Nancy Murty, Jim Saller, Lee Schofield, Judy Snell, Sue Sosik, Tammy Swarthout, Alice VanDeMoere, and Tom Verhulst. Thanks also to guests Emily Fellows, Rowan Ford, and Esther Ninos who stepped in to scribe on one or more days.

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

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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 2016, MBO operated its twelfth full Fall Migration Monitoring Program, covering the 14-week period from 1 August through 6 November. A one-hour census trail was walked daily, and nets were open for five hours beginning at sunrise except