

2017

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2016- McGill Bird Observatory

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(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 of 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 week-end 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.

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

when limited by inclement weather; 10 days were lost and 18 days of banding were partly shortened due to rain and/or high winds. As a result of the generally favourable conditions, the banding effort of 6,545 net hours was above average. 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 3,417 individuals banded during FMMP 2016 was below the long-term average of 3,804 for the season but slightly above the average of 3,326 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Both repeats (771) and returns (78) were above average. The 82 species banded and the 150 species observed were both also above their respective average of 79 and 145.

White-throated Sparrow took first place again this fall with a record 566 individuals banded, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets came in second with 341 individuals banded and Slate-colored Junco closed out the top 3 with 209 individuals banded. Two new species were banded this fall; a single Yellow-throated Vireo on 16 Aug and two Connecticut Warblers on 27 Aug and 12 Sep. The MBO total now stands at 121 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at <http://www.oommbo.org/results/banding-totals/>

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-September to mid-October, and our ninth week (26 Sep - 2 Oct) was the busiest, with 568 individuals banded including 187 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 100 White-throated Sparrows. The highlight this fall was again species diversity; on 40 days the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including 8 days with more than 60 and two days with 70 species observed. One new species was added to the all-time checklist for MBO, the Yellow-throated Vireo that was banded on August 16. The site list now stands at 213 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program, during which we banded 194 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus one foreign recapture. Two other owl species were banded: an Eastern Screech-Owl on 27 Sep and a Barred Owl on 14 Oct. Nicolas Bernier was the bander-in-charge for this program once again.

As always, other research activities and education programs were integrated with the banding program. We provided ongoing training to more than 50 volunteers this fall, and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing Piranga online photo library (<http://www.natureinstruct.org/piranga/>).

Prince Edward Point 439-0769
Bird Observatory (PEPTBO) Milford, ON
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Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPTBO) operates in Ontario, and is located at the extreme south-eastern corner of Prince Edward County at the eastern end of Lake Ontario and is located within the Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area where we have a small cottage for housing the banders and a small banding lab. The Observatory first started its operation in 1995 and celebrated its 22nd year of operation in 2016. For the first six years we only operated in the spring, getting a Trillium Grant in 2000, which allowed us in 2001 to start operating the station for both the spring and fall seasons. Since our inception, we have banded over 206,000 birds of 178 species, with a range of between 8,500 and 17,000 a year and with fall totals varying between 4,500 and 12,500 birds banded.

The habitat at PEPTBO is an alvar peninsular with thin soil that is surrounded by Lake Ontario and with the immediate habitat near the nets being mostly cedar scrub in an overgrown field with small areas of woodlots of mixed deciduous trees with scattered cedars, about half of the wood we band in has an understory of the invasive European Buckthorn. The observatory operates a Naturehood program whereby we bring school groups to the observatory for an introduction to nature. The species trends from PEPTBO up to 2014 can be found on the Bird Studies Canada website at <http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/default/popindices.jsp>, select PETBO from the list of stations and then the individual species you wish to look at, or, you can choose all species. More details of the Observatory can be found on our website: www.peptbo.ca The weather this fall consisted of long periods of easterly or southerly winds with very warm conditions in August to mid-October with several