



# *Eastern Regional News*

*Eastern Bird Banding Association*

*Founded 1923*

## **Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) – Fall 2015**

***Andrea Patterson, Coordinator***

144 Greystone Lane #24  
Rochester, NY 14618  
andrea.j.patterson@gmail.com

Region II continued with four stations this year. We were happy not to lose anyone this year, but we are eagerly searching out new stations to supplement this area. Region II covers territory stretching from western Quebec and eastern Ontario (including Ottawa and North Bay) through most of New York and part of northern Pennsylvania. Currently, McGill Bird Observatory is the only station in Canada, and we also lack coverage in the eastern half of New York. New stations are always welcome!

Fall 2015 will be remembered for the strong El Niño pattern which brought warmer-than-average temperatures to much of the northeast throughout the season. All four stations in Region II were open later into the fall, but three of four stations reported banding fewer birds than the previous year. The influx of Slate-colored Juncos in 2014 seems to have subsided, and no species stands out this year across the region as being especially successful. On the negative side, White-throated Sparrows (WTSP) appear to have had a less successful year than in 2014. Although it is at the top of the “Top 10” lists at three of four stations, numbers of WTSP

banded at Braddock Bay and McGill are much lower than last year. In 2015, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banded 598 WTSPs compared to 947 in 2014 and a 10-yr average of 921. McGill’s 326 WTSP were right in line with its 10-yr average of 342, but were much lower than 2014’s total of 484 birds.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774**

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station  
Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab  
Monroe County, NY 10950

***Elizabeth W. Brooks, Bander-in-Charge***

brookser@earthlink.net

***Andrea Patterson, Compiler***

andrea.j.patterson@gmail.com

braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com

The thirtieth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was carried out for 96 days beginning 20 Jul and ending on 20 Nov 2015. Weather permitting, banding was carried out for up to six hours beginning at dawn. We operated daily from 15 Aug through 31 Oct, with the exception of two days in September and two days in October that were lost to rain.

The station banded 4,609 birds of 87 species and one additional hybrid form (Table 1), falling short of fall 2014’s total by 169 birds. Four Ruby-

**Table 1. AFR II Summary of Operations - Fall 2015**

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Northview	MBO
Start	20 Jul	10 Jul	24 Jul	1 Aug
Stop	4 Nov	21 Nov	21 Nov	6 Nov
Total Days	96	50	29	98
Number Nets	1 to 39	0.5 to 1.5	1 to 3	16
Net Hours	17,114	397	148.25	7,093
Number Best Day	178	8	30	90
Best Day Date	17 Oct	23 Oct	26 Sep	5 Oct
Reason Best Day	42.1% PISI	88% SCJU	47% GRCA	46.7% RCKI
Best Diversity	31 species on 14 Sep	4 species on 7 Nov	10 species on 26 Sep	25 species on 20 Sep
Banded 2014	4,778	95	129	3,814
Banded 2015	4,609	77	200	3,151
Species 2014	89 + 1 hybrid	25	30	77
Species 2015	87 + 1 hybrid	22	34	84
B/100rh 2014	28.9	40.3	71.7	59.7
B/100rh 2015	26.9	19.4	13.5	44.4
% HY 2014	86.1%	66%	69%	78%
% HY 2015	86.5%	60%	73%	82%

**Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2015**

	Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Northview			MBO		
	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY
1.	WTSP (1)	598	92.4%	SCJU	22	64%	WTSP (4)	78	62%	WTSP (1)	326	81.3
2.	GRCA (5)	363	96.2%	SOSP	7	100%	GRCA (1)	28	79%	AMRO (7)	263	91.3
3.	RCKI (2)	356	87.0%	AMGO	7	43%	INBU	12	92%	RCKI (2)	257	70.0
4.	GCKI (3)	259	90.3%	BCCH	7	43%	BLJA (5)	11	55%	MAWA (3)	173	67.1
5.	MAWA (6)	256	91.6%	DOWO	4	75%	SOSP (3)	9	67%	SWTH (21)	171	73.7
6.	YEWA (9)	256	94.6%	-	-	-	SCJU (2)	9	44%	AMRE (8)	165	91.5
7.	AMGO (10)	241	50.8%	-	-	-	NOCA	8	12.5%	SOSP (9)	146	91.8
8.	SWTH (11)	193	94.2%	-	-	-	COYE	6	67%	COYE (19)	95	88.4
9.	PISI (12)	183	73.8%	-	-	-	BCCH	5	100%	AMGO (15)	93	89.2
10.	AMRE (15)	150	91.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	GRCA (13)	92	94.6
<b>% of Total Banded</b>		<b>62.2%</b>		<b>61%</b>			<b>83%</b>				<b>57%</b>	

**Notes: (#) indicates ranking last fall**

throated Hummingbirds were banded, and an additional 14 males, 17 females and 1 unknown 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 17,114 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 26.9 birds per 100 net hours, down from 28.9 b/100 nh in fall 2014 and 29.5 b/100 nh in fall 2013.

Our blog and daily banding tallies from the fall 2015 season may be found on our website at <http://braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com>

The busiest day was 27 Oct when 178 birds of 13 species were banded. On that day, the predominant species was Pine Siskin with 75 banded (42.1% of the total). The second busiest day was 23 Oct when 154 birds of 16 species were banded. On that day, the predominant species was Pine Siskin with 93 banded (60.4% of the total). There were another nine days when over 100 birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 14 Sep when 31 species were banded. We were able to age 97.0% of the birds banded; of those, 86.5% 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 12 species which included Downy Woodpecker (24), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (14), Veery (33), Wood Thrush (17), Gray Catbird (363), Northern Waterthrush (34), American Redstart (150), Northern Parula (23), Scarlet Tanager (8), Brown-headed Cowbird (2), Baltimore Oriole (18), and Common Redpoll (19).

European Starling was missing for the first time since 2006, after being banded in 19 of the past 29 Oct. - Dec. 2015 & Jan. - Mar. 2016

seasons. Eastern Towhee was missing after being banded in 19 of the last 29 years (including every year from 1999-2013), and House Finch was missing after being banded in 23 of the last 29 years.

There were over 1,494 birds recaptured during fall 2015, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed.

There were 63 recaptures of birds from a previous season (90 days or more from same season banding date). Noteworthy among these were a Common Grackle in its 8<sup>th</sup> year; a Blue Jay in its 7<sup>th</sup> year; a Common Grackle in its 6<sup>th</sup> year; and two American Redstarts, one American Robin, one Gray Catbird, one Red-eyed Vireo, and one Yellow Warbler— all in their 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Avian Pox lesions were found on 63 birds of 17 species, the most being found on White-throated Sparrows (22) and Northern Cardinals (8). Hippo flies were observed on four birds, mites on one bird, and scaly leg on one bird. Nine birds had bill deformities, five had evidence of healed broken bones, one had an everted ear, and one had a missing eye. Seven Cedar Waxwings showed orange tail feathers, two Yellow-shafted Flickers had at least some flight feathers with orange shafts, and six birds exhibited leucism.

The MARS trailer was in operation this fall, and collected data for Sara Morris' research into night flight calls. We collected blood samples from thrushes for Susan Smith Pagano of the 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 also collected blood samples of a number of passerine species as part of Greg Cunningham's research into the relationship between telomere length and life history traits.

During the fall season, we welcomed students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, St. John Fisher College, and the Rochester Institute of Technology for tours of the banding station. We gave educational programs for Allyn's Creek Garden Club, Harley School, Kirkland Bird Club, Oatka Garden Club, Pittsford Girl Scouts, Rochester Brainery, and SUNY ESF's Birding

Club. On 15-16 Aug, David Liittschwager visited the station as part of his "One Cubic Foot" project. Number of guests visiting the station this fall was 306, including visitors from 11 states, England, France, Italy, Ontario and Quebec.

Three students completed our Summer 2015 Advanced Workshop, six students completed our Fall 2015 Bander Training Class, three students undertook independent-study banding classes, and seventeen students from Cornell spent their annual weekend with us assisting with station operation. On 2-4 Oct, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory hosted an NABC certification session with seven candidates and five NABC-certified trainers.

Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutchlander, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Sue Smith Pagano, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, Doug Smith, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Claire Buck, Kevin Eckert, Jenna Holzschuh, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Pat Lovallo, Maggie MacNeil, Ann Nash, Jim Saller, Leanna Twohig, Alison Van Keuren, Barb Wagner, Julia Whittle, and Aggie Windig.

Thanks to Steve Maley for mowing and home maintenance, Jim Gillette for mowing the field and grading the driveway, and Tom Muller for mowing paths; to Bob Ames, Lyn Jacobs, Willie Norton, and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance; to Allen Nash for spreading wood chips on our trails, to John Boettcher and Marilyn Guenther for installing blackout shades in the EWB Education Center; to Joanna Klima for mending nets; and to Jeanne Verhulst for helping with data entry. Ryan Kayhart was our Research Assistant.

Much appreciation goes also to all our faithful volunteers who scribe and tend the nets: John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Kim Denise, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Ann Hauser, Gary Herbert, Julie Kleinhans, Dave Mathiason, Chita McKinney, Nancy Murty, Willie Norton, Lee Schofield, Judy Snell, Sue Sosik, Ruth Stork, 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** 421-0774  
Allegany County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Bander-in-Charge**  
brookser@earthlink.net

The 39<sup>th</sup> year of fall banding at Alfred began on 15 Jul and ended on 21 Nov. One 12-m net and one 6-m net were used on 50 days, for a total of 396.75 net hours. A total of 77 birds of 22 species were banded (19 b/100nh). In addition, six Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

The peak day occurred on 23 Oct when eight birds of two species were banded; 8 Nov was the day with the most species diversity (four species). There were 19 repeats. There were five returns—all chickadees from previous seasons—the eldest two being in their third year and the other three in their second year.

Hypoboscids were found on a Brown-headed Cowbird. No birds were observed with Avian Pox.

As in previous years, no birds were banded at this location between 14 Sep and 16 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. Some banding data was used in a program on avian population changes and land use that I presented to patrons of the library in the town of Cuba, NY. in Jul 2015.

**Northview Sanctuary** 421-0762  
Candor, Tioga County, NY  
**Robert J. Pantle, Bander-in-Charge**  
bpbird@frontiernet.net

Fall 2015 banding started at Northview in late Jul and went through the middle of Nov. There were 29 banding sessions and 200 new bandings, 11 returns and 9 repeats.

The weather during the late summer and early fall lacked cold fronts that are needed here for migrants,

with the exception of the last week in Sep, when I had good capture totals.

Agricultural practices are changing the southern tier of New York state, and fields that were fallow for many years around the five acre plot that I band on are being cultivated and corn planted to be used for ethanol. Field birds, like Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Field Sparrows, and Savannah Sparrows which were once common are now missing. In addition, the patches of wood lots that are left are growing back to mature forest. As a result, I band fewer and fewer warbler species here at Northview.

Of the 11 returns, one Northern Cardinal (9 years old) had an aluminum band, worn very thin, which was replaced with a stainless steel band. In addition, there was a 3-year-old Blue Jay, two 2-year-old Gray Catbirds, a 2-year-old Common Yellowthroat, a 2-year-old Black-capped Chickadee, and a 2-year-old Song Sparrow.

Thanks to my sub-permittee, Anne Cooke, for her help aging, sexing, and recording this fall.

**McGill Bird Observatory** 454-0739  
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC  
**Marcel A. Gahbauer, Executive Director**  
marcel@migrationresearch.org  
**Barbara Frei, Director**  
mbo@migrationresearch.org  
**Simon Duval, Bander-in-Charge**  
simon@migrationresearch.org

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 2015, MBO operated its eleventh full Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP), covering for the first time our usual 13-week period from 1 Aug through 30 Oct and an extra week from 31 Oct to Nov 6, recognizing that some species are moving earlier than when we started in 2005. 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 7,093 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 3,151 individuals banded during the FMMP and 2015 was below the long-term average, of 3,870 for the season and even well below the average of 3,348 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Repeats (724) were average while returns (66) were a little bit above. The 84 species banded is well above the average range, while the number of species observed (151) is above the ten-year fall mean of 144.

White-throated Sparrow took first place this fall with 326 individuals banded, while American Robin came in second with 263 individuals banded and Ruby-crowned Kinglet closed the top three with 257 individuals banded. No new species were banded this fall. The MBO total still stands at 115 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-Sep to mid-Oct, and our tenth week (3 Oct – 9 Oct) was the busiest, with 352 individuals banded. This fall was all about diversity; on a record 44 days, the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including nine days with more than 60 and one day at 70 species. No new species were observed for the site, so the all-time checklist for MBO still stands at 212 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program, during which we banded 273 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus three foreign recoveries. Only one other owl species was banded, an Eastern Screech-Owl, on 6 Oct.

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Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program.

As always, other research activities and educational 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 at:

(<http://www.natureinstruct.org/piranga/>)

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# *Inland Regional News*

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***Inland Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1922**

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## **President's Notes**

**2015 Annual Meeting!** Many thanks to Dr. Scott Rush and his associates for sponsoring a great meeting along Mississippi's Gulf coast. Several participants were treated to their "lifer" Yellow Rails and all appreciated the opportunity to see at least one Le Conte's and many Henslow's sparrows along with a Sedge Wren in the hand. The minutes for the meeting are accompanying this message.

**Website!** Many thanks, too, to Erika Dittmar (even though she is currently working in Hawaii) for maintaining our website; please check it out every so often and provide her with some photos or other information she could add to the site.

**2016 Meeting!** It is not too early to think about 2016; the annual meeting is scheduled for the second weekend in November (11-13 Nov 2016) at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in east-central Indiana. Put the date in your calendars and plan to be there. I have been informed that one of the target species for banding that weekend is the Saw-whet Owl.

**Inland Flyway Review!** In my last report I made reference to a potential "Inland Flyway Review", similar to that of EBBA, for regular appearance in NABB. After discussing the possibility with several banders and being told by

the operators of several banding stations that they would participate. Let us get it going. I am using the same format as that already established by EBBA (with approval from Elizabeth Brooks). The one page report form (mostly fill-in-the-blank) for the 2015 fall season is ready to send out. A note to Inland station operators, please request the form; it can be provided by snail mail or email. Many thanks for your interest and support.

**Enjoy the birds!** Finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the year to enjoy the birds (even if just for a little bit).

*Vernon Kleen*

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## **Inland Bird Banding Association 2015 Annual Meeting**

Inland Bird Banding Association met at Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Moss Point, MS, from 13 - 15 Nov 2015. The meeting was hosted by Scott Rush of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS. Friday activities included a meeting of IBBA's Board of Directors, general registration and reception, and night surveys for Yellow Rail and other species at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife