

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774**  
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station (K-MB)  
Monroe County, NY  
**Compilers: Elizabeth W. Brooks**  
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**and Ryan Kayhart**

The 22nd consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 12 Jul and ended on 19 Nov 2007. **Licensed banders** David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Cindy Marino, David Mathiason, Robert McKinney, David Semple, and John Waud did the banding. **Banding assistants** were David Alexander, Mike Berringer, Linda Boutwell, Virginia Duffy, Marian Klik, Pat Lovallo, Rachel Muheim, Mike Palermo, Doug Smith, Paul Taillie, Leanna Twohig, and Barb Wagner.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 20 Aug and 19 Oct. One whole day and part of three other days were lost due to rain and wind. Banding was also done on 11 days prior to and six days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 13,097 net hours on 75 days. There were 5,526 birds banded of 91 species, up from 4,516 birds of 90 species in fall 2006. Eleven male, 13 female, and 10 unknown sex Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 29 Sep); There were no new species for the cumulative fall list that remains at 123 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 42.2 b/100nh (just slightly down from 43.8 b/100nh in 2006).

The best day was 12 Oct, when 344 birds of 21 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 24 Oct (273), and 4 Oct (202). The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 Sep, when 38 species were banded.

Up to 34 12-m nets and four 6-m nets were used, most in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 34 12-m 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 hr) and net number was recorded for each bird handled. Birds recaptured during fall 2007 were all

measured, fat-scored and re-weighed. A White-throated Sparrow banded at K-MB on 18 Oct 2006 was found dead on 14 Nov 2006 by Thelma Dalmas in Virginia.

There were record-high numbers banded of 16 species including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Eastern Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle and Purple Finch.

Rachel Muheim of Virginia Tech, in collaboration with Mark Deutschlander of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, conducted research on nocturnal migration orientation cues of Swainson's Thrush and White-throated Sparrows.

We took samples of the preen gland secretions of selected birds for Meena Haribal of Cornell.

Ten students successfully completed our Bander Training Course offered through the Rochester Institute of Technology. We also hosted a North American Banding Council Evaluation Session.

We welcomed Mark Deutschlander's students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and grade school students from the Neil Armstrong School in Greece.

Pat Lovallo represented BBBO at the Fall Fun Day sponsored by the Girl Scout's Stoney Hill Service Team at Braddock Bay Park. Many individuals visited the banding station on an informal basis.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart. Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Steve Maley and Doug Smith for their assistance with building and grounds management. Thanks to John Humnicky and the Webelos scouts from Troop 278 – Pack 278 of St. Mark's Church from North Greece, who spent a morning removing green ash seedlings from our field. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation:

Nancy Chevalier, Jennifer Cumbo, Sue Evans, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Rafael Herrera-Herrera, Kathleen Holt, Peggy Keller, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Ernesto Ruelas, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Tom Verhulst, Glenn Wagner, Dee Weber, Rachel Vallender, Aggie Windig, and Scott and Teresa Wolcott.

A special thanks to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

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Allegany County, NY  
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The 31st year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 10 Jul and ended on 13 Nov 2007. From 1 to 1.5 nets were used on 51 days, for a total of 334.5 net hours. A total of 223 birds of 26 species were banded (66.7 b/100 net hours).

Hatching year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 61.0%. The peak day occurred on 28 Oct, when 32 birds were banded; 59% of those banded were American Goldfinches. The day with the most species was 24 Oct with seven species banded. There were 24 repeats. There were 17 returns of birds banded in Alfred during previous seasons with four chickadees, all in their third year, showing the highest longevity. Hippoboscids were found on a Blue-winged Warbler. A Common Grackle had white feathers on the top of its head.

As in the previous seven years, no banding was done at this location from 12 Sep to 13 Oct, when I was banding at Braddock Bay.

Banding summaries were sent to regional compilers for the Allegany County Bird Club, Buffalo Ornithological Society, and the Atlantic Flyway Review. Several slide presentations on bird banding were given to local clubs, including the Alfred Lions Club and the Allegany County Bird Club. A banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 8 Sep.

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Early in the season weather was such that the majority of migrants overflowed our site during the evening hours. Weather also reduced our days and net hours with most birds arriving in large spurts, thus enhancing our measure of efficiency. Goldfinches returned in much greater numbers after a dismal fall showing last year, and we recaptured an Eastern Kingbird that set a new species longevity record. All in all, it was a pretty slow season for us and well within the capacity of this station that has never had more than two banders and no helpers. Of those banded, our species diversity was quite low and we had the lowest showing of young birds ever.

Of significance to banders, we have been studying ageing techniques in goldfinches and other species where we have a very large database and good returns over the years. Without question, the use of covert shape should be halted, as the accuracy level is very low and not near BBL standards. We are quite confident in stating this for goldfinches and have seen indications that the hypothesis holds in several other species. As Pyle's use of this characteristic is ubiquitous, the accuracy of the national database is in question. We believe banders should avoid this technique entirely and rely on several other more accurate ageing characteristics. In the final analysis, these observations emphasize the need to use multiple cues for ageing and the need for a better feedback/information-sharing system to update Pyle, which, after all, is, and always will be, a work in progress. Unless molt limits are discernible, we now age adult female goldfinches only as AHY.

We banded 3,151 new birds of 87 species in 85 days of operation. We also had 541 repeats, 124 returns, and 181 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 3,997, making our measure of efficiency 140 b/100nh for newly banded birds, and 178 b/100nh overall. Hatching-year birds were far below the norm, at 82%.