



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2009

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Let us hope that next year is better for all our stations! Read the litany of complaints and horrible weather descriptions – “a bust, dismal, wet, windy, lowest numbers, lowest hours, worse ever, poorest season”. Bob McKinney is still on our injured reserve list but hopes to get back in operation next year; in the interim, he helped out at Braddock Bay, as is his norm. Add to all that Vestal’s being shut down by a feral cat and it sets one looking for any highlights. Fortunately, there were a few.

Kestrel Haven had a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher return that set a new longevity record for the species. Returns of this species are seldom reported to BBL and this one was indeed special in many ways. McGill Bird Observatory reports a slightly lower but normal season, as did Braddock Bay. The latter reports that they are not as vulnerable to the wind as many of us. Braddock Bay hosted a segment of a National Public Radio Science Friday show and continues its educational mission in many areas.

As you read the weather descriptions, note that east of the Catskills it was very wet and windy in late season. In the central part of the state, there was a short period of wet, right in the middle of nesting season, followed by lots of wind that never did let down. Up on Lake Ontario conditions differed significantly and for the better from the inland stations. Montreal had the nicest season of us all.

There is mention of several species being encountered in low numbers, if at all. Over the years we have seen the ever decreasing trend in warbler numbers overall but some appear to be cyclic. Others are of great concern and will be monitored closely as we hopefully move into a rosier future. Some species were just late in moving. Perhaps the warmer weather or second nestings caused by the poor weather can account for that lateness. Warmth is a huge factor as we are all seeing wintering species that were never this far north before; the same is true for our increasing breeding populations of previously “southern” species.

To quote Yogi: “It ain’t over till it’s over.” Hang tough my friends, next year is another chance to excel!

Table 1. AFR II Summary of Operations - Fall 2009

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Kestrel Haven	Northview	Vestal	Ellenville	MBO
Start	9 Jul	7 Jul	3 Jul	17 Jul	28 Jul	3 Aug	1 Aug
Stop	7 Nov	12 Nov	14 Nov	25 Oct	1 Sep	7 Nov	30 Oct
Total Days	73	45	77	25	18	39	91
No. Nets	1 to 37	1 to 1.5	1 to 15	1 to 6	4 to 10	5 to 8	10 to 16
Net Hours	12,687	314.5	2,579	318	363	1,017	5,818
No. Best Day	283	7	94	21	24	22	166
Best Day Date	14 Oct	25 Oct	4 Nov	4 Aug	28 Jul	20 Oct	8 Oct
Reason BD	45% RCKI	AMGOs	57% AMGO	9 Species		55% SCJU	46% RCKI
Best Diversity	29 on 24 Sep	4 on 25 Oct	19 on 8 Aug and 24 Sep	9 on 4 Aug	9 on 28 Jul	11 on 17 Aug	22 on 1 Aug and 13 Sep
Banded 2008	5144	136	2854	NA	717	626	5083
Banded 2009	4342	78	1735	193	168	325	3390
Species 2008	89	30	89	NA	61	57	78
Species 2009	88	23	80	36	30	49	75
B/100nh 2008	40	66	111	NA	55	52	91
B/100nh 2009	34	25	107	61	46	32	58
% HY 2008	84%	69%	88%	NA	85%	66%	85%
% HY 2009	82%	69%	86%	72%	83%	63%	84%

NA - not attempted

Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2009

Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Kestrel Haven			Northview		
Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
WTSP (1)	839	94%	SCJU (2)	21	65%	AMGO (1)	234	85%	GRCA	44	93%
RCKI (2)	521	85%	BCCH (3)	13	92%	SOSP (2)	224	97%	SOSP	29	83%
GCKI (5)	324	96%	AMGO (1)	8	56%	COYE (4)	193	86%	FISP	13	77%
MAWA (3)	316	93%	DOWO	5	80%	GRCA (3)	146	94%	RTHU	12	75%
HETH (9)	186	90%	GRCA	3	0%	RBGR (5)	86	91%	SCJU	11	73%
BCCH (6)	163	95%	CHSP (5)	3	67%	SCJU (10)	79	70%	AMGO	10	1%
GRCA (8)	157	78%	FOSP	3	100%	WTSP (6)	62	65%	COYE	10	50%
YWAR (10)	157	89%	SOSP (4)	3	67%	HOFI	55	93%	BCCH	9	88%
COYE	128	78%				AMRO (7)	54	74%	NOCA	7	57%
CEDW	110	2%				BCCH (9)	53	100%	HOWR	5	80%
% of Total Banded	66.8%				75.6%			68.0%			78.0%

(#) - Indicates ranking last fall.

Table 2 (con't). AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2009

Vestal			Ellenville			MBO		
Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
GRCA (1)	35	97%	GRCA (2)	69	84%	WTSP (4)	428	90%
BCCH (2)	14	100%	SCJU (1)	36	28%	SCJU (6)	361	91%
OVEN (7)	10	100%	PUFI (7)	16	69%	SOSP (7)	322	89%
REVI (5)	7	86%	REVI (1)	15	87%	RCKI (3)	257	69%
AMRO	5	40%	BCCH (6)	14	86%	AMRO (2)	200	87%
COYE (6)	5	20%	HETH	14	57%	BCCH (16)	135	91%
YBFL	4	100%	SOSP	12	67%	MYWA (1)	106	76%
HOWR (10)	4	100%	WTSP (3)	12	67%	AMRE (9)	104	90%
HETH	4	100%	BTBW (10)	12	42%	MAWA (5)	103	84%
NOCA	4	100%	VEER	10	70%	HETH (25)	86	100%
AMGO	4	0						
% of Total Banded		35.0%			65.0%			62%
(#) - Indicates ranking last fall.								

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The twenty-fourth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 9 Jul and ended on 7 Nov 2009. Banding was done by licensed staff banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Linda Boutwell, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Ember Jandebaur, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Keefer, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, Sara Morris, David Semple, Susan Smith, and John Waud, and by visiting licensed banders Dave Alexander, David Holmes, Richard Joos, Hannah Suthers, and Bob Yunick. Banding assistants were Greg Cunningham, Virginia Duffy, Sue Evans, Greg Lawrence, Emily Runnells, Peggy Keller, Nancy Keppel, Tom Klotzbach, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, Barb Wagner, and Aggie Windig.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 22 Aug and 22 Oct. Parts of five days were lost due to rain and/or wind. Banding was also done on five days prior to and five days after the intensive banding period, for a total of 12,687 net hours on 73 days. There were 4,342 birds banded of 88 species, down from 5,144 birds banded of 89 species in fall 2008, down from 5,526 birds of 91 species in fall 2007, and the lowest total since 2002. Twelve Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 20 Sep). There were two new species for the cumulative fall list – a Double-crested Cormorant and a Purple Martin; the fall cumulative total is now 125 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 34.2 birds per 100 net hours, down from 40 b/100nh in 2008).

The best day was 14 Oct when 283 birds of 17 species were banded. Of the 283 birds banded that day, 131 (46.3%) were Ruby-crowned Kinglets. There were no other days during the fall when over 200 birds were banded, and only 10 days when over 100 birds were banded. Seven of the ten 100+ bird