

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774

Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab

Monroe County, NY

Compilers: Elizabeth W. Brooks and Ryan Kayhart

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The 27th consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 2 Aug and ended on 28 Oct 2012. Chief banding assistants: David Bonter, Jon Dombrowski, Ember Jandebour, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Dave Mathiason, Robert McKinney, Andrea Patterson and John Waud.

Banding assistants were Cathy Belair, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Laura Evans, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Pat Lovallo, Maggie MacNeil, Ann Nash, Emily Patterson, Claire Trombley, Leanna Twohig, Barb Wagner and Aggie Windig.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day. All or parts of four days were lost due to rain and/or wind. Partial days of banding were also done on 23 days prior to the intensive banding period. There was a total of 14,720 net hours on 67 days. There were 5,570 birds banded of 125 species, which is 1,578 more new birds captured than in fall 2011. Forty-three (19 female, 16 male, 8 unknown sex) Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded (last date, 21 Sep). Red-shouldered Hawk was a new species for the fall list; the fall cumulative total is now 128 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 37.8 birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) compared with 30.9 b/100nh in 2011.

There were three 200+ bird days including 230 banded on 27 Sep, 221 banded on 30 Sep, and 216 banded on 8 Oct. There were 13 days when over 100 birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 Sep, when 33 species were banded.

Up to 35 12-m nets and four 6-m nets were used in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 35 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 hour) and net number was recorded for each bird handled.

There were over 1,625 birds recaptured during fall 2012, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed. There were 18+ recaptures of birds from a previous season. Noteworthy among these were a Common Grackle in its 8th year, and three Yellow Warblers in their 5th year. An AHY male Common Yellowthroat, banded at BBBO on 28 Sep 2012 was found dead on 21 Oct 2012 in Savannah, GA. A HY Myrtle Warbler banded on 3 Oct 2012 was captured and released alive on Kiawah Island in Charleston County, SC, on 5 Nov 2012. A HY male European Starling banded on 27 Sep 2012 was found dead by Paul Halcomb on 15 Nov 2012 near Madison, in Jefferson Co., IN.

Avian Pox lesions were found on at least 39 birds of 11 species. Hermit Thrush were the most common victims. Hippoboscids were collected for Jason Mayberry of Canisius College. Ticks were removed from a Common Yellowthroat and Carolina Wren. Lice were found on three birds. A Gray Catbird was missing its right eye; seven birds had missing toes; one bird appeared to have its inner ear everted; a Ruby-crowned Kinglet had a crossed bill; two birds had healed tarsus fractures; two Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange crowns; and a Blue Jay presented with an umbilical cord-like growth on its belly.

There were record-high numbers banded of ten species which included 84 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded, previous record high 2; 52 Tufted Titmouse (29); 30 Red-breasted Nuthatch (21); 306 Swainson's Thrush (176); 10 Wood Thrush (8); 290 Gray Catbird (266); 53 European Starling (31); 107 American Redstart (105); 167 Common Yellowthroat (161); and 52 Northern Cardinal (31). On the negative side, Scarlet Tanager was missing, after being recorded in 15 of the past 19 fall seasons.

Sara Morris, and her assistant Katie Little from Canisius College, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding Station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested Blackpoll, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped warblers and White-throated Sparrows in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) parked at the banding station. Their goal was to study flight-calling behavior, and how different cues affect calling by migrants and whether calling rate is increased in response to conspecific calls

We collected blood samples from thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and White-throated Sparrows for Susan Smith Pagano of R.I.T. for her study using plasma indicators of fattening rates and diet to study the migration physiology and stopover site use of these birds.

Jenna Holzschuh and Mark Deutschlander studied White-throated Sparrows to determine how energetic condition influences bird orientation (migratory direction) near a large ecological barrier (Lake Ontario).

During the fall season, we welcomed students from six colleges for tours of the banding station, as well as gave tours for groups of home-schoolers. Part of the Appledore Island (Shoals Marine Lab) banding station staff ran the station on a weekend in October. Visitors from nine states signed our visitors' book this fall as well as guests from Italy and Ontario, Canada.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant, and Kevin Eckert and Amanda Spencer our Data Techs. Special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Verhulst who helped with data entry.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths, to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Sue Dougherty, Lyn Jacobs, Willie Norton and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance. Special thanks to Allan Nash for spreading more truck loads of woodchips on our trails, and for the stones for outside our door. Special thanks to Joanna Klima for the hours she spent mending nets, and her success with actually sewing a patch of new netting to repair an enormous hole in an aerial net. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: John Boettcher, Heather Bonter, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, John Lehr, Sarah Maclean, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, the Podulka family, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, Andy Thiede, Alice VandeMoere, and Tom Verhulst.

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Alfred Station

421-0774

Allegany County, NY

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The 36th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 14 Jul and ended on 21 Nov 2012. One 12-m net and two 6-m nets were used on 31 days, for a total of 235 net hours. In total, 91 birds of 21 species were banded (38.7 b/100 net hours). In addition, four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. A list of birds banded appears in Table 1.

Hatching-year percentages for all birds where age could be determined was 78.6%. Hatching-year percentages for the four most common species were: Slate-colored Junco (75%); Black-capped Chickadee (82%); American Robin (100%); and American Tree Sparrow (100%).

The peak days occurred on 4 and 7 Nov, when 12 birds were banded each day; 75% of those banded on 4 Nov were juncos and 58% of those banded on 7 Nov were also juncos. The day with the most species diversity was 21 Oct with six species banded. There were 13 repeats during the season.

There were five returns from a previous season. They included four Black-capped Chickadees (two in their second year, one in its third year, and one in its seventh year).

No birds exhibited evidence of avian pox. A Slate-colored Junco presented with a 3 mm tumor between its body and right wing.

As in the previous ten years, no banding was done at this location from 10 Sep to 12 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. A banding demonstration was held at Foster Lake on 8 Sep, and I assisted Fred Beaudry with banding demos for several Alfred University classes during the year.