

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774

Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab

Monroe County, NY

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www.braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com

Elizabeth W. Brooks, BIC and Compiler

The twenty-eighth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 21 Jul and ended on 25 Oct 2013. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Dave Mathiason, Andrea Patterson, Doug Smith, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Cathy Belair, Claire Buck, Virginia Duffy, Laura Evans, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Katie Little, Pat Lovallo, Maggie MacNeil, Ann Nash, Emily Patterson, Jesse Rubenstein, Rick Shearman, Claire Trombley, Leanna Twohig, Barb Wagner, Bella and Cici Weber, Aggie Windig, and Brenna Zanghi.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for at least six hours beginning at dawn every day between 21 Jul and 25 Oct. We lost parts of three days because of 'too many birds,' parts of 10 days because of rain, and parts of four days because of excessive heat. There was a total of 15,292 net hours on 95 days, with 4211 birds banded of 86 species, which is 1060 fewer new birds captured than in fall 2012. There were 26 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds released unbanded (last date, 23 Sep). Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was a new species for the fall list; the fall cumulative total is now 129 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 29.5 birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) compared with 37.8 b/100nh in 2012.

The best day was 25 Sep when 241 birds of 25 species were banded. On that day, the predominant species were White-throated Sparrow (32%) and Golden-crowned Kinglet (19%). There were four 200+ bird days including 241 on 25 Sep, 222 on 14 Oct, 212 on 3 Oct and 204 on 26 Sep. There were another four days when over 100 birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 26 Sep and 3 Oct, when 27 species were banded each day.

Of the total new bandings, 84.9% were HY birds. HY percentages for the top ten species were: White-throated Sparrow, 88.7%; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 91.3%; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 79.0%; Magnolia Warbler 95.1%; Gray Catbird, 80.7%; Hermit Thrush, 90.3%; Blackpoll Warbler, 68.5%; Yellow Warbler, 74.2%; Swainson's Thrush, 85.5%; and Cedar Waxwing, 10.1%.

Up to 37 twelve-meter nets and four six-meter nets were used, in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 35 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 six species which included Ruby-throated Hummingbird (22 banded), Eastern Wood Pewee (18), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (42), Cedar Waxwing (126), Blackburnian Warbler (9) and Northern Waterthrush (24).

On the negative side, 45 Black-capped Chickadees was our lowest fall total ever! Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was missing after being banded in 16 of the last 18 years; Rusty Blackbird was missing after being banded in 15 of the past 18 years. And White-breasted Nuthatch, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were missing after being banded in 14 of the past 18 years.

There were over 1300 birds recaptured during fall 2013, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed.

There were 32+ recaptures of birds from a previous season. Noteworthy among these were:

- A Gray Catbird in its eighth year, a chickadee in its sixth year and two catbirds in their fifth year.
- Avian Pox lesions were found on 25 birds of seven species, the most (10) being found on White-throated Sparrows.
- Hippoboscids were found on five birds.
- Ticks were removed from six birds.
- Lice or mites were found on four birds.

- Bill deformities were observed on an American Robin, a Brown Thrasher, two Song Sparrows, a Cedar Waxwing and a Blackpoll Warbler.
- A Gray Catbird presented with a fluid-filled sac.
- A Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler and White-throated Sparrow were captured with healed leg fractures.
- An American Redstart and three Golden-crowned Kinglets were missing one or two toes.
- A Common Yellowthroat was missing one eye.
- Leucistic plumage was observed in a White-throated Sparrow, and leucistic toe nails were seen in a Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird and Cedar Waxwing.
- Various growths were noted on an Ovenbird, and a Black-capped Chickadee.

Due to technical problems, the MARS trailer did not operate this fall. We collected blood samples from thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and White-throated Sparrows for Susan Smith 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. We collected blood samples from Black-throated Blue Warblers for Sara Kaiser and Scott Taylor of Cornell University. And we collected fecal samples for a graduate student at Illinois University studying avian predation on honeybees.

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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 SUNY ESF, SUNY Geneseo, Hobart and William Smith Colleges for tours of the banding station, as well as gave educational programs for groups of home-schoolers, We held a 'Breakfast With the Birds' for special guests of WXXI in Rochester, and hosted an NABC Bander and Trainer Certification Session. Part

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of the Appledore Island (Shoals Marine Lab) banding station staff ran the station on the first weekend in Oct. Visitors from ten states signed our Visitor's book this fall as well as guests from Kenya and Ontario, Canada.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant, and Elizabeth Lamont our Data Tech. Special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Verhulst who helped with data entry.

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Sue Dougherty, Lyn Jacobs, Willie Norton, Rosemary Reilly and Doug Smith for their help with habitat maintenance. Special thanks to Allan Nash for spreading more truck loads of woodchips on our trails. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Bob Ames, John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, John Lehr, Pat Martin, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, the Podulka family, Rosemary Reilly, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, Andy Thiede, Alice VandeMoere, Tom Verhulst and Willem Windig.

A special thank you goes to Bill Kaiser, Nancy Britton and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Alfred Station

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The 37th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 15 Jul and ended on 18 Nov. One 12-m net and one 6-m net were used on 27 days for a total of 173 net hours. A total of 73 birds of 23 species were banded (42.2 b/100nhs). In addition, three HY Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded.

The peak day occurred on 17 Aug when 11 birds were banded; 17 Aug was also the day with the most species diversity (eight species). There were 20 repeats but no returns from previous seasons.