

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) – Fall 2014

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We are happy to report that Region II stations held steady this year. Although we were sorry to lose Kestrel Haven last year, we are optimistic that the four remaining stations will continue to form the core of this region. Region II covers territory stretching from western Quebec and eastern Ontario (including Ottawa and North Bay) through most of New York state and part of northern Pennsylvania. Currently, McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) is the only station in Canada and we also lack coverage in the eastern half of New York state. New stations are always welcome!

By the numbers of birds banded, the fall of 2014 seemed slightly better than that of 2013 at all stations in Region II, except for one that only ran part-time due to the station-master's work commitments. Nevertheless, birds/100 net hours were up at only one of the three stations. A common thread that seemed to run through all stations this fall was the prevalence of Dark-eyed Junco. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory more than doubled its fall average of 73.8, banding 193 juncos. Northview Sanctuary reports a rise in junco numbers, perhaps due to changes in local breeding habitat and MBO notes that juncos moved from their 14th most commonly banded bird in 2013, to their 4th in 2014. Juncos also topped the Alfred station's most banded birds

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Northview	MBO
Start	20 Jul	22 Jul	8 Aug	1 Aug
Stop	4 Nov	5 Nov	11 Nov	30 Oct
Total Days	89	28	21	90
Number Nets	1 to 39	0.5 to 1.5	1 to 4	16
Net Hours	15,561.6	235.5	180	6,399
Number Best Day	356	14	19	121
Best Day Date	12 Oct	30 Oct	9 Sep	29 Sep
Reason Best Day	31.2% RCKI	64% SCJU	42% GRCA	20.7% MYWA 20.7% WTSP
Best Diversity	27 species on 24 and 26 Sep	8 species 21 OCT	7 Species on 9 Sep	30 Species on 24 Sep
Banded 2013	4211	91	228	3341
Banded 2014	4777	95	128	3814
Species 2013	86	23	33	77
Species 2014	90	25	39	77
B/100nh 2013	29.5	42	0.94	51.5
B/100nh 2014	28.8	40	0.72	59.7
% HY 2013	84.9%	63%	74%	82%
% HY 2014	86.5%	66%	69%	78.4%

Table 2. AFR II Most Frequently Encountered Species – Fall 2014

	Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Northview			MBO		
	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY	Species	#	% HY
1.	WTSP (1)	947	92.8%	SCJU (1)	37	69%	GRCA (1)	31	65%	WTSP (4)	484	73.8%
2.	RCKI (3)	446	85.9%	BCCH	12	73%	SCJU	17	70%	RCKI (1)	327	73.1%
3.	GCKI (2)	332	85.8%	WBNU	7	50%	SOSP (3)	14	50%	MAWA (2)	279	67.0%
4.	HETH (6)	251	91.5%	WTSP	5	60%	WTSP (4)	14	93%	SCJU (14)	242	78.5%
5.	GRCA (5)	233	93.1%	AMGO	4	75%	BLJA	9	55%	TEWA (5)	168	83.3%
6.	MAWA (4)	194	89.3%							MYWA (8)	164	73.2%
7.	SCJU (12)	193	88.5%							AMRO (6)	144	81.9%
8.	BLPW (7)	189	62.0%							AMRE (7)	138	89.9%
9.	YEWA (8)	179	96.1%							SOSP (3)	136	83.0%
10.	AMGO (32)	154	48.7%							REVI (12)	126	81.7%
% of Total Banded			65.3%				68%				66%	58%

Notes: (#) Indicates ranking last fall.

Braddock Bay Bird Observ. 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station
Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab
Monroe County, NY
Elizabeth W. Brooks, Bander-in-Charge and Compiler
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The twenty-ninth consecutive year of fall banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 20 Jul and ended on 4 Nov 2014. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Dave Mathiason, Sue Smith Pagano, Andrea Patterson, Emily Patterson, Doug Smith, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Claire Ashton, Claire Buck, Virginia Duffy, Kevin Eckert, Jenna Holschuh, Pat Lovallo, Greg Lawrence, Gail Lazoration, Maggie MacNeil, Pat Martin, Danica Metlay, Meghan Oberkircher, Rick Sherman, Allison VanKeuren, Barb Wagner, Cici Weber, and Aggie Windig.

Weather permitting, banding was carried out for up to six hours beginning at dawn for 12 days between 20 Jul and 11 Aug and 77 days between 20 Aug to 4 Nov, for a total of 89 days. We did not operate on one day in October and one day in early November due to inclement weather.

There was a total of 16,561.63 net hours on 89 days, with 4777 birds banded of 90 species, which is 566 more new birds captured than in fall 2013. There were one male and four female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds released unbanded. There were no new species for the fall list; the fall cumulative total remains at 129 forms. The season's overall capture rate was 28.8 birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) down from 29.5 b/100nh in 2013 and 37.8 b/100nh in 2012.

Our blog and daily banding tallies from the fall 2014 season may be found on our website at <http://braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com>

The best day was 12 Oct when 356 birds of 20 species were banded. On that day, the predominant species was Ruby-crowned Kinglet with 111

banded (31.2% of the total). The second best day was 19 Oct with 221 birds banded of 24 species. The predominant species that day was Dark-eyed Junco with 85 banded (38.5%) of the total. There were another eight days when over 100 birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 24 and 26 Sep when 27 species were banded each day.

Of the total new bandings, 86.5% were HY birds. HY percentages for the top ten species were: White-throated Sparrow, 92.8%; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 85.9%; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 85.8%; Hermit Thrush, 91.5%; Gray Catbird, 93.1%; Yellow Warbler, 96.1%; Magnolia Warbler, 89.3%; Slate-colored Junco, 88.5%; Blackpoll Warbler, 62.0%; and American Goldfinch, 48.7%. Up to 39 twelve-meter nets and four six-meter nets were used in the same locations as in previous years. Included in the 39 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 Traill's Flycatcher (36), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (8), Wood Thrush (11), Chipping Sparrow (8), Slate-colored Junco (193), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (12).

On the negative side, Eastern Towhee was missing for the first time since 1997 and Carolina Wren was missing for the first time since 1999. Rusty Blackbird was missing, after being banded in 23 of the last 28 years.

There were over 1487 birds recaptured during fall 2014, and they were all measured, fat-scored and re-weighed.

There were 54 recaptures of birds from a previous season (90 days or more from same season banding date), as well as three birds recaptured which had been banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach MAPS station run by Marian Klik. Noteworthy among these were:

- a Black-capped Chickadee in its ninth year

- an American Robin, a Gray Catbird, and a Yellow Warbler, all in their seventh year
- a Yellow Warbler and an American Redstart, both in their sixth years
- a Warbling Vireo, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Gray Catbird and a Common Yellowthroat, all in their fifth years

Most returns are birds that breed in the general area. Seldom do we recapture a true migrant, but a Blackpoll Warbler banded here in Sep 2012 returned in Sep 2014.

Avian Pox lesions were found on 21 birds of five species, the most (9) being found on both Hermit Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows. Ticks were removed from two birds; lice or mites were found on eight birds. Crossed bills were seen on three Gray Catbirds, a Black-and-white Warbler, and a Song Sparrow. Two birds presented with one eye missing, and three birds were captured with healed leg fractures.

The Mobile Avian Recording Studio trailer was in operation this fall and collected data for Sara Morris' research into night flight calls. We collected blood samples from thrushes and Song 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. We also collected blood samples from Gray Catbirds, Yellow Warblers and Song Sparrows for Meghan Oberkircher for her study of stress levels in migrating songbirds.

During the fall season, we welcomed students from Alfred University, Canisius College, SUNY Geneseo, University of Rochester, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Wayne Central School for tours of the banding station. We gave educational programs for groups of home-schoolers, members of the Culture Book Club, the Weather Or Not Garden Club and the Allyn's Creek Garden Club. Seven students completed our Fall 2014 Bander Training Class and three of the Appledore Island (Shoals Marine Lab) banding stations staff spent their annual weekend with us the

third weekend in September. Visitors from 10 states signed our Visitor's Book this fall, as well as guests from Denmark, Scotland and South Africa.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart, and Jenna Holzschuh was our Field Assistant/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 truck loads of wood chips on our trails. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tend net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Aidan & Madeline, Bob Ames, John Boettcher, Jane Capellupo, Mark Catlin, Barb French, Marilyn Guenther, Kathy Habgood, Gary Herbert, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, the Podulka family, Rosemary Reilly, Sonya Rooney, Lee Schofield, Ruth Stork, 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.

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The 38th year of fall banding at Alfred Station began on 22 Jul and ended on 5 Nov. One 12-m net and one 6-m net were used on 28 days for a total of 235.5 net hours. A total of 95 birds of 25 species were banded (40.3 b/100nh). In addition, six Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

The peak day occurred on **30 Oct** when **14 birds** were banded; **21 Oct** was also the day with the most species diversity (**8 species**). There were 26 repeats, and four returns—all chickadees from previous seasons, the eldest two being in their fourth year.

Hippoboscid flies were found on two birds; a Song Sparrow with Avian Pox was released unbanded.

As in previous years, no birds were banded at this location between 8 Sep and 10 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. A program on bird banding was presented to senior citizens in the town of Richburg, NY, in Jul 2014.

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This is an abbreviated report for the fall AFR 2014 due to illness and a very busy work schedule. Nevertheless, I tried to band throughout the fall season.

I started banding on 6 Aug and finished on 9 Nov. The temperature and rainfall were about average through mid-Sep. I encountered one of the first cold fronts in September when I banded the most birds I had for this season: nineteen, for the top day in 2014.

I caught and banded 30 species. Gray Catbirds held their first spot with Dark-eyed Juncos taking over the second spot for the first time since I have been banding at this location. More and more Dark-eyed Juncos seem to be breeding locally in the spring and summer months. This species is present at my bird feeders year around. Warblers are becoming a rarity at my station, with only five species banded this season.

I had seven recaptures: two Gray Catbirds, two Blue Jays, one American Goldfinch, and two Black-capped Chickadees. One Gray Catbird was two years old; the other was a year old. One Blue Jay was seven years old the other was two years old. Of the two Black-capped Chickadees, one was a year old the other was a repeat. The American Goldfinch was four years old.

I continue to band at least one accipiter a year during the fall banding season: two Cooper's Hawks in 2012, one in 2013, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk in 2014.

McGill Bird Observatory 454-0739

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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 2014, MBO operated its tenth full Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP), covering the usual 13-week period from 1 Aug through 30 Oct. 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 6387.5 net hours was near average, although a bit below last year's number. 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 3814 individuals banded during FMMP 2014 was barely just below the long-term average of 3874 for the season, but well above the average of 3279 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Repeats (844) were above average while returns (59) were a little bit below. The 77 species

banded is within our average range, while the number of species observed (150) is above the nine-year fall mean of 144.

White-throated Sparrow took the first place this fall with 484 individuals banded, while Ruby-crowned Kinglet came in second with 327 individuals banded and Magnolia Warbler closed the top three with 279 individuals banded. This fall we banded our first ever Broad-winged Hawk, bringing our MBO total to 115 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/banded.html

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-Sep to mid-Oct, and our ninth week (26 Sep – 2 Oct) was by far the busiest, with 454 individuals banded. During this period, we also reached a significant milestone, banding the 50,000th bird in MBO's history. This fall was all about diversity; on a record 38 days the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including four days with more than 60. No new species were observed for the site so the all-time checklist for MBO still stands at 209 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program for the seventh time, during which we banded 157 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus four foreign recoveries. Only one other owl species was banded—an Eastern Screech-Owl on 11 Oct. Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program, with assistance from Simon Duval.

As always, other research activities and education programs were integrated with the banding program. We provided ongoing training to more than 60 volunteers this fall and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing MBO Photo ID Library (www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/idlibrary.html).

