Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2006

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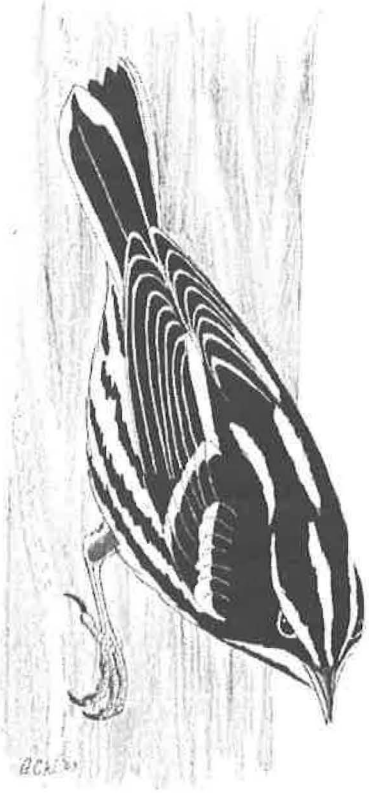
Weather was a dominant negative factor in fall 2006 with most stations unable to band or had banding curtailed because of wind and rain. Unfortunately, for several stations this occurred during the time of peak migratory movement. Thus, several mainstay species were banded in numbers much lower than normal.

In addition to the weather, there appears to have been a shift westward in the normal flow through our region. American Goldfinches were 75% less than norms of the last several years.This may indicate a simple movement of the flow or, more seriously, a periodic swing in the population. Time will tell.

On the brighter side, diversity was up and top ten species lists reflected a smaller percentage of the banding totals. Magnolia Warblers, in particular, were banded in larger-than-normal numbers at most stations, while other species made unique and sometimes initial visits to our sites. Several species were reported in greater-than-usual numbers and returns were reported for some very senior citizen birds!

Vestal and Kestrel Haven contributed to the national effort to collect samples for H5N1 avian influenza and DNA screening. Unfortunately, the logistics and funding of this effort left much to be desired. While swabs arrived late and were in very short supply, we question the advisability of removing rectrices from long-distance migrants that was part of the DNA collection protocol. In light of that, we did not provide feather samples for those species. We hope the program will be better-funded and managed next year.

From the station reports, we note a discernible increase in injuries and abnormalities this season along with reflections of a very wet breeding season. Data sets from the stations continue to be of tremendous value to those siting potential wind power turbines. We also have seen literature on a new wind turbine technology that is claimed to be safe for birds; this is a vertical rather than horizontal structure much like a can. Further information is available on the Internet.



Black and White Warbler
by George West

Table 1. AFR II Summary of Oprations - Fall 2006

	Braddock Bay	Alfred Station	Kestrel Haven	Northview	Vestal	Ellenville
Start	8 Jul	18 Jul	5 Jul	9 Jul	27 Jul	5 Aug
Stop	10 Nov	28 Nov	24 Nov	26 Nov	10 Nov	6 Nov
Total Days	68	67	89	49	63	43
No. Nets	1 to 37	1 to 1.15	1 to 22	1 to 8	1 to 11	5 to 9
Net Hours	10,316	438	3,196	581	1,186	1,143
No. Best Day	337	15	113	26	60	41
Best Day Date	28 Sep	30 Oct	5 Oct	6 Oct	16 Sep	3 Oct
Reason Best Day	38% GCKI 31% RCKI	27% SCJU	see text	23% MYWA	17% MAWA	17% HETH
Best Diversity	34 on 25 Sep	7 on 30 Oct	26 on 30 Aug and 15 Sep	16 on 30 Aug	23 on 16 Sep	14 on 3 Oct
Banded 2005	6,470	198	5,102	439	1,713	710
Banded 2006	4,516	230	3,591	422	878	497
Species 2005	92	32	91	47	69	60
Species 2006	90	35	93	54	70	49
B/100nh 2005	52	40	153	94	109	67
B/100nh 2006	44	52	112	73	74	44
% HY 2005	85%	82%	88%	74%	89%	72%
% HY 2006	88%	64%	86%	78%	87%	61%

Table 2. AFR II - Most Frequently Encountered Species - Fall 2006

Braddock Bay			Alfred Station			Kestrel Haven			Northview			Vestal			Ellenville		
Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY	Species	#	%HY
WTSP(1)	674	96%	SOSP(3)	49	19%	SOSP(2)	527	96%	GRCA(1)	75	91%	REVI(3)	126	77%	GRCA(5)	47	85%
RCKI(2)	619	86%	SCJU(1)	32	29%	AMGO(1)	425	86%	SCJU(3)	35	63%	GRCA(5)	114	92%	REVI(2)	43	63%
GCKI(3)	458	95%	BCCH(2)	26	79%	GRCA(5)	257	93%	SOSP(2)	31	81%	WTSP(6)	67	84%	RCKI(4)	41	59%
MAWA(9)	270	87%	CHSP(4)	26	70%	COYE(7)	244	86%	BCCH(4)	30	80%	MAWA	49	57%	GCKI(6)	38	61%
AMGO(5)	245	72%	BLJA	13	54%	RCKI(10)	123	94%	COYE(7)	21	90%	BCCH(4)	48	88%	WTSP(8)	35	46%
HETH(4)	171	97%	WTSP	8	75%	RBGR	107	79%	HOFI	17	82%	RCKI	47	89%	SCJU(1)	34	26%
GRCA(8)	138	93%	EWCS	7	43%	HOFI(6)	105	96%	WTSP(8)	16	100%	OVEN(9)	33	97%	COYE(10)	25	52%
SWTH(10)	123	79%	DOWO(8)	5	100%	CEDW	104	35%	BLJA	11	91%	SOSP(8)	29	79%	HETH(9)	17	94%
COYE	119	86%	REVI	5	50%	SCJU(9)	104	74%	COGR	11	100%	AMGO(1)	21	81%	SWTH	15	
REVI	109	93%	ATSP	5	25%	MAWA	103	98%	AMRO(10)	11	100%	SWTH	21	95%	HOFI	15	
			HOFI	5	0%	YWAR	101	86%							BTBW	15	
% of Total Banded		65%			78.7%			61%			64%			62%			65%