

**Powderhouse Road Station****420-0775**

Vestal, Broome County, NY

**Gail Kirch**

gkirch@stny.rr.com

Weather was a large factor in my fall banding. The total number of birds banded for MAPS was 50-100 fewer birds than usual. Danielle Kaschube, MAPS coordinator, said fewer birds were commonly reported by East Coast banding stations. We had an early spring with a five-day cold spell in May. The food supply for nestlings was down sharply, resulting in failed first broods. This cold was followed by a long, hot and dry summer. No banding was done from 9 Aug to 19 Aug (knee replacement).

We had an abundance of rain during the fall. I measured 5+ inches on 1 Oct. Leaves fell beginning in early September. There were more leaves than birds.

The lurking of last year's domestic cat was not seen until 'it' ran out of my garage on 29 Sep. On 7 Oct, I removed leaves as I went down the net lanes. The third net was full of birds (maybe 8-10). All of them were either dead or dying. I furred all my nets and did not band again.

**Ellenville Station****414-0742**

Ellenville, Ulster County, NY

**Valerie M. Freer**

vfreer@hvc.rr.com

For the second consecutive year, very low numbers of birds were banded in fall 2010. Although the number of days and net-hours were near usual, only 343 new birds were netted for a yield of only 33b/100nh, (only six seasons since 1970 were worse). An average of only 8.6 birds per day were caught, the 3rd lowest in 41 years. During several prolonged periods in the banding season there were no birds around. It seems probable that disturbed vegetation around the nets, shortage of fruits and presence of predators contributed to the lack of birds. Almost 68% of all new birds banded were HY, a bit above the long-term average at this station.

The vegetation around the net lanes was damaged by heavy snows in winter 2010. The snow brought down large limbs and weak trees, such as gray birches, and several large multiflora rose bushes were crushed flat. In early July I had the lanes cleared, but it was too late for this banding season, and the habitat remained quite disturbed. Many fruiting shrubs had also been impacted by the severe winter, and the summer heat and September drought further stressed them. There were no arrowwood fruits (for the second consecutive year), and very small amounts of honeysuckle, blueberry, silky dogwood, and multiflora rose.

The temperature remained above normal through the banding season. August was almost 2° F above normal and rainfall was over an inch above average. September was almost three degrees above normal, with 1.6" below average rainfall. Almost all of the rain for the month fell on the 30<sup>th</sup>, following a month-long drought. October's rainfall was over 5" above normal, making it the third wettest October since 1895. (Weather data here is from the National Regional Climate Center at Cornell.) Between rain, frequent high winds, and frost on the nets, it was difficult to get in the usual number of banding days in October, normally my most productive month.

Catbirds defied the weather and the downward trends seen in other birds, and had a very good year. Sixty-nine were banded, comprising 18% of all new birds caught. Most (89%) were HY. Warblers struck another positive note with a total of 83 individuals of 17 species (24% of all birds banded). Most were caught in near-average numbers. Two species (Northern Parula and Connecticut warblers) are rare here. Flycatcher numbers were a bit above average, thrushes were near average, and vireos, finches and sparrows were well below average.

For the third year, three or four of the same 30-mm nets were deployed not far from the same locations as above, along with a caller to bring in Northern Saw-whet Owls migrating overhead. I banded 112 new saw-whets and one Barred Owl on 23 evenings between 10 Oct and 19 Nov. Five foreign recoveries and three returns brought additional