

**Kestrel Haven Avian  
Migration Observatory**  
Burdett, Schuyler County, NY  
**Banders: John and Sue Gregoire**  
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423-0772

This was our 27<sup>th</sup> fall AFR season. Personal events contributed to our banding over a much shortened schedule than in the past 26 years and for that reason, our data are not comparable. We report it here as a baseline should the station be able to continue. Running a full, constant-effort station with just two people has become impossible.

We banded 734 birds of 62 species in 43 days of operation. We also had several repeats, 37 returns and 66 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 101 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 140 b/100nh overall. At the end of September, we converted to a largely Northern Saw-whet Owl effort. While these results are not part of AFR due to the use of lures, we enjoyed a tremendous season, handling 251 owls, 243 of which were newly banded saw-whets. The return data has already proven interesting and useful to that cooperative banding program.

During the earlier part of the season, we continued taking saliva and sap well samples for independent research being done by Meena Haribal of the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell.

Our eldest return was a 9Y-M American Goldfinch that was found dead about one mile south of the station. One Slate-colored Junco banded in Nov 2010 as U-U was reported from 380 mi SW in Ohio. Of the 37 live returns, six of four species were in excess of four years of age. They shred out as follows:

two Black-capped Chickadees at 7 and 5,  
one Northern Cardinal at 4,  
two Song Sparrow at 7 and 4, and  
one American Goldfinch at 5 years of age.

We thank Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, A.L. Donahue, David Guaspari, Tony Cacciapouti, Randy and Katherine Weidner, Barbara Handy, Tree Frog Coffees, and George Bulin for their support this year; as well as Victoria Bond Kelly for her talent and time in maintaining and constantly

improving our website; Rick Smith and ATC, Ithaca for a very special equipment assist; Acorn Designs for the beautiful cards we use as thank-you notes for recoveries; and others who contributed advice and special assistance, including Stillman's Greenhouse and Barlow Rhodes.

**Northview Sanctuary**  
Candor, Tioga County, NY  
**Bander: Robert J. Pantle**  
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Northview Sanctuary is a five-ac banding station located in the central southern tier of New York state, about 18 mi south of Cayuga Lake. The five acres sit among a patchwork of cultivated fields and woodlots. Much of the vegetation consists of multiflora rose and honeysuckle.

Banding this year started on 19 Aug, which was late because of surgery. The late summer and fall of this year was much different than the previous year with the absence of hurricane Irene and tropical depression Lee in 2011. At this station, since I missed all of July and part of August, the first major cold front which I encountered was on 2 Sep and then another on 9 Sep and a major cold front on 7 Oct, when I banded 40 birds.

I banded exactly the same number of species (33) for 2012 and 2011. Catbirds were the #1 species banded for both years. This station continues to be a catbird (46) and sparrow station (six species of 60 sparrows). Seven species of 21 warblers were also banded. This season was particularly interesting considering the longevity of some of the 28 recaptures. The following are what I consider significant: five Blue Jays, the oldest of which was 7.3 yr old; the other four were 6 yr 9 mo, 6 yr, 5.5 yr, and 2 yr old, respectively. I had one Song Sparrow 3 yr old; two Dark-eyed Juncos at 2 yr old; two Black-capped Chickadees—one at 2 yr old and one at 1 yr.

Shortly after I stopped mist netting on 23 Nov, I used one 4-cell Potter trap on a platform feeder and was fortunate enough to recapture a few more resident Blue Jays. One of these recaptures turned out to be 12 yr 3 mo old, the band was worn thin and I replaced it. Another 6 yr 2 mo old Blue Jay was recaptured. All in all a Blue Jay fall!