



KESTREL HAVEN
AVIAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY
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FALL 2008 MIGRATION BANDING REPORT –our 23rd fall season.

All in all it was a pretty slow season for us. Our operating days are not reflective of effort as winds/weather forced us to close soon after opening on 30% of those days. Additionally, birds either took a more westerly route or overflowed the station, as we had no blocking weather systems to our south. American Goldfinch numbers tanked (only 493 compared to a high of 2,232 in 2003).

The high points of this season were in three unusual captures. We had never netted a Pileated Woodpecker but this year we brought the station total banded to 132 species with the addition of not one but two Pileated! Both were young females and netted in adjacent nets at the same time. That was quite a handful for both of us. We also banded our first Cooper's Hawk since the first in 1989 and our second Screech Owl. The first screech was also a Gray phase and banded in 1994.

On 16 July we banded a most unusual female goldfinch. While a female in most respects, including a developing brood patch and female plumage, she presented with a complete male dark crown patch. As opposed to the bilateral gynandromorphs reported at a few stations last year, this bird exhibited the single male trait completely. We lack a tag for this in ornithology but in entomology such a creature would be termed a mosaic gynandromorphy. The bilaterals reflect a lack of an X chromosome on the female side that occurred very early in zygote development. When the non-disjunction in an X chromosome in an XX individual occurs in later divisions within the zygote, it causes the mosaic, a very rare occurrence.

We banded 2,854 new birds of 89 species in 101 days of operation. We also had 856 repeats, 116 returns and 192 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 4,018 making our measure of efficiency 111 birds/100 net-hours for newly banded birds and 156 birds/100 NH overall. Hatching year birds were at the norm of 88%.

The station banded list grew to 132 species plus five forms banded (137) and we increased the sighted list to 220 with the appearance of a Least Sandpiper at one of the ponds.

We banded our highest ever number of Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhees and Hooded Warblers. Also high were Blue-winged Warblers. All of the above reflect an increase in the local breeding populations of those species. Veery were also high while many species were far below norms and reflective of our missing the migratory flow due to routing and weather.

Returns were wonderful! The eldest was a Gray Catbird that was in excess of seven years old. Of the 116 returns, 35 of 17 species were in excess of 4 years of age. They shred out as follows:

- One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 5.
- One Eastern Kingbird at 4.
- Six Black-capped Chickadees at 4 (2), 4+ (2), 5 and 5+.
- One American Robin at 4.
- Four Gray Catbirds at 4 (3) and 7+.
- One Cedar Waxwing at 6.
- One Warbling Vireo at 4+.
- One Red-eyed Vireo at 3+.
- Two Yellow Warblers at 4 and 5+.
- One Chestnut-sided Warbler at 4+.
- Three Common Yellowthroat at 4, 5 and 6.
- Three Northern cardinals at 4, 5 and 5+.
- One Chipping Sparrow at 4.
- One Song Sparrow at 4.
- One Common Grackle at 4.
- One House Finch at 4+.
- Six American Goldfinch at 6 (3), 5+, and 4 (2).

In sum, our returns this year represented 3% of our banded total, a very nice return percentage.

Overall health was excellent. Hippoboscid flies were few and the few abnormalities were unremarkable. The rare gynandromorphic goldfinch was by far our most unusual bird ever. Inadvertent net captures of Odonata were limited to 21 individuals of 6 species.

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Fall 2008 Station Operating Statistics:

Start: **4 July**
Stop: **12 November**
Days of Operation: **101**
Nets Used: **1 to 21**
Net Hours 2007: **2,247**
Net Hours 2008: **2,579**
Best Day: **104 on 24 September**
Reason: **50% goldfinch**
Best Diversity: **25 species on 22 July and 07 August**
Banded 2007: **3,151**
Banded 2008: **2,854**
Species 2007: **87**
Species 2008: **89**
Birds/100NH 2007: **140**
Birds/100NH 2008: **111**
%HY 2007: **82**
%HY 2008: **88**
Returns 2007: **124**
Returns 2007: **116**

Most Frequently Banded Species:

Rank	Species	Number	%HY	Decoded
1.	AMGO (1)	496	93	American Goldfinch
2.	SOSP (2)	457	95	Song Sparrow
3.	GRCA (4)	278	92	Gray Catbird
4.	COYE (5)	224	86	Common Yellowthroat
5.	RBGR	98	80	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
6.	WTSP (6)	90	96	White-throated Sparrow
7.	AMRO	83	84	American Robin
8.	YWAR (9)	82	90	Yellow Warbler
9.	BCCH (7)	78	99	Black-capped Chickadee
10.	SCJU (3)	63	76	Slate-colored Junco

(#) = Ranking last fall

Percent of total banded: **68%**

The following were banded at Kestrel Haven during the Fall 2008 season:

Mourning Dove	1	Cedar Waxwing	51
Cooper's Hawk	1	Red-eyed Vireo	17
Eastern Screech Owl	1	Philadelphia Vireo	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Warbling Vireo	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	Blue-headed Vireo	4
Downy Woodpecker	15	Black-and-White Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	8	Blue-winged Warbler	24
PILEATED WOODPECKER	2	Nashville Warbler	19
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Tennessee Warbler	5
Eastern Kingbird	1	Cape May Warbler	3
Great-crested Flycatcher	2	Yellow Warbler	82
Eastern Phoebe	17	Myrtle Warbler	17
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	Magnolia Warbler	41
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	7	Chestnut-sided Warbler	20
Acadian Flycatcher	6	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Trail's Flycatcher	36	Blackpoll Warbler	10
Least Flycatcher	17	Blackburnian Warbler	3
Blue Jay	10	Black-throated Green Warbler	6
European Starling	1	Pine Warbler	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Western Palm Warbler	3
Red-winged Blackbird	3	Prairie Warbler	1
Baltimore Oriole	35	Ovenbird	36
Common Grackle	12	Mourning Warbler	3
Purple Finch	52	Common Yellowthroat	224
House Finch	59	Hooded Warbler	13
American Goldfinch	496	Wilson's Warbler	6
Pine Siskin	1	Canada Warbler	1
Savannah Sparrow	2	American Redstart	7
Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	19	Gray Catbird	278
White-throated Sparrow	90	Brown Thrasher	5
American Tree Sparrow	5	House Wren	19
Chipping Sparrow	11	Winter Wren	6
Field Sparrow	27	Brown Creeper	2
Slate-colored Junco	63	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Song Sparrow	457	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	8
Swamp Sparrow	18	Black-capped Chickadee	78
Fox Sparrow	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	19
Eastern Towhee	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	41
Northern Cardinal	24	Wood Thrush	9
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	98	Veery	16
Indigo Bunting	17	Gray-cheeked Thrush	5
Scarlet Tanager	6	Swainson's Thrush	2
		Hermit Thrush	11
		American Robin	833
		Eastern Bluebird	1

Bold is new species (station #132 banded)