

KESTREL HAVEN AVIAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY

5373 Fitzgerald Road

Burdett, NY 14818-9626

KHMO@empacc.net

<http://empacc.net/~kestrelhaven/>

FALL 2010 MIGRATION BANDING REPORT –our 25th fall season.

This was our 25th fall AFR season and the most dismal. For the last four seasons we have been the victims of climate change in that we have had to deal with winds too unsafe for netting on most days. We are unable to make any meaningful comparisons or engage in statistical analysis as the data are simply not there. This despite our daily point counts that were also degraded by wind and rain. We were a far cry from the days of 6,000 banded!

Our highlights are usually with our returns. This year that number was also greatly decreased. One fantastic recovery bears relating. We heard from a birder living on an island off the coast of British Columbia. While birding, he discovered a wing and a single leg of what appeared to have been a Pine Siskin. The leg had a band attached! We banded that siskin during last year's invasion and just about one year prior to its recovery some 2,900 miles away. That's our longest distance return in almost 40 years of banding.

Injuries and parasites were unremarkable. We operated with fewer nets this year and weather caused us to depart from our years of constant effort protocol.

We banded 1,622 new birds of 83 species in 67 days of operation. We also had 347 repeats, 70 returns and 70 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 2,153 making our measure of efficiency 135 birds/100 net-hours for newly banded birds and 179 birds/100 NH overall. Hatching year birds were way above the norm at 96%.

The station banded list grew to 133 species plus seven forms banded (140) with the inclusion of Northern Saw-whet Owl this year. Saw-whets were our salvation. On many of the non-banding passerine days, winds subsided to safe levels with darkness. We set for and lured saw-whets throughout October and November. We had never attempted this before as conventional wisdom hereabouts said that the species did not migrate through the Finger Lakes in meaningful numbers. By December, we had banded 77, had three birds banded this year and last in Ontario at Prince Edward Point, and had one of our saw-whets recaptured in SE Pennsylvania. That was certainly meaningful to us! None of the saw-whet data is included in the AFR totals as we used an audio lure for all captures. These data were reported to Project OwlNet.

Our eldest return was an American Goldfinch that was eight years old. Of the 70 returns, 18 of 9 species were in excess of 4 years of age. They shred out as follows:

- One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 4.
- Six Black-capped Chickadees at 4 (4), 5 and 6.
- Two Eastern Tufted Titmouse at 4.
- One Gray Catbird at 4.
- One American Robin at 4.
- Two Red-eyed Vireo at **5 and 6+**.
- One Yellow Warbler at 4.
- One Slate-colored Junco at 4 and,
- Three American Goldfinch at 4, 5 and 8.

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Fall 2010 Station Operating Statistics:

Start: **15 July**
 Stop: **03 December**
 Days of Operation: **67**
 Nets Used: **1 to 15**
 Net Hours 2009: **1,617**
 Net Hours 2010: **1,204**
 Best Day: **75 on 19 September**
 Reason: **46% goldfinch**
 Best Diversity: **20 species on 26 September.**
 Banded 2009: **1,735**
 Banded 2010: **1,622**
 Species 2009: **80**
 Species 2010: **83**
 Birds/100NH 2009: **107**
 Birds/100NH 2010: **135**
 %HY 2009: **86**
 %HY 2010: **96 (highest ever)**
 Returns 2009: **79**
 Returns 2010: **70**

Most Frequently Banded Species:

Rank	Species(#)	Number	%HY	Decoded
1.	AMGO (1)	291	82	American Goldfinch
2.	SOSP (2)	186	97	Song Sparrow
3.	GRCA (4)	167	95	Gray Catbird
4.	WTSP (7)	110	100	White-throated Sparrow
5.	COYE (3)	100	83	Common Yellowthroat
6.	BCCH (10)	84	96	Black-capped Chickadee
7.	SCJU (6)	67	63	Slate-colored Junco
8.	EWCS	51	76	Eastern White-crowned Sparrow
9.	HOFI (8)	41	88	House Finch
10.	RBGR (5)	35	77	Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(#) = Ranking last fall

Percent of total banded: **70%**