

## **KESTREL HAVEN AVIAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY**

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### **FALL 2009 MIGRATION BANDING REPORT –our 24th fall season.**

Every bubble must eventually burst and ours blew up in spectacular fashion this fall with the lowest totals we've experienced since 1992, when we began constant effort netting. Our returns were the lowest since 1996 and our best day was the smallest since 1994. Species diversity was down to 1996 levels.

It's very hard to determine a single cause but the constant wind made conditions unsafe for netting on many days. Beyond that, our daily point counts indicated that we weren't missing all that much. Radar showed many large nighttime movements that completely overflowed us. All this was further complicated by very poor nesting conditions regionally. Many single clutch species lost their attempts and that accounts for missing or low counts in many species. Ironically, these were the only wet months in an otherwise very dry year. To top of this litany, American Goldfinch presented in extremely low numbers, way below our usual thousand plus banded. Our Odonate studies revealed similarly low numbers of almost all species.

Despite that we had some memorable successes. Primary among them was the return of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher that we banded as a breeder here in 2006. We've reported on this event in past fall reports, as it was an extraordinary nesting far south of the species' Adirondack breeding range. To have this bird return, and early in the season, was terrific. To make that even better, she set a new age record for her species at five plus years of age. That's our fourth longevity record here.

Given a shift in routing, we banded our second ever Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, a bird seldom seen at this altitude. Some species reflected the poor breeding season with higher than normal numbers of adults in our nets. Injuries and parasites were unremarkable.

We banded 1,735 new birds of 80 species in 77 days of operation. We also had 422 repeats, 79 returns and 174 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The hummingbirds were not banded. The total birds netted was 2,410 making our measure of efficiency 107 birds/100 net-hours for newly banded birds and 149 birds/100 NH overall. Hatching year birds were below the norm at 86%.

The station banded list grew to 132 species plus six forms banded (138) with the inclusion of a green morph Pine Siskin this year.

The eldest return was a Common Yellowthroat that was seven years old. Of the 79 returns, 18 (22%) of 12 species were in excess of 4 years of age. They shred out as follows:

- **One Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at 5+ (species longevity record)**
- One Blue Jay at 5.
- One Red-winged Blackbird at 6+.
- Two American Goldfinch at 5+ and 5.
- One Slate-colored Junco at 3+.
- One Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 4.
- One Yellow Warbler at 4.
- One Common Yellowthroat at 7.
- One Gray Catbird at 5.
- Four Black-capped Chickadee at 6, 5+, and 4(2).
- One American Robin at 4+.

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**Fall 2009 Station Operating Statistics:**

Start: **3 July**  
Stop: **14 November**  
Days of Operation: **77**  
Nets Used: **1 to 15**  
Net Hours 2008: **2,579**  
Net Hours 2009: **1,617**  
Best Day: **94 on 4 November**  
Reason: **57% goldfinch**  
Best Diversity: **19 species on 8 August, 12 and 24 September.**  
Banded 2008: **2,854**  
Banded 2009: **1,735**  
Species 2008: **89**  
Species 2009: **80**  
Birds/100NH 2008: **111**  
Birds/100NH 2009: **107**  
%HY 2008: **88**  
%HY 2009: **86**  
Returns 2008: **116**  
Returns 2009: **79**

**Most Frequently Banded Species:**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%HY</b>	<b>Decoded</b>
1.	AMGO (1)	<b>234</b>	<b>85</b>	American Goldfinch
2.	SOSP (2)	<b>224</b>	<b>97</b>	Song Sparrow
3.	COYE (4)	<b>193</b>	<b>86</b>	Common Yellowthroat
4.	GRCA (3)	<b>146</b>	<b>94</b>	Gray Catbird
5.	RBGR (5)	<b>86</b>	<b>91</b>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
6.	SCJU (10)	<b>79</b>	<b>70</b>	Slate-colored Junco
7.	WTSP (6)	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>	White-throated Sparrow
8.	HOFI	<b>55</b>	<b>93</b>	House Finch
9.	AMRO (7)	<b>54</b>	<b>74</b>	American Robin
10.	BCCH (9)	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	Black-capped Chickadee

(#) = Ranking last fall

Percent of total banded: **68%**

The following were banded at Kestrel Haven during the Fall 2009 season:

Species	# Banded	Species	# Banded
Sharp-shinned Hawk		Barn Swallow	
Cooper's Hawk		Tree swallow	
Red-tailed Hawk		N. Rough-winged Swallow	
American Kestrel		<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>	19
American Woodcock		Northern Shrike	
Solitary Sandpiper		<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	7
Spotted Sandpiper		Philadelphia Vireo	
<b>Mourning Dove</b>	1	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>	2
Black-billed Cuckoo		Yellow-throated Vireo	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>	1
Eastern Screech Owl		<b>Black &amp; White Warbler</b>	1
Great Horned Owl		<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>	7
N. Saw-whet Owl		Brewster's Warbler	
Belted Kingfisher		Lawrence's Warbler	
RT Hummingbird	174 (not banded)	Golden-winged Warbler	
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>	2	<b>Nashville Warbler</b>	9
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>	17	<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	3
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>	9	<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>	7
Pileated Woodpecker		Northern Parula	
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>	3	<b>Cape May Warbler</b>	2
<b>Yellow-shafted Flicker</b>	2	<b>Yellow Warbler</b>	48
Flicker Intergrade		<b>Myrtle Warbler</b>	20
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Great-crested Flycatcher		<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>	26
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	7	<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>	12
Olive-sided Flycatcher		<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>	1
<b>Eastern Wood Pewee</b>	1	<b>Blackpoll</b>	1
<b>Yellow-bellied flycatcher</b>	3	<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>	1
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>	2	<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>	1
<b>Traill's Flycatcher</b>	5	Pine Warbler	
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>	12	Western Palm Warbler	
Horned Lark		Yellow Palm Warbler	
<b>Blue Jay</b>	17	Prairie Warbler	

American Crow		Ovenbird	6
<b>European Starling</b>	5	Northern Waterthrush	
Bobolink		<b>Louisiana</b>	1
Brown-headed Cowbird		<b>Waterthrush</b>	1
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	1	<b>Connecticut Warbler</b>	3
E. Meadowlark		<b>Mourning Warbler</b>	3
Orchard Oriole		<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	188
Rusty Blackbird		<b>Hooded Warbler</b>	2
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>	28	<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>	5
<b>Common Grackle</b>	3	<b>Canada Warbler</b>	2
Evening Grosbeak		<b>American Redstart</b>	4
<b>Purple Finch</b>	44	House Sparrow	
<b>House Finch</b>	55	N. Mockingbird	
White-winged Crossbill		<b>Gray Catbird</b>	151
Red Crossbill		<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	2
Common Redpoll		<b>Carolina Wren</b>	2
Hoary Redpoll		<b>House Wren</b>	17
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	234	<b>Winter Wren</b>	3
Vesper Sparrow		<b>Brown Creeper</b>	1
Savannah Sparrow		<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>	6
Grasshopper Sparrow		<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>	3
<b>E. White-crowned Sparrow</b>	19	<b>E. Tufted Titmouse</b>	9
White-crowned Sparrow		<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	53
<b>Gamble's WCSP</b>		<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>	13
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	62	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>	24
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>	3	<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>	1
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	8	<b>Wood Thrush</b>	2
Clay-colored Sparrow		<b>Veery</b>	3
<b>Field Sparrow</b>	3	Gray-cheeked Thrush	
<b>Slate-colored Junco</b>	79	Bicknell's Thrush	
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	224	Swainson's Thrush	
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	7	<b>Hermit Thrush</b>	5
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	11	<b>American Robin</b>	54
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>	8	Eastern Bluebird	
<b>E. Towhee</b>	1		
<b>N. Cardinal</b>	12		
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	86		
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>	26		
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>	4		
Summer Tanager		<b>Total Banded</b>	<b>1735</b>