

Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory
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SPRING 2006 Atlantic Flyway Review Report

The best spring in recent history! With the exception of a few weeks of bad weather, we were able to start early and have a record season in many respects. We closed on 31 May to remain within our constant effort protocol. Daily point counts added several additional species.

We banded a record 1043 individuals of a record 65 species in 36 days of operation. We also had 165 repeats, a fantastic 138 returns, and 21 hummingbirds not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 130.7 birds per 100 net hours for newly banded birds and 171.3 birds/100 NH overall. Our best day was 3 May with 79 banded (71% goldfinch) and our most species diverse days were 18 April and 27 May with 19 species banded.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 130 species plus 5 forms; point count cumulative is 218 species seen at Kestrel Haven as point counts added a Virginia Rail. There were also a large number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos present on point counts portending a bad spiny caterpillar year, as the species is quite uncommon here in normal years. We continued our Dragonfly studies and netted an early *Cordulegaster obliqua* as well as a *Libellula lydia*. We documented a mass emergence of *Ceulethemis elisa* from a single pond with numbers exceeding 10,000 as of this writing. While we banded many nifty species, the real pleasure was in our returns.

Brown Thrashers made their first nesting appearance here last spring and we garnered several returns this spring. They are actively nesting again. We received reports of three encounters. A Cedar Waxwing was recovered near Syracuse, NY at 3+ years; a third year House finch was found in nearby Ithaca and a third year Purple Finch was found near Roanoke, Va.

We enjoyed 138 returning individuals and had only two banding days without a return. Of that number, 45 were at least 4 years of age or older. The eldest return was an 11 year old Black-capped Chickadee that we hadn't seen in a few years! We also duplicated or exceeded the published age record on Chipping Sparrow and Hairy Woodpecker. The elders were:

- Hairy Woodpecker at **9** years old
- Downy Woodpecker at 5 years old
- Eastern Kingbird at **8+** years old
- Blue Jay at 5 years old
- Black-capped Chickadees (4) at 4, 4+7 and **11** years old

- White-breasted Nuthatch at 5 years old
- American Robins (3) at 4(2) and 6 years old
- Gray Catbirds (2) at 4+ and 6 years old
- Yellow Warblers (6) at 3+, 4+, 5, 5+ 6 and 6+ years old
- Northern Cardinals (2) at 3+ and 4 years old
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 3+ years old
- Chipping Sparrow (4) at 3+ (2), 7 and **10+** years old
- Song Sparrows (3) at 4 (2) and 6 years old
- Red-winged Blackbirds (2) at 3+ and 4+ years old
- Purple Finches (2) at 6 and 7+ years old
- American Goldfinches (11) at 3+ (2), 4 (5), 4+, 5 (2), and 5+ years old.

Injuries and abnormalities were few and unremarkable. We participated in a cooperative study taking DNA samples and cloacal swabs for virus study on 101 birds. These were sent to UCLA and Los Alamos for further study,

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Kestrel Haven Statistical Summaries Spring 2006:

Table I: Operations

First Day 11 April: Last 31 May
Total Days in Operation 36
Range of No. Nets Used 2 to 14
Total Net Hours for Season* 798
Number of Traps in Use 0 ** % of Total caught in traps N/A
Largest Daily Catch 79 on 3 May
Best Species Diversity: 19 on 18 April and 27 May
Number birds banded 2005: 892; Number birds banded 2006: 1043
Total Species 2005: 59 Total Species 2006: 65
Birds/100 net hours 2005: 94 Birds/100 net hours 2006: 131
Species above 2 S.D. in 2006: N/A
Species below 2 S.D. in 2006: N/A
Weather influence ranking (+ or - or?)*: Mostly positive**

* Based on 1 4-shelf 12m net x 1 hour of netting = 1 net hour (adjusted Accordingly for shorter or longer nets)

** List number and types used

*** Were general weather conditions overall during the season a negative or Positive or inconclusive factor in banding results?

Table II: List of Ten Most Commonly Banded Species Spring 2006

	Species	Number	%SY	% ASY	%AHY
1.	AMGO	385	68	32	00
2.	SCJU	91	64	36	00
3.	WTSP	80	55	45	00
4.	RCKI	53	74	26	00
5.	RWBL	42	60	39	01
6.	SOSP	34	00	00	100
7.	CEDW	31	74	26	00
8.	CHSP	28	46	54	00
9.	BCCH	23	30	60	10
10.	YWAR	21	62	38	00

Overall % SY = 56%