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**British birds in Senegal** – Dr. David Norman, Merseyside Ringing Group, Cheshire, U.K.

Awareness of the crucial importance of conditions in the wintering quarters has risen in the last 30 years as factors including drought and deforestation have been implicated in the population decline of many species breeding in the Palearctic and the Nearctic regions. Many British birds migrate to, winter in, or pass through Senegal, the westernmost country in Africa lying just south of the major ecological obstacle of the Sahara desert. During the three winters 1990-1993, over 500 amateur ringers (banders) visited the National Park at Djoudj in northern Senegal as part of a privately financed operation. Later, a European Science Foundation Network coordinated morphometric studies across Europe and several African sites, including visits to Djoudj. As part of these projects, the author spent almost four months ringing birds in Senegal, in four visits. This talk presents some

personal views of this work and provides illustrative examples of the knowledge gained on: habitat use and partitioning between species; the location of wintering areas, some previously unknown; the timing of wintering/passage of many species; the numbers present (with some species showing large annual variations); the races of some of the species; molt pattern and duration; winter weights and pre-migratory fat accumulation; recurrence of individuals in winter quarters; the breeding of some of the Afrotropical species; and some of the hazards facing the birds.

**Fishing for the feathered trout: a long-term banding study of the Louisiana Waterthrush** – Robert Mulvihill, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Terry Master, Department of Biology, East Stroudsburg University; and Tim O'Connell, Cooperative Wetlands Center, Pennsylvania State University.

[This presentation was cancelled.]

## **ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2003**

**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator**  
1435 Waterwells Road  
Alfred Station, NY 14803  
<ebrooks@bbbo.org>

We welcome a new station, OCCO Potomac River NWR Complex, Occoquan Bay, operated by Suzanne Miller, to this, the sixth AFR Spring Report.

Totals were down at ten of the 16 reporting stations but, more importantly, b/100nh were down at all but two. Cold, wet weather, especially during the early part of the spring, had a negative impact on captures and may have resulted in significant mortality of early migrants. There were many high points, including a 9-year-11-month-old Eastern Kingbird recaptured at Crown Point and New York state's second-ever MacGillivray's Warbler banded at Braddock Bay.

Read the narratives for details of many interesting re-encounters including a Blue-winged Warbler banded at Ruthven recaptured 90 miles NNE at Braddock Bay the next morning, and a Chipping

Sparrow banded on 26 May at Prince Edward Point near Kingston, ON, that flew back over Lake Ontario and was recaptured at Braddock Bay on 2 Jun. Also read about the long distance travels of an American Goldfinch from Rock Point to Lexington, TX, and a robin from Kestrel Haven to western Louisiana.

**Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732**  
Essex County, New York  
**John M.C. Peterson, Bander**  
<jmcp7@juno.com>  
Gordon E. Howard, Chief Assistant

This marked the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of operation of the spring banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site. Located in hawthorn thickets near the tip of Crown Point peninsula, a natural migrant trap that juts northward into Lake Champlain, the station was open from 9-26 May. Operated by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., the station is situated west of the ruins of French and British forts on the 360-ac grounds of the historic site.

<b>Table 1. Spring 2003 AFR Banding Summary</b>								
	<b>Crown Point NY</b>	<b>Lewiston NY</b>	<b>Manitou Beach NY</b>	<b>Ruthven ON</b>	<b>Rock Point ON</b>	<b>Appledore ME</b>	<b>Selkirk ON</b>	<b>Long Point ON</b>
Incl. Dates	5/9 - 5/26	5/5 - 6/2	4/13 - 6/8	3/25 - 5/30	3/21 - 6/10	5/6 - 6/10	2/27 - 6/11	4/7 - 6/0
Total Days	18	10	54	56	66	36	97	65
Nets Used	5 to 19	15	1 to 39	15	1 to 14	9 to 10	1 to 19	0-43
Total NH	3,713	795	10,255	3,796	4,599	3718.1	10,277	4,888
% in Traps	1%	0%	0%	20.80%	8.90%	0%	18.50%	24.30%
#Bst Day/date	81(5/12)	87(5/15)	301(5/7)	59(5/7)	99(5/13)	292(5/29)	89(5/1)	341(5/17)
Best Div.(date)	18(5/22)	24(5/15)	38(5/22)	24(5/18)	31(5/17)	32(5/13)	32(5/14)	55(6/3)
Tot Banded '02	852	247	4749	1343	2283	2519	2081	8797
Tot Banded '03	507	345	3392	1347	2443	2471	2174	6034
Tot Species'02	61	45	98	77	79	78	83	118
Tot Species'03	44	42	89	79	81	68	81	110
Birds/100nh'02	30.4	31.4	47	32	62.3	70.1	18.6	N/A
Birds/100nh'03	7.3	43.4	33.1	28.2	48.3	66.5	17.1	93.4

<b>Table 1. Spring 2003 AFR Banding Summary (Contd)</b>								
	<b>Kestrel Haven NY</b>	<b>Northview NY</b>	<b>Presque Isle PA</b>	<b>Wing Isl MA</b>	<b>Powder- mill PA</b>	<b>Bedford Valley PA</b>	<b>Isl Beach NJ</b>	<b>Occoquan Bay VA</b>
Incl. Dates	4/27 - 5/30	4/11 - 5/31	3/24 - 6/2	3/16 - 6/6	3/1 - 6/1	4/27 - 6/9	3/25 - 6/10	4/6 - 5/25
Total Days	26	9	19	17	74	17	28	19
Nets Used	2 to 14	1 to 3	5 to 12	1 to 21	2 to 64	8.5	4 to 18.5	10
Total NH	1,050	33	1127	1266	11,935	401	1275	900
% in Traps	0%	0%	1%	0%	N/A	0%	0%	0%
#Bst Day/date	77(5/7)	59 (4/19)	148 (5/25)	56 (5/26)	245 (5/15)	12 (4/28)	234 (5/21)	46 (5/14)
Best Div.(date)	22(5/15)	12 (5/10)	33 (5/25)	16 (5/26)	38 (5/15)	9 (4/28)	27 (5/21)	17 (5/14)
Tot Banded '02	450	122	1207	351	3475	194	2989	463
Tot Banded '03	724	257	773	259	2479	82	1444	358
Tot Species'02	53	31	81	44	109	38	76	48
Tot Species'03	66	25	66	34	105	23	197.2	49
Birds/100nh'02	90.9	15.8	87.3	51	35	23	197.2	49
Birds/100nh'03	68.9	7.8	68.6	20	21	20	113.3	46

136 American Goldfinch (7)  
 104 Myrtle Warbler (1)  
 39 Gray Catbird (3)  
 25 Common Yellowthroat (4)  
 20 Red-winged Blackbird  
 19 Yellow Warbler (5)  
 15 Blue Jay (9)  
 14 Cedar Waxwing  
 14 Common Grackle  
 11 White-crowned Sparrow

Three days of northerly winds when the station opened were followed by heavy rain and showers and a south wind that brought a fallout of 81 birds of 15 species on 12 May. Rain followed by clearing on the 14<sup>th</sup> produced another fallout of 66 birds, but numbers declined thereafter, although the best day for variety came on 22 May, with 18 species banded. There was rain on eight of the 18 days that the station was open, and by the 19<sup>th</sup> there had already been 2.61" of rainfall for the month. By the time the station closed on Memorial Day, 507 birds had been banded, with 44 species represented.

Only 16 species of warblers were banded, down from the record 22 species of the previous year. But there were 33 returns of 13 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, both new records. Oldest was an Eastern Kingbird at least *nine years, 11 months* old, which appears to tie the North American longevity record for the species. A Red-eyed Vireo brought our all-time list of returning birds to 26 species. The deep pockets of a new, higher Polish net managed to produce a record 14 Common Grackles and helped increase the numbers of Blue Jays and Red-winged Blackbirds banded.

The High Peaks Audubon banding was featured in a digital video prepared by the *Journey North* program to go out during peak migration season in spring 2004 to over *10 thousand* school classrooms in North America, reaching perhaps a million or more children.

About 300 real-time visitors included Adirondack Girl Scouts, Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Bolton Central 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Essex [VT] Center for Technology, Lake Placid Elementary and Middle Schools, Saratoga Seniors, and home-schoolers, as well as atlas observers from the Adirondack-

Champlain Region. The permitting process for the green ash-thinning project is now complete, and we appreciate the support of staff at the Historic Site, OPR&HP, the NYS DEC, and NY Natural Heritage Program. Unhappily, for the first time ever, deer ticks showed up at Crown Point, and in considerable numbers. Both of the banders and at least one volunteer were bitten, in spite of the use of insect repellent and prompt mowing near the net lanes, but none developed the distinctive *Erethema migrans* "bull's eye" rash of Lyme disease. The impact of these ticks upon the future of the station remains to be seen, however.

Bander Gordon Howard and sub-permittees Nina Schoch, Carole Slatkin, and Bob Wei assisted with technical chores, while countless visitors helped check the net lanes and radio back requests for assistance. Gary Lee deserves special mention for helping transport the station equipment from Elizabethtown and staying for the first week, and Judy & Roger Heintz for providing their truck for the return trip. As always, we also thank the OPR&HP for their hospitality, especially Historic Site Manager Bill Farrar and the staff of the Crown Point State Historic Site, most notably Tom Nesbitt and Jake Putnam. After 28 years, a total of 11,461 birds of 93 species have been banded on Crown Point peninsula during May, and we are looking forward to our 29<sup>th</sup> season in 2004.

**Lewiston** **431-0790**  
 Niagara County, New York  
**Jerald J. Farrell**, Bander  
 <jsfarrell3940@juno.com>

The spring banding season started on 5 May 2003. Many warbler species were observed along the net lanes on 1 May but the nets were not opened until later, mostly due to the weather. The last day for banding this spring was 2 Jun.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
64 Magnolia Warbler (1)			100
47 Gray Catbird (3)			100
35 Yellow Warbler (4)	42	16	42
20 Myrtle Warbler			100
20 Nashville Warbler (8)			100
20 Ruby-crowned Kinglet			100
12 Chestnut-sided Warbler			100
10 Blk-thr. Green Warb.(8)			100
10 Blk-thr. Blue Warb.	60	20	20
10 Wood Thrush (6)			100

This banding station is showing an upward trend in the total number of birds banded. The Magnolia Warbler has been the top species banded for the last several years. The Gray Catbird numbers are returning to the traditional numbers for this station. Many Yellow Warblers are showing up in the nets. This is surprising because the cover has changed very little over the years. There have always been many Yellow Warblers observed in the more open areas near the net lanes, but in years past this species has not frequented the net lanes.

Again this spring the weather was a major problem. Water was flowing down the net lanes on the last day of banding. I did not encourage many people to visit the station, because if the numbers would have arrived, I would have had a terrible mess. Knee boots were the order of the day for the total season.

Recaptures are always a plus at the banding station and this year was no exception. I had a total of 13 local retraps which involved eight different species. One Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at least five years old and a Blue-winged Warbler was at least seven years old – not bad for a warbler!

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory**      **431-0774**  
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station  
Monroe County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**, Compiler  
<ebrooks@bbbo.org>

The eighteenth consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 54 days beginning 13 April and continuing until 8 Jun 2003. There were 3392 birds banded of 89 forms. An additional 46 female and 34 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
395 Ruby-cr. Kinglet (2)	23	21	56
213 Magnolia Warbler (3)	70	21	9
192 Myrtle Warbler (8)	53	25	22
183 American Redstart (4)	63	27	10
178 Com. Yellowthroat (6)	37	27	10
168 White-thr. Sparrow (5)	45	14	41
154 Gray Catbird (10)	44	36	20
143 Yellow Warbler (9)	63	30	6
140 Least Flycatcher	31	5	64
136 Traill's Flycatcher (7)	9	5	87

Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sue Smith, and John Waud. Chief banding assistants were Jessie Barry, Anna Batchelder, Kelly Dockery, Luke Donius, Pat Lovallo, Anna Ludi, Brian McGrath, Doug Smith, and Charley Eiseman. Our special student assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

Constant-effort mist netting was carried out using from one to 39 nets. Included in the total were six aerial net assemblies. A total of 10,255 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 33.08 b/100nh. The best day was 7 May when 301 birds of 32 species were banded. The only other 200+ days were 1 May with 223 banded and 20 May with 231 banded. The best species diversity occurred on 22 May when 38 species were banded.

There were 637 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology. There were 58 birds that returned from a previous season. One of the most interesting was a Tree Swallow banded at K-MB by Cindy Marino on 19 May 2000. On 10 Jun 2003, Cindy was banding adults and nestlings and discovered this female brooding young Tree Swallows in a nest box being monitored by Chris Gates at Berger Park in the town of Greece. Other noteworthy returns were a Northern Cardinal in its tenth year, a Yellow Warbler in its ninth year, a Yellow Warbler in its eight year, a cardinal and Yellow Warbler in their seventh year, and a robin and two Song Sparrows in their sixth year.

A Common Yellowthroat banded at K-MB on 1 Jun 2002 was found dead in Savannah, NY, on 6 Jun 2003. Savannah is approximately 56 miles ESE of Manitou Beach.

A Least Flycatcher banded as an adult on 16 Jul 2002 by John Miles at Selkirk Provincial Park in Ontario was recaptured at K-MB on 7 May 2003. Selkirk is approximately 123 miles WSW of Braddock Bay.

A Blue-winged Warbler banded as an AHY-F on 18 May by Rick Ludkin at Ruthven, near Cayuga in Ontario was recaptured at K-MB two hours after

sunrise the next morning (19 May)! The bird had moved about 90 miles NNE overnight.

A Chipping Sparrow banded as a SY-U on 26 May 2003 at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory near Kingston, Ontario, was retrapped at K-MB on 2 Jun 2003! This bird had crossed the lake and then returned 90 miles SSW to Braddock Bay.

The total number of birds banded (3392) during spring 2003 was just below the mean (3399). MacGillivray's Warbler was a new species for the spring cumulative list which now stands at 136 forms.

Birds banded in record high numbers were Least Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush, and Brown Thrasher.

Northern Flicker and Eastern Towhee were missing after being banded in 12 of the past 13 years, Downy Woodpecker 10 of the past 13 years, and Red-breasted Nuthatch in nine of the past 13 years.

Sandra Brennan, Virginia Duffy, Paul Fehringer, Coby Klein, Rodney Olsen, Mike Turisk, and Laurie Zagmester successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

We gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors to the banding station, and on 18 May we hosted an Open House for Genesee Land Trust. Students from the Diversified Occupations program at Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, visited on 6-7 May. Pat Lovallo presented a program on bird banding to four students at the Rochester School for the Deaf and to the Genesee Community Charter School.

The cold, wet weather made banding difficult and the net lanes a challenge for the second consecutive spring banding season! But there were many memorable moments which more than made up for the conditions. They included Cindy Marino's banding of the beautiful male MacGillivray's Warbler, only the second New York state record; international day with visiting Belgian ringers Lauren Leclercq and Vincent Bulteau and British ringers Jerry and John Willshe from the Rye Bay Ringing Group; our new kiosk panels from the DEC;

Andy Farnsworth recording warbler vocalizations; Mark Deutschlander viewing birds in UV light; Mike Lanzone taking hundreds of digitals for the new aging book; Tali Greener filming for "A Day in the Life of..."; and the memorable Memorial Garden ceremony.

Thanks to Ann Adams, Liz Barry, Linda Boutwell, Virginia Duffy, Judy Engerman, Tracy Ford, Marilyn Guenther, Judy Gurley, Meena Haribal, Donna Hilborn, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Janice Marsden, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Bill Michalek, Loretta Morrell, Carolyn Marrocco, Pete Mulroy, Patti O'Kane, Debbie Reed, Sandy Shifley, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Kathy Taddeo, and Barb Wagner.

Special appreciation to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara; to Bob and Charlene Reed, David Frosini, and Doug Smith for providing housing to visiting banders, interns, and students; and to Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

**Ruthven Park** **425-0795**  
Cayuga, Haldimand County, Ontario  
**Rick Ludkin**, Bander  
<rludkin@rogers.com>  
Loretta Mousseau, Marylene Boulet, Darryl Edwards, Chief Assistants

This was the eighth spring banding season at Ruthven Park. We started on 25 Mar and banded fairly consistently through 56 days, finishing on 30 May. We did not band on days of seriously inclement weather.

**251 American Goldfinch (1)**  
**105 Chipping Sparrow (6)**  
**90 White-throated Sparrow (5)**  
**82 Yellow Warbler (2)**  
**68 Slate-colored Junco (3)**  
**63 Gray Catbird (4)**  
**61 Magnolia Warbler**  
**45 Song Sparrow (9)**  
**45 Brown-headed Cowbird**  
**40 Ruby-crowned Kinglet (8)**

Generally, the conditions could be described as cool and wet. Whether it was "unseasonably" cool and wet, I will leave up to the climatologists. Recent springs have seemed warmer and drier but old local

farmers suggest we have been spoiled. It is hard to say what sort of effect the cold snap in April had on migration. It appeared to take its toll on locally nesting birds (e.g., Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallows); some migrants at that time seemed fairly emaciated as well (some American Robins were considerably underweight, for example). However, in terms of numbers moving through (as indicated by banding totals), things seemed comparable to other years; and the number of birds banded in April was, in fact, the second highest total in the eight years (just marginally ahead of the last two). May was fairly wet and we had frost the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> but we encountered the first mosquito on the 17<sup>th</sup>, which is early compared to some years. It was thought by my colleagues at Selkirk and Rock Point (and I would concur) that the migration in this part of Ontario was a week to ten days "behind."

We used 15 nets set out in nine net "lanes" (these have been in the same place for several years). The lanes are cut into the scrub which provides a buffer between the open fields and lawns of the Historic Mansion area and the surrounding forest. We also used up to four ground traps and one Potter trap – these were moved throughout the season in response to movements of birds on the property.

Although we get fairly steady movement through the site in spring, we do not get the large numbers we get in the fall or the large numbers reported by banding stations along coastlines (e.g., Rock Point, Selkirk, Long Point or Braddock Bay in Rochester). Poor weather conditions will sometimes bring large "fallouts" of migrants to these stations as birds set down either before crossing a large lake or just afterward. Further, when poor weather persists, these birds will often move along the "leading edge" provided by the shoreline and, thus concentrated, they are more likely to be trapped at a coastal site.

Quite often when migration is inhibited by poor weather and birds are forced to hunker down, the birds will take off in ensuing good weather and go for considerable distances to make up for lost time. Either way, we do not see large numbers of migrants in the spring.

The number of birds banded in April and May are comparable to other years, although April's total was the second highest and May's the highest (854 vs 828 in 2002). The total number banded was 1,341 – third best total. Our highest daily total was only 59 birds (on 7 May), which compares poorly with the large catches sometimes achieved by Rock Point or Braddock Bay (and with the 200+ days we sometimes get in the fall).

We had marked increases in some species (e.g., American Goldfinches, Chipping Sparrows, and Magnolia Warblers) and decreases in others (e.g., Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow Warblers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers – we saw lots of the latter but never banded a single one). It is impossible to say at this point whether this signifies anything more than natural fluctuation.

This spring we retrapped 242 birds, some many times.

Returns from another season are one of the most interesting aspects of banding at Ruthven. I can not help but marvel when I retrap a bird I banded in a previous season knowing that it has migrated to Mexico or Central America (or even South America) in the meantime. Some individuals have made the round trip several times. This spring we had 228 returns of 30 species (some dating back to 1996).

We received information of seven of "our" birds that were recovered at other locations. Two were of particular interest: a Black-capped Chickadee banded on 4 Nov 2001 was recovered by Betsy Brooks at Braddock Bay BO on 1 May 2002; and a White-throated Sparrow banded on 1 Apr 2001 was recovered in Cokeburg, PA

More and more this station is being run by a "team" of skilled and dedicated banders and supported by interested helpers: **5-6 weeks:** Rick Ludkin, Darryl Edwards; **2-3 weeks:** Loretta Mousseau, Walter Peace; **1-2 weeks:** Marylene Boulet, Pascal Petitclerc, Erin Gouthro, Barb Weaver, Linda Thrower, Al Thrower; **4-7 days:** John Shoveller, Marg Ludkin, Hannah Badger; **1-3 days:** Elaine Serena, Cathy Badger, Dianne Green, Louise Unitt, Brandon Holden, Milne, Eric Holden.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust and the staff of Ruthven Park (especially CAO Marilyn Havelka) for their enthusiastic support. This project was supported financially by the Land Trust and by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

# **Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario

**James A. Smith**, Bander

< benavis@sympatico.ca>

Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young,

Gisele Mills, Chief Assistants

This was Rock Point's third spring in operation. Again, I was fortunate in having people continue with me and so become even more proficient at extracting and the general routine of the station.

Nets are in the same location as in previous years. I have seven net lanes with two nets at each location giving me 14 nets. The habitat remains the same except for the addition of considerably more mud because of the rains. Boardwalks have been put in some of the worst places.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
293 Wh.-thr. Sparrow (2)	43	50	8
192 Amer. Goldfinch (1)	55	43	2
154 Sl.-col. Junco (8)	54	44	3
147 Ruby-cr. Kinglet (5)	37	59	3
140 Cedar Waxwing	46	52	2
121 Yellow Warbler (3)	54	43	3
117 Amer. Tree Sparrow	38	34	28
114 Song Sparrow (9)	28	69	3
113 Nashville Warbler	44	48	8
85 Gray Catbird (6)	47	53	0

In an attempt to standardize my operation with Canadian Migration Monitoring expectations (my interpretation of those expectations) banding was conducted for only six hours after dawn. This probably explains why no days were over 100 birds since banding for an extended period on those good days would have resulted in higher catch rates. Being the sole licensed bander, I was willing to band only six days a week, which is the same as has been done in previous years.

In spite of not having any day over 100 birds, the spring of 2003 still resulted in a high number of

birds being banded. Some species were up in numbers. Cedar Waxwings did not appear on my top 10 list last year, but the fruit remaining on the high-bush cranberries, which are numerous in my area, brought high numbers. On some days I estimated 200 to 300 Cedar Waxwings in the immediate banding area. Blue Jays are way down from 98 in 2002 to just 16 this year (significant in relation to West Nile Virus?).

Retrapped birds are being looked at in relation to my consistency in ageing them and comparing the information to previous retrap information. This has built up my confidence in the methods that I am using to age birds.

The following table shows the number of birds banded at Rock Point from previous years and re-trapped this spring.

First Banded 2000....23

First Banded 2001....39

First Banded 2002....99

Of the total of 489 re-trapped birds this spring the above table represents 32.9%. This involves single catches and does not include multiple retraps of the same bird. The remaining 67.1% is made up of birds banded in 2003 and/or multiple catches of the same bird. Yellow Warblers were the most frequently recaptured bird with Black-capped Chickadee being the most multiply caught bird, followed by Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Brown-headed Cowbird. The number of re-trapped birds in comparison to 2002 is about half 489:835.

Education continues in the form of slide presentations to school, church, and nature groups. One school group and one Cub pack were given a demonstration at the banding lab. Fergus Nicoll, a keen naturalist and birder, volunteered for three weeks and demonstrated excellent abilities in all aspects of bird banding. He left with a clearer understanding of ageing birds through the use of plumage.

As a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, we submit our data to Bird Studies Canada. This data includes banding, recapture, daily census, and casual observations making up a daily detected total for each species of bird.

Rock Point is a purely volunteer-run station. Support comes in the form of the volunteers (17 this year) who are willing to come and learn and



The following birds were recaptures of birds first banded in a location other than Rock Point.				
Species	Band Number	Recapture Date	First Banded Date	First Banded Location
House Finch	2151-40999	10 Apr 2003	April 2002	Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, ON
American Goldfinch	2270-76281	28 Apr 2003	2 Nov 2002	Ruthven--a Haldimand Bird Observatory
American Goldfinch	2300-08184	25 Apr 2003	18 Apr 2003	Ruthven--a Haldimand Bird Observatory
Black-capped Chickadee	2290-3309	21 Apr 2003	??? 2002	Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, ON
Slate-colored Junco	1851-44269	18 Apr 2003	?????	?????
Slate-colored Junco	1851-44195	16 Apr 2003	?????	?????

Birds First Banded at Rock Point and Recovered at Some Other Location				
Species	Band Number	Date First Banded	Recovered Location	Date Recovered
Indigo Bunting	1691-88324	4 Oct 2002	Phoenixville, PA	15 May 2003
American Tree Sparrow	1671-62309	16 Mar 2001	Foster, Province of Quebec	17 Apr 2003
American Goldfinch	1671-61540	30 Aug 2002	Lexington, TX	28 Jan 2003
Yellow Warbler	2320-40313	15 May 2003	Selkirk--a Haldimand Bird Observatory	

do what has to be done at the banding station. A special thanks to Jack Custers for the boardwalk sections that kept us out of the mud.

Financially we are supported by Haldimand Bird Observatory, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada and individual contributors. Thanks also have to be extended to Parks Ontario and Mark Custers, Rock Point superintendent, for permission to conduct scientific research within Rock Point Provincial Park.

**Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703**  
Appledore Island, York County, Maine

**Sara Morris**, Compiler  
<morris@canisius.edu>

Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, John Munier, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright, **Banders**

Spring 2003 was a good season on Appledore, although there were few outstanding records. For example, we banded generally average numbers of birds, average numbers of species, and average numbers of b/100nh (10-year averages 2630 individuals, 785.8 species, and 67.7 b/100nh). We did not capture any new species for the station, even though an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Red-bellied Woodpecker were crowd pleasers. High winds, rain, and heavy fog resulted in net closings on 15 days, but fortunately most closings occurred in the afternoon or evening hours, and we did not lose any complete days to weather. The biggest milestone of the season was the station's 75,000th

banded bird in early May. We also banded our 1000th Ruby-crowned Kinglet and our 6000th Red-eyed Vireo during the season. We captured numerous migrants that breed on the island, including Common Grackle, Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warbler. Notable returning breeding migrants included a 7-year-old female Common Yellowthroat and three 6-year-old Gray Catbirds.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
<b>675 Common Yellowthroat</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>262 Magnolia Warbler</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
<b>139 Red-eyed Vireo</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>69.8</b>
<b>119 Black-and-white Warb.</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>23.5</b>
<b>96 Ovenbird</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>95 White-thr. Sparrow</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>24.2</b>
<b>82 Gray Catbird</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>66 Blackpoll Warbler</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>56 Northern Waterthrush</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>

The banding data collected at this station were used in numerous presentations during the year, including one at the North American Ornithological Conference in October 2002 and four presentations at the Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists' joint meeting in March 2003. Our research presentations generally focus on using capture-mark-recapture methods to model stopover length, although this year we presented an additional project on reliability of age determination in HY Common Yellowthroats.

The banding station regularly provided banding demonstrations for anyone visiting Applemore who expressed an interest, particularly participants in credit and non-credit courses at the Shoals Marine Lab, visiting birding groups, and a number of classes from visiting high schools and colleges. The station also continued the spring tradition of involving field ornithology students as recorders and assistants as part of their course.

The Shoals Marine Lab continues to support the station in a variety of ways, but most notably by providing logistical support to station volunteers. Canisius College generously provided funding for many of the station's supplies, funding for student travel to the station, and grants to students who are involved in data analysis and presentation.

**Selkirk Provincial Park** 424-0795  
Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario  
**John Miles**, bander  
<miles@kwic.com>  
Dave Jolly, Mike Furber, chief assistant

The eighth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced 27 Feb and ended 11 Jun. The station was manned almost daily during this period with the banding effort taking place on 97 days. Fifteen volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander-in-charge with the running of the station.

	% HY	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
161 Wh.-thr. Sparrow (2)	0	0	0	100
142 Sl.-col. Junco (6)	0	17	16	67
123 Ruby-cr. Kinglet (3)	0	0	0	100
115 Nashville Warbler	0	22	40	38
113 Magnolia Warb.(5)	0	45	32	23
107 Song Sparrow (4)	0	0	0	100
93 Amer. Goldfinch (8)	0	56	37	8
87 Gray Catbird (7)	0	14	21	66
84 Amer. Robin (9)	1	0	0	99
78 Red-wg. Blackbird	0	44	49	8

Except for days of extreme adverse weather and birdathon day, the station was manned from a half hour before sunrise usually for a minimum of six hours.

After a couple of years of fairly mild winters, this year was much colder with lots of wind. The first half of March was cold and wet. The first day of +5°C did not occur until the 15<sup>th</sup>. The next week was more seasonable with the 24<sup>th</sup> the first day of the month with +10°C temperatures occurring. March was fairly wet with 2.53" of moisture recorded in the station's rain gauge.

Winter returned the first week of April with snow and ice storms and well below normal temperatures. These conditions persisted for nearly a week and resulted in many starving and dead birds such as American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallows. Temperatures did not start to moderate until the 10<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures for the rest of the month were about normal, but the last two thirds of April was fairly dry with only 1.28" of moisture recorded for the whole month.

May arrived with 0.80" of rain overnight of the 1<sup>st</sup> and it got wetter and the banding site got muddier as the month progressed. The temperatures, while for the most part seasonable, were never extremely hot as occurs some Mays for a few days. Overall, May could be considered cool and wet with 4.54" of rain recorded for the month. June until close down was a continuation of May.

The Selkirk Field Station has operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area remain the same. Banding was carried out using 19 12-m warbler mist nets, up to five ground traps, and a jay trap. The same net lanes were used again as has been the practice over the past couple of years.

There appears to have been a slight movement of American Tree Sparrow and Slate-colored Juncos right at the end of February, as our first day (2/27) was a very good day for that time of year. Good numbers at this time of February have been noticed in prior years. Similar catch numbers did not occur again until 17 Mar when a good influx of Song Sparrows occurred. The next little wave was 26 Mar when a few Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared.

Early April was fairly quiet until the 8<sup>th</sup> when American Robins piled into the sumac trees in search of food. Twenty robins were banded that day but some were in poor shape with the cold weather and lack of food. Some birds weighed in at under 60 g. Normal weight is in the 75-80 g range. One robin retrapped on the 9<sup>th</sup> had lost 10% of its body weight overnight. The first noticeable little wave of migrants arrived 14 Apr with Golden-crowned Kinglets and Slate-colored Juncos being most numerous. Drips and drabs filtered through until the 29<sup>th</sup> when the first little wave of warblers appeared. Overall, April was one of the poorest experienced at Selkirk with barely 400 birds banded.

May started off with an overnight rain which brought the birds down. On most days we banded 40 or more birds up until the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, when the wheel finally fell off. Nearly 1400 birds were banded, which is one of the best May totals ever at Selkirk. There were no really "big" days of 100 or more birds banded, but it was steady with many days of 50 or more birds banded.

A light trickle of migrants was recorded in June right up to close down, but no wave days were recorded.

During the period the station was in operation, 179 species of birds were recorded in the study area which is about average. Noteworthy birds included a pair of Little Gulls, White-eyed Vireo, a Pileated Woodpecker, and a very "tame" Ruffed Grouse the last week or so of operation. The grouse would walk parallel with me checking the nets for nearly 135 yd; and whenever I stopped, it would run circles around me as close as 15 in. On at least three different mornings while opening nets in the predawn glow, I would hear a crash in the brush of something landing and low and behold there would be the grouse.

Also of note was a male Hooded Warbler and four Orchard Orioles which are unusual species in this area. Perhaps the best bird of the spring was a second-year male Summer Tanager caught on the 12 May. Unfortunately, we were unable to band it. It had been banded four days earlier at the tip of Long Point some 18 miles SSW.

There were 2174 birds of 81 species plus one race banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the spring of 2003, which was the second most productive spring at Selkirk, yet not one banding day resulted in 90 or more birds being banded. One new species was added to the station's banding list, Barn Swallow, which brings the number of species banded at Selkirk to 120.

In the spring of 2003, 248 different birds were processed as retraps. Many of these birds were repeatedly retrapped over several days.

One hundred four birds retrapped in the spring of 2003 were returns from another season. A Song Sparrow banded in the spring of 1997 and two American Goldfinches banded in the spring of 1998 are noteworthy.

This spring several birds banded at other stations were retrapped at Selkirk. The best bird handled at Selkirk was a foreign return. A second-year male Summer Tanager was retrapped at Selkirk on 12 May which had been banded at the Tip Station of the Long Point Bird Observatory on 8 May. Also a Common Grackle banded at the Tip of Long Point by the Long Point Bird Observatory on 12 May 2001 was retrapped at Selkirk on 3 Jun. In eight years of banding, these are the second and third encounters of birds banded at the Tip which is approximately 18 mi SSW of Selkirk.

Three birds were retrapped that had been banded at other Haldimand Bird Observatory stations. A Yellow Warbler banded 15 May at Rock Pt. was retrapped 18 May and was also retrapped 23 May. On 3 Jun a Gray Catbird was retrapped that had been banded at Ruthven Park 28 Aug 2002. A Carolina Wren that had been banded at Ruthven 11 Apr 2003 appeared at Selkirk 6 May.

Two foreign recoveries have been reported since last fall's report. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet banded 22 Oct 2001 recovered 26 Dec 2002 at Batesville, AR, and a Yellow Warbler banded 1 Aug 2002 retrapped 18 May 2003 at Ruthven Park, Cayuga, Ontario.

There were 94 visitor days recorded in the spring of 2003. The Hagersville Scouts, Cubs, and Venturers visited the station for a banding demon-

stration. In addition, station volunteers conducted a nature walk for the park campers.

I extend my appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Park Contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the Park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program, Ontario Power Generation, and the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, 3-ring loose-leaf binders and file cabinets collected by Miss Gail King, file cabinets by Floyd Deiter, construction materials by Steven Miles and timely cash donations from many.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **1-2 weeks:** Dave Jolly, Mike Furber, **4-6 days:** James Furber, Nancy Furber, **1-3 days:** Tom Ford, Allison Furber, Mathew Furber, Timothy Furber, Cathy Jolliffe, Janice Jolly, Mike Kimber, Kellie Libera, Joe Libera, Steven Miles, George Pond.

**Long Point Bird Observatory**                      **423-0800**  
Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk, ON            **423-0801**  
**Jody Allair**, Bander                                      **423-0802**  
<lpbo@bsc~eoc.org>  
Christian Friis, Matt Timpf, Henri Robert, Chief Assistants

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
686 White-thr. Sparrow	37.6	16.6	45.8
427 Magnolia Warbler	30.0	45.0	25.0
365 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	27.1	25.5	47.4
361 Common Grackle	43.2	1.7	55.1
268 Red-wing Blackbird	47.0	47.0	6.0
248 E. White-cr. Sparrow	19.8	9.2	71.0
224 Yellow Warbler	22.3	51.3	26.4
172 American Goldfinch	30.0	64.0	6.0
172 Gray Catbird	40.1	25.0	34.9
127 Common Yellowthroat	11.8	22.0	66.2

Arriving in an ice storm in early April, I had a sense that the spring banding season would not start on schedule. The official season kicked off on 7 Apr

and ran until 10 Jun, with Old Cut Field Station being the first and last station open. Breakwater closed early on 26 May due to much needed renovations, lowering the total net hours and catch as compared to previous years. Cooler weather kept the ice in at the Tip for longer than anticipated, causing a later opening date on 23 Apr. After the lethargic start to the season, the weather cooperated for the remainder of the season.

The season started off with the observatory's second-ever banded Common Loon. The poor bird had landed on a road after the ice storm and was brought to Old Cut for release; LPBO's first Common Loon was banded in 1976. Other banding highlights from Old Cut include the first female Kentucky Warbler since 1995, a second-year Yellow-throated Vireo, and two Hooded Warblers.

The Tip's first banded bird was an American Kestrel, and the excitement did not end until 7 Jun, when a young male Yellow-headed Blackbird was trapped and banded—LPBO's eighth and the first in five years. Amid these two highlights, migration brought two young male Summer Tanagers, bringing the total to eight captured at LPBO. Their capture marks the second spring in a row that a young male Summer Tanager has been banded here at Long Point.

A couple of Chuck-will's-widows were seen at the Tip and caused increased blood pressure for the crew. The first bird bounced off of the Heligoland trap, not once, not twice, but three times before escaping. The second encounter caught us off guard as the bird flushed from a thicket and flew directly into one of the mist nets that had been set minutes before. The bird bounced around the panel and out before anyone could get his or her act together. Certainly a frustrating experience as no Chuck-will's-widows have been banded in Canada. Next season.

Breakwater was not without some excitement, despite the short season (7 to 26 May). Highlights include the first Cerulean Warbler since 1999, Golden-winged and Hooded warblers. Certainly the most exciting capture was LPBO's second Painted Bunting. This young male showed up at Breakwater, was banded and disappeared. Perhaps equally exciting and simultaneously frustrating was

a Kirtland's Warbler that bounced out of the net, much to the dismay of the crew. This bird also disappeared despite a concerted effort by all three field stations to hunt it down.

Some interesting trends come to light after the spring season. Golden-winged Warblers continue their decline, with only one banded this spring, the lowest catch since 1975. Conversely, Blue-winged Warblers have continued to increase with nine banded this spring. Cape May Warblers are also in low representation with only one captured, which is consistent with the declining trend in recent spring seasons. Yellow-breasted Chats are also showing up in lower numbers, with four banded this spring. The lowest capture occurred in 1973-1974 when, over the two years, only three chats were captured.

A special thank-you to all the volunteers and staff that made this spring very enjoyable. Without them the excitement of banding at Long Point would not occur.

**Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Obs. 422-0764**  
Burdett, Schuyler County, NY  
**John and Sue Gregoire, Banders**  
<khmo@att.net>

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
303 Amer. Goldfinch(3)	58	41	1
35 Chipping Sparrow	63	29	8
34 Wh.-thr. Spar. (1)	70	30	0
33 E. Wh.-cr. Spar.(4)	9	10	90
30 Com. Yellowthroat	3	6	91
26 Cedar Waxwing	62	31	7
22 Yellow Warb.(9)	64	36	0
21 Gray Catbird (10)	0	0	100
18 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	67	28	5
14 Rose-br. Grosbeak	43	43	14

For the first time since we began formally reporting spring AFR banding, the weather was very cooperative and helped set station spring records in all categories! We had many gray, windless days and a few obliging blocking fronts that caused stopover at our station. Our elation was short-lived as the over 50 birds per day average from late April

into May dissipated on 18 May and banding became slow through month's end.

We banded 724 individuals of 66 species in 26 days of operation. We also had 101 repeats, a whopping 136 returns and 31 hummingbirds not banded. The fine weather caused us to stay open longer than usual each day – we just could not believe it! - lowering our measure of efficiency to 68.9 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 91.5 b/100nh overall. Our best day was 7 May and our most species diverse day was 15 May with 22 species banded. Once again, American Goldfinches were our bread and butter with 303 banded and 44 returning.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 124 species plus 5 forms, although a Ring-necked Duck raised our point count cumulative to 215 species seen at Kestrel Haven. Most Neotropicals were present in very small numbers, although we managed to band at least one of every expected species. We continued our dragonfly studies and netted two in mist nets, a *Gomphus exilis* and an *Anax junius*. The cool, wet weather and lack of sun has kept odonate emergence down and downright late this year. The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns.

We received reports of three encounters, two of which were long distance records. An American Goldfinch was recovered south of Orlando, FL (900 miles), and an American Robin was recovered in Louisiana between New Orleans and the Texas Border (1200 miles). The third bird was a Slate-colored Junco, which was recovered 38 miles east of Durham, NC. These birds must have had advance knowledge of the harsh winter we experienced!

We enjoyed 136 returning individuals of 19 species of which 49 were over four years of age. Neotropical migrants accounted for 23% of the over-four-years group! The eldest return was an eight-year-old Yellow Warbler followed by a seven-plus-year-old Chipping Sparrow. A Baltimore Oriole that has been trapped every year since banding returned again at seven years of age.

Others over four were as follows: eight American Robins at 4, 4+ (4), 5, 5+ and 6+; five Song

Sparrows at 4 (2), 5 (2) and 6; thirteen American Goldfinch at 4 (6), 4+ (3), 5+ (2) and 6; two Downy Woodpeckers at 4+ and 5; six other Yellow Warblers at 4 (3), 4+, 6 and 6+; two Black-capped Chickadees at 4 and 5; four Common Yellowthroats at 5+ (2) and 6 (2); a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 6+; a White-breasted Nuthatch at 4; a Red-bellied Woodpecker at 4+; an Eastern Tufted Titmouse at 5; a House Sparrow at 4+ which had been released previously 15 mi away and demonstrating remarkable site fidelity and, a Northern Cardinal at 6+ years of age.

Abnormalities were few and mostly consisted of advanced cases of avian pox. We did have one Gray Catbird with a serious feather mite infestation in over 50% of its primaries.

Kestrel Haven joined in a partnership with the New Jersey Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Derby Hill Bird Observatory (NY) in an attempt to monitor the migration flight of Red Knots from the Delaware Bay region to their James Bay nesting grounds. One hundred knots were banded, marked and fitted with radio transmitters, half on discrete frequencies for individual monitoring and half on five other frequencies to assist in locating nesting areas. Kestrel Haven and Derby Hill provided 24/7 monitoring and taping services in the hope that these birds make use of the direct flight line which passes over the central Finger Lakes of New York. Wet coastal weather and a paucity of horseshoe crabs laying eggs has delayed the normal timing so this project continues well beyond the end of our banding.

We thank Ruth and Charlie Young, Joe, Denise, Angela and Laura McEnerney, Don and Doris Cohrs, Bob and Judy Cosgriff, David Guaspari, Barlow Rhodes, Fred Sibley and Stillman's Greenhouse for their advice, assistance and generous support.

We are also grateful to our friends at Pine Tree Farms; their continuous supply of high quality suet cakes contributes so much to attracting and keeping birds around this station. It is a particular pleasure to watch returning migrants head straight

for the suet cake feeding area. That's only matched by watching the regulars bring their young to that bounty of suet. Thanks folks.

**Northview Sanctuary** **421-0762**  
Candor, Tioga County, New York  
Robert Pantle, Bander  
<bpbird@pronetisp.net>

Banding was carried out on nine days over a seven-week period from 11 Apr through 31 May 2003; I was absent for one week during this time. A total of 257 new birds were banded. In addition, there were 26 returns and seven repeats. Noteworthy returns were a 5½-year-old Black-capped Chickadee and a Blue Jay seven years old.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
110 Sl.-col. Junco(4)	52	4	44
30 Bl.-cap. Chick.(2)	16	0	84
23 Amer. Goldfinch(1)	71	13	16
20 Song Sparrow (10)	0	0	100
18 Fox Sparrow	5	39	56
9 Am.Tree Sparrow	0	0	100
7 Purple Finch	29	29	42
5 Red-wg. Blackbird(7)	20	40	40
5 Chip. Sparrow (3)	0	0	100
4 E. Tufted Titmouse	75	0	25

Locally, April was very dry, with 2.74" of precipitation for the month. Normal precipitation would have been at 3.49". Average temperature was 42.3° F for the month, which was cooler than normal. My highest daily catch during the banding period was on 19 Apr with 67 birds captured; this includes five returns and three repeats.

The month of May was wet, with total precipitation of 4.19"; normal precipitation would be 3.55". Average temperature was 53.8° F, cooler than the normal by 2.1°. There were 21 days in May with some precipitation, which accounts for the low number of net hours in May. The cooler temperatures, perhaps, accounts for my most commonly banded species list, with Slate-colored Junco topping the list at 110 banded. Junco was fourth on the list in 2002 with just 10 banded.

**Presque Isle****420-0800**

Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania

**Ronald F. Leberman**, Bander

Bird banding resumed this spring on 24 Mar and concluded 2 Jun with a total of 19 active days, three fewer than 2002. As elsewhere in the northeast, we were hampered by strong winds, cold temperatures (mostly in the 40s and 50s) and many of the days we wanted to band were rained out. Despite these conditions, we did band 773 birds of 66 species in 1,127 net hours. We had no new species for the station this spring. A late Orange-crowned Warbler on 17 May was good (most are banded here in April) and our first Red-headed Woodpeckers in 10 years were unexpected. About 12 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were also netted but not banded.

**112 Magnolia Warbler (6)****89 White-throated Sparrow (2)****55 Yellow Warbler (3)****47 Gray Catbird (1)****39 Swainson's Thrush (9)****32 Black-throated Blue Warbler****28 Wilson's Warbler****19 Song Sparrow****19 Least Flycatcher**

Some 57 birds of 16 species were recaptured this spring. Of these, 46 had been banded more than one year ago. The oldest bird was a Yellow Warbler that we had banded 10 Aug 1996, making it at least seven years old. A Warbling Vireo netted on 18 May had been banded here 24 May 1997.

Our only recovery this spring was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that we had banded 20 Oct 2002 and was found dead 10 Jan 2003 by Ken Thomas in Desota State Park near Fort Payne, AL.

In addition to our regular visitors this spring, we demonstrated bird banding to some of the 800 Erie County middle school students participating in the annual Earth Force Youth Summit at Presque Isle 7 May. They all showed a great interest in the birds, the banding process, and were well behaved and asked good questions. A special thanks to the leaders, teachers and staff of the Glinodo Center and Allegheny-Lake Erie Earth Force.

I thank all the volunteers that helped in many ways: Barb Mitchell, Sam Stull, Karen and Marley Winkleblack, Jean and Toby Cunningham, Thelma Patton, Dona and Pat Peters, Jan Lutz, Martha Smith, Ruth Swaney, the park staff and the Glinodo Center.

**Wing Island Banding Station****414-0700**

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

**Susan Finnegan**, Bander

&lt;sfinnegan@wingisland.org&gt;

Gretchen Putonen, Chief Assistant

This was our third spring season for the Wing Island Banding Station located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. Our numbers are very poor this year, due to the cold, wet, and windy spring here on Cape Cod and because we can band only three days out of the week. Unfortunately, the few nice days we had were all midweek when we were at other jobs.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
<b>64 Gray Catbird (1)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>42 Amer. Goldfinch (4)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>27 Bl.-cap. Chickadee (2)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>23 Song Sparrow (7)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>23 Com. Yellowthroat (3)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>20 No. Cardinal (6)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>13 Yellow Warbler</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7 Blue Jay (8)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5 Wh.-thr. Sparrow (5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>3 Magnolia Warbler</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The season began on 16 Mar and continued until 6 Jun with only 17 days of operation. We banded a total of 259 birds of 34 species. Net hours totaled 1266 for a capture rate of only 20 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was late this year—26 May—for a total of 56 birds of 16 species. As usual, Gray Catbirds are our number one species here on the coast. We banded 64 new individuals this spring. We also banded 13 species of warblers: American Redstart, Black-and-white, Canada, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Myrtle, Nashville, Northern Parula, Pine, Prairie, Wilson's, Yellow, and Yellow Palm. Five new species were added to our list this spring; the Canada Warbler and Northern Parula previously mentioned, Savannah Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Swainson's Thrush. Species missed this season include Acadian Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Bay-breasted Warbler, Cedar Waxwing,

Eastern Phoebe, House Finch, Orchard Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

We are starting to see Neotropical migrant returns now that we have been in operation for a few years. This year we had nine 3-yr-old Common Yellowthroats come back to breed on Wing Island as well as four 3-yr-old Gray Catbirds. Younger returns of these species were more numerous.

I thank bander Gretchen Putonen for all her time and effort this year. I also thank our other banding assistants Carolyn Kennedy (and a big thanks for all those bird bags she made!), Judith Bruce, Judy Keller, Diane Silverstein, Judy Olsen, Bill Finnegan, Joanne Hughes, Karen Gilligan, Liz Beardsley, Jon Damian, and Tom Higgins.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve**      **400-0791**  
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
**Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill,**  
Banders  
Adrienne Leppold, Brian Jones, and Annie Lindsay,  
Chief Assistants  
<mulvipnr@westol.com>

Despite the cold, wet winter weather that persisted through March and into April of the spring 2003 season, Powdermill Nature Reserve, a 2,000-ac field research station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, was operational 74 out of 93 possible banding days. We still managed to band 2,479 birds of 105 species this spring; a total just under the long-term spring average (2,731). Our busiest and most diverse day, 15 May with 145 birds of 38 species, exceeded last year's highest one-day total and confirmed the good fallout of warblers and flycatchers experienced at Powdermill this spring. The catch on this day was dominated, in particular, by wood warblers (16 species), including 27 Magnolia Warblers, 12 Common Yellowthroats, nine American Redstarts, and seven each of Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue warblers.

There were no rarities among the birds banded this spring, but there were some highlights, including our first Olive-sided Flycatcher since 1999. Some conspicuous "misses" this spring (i.e., species with a long-term average of at least one banded in spring) included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Warbling Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
156 Magnolia Warbler	42	54	4
145 Amer. Goldfinch	59	40	1
139 Sl.-col. Junco	27	69	4
89 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	53	32	15
87 Ruby-thr. Hummingbd	0	0	100
82 Nashville Warbler	52	44	4
81 Cedar Waxwing	49	49	2
79 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	41	34	25
73 Song Sparrow	34	30	36
71 Fox Sparrow	38	27	35

The bird of the season was Magnolia Warbler—this spring's total of 156 was our fifth highest ever and more than twice the long-term average (74). Spring 2003 totals for four species tied or set new record highs: Fox Sparrow (71 banded; ties previous high in 2000); "Traill's" Flycatcher (54 banded; previous record high was 45 in 1996); Chestnut-sided Warbler (35 banded; previous record was 32 in 1990); Northern Parula (7 banded; previous record was 4 in spring 1994). In contrast, we failed to catch even one Golden-winged Warbler for just the second time in 42 years of spring banding. Overall, among the 105 species banded this spring, 69 were caught in numbers within one standard deviation (SD) of their long-term average, 32 were >1SD above average, and just four species were banded in below (<1 SD) average numbers. In general, the spring 2003 flight for *Empidonax* flycatchers was very strong, with Least, Traill's (i.e., both Willow and Alder, most individuals of which cannot be distinguished in hand), and Yellow-bellied all banded in well-above-average numbers; many wood warblers also staged good flights, with 16 of 32 species banded in above-average numbers and just one, Golden-winged Warbler, in below-average numbers.

The real highlight of the spring 2003 banding season was not a bird but an event: the 80th annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, held at Powdermill and nearby venues from 4-6 Apr. This meeting, attended by nearly 100 people, was followed by a sanctioned North American Banding Council bander level certification workshop from 6-8 Apr. Both events were a great success despite the fact that the prevailing weather on both occasions was mostly inclement! A very



special guest at the EBBA meeting was Dr. Lukas Jenni, Scientific Director of the Swiss Ornithological Institute and co-author of the extraordinary *Moult and Ageing of European Passerines*, who was the meeting's keynote speaker and who also gave a very informative and interesting workshop on the European ringing (=banding) schemes and techniques. Another special guest, British ringer, Dr. David Norman, contributed much of significance to both the workshops and the scientific paper sessions at the EBBA meeting, and he stayed on to provide invaluable assistance during the NABC certification session. All of us here at Powdermill, and all those in attendance at these events, were signally fortunate in having the opportunity to "expand our world of banding" by meeting and learning from these extraordinarily knowledgeable gentlemen. We can not thank them enough for their participation—they truly made these events a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all of us! Our congratulations to Powdermill Banding Assistants Adrienne Leppold and Brian Jones, who were awarded their NABC Bander Level Certification.

In addition to the above mentioned, we also owe sincere thanks to the following volunteers, interns, and others who helped us greatly with the banding this spring: Randi Gerrish, Jim Gruber, Carroll Labarthe, Mike Lanzone, David Liebmman, Mike Lutmerding, Marilyn Niedermeier, David Norman, Diane Pick, Katharine Reinemann, Carole Shanahan, Joe Schreiber, and Nathan Tarr. Our special thanks to Brad Silfies for making arrangements to have this year's EBBA meeting at Powdermill and to fellow NABC Trainers Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Mary Gustafson, Sara Morris, and Hannah Suthers, for their individual and collective organizational and other skills the Powdermill banders relied on so heavily during the NABC certification session!

**Bedford Valley** 395-0783  
Bedford County, PA  
**Janet Shaffer**, Bander  
<jgshaffer@yellowbananas.com>

Seven 12-m nets and three 6-m nets were used in the same areas as previous years, open from 6 a.m. to noon whenever possible. Operations ran for 17 days beginning 27 Apr and ending on 9 Jun 2003. A total of 82 new birds were banded of 30

different species. There were 39 repeating birds which is typical of this site.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
15 Chipping Spar. (1)	0	0	100
9 Gray Catbird (3)	11	0	89
8 Wh.-thr. Sparrow (2)	25	0	75
8 Red-eyed Vireo	13	0	87

Poor weather, old nets and a late start no doubt influenced the bird catch, but still the number of American Robin, Gray Catbird, and White-throated Sparrow seemed very low. Also very few Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Tree and Barn swallows were observed. Normally I would trap at least one towhee and Wood Thrush, but none this year. The warblers encountered were one each of the following: Ovenbird, Myrtle, Louisiana, Canada, Kentucky, and Mourning. Five Red-eyed Vireo in the same net on 19 May was odd.

Perhaps the rainy conditions which persisted drove the birds to continue on to drier conditions.

**Island Beach State Park** 395-0740  
Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ  
**Glenn R. Mahler**, compiler  
<102071.2661@compuserve.com>

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
469 Gray Catbird (1)	68	21	11
348 Com. Yellowthr.(2)	66	22	12
65 Magnolia Warbler(3)	82	14	5
51 Yellow Warbler	63	26	12
50 Blackpoll Warb.(8)	62	24	14
38 No. Parula	87	13	0
34 Bl.-and-wh. Warb.(4)	62	38	0
32 Amer. Redstart(7)	59	31	9
30 Red-eyed Vireo	53	27	20
18 No. Waterthrush	44	44	11
18 Swamp Sparrow	56	22	22

During the spring 2003 banding season, four banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island Beach State Park, between 25 Mar and 10 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 28 days during that 78-day period; there was one banding day in March, six in April, 18 in May and three in June. There were three days on which three of the stations were in operation simultaneously and three days with two

stations in operation; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active. Banders participating this season were Mary Doscher, Glenn Mahler, Robert Pantle, and Robert Yunick.

After last year's exceptional results (1.97 b/nh which was the highest ever and was more than double our long-term average), this year our 1.13 b/nh was a return to the below-average capture rates of recent years.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<b>Date</b> <b>(# Stations</b> <b>Operating)</b>	<b># Birds</b>	<b># Species</b>	<b># Birds/ net-hour</b>
May 7 (2)	188	21	1.86
May 20 (3)	182	27	1.42
May 21 (2)	234	20	6.19

Of the five species whose capture rates were more than 2 SD above average, four of these species had only one individual captured and the remaining species, Mourning Dove, had only six captures. Species of note included a Golden-winged Warbler, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the rather late date of 19 May and a recapture of a 10-year-old male Yellowthroat in breeding condition.

#### **OCCO Potomac River 383-0771**

NWR Complex, Occoquan Bay  
Woodbridge, Prince William County, VA

**Suzanne Miller**, Bander

David Mitchell, Bill Teetz, Pat Lubbers, Barbara Chambers, Joanna Taylor, Elizabeth Sellers, Gordon Knight, Lisa Koerner, Beth and Randy Ritter, Bev Smith, Erika Wilson, Mary Benger, Debbie Shaffer, Chief Assistants

	<b>% SY</b>	<b>% ASY</b>	<b>% AHY</b>
<b>64 Com. Yellowthroat</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>57 Myrtle Warbler</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>29 Wh.-thr. Sparrow</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>17 No. Waterthrush</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>15 Gray Catbird</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>15 No. Cardinal</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>11 Orchard Oriole</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9 Com. Grackle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8 Red-wg. Blackbird</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>8 Swamp Sparrow</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>

The 586 acres of Occoquan Bay NWR are located in Woodbridge, northern Virginia, Prince William County, along the shores of the Occoquan Bay where the Occoquan River joins the Potomac River. The Occoquan Bay NWR was, from 1950 until 1994 (when Congress directed its transfer to the Dept of Interior) the Army's high security Woodbridge Research Facility.

The area where we now band is described in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan as Areas 14 and 15. "14" is a 4.5-ac narrow, steep tract. The area is forested and contains northern red oak, pin oak, white oak, sweetgum, willow oak and black locust. "15" is a 9-ac wet swale. This area appears to be influenced by tidal regimes near Marumsco Creek and by surface water runoff and pond overflow in its upper segment. Common woody species include green ash, red maple, willow oak, black locust, silky dogwood, smooth alder, northern arrowwood and black willow. Herbaceous species included clearweed, nimble-well, sensitive fern, wool grass, small-flower agrimony, Japanese honeysuckle and Virginia creeper.

Banding occurred from the first weekend in April through the last weekend in May, weather permitting, and this year the weather did not permit nicely at all. Our effort was 80% of normal, 600 volunteer hours for 900 net hours, netting 80% of the normal number of birds, only 412. In addition to permits for banding, we could have used degrees in Civil Engineering for flood control. A couple of net routes were impassable due to MUD, some nets had to be raised because of high water, some completely closed; our efforts at digging drainage ditches merely to make the banding station less mucky were ineffective at best, and pathetic at worst. Only one-third of the scheduled days were the full six hours!

Bands were put on 358 birds of 55 species—a great species count for that number of birds. Fifty-four birds were recaptured: 7 from 2001, 14 from 2002, 32 from 2003, and 1 first "foreign" recapture.

There were no big 80+ bird days this year; there were not even any 50+ days. The birds were down to 46 b/100nh. Two of the scheduled field-trip days worked out quite well, though. The Girl Scouts' ARK (Audubon Refuge Keepers) day, as coor-

minated by Bev Smith, was very fortunate in the timing of birds for their runs. As Bev wrote "...they were mesmerized...when you can get a group of young girls to stand quietly in one place for a period of time, you've got their attention!" The Fairfax Audubon trip had a delayed start due to rain, but they also eventually trudged happily along with our Barbara Chambers in the MUD, catching Common Yellowthroats, Yellow and Prothonotary Warblers, Carolina Chickadees, Swainson's Thrushes, a Baltimore and Orchard Oriole, but just missing the Yellow-breasted Chats that were waiting for the nets to open when the rain stopped. The Migratory Bird Day Bird-a-Thon was a washout.

The Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler were the species most caught. There were 64 yellowthroats, slightly more males than females, all caught in May. We were able to age 25% as SY (same percent as in 2002). There were 57 "butter-butts," twice as many males as females, starting the very first day, 6 Apr, and through by the first week in May. Half were aged as SY (35% in 2002). The Common Yellowthroats and Yellow-rumps together represented one-third of the birds.

The White-throated Sparrow was the third most encountered bird with 29, an equal number of males as females, for those that could be sexed; movement heaviest in late April. Over 25% were aged as SY; 70% were netted before mid-morning. Rounding out the top handful were 17 Northern Waterthrushes, overwhelmingly of indeterminable sex and ASY. The first one was caught on 7 May, but most came in late May. All told, 55 species were banded bringing the station total for three years to 72 species.

Among the highlights were Tree and Northern Rough-winged swallows, a Rusty Blackbird, 15 species of warbler with both the Yellow and Western-type palms, and almost the full complement of thrushes: Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, Hermit, Wood, and American Robin. We banded 16 orioles: 11 Orchard and five Baltimore, and recaptured one Orchard from 2002. Our owl neighbor in the tree next to the banding station fledged at least one Great Horned Owl chick.

Also, among the highlights at any banding station are the recaptures. We had a total of 21 birds that had been banded at OCCO in the spring of 2001 or 2002: a couple each of Prothonotary and Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting; also the local downy, hairy, red-bellied, chickadee, titmouse, Carolina Wren, cardinals, goldfinches and a grackle.

In 2003, OCCO had its first "foreign" return! A Prothonotary Warbler netted this spring had been banded in 2001 at a Mason Neck MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) site, approximately four miles WNW of the OCCO site

There was some discussion as to whether banding on Saturday and Sunday, or sometimes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, caused the birds to become net-shy after the first day. Two "second days" were not good but three were better than their preceding day, so I do not think any conclusions can really be drawn.

Bird banding can determine migration routes, seasonal movement, habitat use, survival, longevity, population fluctuations, home range, stopover site faithfulness, nest site fidelity and breeding success. Banding can also provide data on what birds are using a particular area when, how many birds are there, and if they are migrants. Conservation priorities may then be set using these data.

