

2004

Eastern Regional News

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (2004) "Eastern Regional News," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 29 : Iss. 4 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol29/iss4/10>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

Island Beach State Park, between 19 Aug and 16 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 46 days during that 90-day period; there were three banding days in Aug, ten in Sep, 24 in Oct, and nine in Nov. There were two days with three of the stations in operation simultaneously, five days with two stations active and the remaining 39 days with only a single station active.

In the discussion that follows, when referring to "prior-years data," prior-year averages are based on the 16-year period 1987-2002.

Once again our recent history of below-average numbers of birds banded continues. Our 2200 total birds banded was only 37.5% of the long-term average and was the lowest total in the comparison period. Our 0.92 b/nh was 57.9% of average and barely exceeded last years 0.91 b/nh making these the only two years we recorded less than 1 b/nh.

Especially conspicuous was that the big October flights, for which Island Beach is famous, never materialized for the second consecutive year. The two species banded in the greatest number over the years were Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler, with long-term averages of 1191 and 627 individuals banded per season. This year they came in with totals of 290 and 110—38% and 27% of average! Sparrows fared better this year with the "big 4" – Song, Swamp, White-throated, and Junco – each coming in at between 75% and 100% of long-term average. In raw numbers, warblers were low this season, but that may well be merely a result of poor coverage in September (only 10 days compared to an average of 18.5 days).

Species of note this year included single individuals of Louisiana Waterthrush and Grasshopper, Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow.

Summary of the Best Days of the Season				
Date (# Stations Operating)	# Species	# Birds	# Birds/NH	Comments
6 Oct (1)	33	188	1.44	highest species total and # banded
16 Oct (1)	11	125	8.93	highest capture rate (tie)
19 Oct (1)	17	125	8.93	highest capture rate (tie)
2 Nov (1)	10	129	3.91	unusually high flight for November!

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2004

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

We welcome a new station to this, the seventh AFR Spring report - West Hill Banding Station, located along the Blackstone River corridor near Northbridge, MA. Greenwell, Northview, and Bedford Valley Stations did not operate during spring 2004. John Miles earns the award for the longest season, opening nets on 29 Feb and closing on 14 Jun, despite a broken foot.

Overall, 28,340 birds were banded, up 3124 birds from spring 2003. The "best day" ranged from as early as 28 Apr at Occoquan Bay, VA., to as late as 23 May at Appledore, ME, but it fell between 9-12

May at eight stations, with five stations reporting their best day on 10 May.

Results were mixed at the 15 reporting stations: eight stations' totals were up from the previous spring, while seven stations reported totals down. Birds /100 nhs were also just about evenly split.

As usual, the station narratives make interesting reading, from Crown Point's educational video "Journey North," to dragonfly studies at Kestrel Haven, to the ongoing research at Braddock Bay and Appledore, to the King Rail at Rock Point and much more!

We continue to solicit reports for the spring report from new reporting stations, and thank all of the current participants—from banders-in-charge to volunteers and assistants at all the stations—for their effort.

Table 1. Spring 2003 AFR Banding Summary

	Crown Point NY	Lewiston NY	Manitou Bch NY	Ruthven ON	Rock Point ON	Appledore ME	Selkirk ON
Inclusive Dates	5/9-5/23	5/3 - 5/20	4/23 - 5/31	3/29 - 6/1	3/22 - 6/3	5/6 - 6/8	2/29 - 6/14
Total Days	15	8	39	62	59	34	91
Nets Used	5 to 19	15	1 to 39	16	13 to 16	5 to 9	0 to 19
Total Net Hours	3,713	675	7,617	4,433	5,204	3,346	9,336
% Cght in Traps	1%	0%	0%	4.9%	7.6%	0%	19.1%
Best Day #/ date	147 on 5/12	34 on 5/11	472 on 5/10	112 on 5/10	154 on 5/10	201 on 5/23	223 on 5/10
Best Diversity/date	30 on 5/11	13 on 5/3,5/11	38 on 5/10	29 on 5/10	29 on 5/11	31 on 5/15	36 on 5/10
Total Banded 2003	507	345	3392	1347	2443	2471	2174
Total Banded 2004	575	179	3891	1301	2577	2433	2040
Total Species 2003	44	42	89	79	81	68	81
Total Species 2004	52	39	85	83	91	73	77
Birds/100nh 2003	13.7	43.4	33.1	28.5	48.3	66.5	17.1
Birds/100nh 2004	15.5	26.5	51.1	26.6	45.7	72.7	17.6

Table 1 (cont'd.) . Spring 2003 AFR Banding Summary

	Long Point ON	Kestrel Hven NY	West Hill Pk MA	Presque Isle PA	Wing Isl MA	Powdermill PA	Isl Beach NJ	Occoquan Bay VA
Inclusive Dates	4/1 - 6/10	4/25 - 5/30	4/24 - 6/6	3/28 - 5/30	3/6 - 6/11	3/2 - 5/31	3/5 6/8	4/4 - 5/29
Total Days	71	19	23	14	18	70	35	26
Nets Used	0 to 47	2 to 12	11 to 22	5 to 12	1 to 15	7 to 65	3 to 26	1 to 15
Total Net Hours	7,684	438	1,526	650	1,407	13,075	2,078	2,101
% Cght in Traps	23.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Best Day #/ date	369 on 5/10	137 on 5/9	42 on 5/16	54 on 5/17	54 on 5/14	75 on 5/7	216 on 5/19	46 on 4/30
Best Diversity/date	44 On 5/21	19 on 5/9	18 on 5/14	21 on 5/17	15 on 5/14	32 on 5/7,5/9	26 on 5/16,5/19	14 on 4/10,16;5/8
Total Banded 2003	6034	724	466	773	259	2479	1444	358
Total Banded 2004	9735	701	480	347	318	1827	1481	455
Total Species 2003	110	66	51	66	34	105	69	55
Total Species 2004	121	55	51	58	42	99	67	57
Birds/100nh 2003	123.5	68.9	34.4	68.6	20	20.8	113.3	46
Birds/100nh 2004	126.7	160	31.5	53.4	23	14	71.3	25

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

This marked the 29th 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 9-23 May. Now operated by the Crown Point Banding Association (CPBA), the station is situated west of the ruins of French and British forts on the 360-ac grounds of the historic site.

127 Myrtle Warbler
105 American Goldfinches
27 Gray Catbird
23 White-crowned Sparrow
22 Baltimore Oriole
21 Yellow Warbler
19 Blue Jay
16 Cedar Waxwing
16 American Redstart
14 Common Yellowthroat

A sunny 10 May gave way to late showers and overnight rain, an early fallout of migrants arrived and stayed for several days, feeding voraciously on green caterpillars in the hawthorn leaves. Sunny, hot (83°F) 11 May was the best day for variety, with 30 species and 103 individuals banded. The next day was a record high 84° and the best for numbers, with 147 birds of 26 species netted. But as the sunny days with southerly winds continued, the birds moved on, and by 19 May (and with 19 nets opened for 12 hours!) only eight birds of four species were banded. Rain and cooler weather finally arrived on 22 May, grounding a few late migrants and providing 38 birds of 13 species on 23 May.

A total of 575 individuals of 52 species were banded, including 16 different warblers— among them two Blue-winged Warblers 10-12 May and an Orange-crowned Warbler on 10 May. There were an additional 20 returns of 11 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest apparently a Wood Thrush and an American

Goldfinch that are at least six years, 11 months old. Killdeer and Purple Finch were new species for the station, and we set new records for numbers of individuals for Tree Swallow (10), Barn Swallow (10), White-breasted Nuthatch (2), and Blue-winged Warbler (2). We also banded the second Tufted Titmouse in 29 years.

The banding and educational program is now a project of the newly formed CPBA, the current board of High Peaks Audubon Society having withdrawn sponsorship after nearly three decades. Visitors this year included 15 groups of 170+ students, plus 28+ adult teachers/supervisors from Adirondack Wilderness Challenge (3 groups); Bolton Central 5th grade; BSA Troops 19, 30, 40, 116 and mixed troops; Crown Point Central Spanish; GSA Troops 197, 520, & 572; Lake Placid Central Elementary; and Lake Placid Central Middle School. Over 750 students have now released a bird, received a Polaroid photo with “their” bird, and a certificate. Since only a fraction of each class gets to release a bird, we imagine that easily ten times that number have visited and been exposed to our educational program. If their bird returns in a subsequent year, or turns up elsewhere, a notice is also mailed to the student. The *Journey North* video on Crown Point banding, shot in ‘03, went out to *10 thousand* classrooms across North America during migration this spring.

After the two-year permitting process, the intrusive green ash was thinned in the immediate vicinity of the net lanes during the winter, in an effort to maintain at least a portion of the habitat in hawthorn, juniper, and cedar. The Crown Point Banding Association appreciates the support of Historic Site Manager William Farrar and his staff: Tom Nebsitt and the maintenance crew under the direction of Jake Putnam— Nate Edson, Bob Lacey, Darrell LaFrance, Jerry Meachem, and Daryl McKeon— who so quickly cleared a remainder of the green ash in May. We enjoyed the visit by Ray Perry, Nancy Pierson, and Janet Zuckerman from the NYS OPR&HP in Albany and their expert consultation on the future of our banding studies & educational efforts and the expected status of the Site as a new NYS Bird Conservation Area. We are also most grateful to those who helped transport the banding station: Kimberley Corwin of the DEC, Greg Furness, Judy and Roger Heintz, Dr. Gordon

Howard, Gary Lee, and Carole Slatkin. Other volunteers who worked at the station include Erika, Eberhard & Wendy Burkowski; Carolyn, Pierre & Woody Cyr; Melanie McCormack; Susan French Peterson; Jeff Rose; and Dr. Donald Timmons

The CPBA has completely revised the original 175-species *Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site* checklist, published in 1992, so that the OPR&HP can print a new list (now 201 species!) for visitors. After 29 years, a total of 12,036 birds of 95 species have been banded on Crown Point peninsula during May, and we're looking forward to our 30th season in 2005.

Lewiston
Niagara County, NY
Jerald J. Farrell, Bander
jsfarrell3940@juno.com

431-0790

The spring banding season started on 3 May 2004. Not many warbler species were observed at this time but nets were opened. As the season progressed the warbler species count did not improve. This banding station showed the lowest ever for b/100nh. This season was the 19th spring banding season for the Lewiston Station and by far the worst for total birds banded as well as total species. The nets were taken down on 29 May.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
29 Gray Catbird			100
22 Magnolia Warbler	5		95
16 Ruby-cr. Kinglet			100
12 Nashville Warbler			100
7 Rose-br. Grosbeak	14	43	43
7 Bl.-and-wh. Warbler		28	72
6 Black-cap. Chickadee			100
5 Blue Jay			100
4 Wood Thrush			100
4 Swainson's Thrush	50		50
4 Chestnut-sided Warbler			100
4 Tennessee Warbler			100

The Magnolia Warbler and Gray Catbird still are the top two species banded. The high Yellow Warbler numbers of last year did not repeat with this year's total return to the norm for the station.

This spring season was again cut short a few days because of rain, but even on the good banding days numbers were **very** disappointing. Net lanes were mud and running water for the total season and knee rubber boots were the necessary footwear.

I had a total of 12 local recaptures this spring. One Blue-winged Warbler was banded as an AHY male on 21 May 1997; this bird is at least eight years old. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded on 18 May 1998 and recorded as an ASY male. This bird has been recaptured every year since; its age is at least seven years.

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

The nineteenth consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the (Kaiser-Manitou Beach) banding station was carried out for 39 days beginning 23 Apr and continuing until 31 May 2004. There were 3891 birds banded of 85 forms. An additional 44 female and 38 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
395 Magnolia Warbler	56.2	29.6	14.2
300 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	23.0	23.0	54.0
283 Gray Catbird	39.9	26.3	33.8
254 American Redstart	53.1	35.8	11.1
210 White-thr. Sparrow	36.2	16.7	47.1
184 Com. Yellowthroat	32.1	10.3	57.6
165 Blue Jay	41.2	45.5	14.3
141 W Palm Warbler			100.0
140 Myrtle Warbler	60.0	27.9	12.1
131 Wilson's Warbler	44.3	22.9	32.8

There were 506 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology. Of these recaptures, 42 were birds that returned from a previous season. Noteworthy among these were an American Robin and a Common Grackle in their seventh year, a grackle in its sixth year; three starlings, a Wilson's

Warbler, and an American Goldfinch in their fifth year; a robin, two catbirds, a starling, an American Redstart, four Common Yellowthroats, a Song Sparrow, a cardinal, and a goldfinch in their fourth year.

The only foreign recovery was a Common Yellowthroat (#2220-60372) banded at K-MB on 20 Sep 2001 found dead near Camden, ME, on 11 May 2004. The recovery location is approximately 433 mi NNE of Manitou Beach.

A Cedar Waxwing was captured with an orange tail band. A Swainson's Thrush and Mourning Warbler each had a tumor on their lower mandibles. A Western Palm Warbler had crossed mandibles and a White-throated Sparrow and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet each had only one eye. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet had a deformed foot. At least 14 Yellow Warblers with Scaly Leg were released unbanded. Three birds had feather lice and seven had mites. Ticks were removed from five birds.

The total number of birds banded (3891) during spring 2004 was above the mean (3395). Alder Flycatcher was a new species for the spring cumulative list, which now stands at 137 forms.

Birds banded in record high numbers were Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Red-winged Blackbird. Because we were not able to begin banding operations until 23 Apr, we missed many of the early migrants. Both Brown Creeper and Yellow Warbler captures were the lowest ever. In addition, Golden-crowned Kinglet was missing after being captured in 14 of the past 14 years; Eastern Phoebe after 13 of 14 years; Cape May Warbler after 11 of 14 years; Downy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow Palm Warbler, and American Tree Sparrow after 10 of the past 14 years.

In addition to our migration monitoring, Brendan McCabe, a SUNY Brockport graduate student, took blood samples from White-throated Sparrows to study differences in blood lipids in tan and white-morph individuals. Dr. Mark Deutschlander photographed birds under UV light and also

studied nighttime migration orientation of some thrushes and warblers. Fecal samples were taken from some birds for a study by Nazareth College professor Dr. Beverly Brown. Meena Haribal obtained samples of preen gland secretions from some birds. Seven ticks found on birds were removed and preserved and were sent to Dr. Janet Huie of Carthage College for identification.

Linda Boutwell (Rochester, NY), Margaret Hahn (Kalamazoo, MI), Jennifer Hanley (Toms River, NJ), Sue Orrell (Geneva, NY), Keri Parker (Takoma Park, MD), and Barbara Wagner (Fairport, NY) successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

Dan Bushey from the Diversified Occupations (DO) program at Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, provided excellent assistance for 10 days. Courtney Rawleigh from The Harley School completed a three-week senior internship at the banding station.

We gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors to the banding station, and on 16 May we hosted an open house for Genesee Land Trust, with from 150-200 visitors attending. Students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, visited on 18-20 May. Several groups of homeschoolers, including the LEAH group also visited the station.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Ann Adams, Liz Barry, Linda Boutwell, Don Cowley, Virginia Duffy, Jack Duval, Judy Engerman, Peggy Fuller, Maureen Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Meena Haribal, Donna Hilborn, Mari Kimura, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Carolyn Marrocco, Patti O'Kane, Paula Peng, Debbie Reed, Jessie Roberts, Judith Scarl, Jeanne Skelly, Lois Smith, Ruth Stork, and Kathy Tetlow.

Special appreciation to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara; to Bob and Charlene Reed, Linda Boutwell, 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, ON

Bander: Rick Ludkin

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret

This marks the ninth spring banding season at Ruthven Park. We started on 29 Mar and banded/monitored almost continuously for the next 62 days – finishing on 1 Jun. Although we did not band on days of seriously inclement weather, we would do a census and try to get a sense of the types and numbers of birds moving through the site. We had the best overall coverage that we have ever had. In fact, we did not miss a day in May. This was due to the sharing of the load by three banders: myself, Loretta Mousseau and Brian Pomfret. We ended up banding 1,301 birds (fourth highest total) of 83 forms (new record).

110 American Goldfinch
92 Magnolia Warbler
83 White-throated Sparrow
71 Gray Catbird
65 Yellow Warbler
64 Red-winged Blackbird
55 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
44 Chipping Sparrow
41 Common Yellowthroat
40 Song Sparrow

Ruthven Park National Historic Site is located on the banks of the Grand River about 2 km north of the town of Cayuga (Lat-Long: 425-0795). The area is a mosaic of agricultural lands, old fields, and forest tracts (associated with numerous ponds or 'sloughs'). The banding area surrounds the spacious lawns/grounds of the historic mansion. The net lanes are cut into the successional scrub, which provides a buffer between the open meadows and lawns and the surrounding forest.

This spring was cold and very wet – in fact, rainfall this spring set new high records. Consequently, the insect hatch was late (and probably reduced). Early nesting birds seemed to suffer as we found a couple of dead clutches of Eastern Bluebirds in boxes following cold, wet periods. May was somewhat warmer but still quite wet. Interestingly, wet unsettled weather at Ruthven Park seems to have a different effect on migrants in April than it

does in May. Poor weather in April seems to keep migrants confined to the leading edges of coastlines (in our case, Lake Erie). In May the same weather results in 'fall-outs'- large numbers of migrants coming to ground in areas where they can find food and it is a bit warmer—usually inland from the coast.

We had nine net lanes containing 16 nets (4 singles and 5 chains containing 2-3 nets each). 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. Birds were 'processed' in the recently refurbished banding lab located in one of the small outbuildings of the historic site.

It was the worst of times, it was the best of times.....or something like that. Our April results were the worst for that month in the past nine years both in terms of the number of birds banded – only 288 – and of the rate of capture – only 13.8 b/100nh this despite excellent coverage. In 1999 (and since then) our station effort/net hours reached a level that makes between-year comparisons possible. Our next lowest April was 2000 – 339 birds banded. On the other hand, we had our best May in terms of numbers banded (981); the rate of capture, though, was only the fourth best (35.9 b/100nh). We caught more warblers this year than in any other – 383 (25 sp.), representing 29% of the total catch; both are highs. Our largest single day catch was 112 recorded on 10 May. This represents the first time we have banded more than 100 birds on a spring day.

We had 168 "returns"; of special interest was a Great Crested Flycatcher originally banded in 1999. Being a bird of the treetops you usually do not catch them once, let alone twice, five years apart (and several roundtrips to Central/South America later). Also of interest was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that had been banded in 1997.

We were open and operating on 62 of the possible 65 days (95.4%). This could only have been managed with the co-operation and help of a number of dedicated and skilled volunteers. **5-6 weeks:** Rick Ludkin; **3-4 weeks:** Loretta Mousseau; **2-3 weeks:** Brian Pomfret, Teegan Docherty, Al Thrower, Linda Thrower; **4-6 days:**

Norm Pomfret, John Shoveller, Peter Thoem, Walter Peace, Marlene Pomfret, Elaine Serena, Barb Sharon; **1-3 days:** Bryce Edwards, Maureen Moore, Kristen Niwranski, Cathy Badger, Darryl Edwards, Hannah Badger, Louise Unitt, Nancy Furber, Dan Chambers, Jim Schofield, Jean Schofield, James Lees.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust and especially the staff of Ruthven Park for their wonderful 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, ON

James A. Smith, Bander

benavis@sympatico.ca

James Lees, Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young, Gisele Mills, Chief Assistants

This year James Lees, a British ringer, received a sub-permit and was able to take on some of the banding days and allow me a few days off. The other volunteers continued to give excellent service and made the operation of the banding station easier.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
247 White-thr. Sparrow	44.1	51.8	4.1
192 Common Grackle	27.0	34.4	38.6
191 Yellow Warbler	48.2	51.8	-
184 Amer. Goldfinch	56.0	34.8	9.2
142 Gray Catbird	35.9	63.4	0.7
127 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	44.0	54.4	1.6
119 Song Sparrow	51.3	40.3	8.4
102 Com. Yellowthroat	41.2	57.8	1.0
85 Nashville Warbler	40.0	60.0	-
84 Amer. Tree Sparrow	53.6	44.0	2.4

An additional two nets were put into a location that was originally used in 2000. This is over a marsh area and it resulted in the capture and banding of a King Rail. This species was a surprise to all concerned, although we had heard what we thought was a Virginia Rail.

Net captures were again recorded, resulting in similar statistics as in previous years. Most nets account for about 4% of the birds banded except for the feeder net which captured 15% . This net is most significant during the early part of the season and again with the White-throated Sparrows. Most American Goldfinches are also caught at this net. A good number of non-feeder species are also caught at this location, perhaps attracted by the feeder birds.

Some extended banding days were conducted with the birds being caught and banded after the six-hour period. These birds were non-standard banding for reporting to the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. James Lees banded on some Sundays which was also a departure from previous years. Three incidents of an extra 6-m net being used to catch a specific species resulted in our first Hooded Warbler, an Eastern Phoebe, and an American Woodcock. The net was placed along a ditch where the Hooded Warbler had been observed, again at a nesting site and the third time where a male woodcock was observed to be landing. All were within my designated 10-min square and within the park. An evening with two nets open and a tape lure resulted, within 10 min of full dark, in the capture and banding of the targeted Whip-poor-will heard that morning within the banding area. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was also caught in one of the regular nets. A higher-than-normal number of Common Grackles were caught in the J-trap this year probably due to the trap having been moved to a more open location within the banding area.

This spring was one of the wettest. It was similar to the spring of 2000, although the mud this year was extremely bad and did not dry out until the end of the banding season. Only a few days were lost to weather, although some banding days started later or ended earlier because of rain. The addition of boardwalks, thanks in part to a grant from T.D. Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, helped a great deal with our mud problem and made net rounds much easier.

We had a higher-than-normal species count this year with the addition of some more southern species such as the King Rail mentioned above,

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-breasted Chat, Sedge Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Rusty Blackbird, and Hooded Warbler. This corresponds to reporting of higher-than-normal sightings of some of those species in southern Ontario. Rusty Blackbirds are seen each year but perhaps because of the wet conditions in the banding area, came down to be caught this year. Of the 91 species caught, 47% were for 10 or fewer individuals and 22% were for 50 to 11 individuals which is about the same as in previous years.

Recaptured birds totaled 324 entries with some birds accounting for multiple entries. My re-trap protocol allows for birds to be released without processing if originally banded in the past 24 hours, so other birds were caught again but not processed.

Date First Banded Re-trap Data

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
9	21	45	121	123	5

Of the nine birds first banded in 2000 three were the same Black-capped chickadee and the rest were Blue Jay-2, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, and Northern Cardinal. The foreign birds were: a Wilson's Warbler, which I still have not heard anything about although it is reported as being banded at Long Point which is 70 mi west of me; Brown-headed Cowbird, which was reported as originally banded at Long Point; American Goldfinch first banded at Ruthven, which is 26 mi northwest; Black-capped Chickadee, which I have not heard anything about, although it is supposed to be a U.S. band; Song Sparrow first banded at Selkirk. For the second year in a row I reported the same Common Yellowthroat with a returned certificate for a banded Barn Swallow. Obviously the band number has been damaged since it has not been read correctly at least twice. I will be watching for it next season. I give my apologies to Dr. Winkler of Cornell Univ. if he received notification of a recovery of his banded Barn Swallow (1671-82668). This particular string of 1C bands (1671-62000) has caused me problems in reading on at least two other occasions.

A change that may have an impact on my banding area was the destruction of ideal habitat just to the north of the park. This land was turned back into farming land with the bulldozing of the brush and succession plants that had been there. Also of note was the blight that turned the high-bush cranberry and other *Viburnum* brown and will reduce or eliminate the fruit crop in the fall.

Four bird identification teaching sessions were conducted with the Environmental Restoration class at Niagara College in St. Catharines. Part of the requirement was that they visit the banding station. Two elementary class visits and banding demonstrations were given within the park. One scout troop visit and banding demonstration was done. An article was submitted for publication in the *North American Bird Bander*.

As a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, data are submitted to Bird Studies Canada. These data include banding, re-capture, 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 volunteers who are willing to come and learn and do what has to be done at the banding station.

Financially we are supported through grants or donations by Haldimand Bird Observatory, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada, T.D. Friends of the Environment, Ontario Power Generator, and individual contributors. Thanks also 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, ME

Sara Morris, Compiler

morriss@canisius.edu

L. Burton, E. Caruana, K. Covino, D. Fitch, L. Herlihy, M. Hurban, S. Lee, K. Mattern, F. Melendy, S. Musilli, M. Mustillo, J. Panasiewicz, S. Parkinson, C. Riccelli, G. Shipley, M. Stauffer, A. Thiede, L. Zeltman, *Banders*

Spring 2004 represents the 15th year of substantial spring banding on Appledore. Overall, the season was a relatively average one. The numbers of birds captured (2,433) and net-hours (3,346) were very close to the 15-year averages (average birds captured = 2468; average net-hours = 3,370). At the station, this year was affectionately known as the year of the flycatcher. Both Yellow-bellied and Traill's flycatchers were significantly more abundant than normal (YBFL average = 37.1, 2004 = 147; TRFL average = 35.4, 2004 = 96). Wilson's Warblers also were captured in numbers higher than normal (average = 18.2, 2004 = 40). No species was significantly less abundant than normal, although a drop in Common Yellowthroats offset the increases in other species (average = 513, 2004 = 340). The only new species banded was an Alder Flycatcher that conveniently vocalized during handling. Station personnel were excited by a number of other notable captures, including our second Chuck-will's-widow, Hairy Woodpecker, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
340 Com. Yellowthroat	58.8	24.1	17.1
327 Magnolia Warbler	63.6	26.0	10.4
181 Red-eyed Vireo	22.1	10.5	67.4
147 Yel.-bel. Flycatcher	33.3	6.1	60.5
124 White-thr. Sparrow	51.6	17.7	30.6
102 Amer. Redstart	64.7	28.4	6.9
96 Traill's Flycatcher	0	1.0	99.0
86 Gray Catbird	71.3	18.4	10.3
75 Bl. & wh. Warbler	41.3	36.0	22.7
73 Blackpoll Warbler	51.7	30.3	18.0

Although no days were lost due to weather, nets were closed for part of 12 days due to rain and/or heavy fog. Since many of these were during the morning, weather is likely to have had a greater impact than normal on the number of birds handled.

Our banding data were used in numerous presentations during the year, including one at the American Ornithologists' Union in Aug 2004, and four presentations at the Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists joint meeting in Apr 2004. Our research efforts continue to focus on using capture-mark-recapture methods to model stopover length, and this year

we presented an additional project on the effects of ticks on migrant birds.

During the spring, the banding station regularly provided banding demonstrations for visitors to Appledore Island, particularly participants in credit and non-credit courses at the Shoals Marine Lab (SML), visiting birding groups, and a number of classes from visiting high school and colleges. SML 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. I also wish to gratefully acknowledge our numerous dedicated volunteers, who provide support both through their work and through financial contributions to the station.

Selkirk Provincial Park **424-0795**
Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, ON
John Miles, bander
 miles@kwic.com
 Mike Furber, chief assistant

The ninth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced 29 Feb and ended 14 Jun. The station was manned daily once it opened, except for days of inclement weather or personal commitments, with banding taking place on 91 days. Due to medical problems and a broken foot on the bander-in-charge, there was no coverage for the first third of March. Fortunately, the break could be walked on and, with care, daily coverage resumed 10 Mar, ten days after the mishap. In addition to the BIC, 13 volunteers spent one or more days assisting with running the station.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>	<u>% HY</u>
194 Wh-thr. Sparrow			100	
122 Song Sparrow			95.9	4.1
119 Slate-col. Junco	76.5	21.8	1.7	
97 Myrtle Warbler	22.7	43.3	33.0	
93 Golden-cr. Kinglet			100.0	
86 Red-wg. Blackbird	47.7	39.5	12.8	
85 Nashville Warbler	31.8	58.8	9.4	
84 Ruby-cr. Kinglet			100.0	
69 Common Grackle			100.0	
67 Amer. Goldfinch	62.7	19.4	17.9	

Except for days of extreme adverse weather, when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from a half-hour before sunrise for a minimum of six hours for the passerine banding. On a couple of mornings, banding commenced after the morning rain had ceased.

The spring of 2004 saw a fairly dry April followed by almost record rainfall in May. Over five inches were recorded at the banding station; the fairly dry trails around the banding site in late April turned to churned mud by mid May.

Passerine banding was carried out using 19 mist nets, six ground traps and a Jay trap. No changes in the net placements were made for the passerine operation, and the setup appears to be the most efficient for the area.

The first noticeable influx of migrants occurred 13 Mar when the Song Sparrows started to arrive; 27 Mar saw the vanguard of Golden-crowned Kinglets appear followed by a variety of migrants on 29 Mar.

There was a small influx on 5 Apr but it took until 16 Apr for a good flight to arrive when 72 birds of 13 species were banded. The rest of the month was quiet, but there was a good variety of migrants around 29 - 30 Apr. Overall, April was not a good month for numbers banded at Selkirk.

There was a good influx of birds on 3-4 May with good variety, and things started to pick up on 6 May; there was no coverage on 7 May but 8 May was good and then 9-11 May were the big days of the spring. There were three days of 199 or more banded each day with a new station high of 223 birds banded on 10 May of 36 species. The daily totals then slowly dropped off and no further waves of birds occurred for the rest of the month.

There were 2040 birds of 77 species banded in the spring of 2004, which is the fourth best spring at Selkirk. Pine Siskin was new for the station, bringing the station's banded species count up to 124.

There were 141 birds retrapped during the spring - some retrapped many times. There were 112 returns. While most of these are residents or

nesting birds in the area, the recaptures of a Slate-colored Junco and a Gray Catbird banded in 1999 are noteworthy.

The Haldimand Bird Observatory operates three field stations separated by several miles. Occasionally there are interstation recoveries; one such occurred this spring when an American Goldfinch banded at Selkirk on 24 Apr 1999 was retrapped at Ruthven Park 7 Mar 2004.

Noteworthy foreign recoveries were a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded 4 Nov 2003 recovered 12 Apr 2004 in Toronto, Ontario, and a Brown-headed Cowbird banded 14 Apr 2002 recovered 20 Mar 2004 in Chattanooga, TN.

There were 19 visitor days recorded this spring at the banding site.

I extend my appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Park Contractor, Hans Lutzi, for his support and for permission to band in the Park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of BSC with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program, the Norfolk Field Naturalists and George Pond. Also the Observatory's friends and members whose greatly appreciated individual donations included bird bags, 3-ring binders, file cabinets, materials for boardwalks, timely cash donations and other items. Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

And finally, appreciation to the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **4-6 days:** Mike Furber, Mike Kimber, Suzanne May, Ken McIlwrick; **1-3 days:** Allison Furber, Jamie Furber, Matt Furber, Nancy Furber, Tim Furber, Sue Kimber, Jamie Miles, George Pond, and Bill Smith.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Haldimand-Norfolk 423-0801
County, ON 423-0802
lpbo@bsc-eoc.org

Stuart A. Mackenzie and Christian A. Friis, Banders

Kevin Picard, Janus Ethelberg, Hugh McArthur, Audrey Heagy, Chief Assistants

Long Point Bird Observatory's 45th spring migration was an average year numbers wise, but exceptional in terms of rarities. In late February and through March, Tundra Swans whitened the surrounding Long Point and Turkey Point marshes while other waterfowl blackened the inner bay. Migration monitoring kicked off on 1 Apr with a mediocre mix of Golden-crowned Kinglets and Slate-colored Juncos.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1233 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	52.2	12.0	35.8
886 Blue Jay	76.1	6.6	7.3
440 Red-wg. Blackbird	60.4	33.6	6.0
419 Yellow Warbler	53.0	32.5	14.5
382 Amer. Goldfinch	24.3	62.6	13.1
377 Magnolia Warbler	38.5	38.7	22.8
365 Com. Yellowthroat	39.4	22.7	47.9
338 Gray Catbird	45.8	36.4	17.8
319 Br.-hd. Cowbird	62.4	19.1	18.5
313 Myrtle Warbler	56.9	31.6	11.5

As the spring progressed the passage at Long Point appeared to be more episodic than usual with strong waves around 30 Apr – 4 May, 10 – 17 May, and a little push from 25 – 27 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows dominated the first big wave. The next one hit in the second week of May and we got soaked as hundreds of White-throated Sparrows and a variable grab bag of other migrants kept our staff and volunteers very busy. There were 685 birds banded on 10 May alone, an incredible 369 at our Old Cut site in six hours of banding. During the week of 10 - 17 May, LPBO banded 2897 birds of 93 species!

This mid-May tidal wave brought with it an incredible number of rarities including 2 Kentucky, 4 Worm-eating, a Yellow-throated Warbler, 2 Summer Tanagers, and a Harris's Sparrow

banded, as well as a Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, and 2 Laughing Gulls that were not banded. Warblers were well represented this spring as we banded 35 species, including Yellow-breasted Chats (4), Ovenbirds (100) and both Northern (44) and Louisiana waterthrushes (2). May also brought the 'Days of the Jays'. A phenomenal 846 Blue Jays were banded this spring alone, breaking the previous yearly record set in 1966! This brings into question West Nile Virus worries that a lot of us may have been having about our blue-feathered friends. Interestingly enough, 76.1% of these birds were aged as second-year. Similarly, 2003's Blue Jay totals were the highest they have been since 1980.

Two traditionally more southern species whose northern range limit is in southern Ontario shattered earlier banding and daily estimated total records. Eight White-eyed Vireos were banded and many were observed, matching a previous high for the entire year of 1988. We also had an exceptional northward eruption of Red-bellied Woodpeckers as 16 were banded (highest ever total) and as many as 75 separate migrants were observed throughout the season.

Two Acadian Flycatchers (endangered in Canada) were banded this season, along with one very special re-captured color banded female from our Tip station. She was originally banded in the summer of 2003 in Backus woods just 10 km north of Long Point. Another astounding recovery resulted in LPBO breaking yet another longevity record, this time for a female Eastern Kingbird. She was originally banded at our Breakwater field station in May 1994 as an after-hatch-year. She was re-captured in 1996, 1998, 2001, and for the fourth time this June, making her at least 10 years old.

Well over 1000 visitors to our Old Cut field station enjoyed banding and birding demos as well as our visitor center. All told, LPBO banded nearly 10,000 birds this spring of 121 species, and 223 species were observed largely due to the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the 48 volunteers who spent time at LPBO this season. Thanks again for the wonderful spring.

Kestrel Haven

Avian Migration Observatory

422-0764

Burdett, Schuyler County, NY

John and Sue Gregoire, Banders

khmo@att.net

We had many windy and/or rainy days that greatly curtailed operations. Often it was simply too windy to net safely. Interestingly, our daily point counts did not point to much of a migration here. All those strong winds from the south must have carried most birds over our station to the shores of Lake Ontario. Of 46 possible days, we were only able to open for short times on 19 days. Only three of those allowed us to stay open after noon. The high point was with White-crowned Sparrows that had an extended 30-day stopover here. Our total was stable and the measure of efficiency in terms of b/100nh was up due to the large number of American Goldfinch.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
419 Amer. Goldfinch	62	38	-
34 E. Wh.-cr. Sparrow			100
31 Cedar Waxwing	64	26	10
18 Purple Finch	44	39	17
18 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	33	67	-
18 Yellow Warbler	67	33	-
16 Gray Catbird			100
14 Com. Yellowthroat			100
11 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	64	36	-
10 Song Sparrow			100

We banded 701 individuals of 55 species in 19 days of operation. We also had 81 repeats, a whopping 106 returns and 27 hummingbirds not banded. We also did not band two other birds, a Yellow Warbler and a White-throated Sparrow whose tarsi were greatly enlarged by pox. We had one foreign recovery— A SY female Purple Finch that had been banded north of Albany, NY, by Bob Yunick last August. She was an active breeding bird here, giving us some idea of the range of dispersal. Thanks to large numbers of goldfinch, our measure of efficiency was 160b/100nh for newly banded birds and 185.6 b/100nh overall. Our best day was 9 May and our most species diverse day was also 9 May with 19 species banded. Our overall breakdown was 362 SY birds, 222 ASY, one TY and 116 AHY. The overall percent SY was 51.6.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 129 species plus five forms. Most Neotropicals were present in very small numbers or not at all. The only surprises were a single Gray-cheeked Thrush and a single Mourning Warbler, two species we rarely encounter in spring. A Blackpoll female presented with a very vascular brood patch making us wonder if this species was expanding its breeding range. For the first spring ever, we failed to band a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Normally, this species is present in good numbers. Adding to the concern, point counts have revealed only one pair, which is well below our norm for breeding pairs. We continued our dragonfly studies and netted five in mist nets (*Epitheca canis*, *Anax junius*, *Cordulegaster maculata* and *Libellula lydia*). The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns.

The best return was that of an American Goldfinch that established a new age record for the species at over nine years. Of our 106 returns, 29 of ten species were over 4 years of age. Four Gray Catbirds were 11, 7, 6 and 4+ years old; eight American Goldfinches were 9+, 7, 6+, 5(3), 4+ and 4 years old; a Baltimore Oriole was 7 while two Hairy Woodpeckers checked in at 7 and 4 years of age; two Common Yellowthroats were at 6+ and 5+ years; four Yellow Warblers were at 6,5(2), and 4 years old; a Purple Finch was 5+ years; two American Robins were at 6 and 4+ years old; three Song Sparrows were each 5 years of age and two Black-capped Chickadees were at 5 and 4+ years old.

Abnormalities were few and consisted of advanced cases of avian pox on the tarsi of two individuals (Yellow Warbler and White-throated Sparrow) that we did not band.

West Hill Park Banding Sta.

Northbridge, Worcester County, MA

Strickland Wheelock, Bander

Skwheelock@yahoo.com

Kathy Clayton, Jackie Pascucci, Jack Barthel, Paul and Beth Milke, Susan Coe, Holly Jessop, and Chris Volante, Chief Assistants

West Hill Park is located in Northbridge, MA, along the Blackstone River Corridor. We have permission to band birds at this site from the Army Corp of

Engineers. The banding site encompasses a variety of habitats: open fields bordered by mixed woodlands, pine uplands, fresh water marsh, and secondary growth wetlands. This was our fourth spring season at this location. Our goals are to study how resident and migrant birds utilize the varied habitats at the park, to look at migration trends through comparison of our inland banding results with coastal sites, and to educate the public about birds and their conservation needs by providing banding demonstrations.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
101 Gray Catbird	48	21	32
47 Bl.-cap. Chickadee	0	25	75
41 Red-wg. Blackbird	68	26	6
28 White-thr. Sparrow	5	0	95
25 Com. Yellowthroat	42	47	11
24 Song Sparrow	0	0	100
22 Amer. Robin	25	17	58
20 Baltimore Oriole	54	23	23
13 Amer. Goldfinch	9	36	55
12 No. Cardinal	10	20	70

The totals this spring look amazingly similar to last spring. We had a successful season. However, I have to admit that our daily experience could not compete with last year's incredible excitement. Our total number of captures was roughly the same (480 v. 466, 51 species both years), but consists of twice as many catbirds and half as many warblers. Two factors most likely played a role in the reduced number of warblers: weather conditions and having to close 10 days during peak migration for traveling. Predominant west winds pushed more migrants to the coast. Also the season was very wet, causing some net lanes to remain under water for the entire season.

Now that we have been at this site four years, a larger percentage of our captures are returns from prior seasons: (18% v. 13%); 12% of our captures both this spring and last were current season repeats. We expect this trend to continue.

Our Gray Catbird captures increased 100% this spring. This follows last fall's incredible 288 captures (86 in 2002) after a summer of great breeding success. Apparently a good number of young birds survived the winter and returned to

their hatch site. It is also interesting to look at the seasonal fluctuations in Yellow-rumped Warbler captures. This year we caught only two individuals after catching 36 last year.

We continued to improve the site this season, adding new net lanes in a more upland field-edge habitat. We also continued to refine our banding techniques, learning a lot at the EBBA conference in April. In addition, we conducted educational demos for Massachusetts Audubon's Drumlin Farm, Joppa Flats & Stony Brook sanctuaries, Scituate High School and other family groups.

Our dedicated volunteers made significant contributions to site operation: opening/closing nets, extracting birds, recording, photo documentation, web site management and weather and net productivity tracking.

Presque Isle **420-0800**
 Erie, Eric County, Pennsylvania
Ronald F. Leberman, Bander
 Barb Mitchell, Sam Stull, Chief Assistants

Bird banding this spring began on 28 Mar and ended on 30 May. A total of 14 days afield was the lowest here in seven years, mainly due to several long periods of rain and winds. In all, 347 new birds were banded of 58 species in 650 net hours. Eleven Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were netted and released unbanded. The best day was 17 May, with 54 birds banded (compared to 148 on 25 May 2003). A good sign was the better-than-usual numbers of Blackpoll and Bay-breasted warblers. A male Prairie Warbler was a new species banded here on 6 May.

112 Magnolia Warbler
 89 White-throated Sparrow
 55 Yellow Warbler
 47 Gray Catbird
 39 Swainson's Thrush
 34 American Redstart
 32 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 28 Wilson's Warbler
 19 Song Sparrow
 19 Least Flycatcher

Noteworthy returns to this station was a Yellow Warbler banded as an adult male on 18 May 1996 that has been recaptured here every May since then except for 2001 and 2002. This means that this bird was at least nine years old. Nineteen

additional Yellow Warblers returned to the station: two after 9 years, two after 8 years, two after 7 years, and 13 after 1-3 years. In addition, an adult Warbling Vireo banded in May 1997 was recaptured this May, making it at least nine years old

In addition to our regular visitors this spring, we demonstrated banding to some of the 800 middle school students from the Earth Force Youth Summit sponsored by the Glinoda Center and Allegheny Lake Erie Earth Force.

I thank all the helpers and visitors, including Barb Mitchel, Sam Stull, Donna and Pat Peters, Karen and Harley Winkleblack (who come all the way from Fort Wayne, Indiana), Evelyn Anderson, and all the staff at the park.

Wing Island Banding Station **414-0700**
Brewster, Barnstable County, MA
Susan Finnegan, Bander
sfinnegan@wingisland.org
Gretchen Putonen, Chief Assistant

This was our fourth spring season for the Wing Island Banding Station located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. Winter held on through March and inclement weather prevented us from beginning at our normal time this year. With the exception of some feeder birds caught in early March when we caught our Common Redpolls, our official net opening this year was not until 3 Apr. The season ended on 11 Jun with only 17 days of operation, mainly due to our ability to band weekends only. A total of 318 birds of 41 species were banded. Net hours totaled 1407 for a capture rate of 23 b/100nh. We used a range of 1-25 nets. Our largest daily catch was on 14 May for a total of 54 birds of 15 species. As usual, Gray Catbirds were our # 1 bird here on the coast. We banded 71 new individuals this spring. Warblers banded included American Redstart, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Myrtle, Nashville, Pine, Prairie, and Yellow. Four new species were added to our list this spring: Common Redpoll, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Bluebird, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
71 Gray Catbird	75	25	-
70 Amer. Goldfinch	63	37	-
29 Com. Yellowthroat	34	52	14
19 Bl.-cap. Chickadee	63	37	-
16 Song Sparrow	25	6	69
15 Yellow Warbler	67	33	-
15 No. Cardinal	33	-	67
8 Prairie Warbler	75	25	-
8 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	63	25	12
6 Blue Jay	50	50	-

Returns included a five-yr-old American Goldfinch and Gray Catbird; numerous four-yr-olds including 6 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 American Goldfinches, 2 Song Sparrows, 4 Common Yellowthroats, and a Gray Catbird. We captured numerous three-yr-old returns including 2 Yellow Warblers, 5 Gray Catbirds, 5 Common Yellowthroats, 1 White-throated Sparrow and numerous resident birds. One- and two-year-old returns included all of the previously mentioned birds except Yellow Warblers. We held one successful bird banding demonstration this spring, which was attended by approximately twenty people.

I thank bander Gretchen Putonen and assistant Carolyn Kennedy for all their time and effort this spring. I also thank our other banding assistants, Peter Brown, Judith Bruce, Judy Keller, Diane Silverstein, Dymrna Moore, and Bill Finnegan for their help with our operation. Judy Olsen gets a big thank-you for making us many bird bags!

Powdermill Nature Reserve **400-0791**
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Banders: Adrienne Leppold, Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill
leppold@pabirdatlas.org
rleberm@chapterpa.net
mulvihill@pabirdatlas.org
Trish Miller and Annie Lindsay, Chief Assistants

The bird-banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve, a 2,000 ac field biological station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History located in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, was in operation on 70 out of a possible 91 days during the spring 2004 season (2

Mar through 31 May). With a 42-year spring average banding total of 2,567, and only 1,827 birds banded this spring, we nearly set a new record low. Nevertheless, this spring's total was within one standard deviation of our long-term average. Our spring season capture rate was just 14 b/100nh, possibly our lowest spring capture rate ever. While our total in 2004 barely exceeded 2001 (1,819 birds banded), our capture rate was actually three fewer b/100nh than in 2001. Weather this spring may have played a role in the lower totals and capture rate—not only did rainy spring days delay or cancel banding on a few days, but also, warm summer-like weather persisted through much of April and May, forcing closing of nets well before noon on many days during the season.

This spring at Powdermill was very unusual in that no day exceeded 100 birds banded. In fact, our highest daily total was only 75 on 7 May, which tied 9 May for the most diverse day with 32 species. Nearly half of our catch on 7 May was wood warblers of 14 species, two of which were also the top catches for the day: Nashville Warbler (11) and Magnolia Warbler (8). Species diversity was just above average with a season total of 99 species, peaking the last week of April when 18 new species were added, and the first week of May, when 20 new species were added.

Ordinarily, it is not high diversity that results in high totals, but rather a handful of species making up a large proportion of our total catch. Dark-eyed Junco has long held the number one spot on the list of the top ten species banded at Powdermill. This spring, however, it fell to fourth. The low overall banding total this spring can be somewhat attributed to the lack of any heavy migration of juncos through Powdermill—the same cause was implicated in the case of our low spring totals in 2001. Even during the years with the lowest cumulative totals for juncos (i.e. 1991-2003), Dark-eyed Junco averages per year were still about 250, or more than twice this spring's total. Comparing with the earlier years, nearly 5,000 juncos were banded in the 10-year periods, meaning an almost 500 birds represented an average spring catch. This serves to emphasize the impact this single, usually abundant species can have on our overall spring season totals. It also suggests that birds breeding in the boreal zone should be receiving

more conservation attention, which is the purpose of the boreal songbird initiative (<http://www.borealbirds.org/>).

There were no rarities among the birds banded this spring and, overall, no real “highlights.” Only one bird neared a record high or low and that was Wood Thrush, which tied the previous high total of 38. The top bird for the season, Song Sparrows at 161, was the highest total for that species since 1995. While not a record setter, with 13 banded, Blackpoll Warblers came in second this year to the record season high of 15 banded in the spring of 1990. No more than a handful are usually caught each spring, and this was the highest total for this species since 1990.

While most individual species fell within 1 SD of the long-term average, the majority were on the low end of that range. Only three were statistically 1 SD or more below the mean, including Dark-eyed Junco.

Overall, we did not experience any strong flights of *Empidonax* flycatchers or many wood warblers, two groups that also tend to help boost banding totals the most. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Brown Creeper, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Pine Siskin were among the eight species considered “misses” this spring (i.e. species with a long-term average of >1 bird). However, we did have some “good gets” this spring (species with a long time average of <1). These included: Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and “Western” Palm Warbler.

Finally, we thank the following volunteers and interns who helped with banding this spring: Randi Gerrish, Dan Hinnebusch, Melissa Jakubcak, Brian Jones, Carroll Labarthe, David Leibmann, Annie Lindsay, Mike Lohr, Jake Mohlmann, Felicity Newell, Iona Newell, Jim Sheehan, Paul Sweet, Janice Sweet, and Sondra Terwilliger.

We also thank banders Tim and Rachel Dellinger from WVU and Steven and Caryl Baron from New York for their help while visiting the banding station. Valeria Ojeda, a Ph.D. student from

Patagonia, Argentina, also spent many mornings during her 10-day stay at Powdermill helping to operate the banding station, as well as, contributing time in front of the computer entering molt data for us. Thank you!

Lastly, we thank Dr. David Smith, Powdermill Director, for his ongoing support and interest in the banding efforts and research being conducted here. And, as always, we are extremely fortunate to have a highly skilled data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who painstakingly enters, checks and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

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

During the spring 2004 banding season, five banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 3 Mar and 8 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 35 days during that 98-day period; there were four banding days in Mar, four in Apr, 24 in May and three in Jun. There were two days on which four of the stations were in operation, four days with three stations in operation, and four days with two stations in operation; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active. Banders participating this season were Bruce Adams, Mary Doscher, Robert Pantle, Gale Smith and Robert Yunick. Assisting was Jennifer Hanley.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
286 Gray Catbird	68.5	12.9	18.5
247 Magnolia Warbler	72.9	25.9	1.2
212 Com. Yellowthroat	75.9	13.7	10.4
109 Blackpoll Warbler	76.1	21.1	2.8
66 Amer. Redstart	74.2	25.8	-
50 Red-eyed Vireo	58.0	28.0	14.0
48 Canada Warbler	72.9	27.1	-
47 Yellow Warbler	80.9	19.1	-
35 Bl.-and-wh. Warbler	54.3	28.6	17.1
32 No. Waterthrush	46.9	31.2	21.9

Exceptionally warm and humid weather in much of May with passage of few frontal systems provided

little excitement in the way of major fallouts. The 1481 birds banded was well below our average of 1999; on a per net-hour basis, the season's 0.71 b/nh was only 56% of our average (1.26) and was the lowest capture rate we have ever experienced.

<u>Date (# stations operating)</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u># Species</u>	<u># B/nh</u>
7 May (1)	53	16	2.21
16 May (1)	171	26	1.78
19 May (3)	216	26	1.72
21 May (4)	185	25	1.21

The major species of note was a Swainson's Warbler banded by Gale Smith on 20 May. There are only about a dozen accepted records of this species for NJ which lies just north of its breeding range, but breeding has not yet been confirmed for the state. This is, however, the fifth banding record of this species for NJ and two of the previous records also were at Island Beach.

OCCO Potomac River NWR Complex,
Occoquan Bay 383-0771
Woodbridge, Prince William Co., VA
Suzanne Miller, David Mitchell, Joseph Witt,
Banders

Bill Teetz, Gordon Knight, Barbara Chambers, Elizabeth Sellers, Joanna Taylor, Bev Smith, Chief Assistants

The 644 ac of Occoquan Bay NWR are located in Woodbridge, northern Virginia, Prince William County, 20 mi south of Washington, DC, at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan rivers.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
66 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	38	32	30
48 Myrtle Warbler	73	23	4
43 Com. Yellowthroat	44	35	21
39 Gray Catbird	26	41	33
36 Com. Grackle	18	64	18
27 Red-wg. Blackbird	59	30	11
16 No. Cardinal	31	19	50
14 No. Waterthrush	7	50	43
14 Eastern Towhee	36	50	14
14 Song Sparrow	29	14	57

Banding occurred from the first weekend in Apr through the last weekend in May, as usual. This

year, due to very infrequent rain-outs, we were able to get in 26 of the 28 scheduled days, for a record 2,101 net-hours. Our 600 volunteer hours were the same as last year as we were tending over twice as many net hours. However, our new birds (455) and non-repeating recaptures (67) did not keep pace with the extra net hours, putting our b/100nh at 25, the lowest by far (compare to 47, 49, 46) in four years. A "big" day meant dealing with 40 or 45 birds, an average day was about 20. A "lot" of visitors meant 12 or 15 people, an average day had four.

Bands were put on 455 birds of 57 species. The new species added to the OCCO list are an Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Ovenbird, bringing the station total after four seasons to 78 species. There were 67 birds recaptured: four from 2001, 10 from 2002, 13 from 2003, and 38 from 2004. There were two "foreign" recaptures: a Gray Catbird that was banded at the Mason Neck MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) MAS2 (Little Marsh Rd) site as a hatching-year bird on 25 Jul 2003. The other foreign bird was a Northern Waterthrush #1831-83637. While we do not have specific information on this bird yet, the band string was issued to the Department of Ecology and Evolution and Organismal Biology at Tulane Univ, New Orleans, LA.

The first bird on opening day was an Eastern Towhee. But we actually had two birds before this "first" one – the day before, as we were setting up and hammering in rebar and tying down poles and yelling to each other, a Field Sparrow and a White-throated Sparrow flew into a net we were using to gage proper pole placement. They left unbanded as we did not have the bands at the station yet.

We hear Eastern Wood-Pewees all the time and finally banded our first one on the last day, in the last net. Also on the last day we recaptured a Downy Woodpecker who had been banded on our very first day of operation, 8 Apr 2001. We banded our first bird weighing under 6 g—a female SY Blue-gray Gnatcatcher tipping the scales at 5.9 g. This year five female and one male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released at the net.

This was a 17-year cicada year, but while some of our neighborhoods sounded like the soundtrack from a sci-fi movie, OCCO was free of them. If they

had emerged here, we would simply have had to shut down for a while. We did seem to be picking out dragonflies more frequently than in the past.

The White-throated Sparrow was the bird most banded. In 2001 it was second to the Yellow-rumped Warbler; in 2002 it was second to the Common Yellowthroat; in 2003 it was third behind both of them. We banded 66 WTSPs in 2004, most of which could not be sexed. They were caught from 10 Apr until 8 May.

The Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was second with 48 birds receiving new bands: 69% were male, 27% female, and two birds we just couldn't determine from the plumage. MYWAs were caught from 16 Apr until 2 May.

The little Common Yellowthroat was third at 43 birds banded: 60% were male, 40% female. The first COYE was caught 21 Apr, but the first female was not caught until 8 May; we were catching them up to the last day of banding

The fourth-most banded bird was the Gray Catbird with 39, and number five was the Common Grackle with 36. These five species comprised 50% of all those banded. Rounding out the top ten are 27 Red-winged Blackbirds, 16 Northern Cardinals, 14 Northern Waterthrushes, 14 Eastern Towhees, and 14 Song Sparrows.

The Friends of the Potomac River Refuges (www.foprr.org) adopted us super nicely. They bought new nets and poles, a lot of new bags, more rebar and stakes, more line; just everything we need! FoPRR also supported Bill Teetz in building a big wonderful blend-into-the-trees storage shed. Refuge personnel Steve Boska and Jamie Revis led AmeriCorps to build a well-draining rock and stone platform upon which the tent is set. Our honor student this year from the Flint Hill School was Elena Plionis, and it was an honor having her, teaching and learning from her. Eagle Scout candidate Brian Parks from troop 1196 built a small parking lot, with fence, and public/handicap-accessible trail from there to the banding station. The Refuge has placed a portable toilet to the side of the lot, on a gravel pad, also constructed by Brian. OCCO has come quite a way from two card tables set out in the open!

The First Annual FoPRR Fall Festival and general membership meeting was held on 23 Oct 2004. Bird banding was set up for the day to demonstrate the art of mist-netting and banding.