

2006

## Eastern Regional News - Region I

North American Bird Bander

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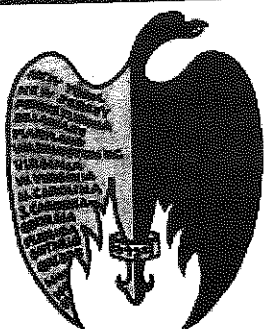
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# *Eastern Regional News*

***Eastern Bird Banding Association***

***Founded 1923***

## ***Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2005***

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Banding totals were up in the spring of 2005 at ten stations, but down at three stations (Crown Point, Braddock Bay and Ruthven), all in the most northern group of stations. Species diversity was up everywhere except Crown Point. Birds/100nh was evenly divided with half the stations up and half down, but Island Beach and Appledore had significant increases in b/100nh while Braddock Bay and Kestrel Haven had significant reductions in b/100nh. Altogether, there were 32,568 birds banded, compared to 28,340 in spring 2004.

The best day at the reporting stations ranged from as early as 3 May at Bedford Valley to as late as 28 May at Appledore, with eight stations' best day falling in the 10 – 16 May time period.

Highlights in the narratives include the 100 adopt-a-bird certificates given visiting school children at Crown Point; the important uses of Appledore's banding data resulting in several papers and a Master's Thesis; the pervasive cold temperatures at Braddock Bay that resulted in keeping the banding efforts going until 11 Jun to capture the late migrants. There were 570 birds banded between 29 May and 11 Jun (19% of the total banded all spring).

We would welcome additional reporting stations for the spring AFR report. Thanks to all who participated.

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

The spring banding station on the grounds of the 360-ac Crown Point State Historic Site celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive season of banding between 6 and 23 May. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association, through an agreement with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the station is located in hawthorn thickets west of His Majesty's Fort at Crown Point. The opening date was early and migration clearly late.

**173 American Goldfinch**  
**89 Blue Jay**  
**37 Common Yellowthroat**  
**24 Yellow Warbler**  
**24 Baltimore Oriole**  
**18 American Robin**  
**15 Myrtle Warbler**  
**13 Gray Catbird**  
**9 American Redstart**  
**8 Least Flycatcher**

Although there were a few sunny, warm days with temperatures rising into the 60s, a series of cold fronts anchored off the Atlantic coast marked much of the month, bringing showers on the back side and dropping temperatures into the low 30s in the Champlain Valley on some nights. Rain and a cold north wind on 8 May produced just five birds of three species, but a similar front that moved in 15 May produced the best variety, with 21 species banded. Heavy rain overnight then provided a

Table 1. Spring 2005 AFR Banding Summary

	Crown Point NY	Lewiston NY	Braddock Bay NY	Ruthven ON	Rock Point ON	Appledore ME	Selkirk ON
Inclusive Dates	5/6 - 5/23	5/4 - 6/3	4/15 - 6/11	3/30 - 6/1	3/28 - 6/11	5/9 - 6/8	2/27 - 6/12
Total Days	18	16	51	54	57	31	95
Nets Used	16 to 18	15	1 to 44	1 to 9	10 to 16	5 to 10	0 to 20
Total Net Hours	3713	1087.5	10,477	3409	3270	2657.3	10,987
% Cght in Traps	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.4%	6.5%	0.0%	14.9%
Best Day #/ date	57 on 5/16	48 on 5/14	210 on 5/10	105 on 5/15	117 on 5/27	585 on 5/28	172 on 5/6
Best Diversity/date	21 on 5/15	19 on 5/14	42 on 5/10	26 on 5/11	28 on 5/27	31 on 5/14	32 on 5/10
Total Banded 2004	575	179	3891	1301	2577	2433	2040
Total Banded 2005	536	270	3088	1401	1302	3028	2630
Total Species 2004	52	39	85	83	91	73	77
Total Species 2005	51	39	105	83	82	73	80
Birds/100nh 2004	15.5	26.5	51.1	26.6	45.7	72.7	17.64
Birds/100nh 2005	13.5	24.8	29.5	35.3	39.8	114	20.38

Table 1 (cont'd.). Spring 2005 AFR Banding Summary

	Long Point ON	Kestrel Havn NY	Presque Isle PA	Wing Isl MA	Bedford Vally PA	Powdermill PA	Isl Beach NJ
Inclusive Dates	4/1 - 6/10	4/6 - 5/31	4/6 - 5/31	3.5 - 6/18	4/12 - 6/11	3/2 - 6/5	3/19 - 6/9
Total Days	71	35	21	15	24	73	36
Nets Used	0 to 44	2 to 14		1 to 21	2 to 12	4 to 63	3 to 26
Total Net Hours	8,748	948	1081	315	407	11,925	2581
% Cght in Traps	27.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Best Day #/ date	889 on 5/10	86 on 5/13		91 on 5/20	18 on 5/3	198 on 5/16	596 on 5/12
Best Diversity/date	71 on 5/11	18 on 5/23		24 on 5/15	15 on 5/17	47 on 5/16	40 on 5/12
Total Banded 2004	9735	701	347	318	76	1827	1481
Total Banded 2005	12,920	892	685	440	183	2178	3015
Total Species 2004	121	55	58	42	29	99	63
Total Species 2005	129	59	71	47	46	103	82
Birds/100nh 2004	126.7	160	53.4	23	36	14	71.26
Birds/100nh 2005	106.7	94	63.7	32	44	18.3	116.8

fallout of 57 birds of 20 species the following day, as winds shifted from the north to south on a sunny 16 May. A smaller fallout of 43 birds of 17 species was netted 21 May, ahead of yet another cold front with strong north winds.

The old record of 33 Blue Jays set in 2000 was demolished by a heavy return flight, with 89 banded. There were returns of 31 birds of nine species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest a Black-capped Chickadee and a Chipping Sparrow, both now at least seven years, 11 months old. An adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk (in pursuit of a fortunate adult male Indigo Bunting) was netted shortly before dawn on 16 May, and a displaying male American Woodcock was netted just after dark on 21 May. A "Yellow" Palm Warbler on 10 May was only the second in 30 years, the other 46 banded between 1976 and 2004 were all later migrant "Western" Palms.

The station welcomed about 335 visitors, including Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club, and Bloomingdale, Bolton, Lake Placid, Minerva, and Newcomb Central Schools. Nearly a hundred children were able to release birds and receive a Polaroid photo and certificate, and four others will receive notification that two Baltimore Orioles and two American Goldfinches they released between 2002 and 2004 returned this year.

The Historic Site staff, under direction of Jake Putnam, has reclaimed the old "Bobolink Field" to the south that had become overgrown with brush, and a 20 May survey by Ray Perry of OPR&HP found not only Bobolinks, but also Eastern Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows. The 2004 hawthorn reclamation at the banding station continues to encourage birds of low thickets. The skilled staff also constructed a roofed framework of clear cedar to hold four colored panels describing our 30 years of banding and the birds of Crown Point SHS, to be named a NYS Bird Conservation Area (BCA) by Governor Pataki at the unveiling. The new 2005 edition of *Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site* checklist (now 201 species) is now available to visitors.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Crown Point banding was featured in an article in *Adirondack Life* and a "Champlain Connection" feature on WPTZ Platts-

burgh, as well as articles in the *Valley News* and the *Times of Ti* newspapers. Mike Peterson and Gordon Howard also contributed to a WRPI college radio and video production, as well as a Vermont Audubon video by Peregrine Productions on Audubon Important Bird Areas (IBAs) on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail.

Since opening on 9 May 1976, a total of 12,572 birds of some 96 species (plus races, subspecies, color morphs, and hybrids, as well as a bilateral gynandromorph) have been banded on the grounds of the Historic Site. The Crown Point Banding Association is most grateful to the NYS OPR&HP at Crown Point, Saratoga Springs regional office, and Albany headquarters for three decades of support and hospitality. We appreciate those who helped transport the banding station: Gordon Howard, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, Dave Rutkowski, and Eric Teed. Special thanks go to Historic Site Manager Thomas Hughes and his excellent staff for their close cooperation and many kindnesses, and we're looking forward to our 31<sup>st</sup> season in 2006.

#### Lewiston

431-0790

Niagara County, New York

**Bander: Jerald J. Farrell**

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The spring banding season started on 4 May 2005. Again this year there were not many birds showing up at this time. On 7 May the nets were opened for a banding demo, with a party of seven Garden Club members in attendance. After six hours the nets were closed without a single bird being handled! This is a first in 29 years of banding at the Lewiston

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
35 Magnolia Warbler	17%	41%	42%
34 Nashville Warbler		43	57
29 Gray Catbird	10		90
22 Chestnut-sided Warbler	20	16	64
14 Black-thr. Blue Warbler	35	50	15
14 Yellow Warbler	14	72	14
14 Swainson's Thrush	36	43	21
10 Baltimore Oriole	20	60	20
9 Wood Thrush	44	45	11
9 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	22		78

Station. Again this year the b/100nh showed a downward trend (24.83 /100nh).

Magnolia Warbler and Gray Catbird are still the top species for this station. However, this year the Gray Catbird was moved out of second place, by five birds, to the Nashville Warbler. Yellow Warbler numbers were again high for this station.

Weather conditions were very good for most of the banding season with very little rain and light winds.

There was a total of 11 local recaptures, which is average for this station.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774**

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station

Monroe County, NY

**Compiler: Elizabeth W. Brooks**

ebrooks@bbbo.org

**Banders: David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Sue Finnegan, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, Rodney Olsen, and Bob Yunick**

Chief Assistants: Linda Boutwell, Luke Donius, Virginia Duffy, Coby Klein, Pat Lovallo, Patti O'Kane, Ryan Kayhart, Courtney Rawleigh, Chris Villone, and Barb Wagner,

The 20th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach (K-MB) banding station was carried out for 51 days beginning 15 Apr and continuing until 11 Jun 2005. There were 3088 birds banded of 105 forms. An additional 41 female and 21 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	34%	15%	51%
Yellow Warbler	53	33	14
Gray Catbird	38	29	29
Magnolia Warbler	28	58	14
White-thr. Sparrow	55	7	67
Com. Yellowthroat	40	17	43
American Redstart	45	43	13
Traill's Flycatcher	8	5	87
Myrtle Warbler	69	21	10
W. Palm Warbler	2	0	45

Constant-effort mist netting was carried out using from one to 44 nets. Included in the total were six elevated net assemblies. A total of 10,477 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 29.5 b/100nh. The best day was 10 May when 210 birds were banded. There were no other 200+ bird days; the next highest number of captures was 153 on 28 May, 149 on 6 May, 148 on 14 May, and 147 on 11 May. The greatest species diversity occurred on 10 May when 42 species were banded.

There were approximately 511 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stop-over ecology. Of these recaptures, 25 were birds that returned from a previous season

A Sharp-shinned Hawk banded as a AHY-F on 29 Sep 2002 at Holiday Beach Migration Observatory near Amherstburg, Ontario, was recaptured and released at K-MB on 20 Apr 2005. Holiday Beach is about 300 miles WSW of Braddock Bay.

A Magnolia Warbler banded at Braddock Bay's MAPS station on 6 Jun 2003 was recaptured by David Okines in Ontario (coordinates 434-0765) on 27 May 2005.

Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange crown feathers. Tumors or other growths were found on six birds of six species (Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler and Savannah Sparrow). Three birds had deformed or fractured bills (Blue Jay, House Wren, and Song Sparrow). A Common Yellowthroat had a dislocated leg; a Yellow Warbler had one leg missing below the intertarsal joint (old, healed injury); and a Swainson's Thrush had a healed tarsus fracture.

Scaly Leg was noted on an American Robin, four Yellow Warblers, a Red-winged Blackbird, and a Common Grackle. Avian Pox was observed on a Yellow Warbler and a Canada Warbler. A hypoboscoid fly was found on a Ruby-crowned Kinglet; feather lice were seen on four Gray Catbirds, a House Wren, and a Yellow Warbler; and ticks were found on a Common Grackle, a Yellow Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat.

The total number of birds banded (3088) during spring 2005 was below the mean (3354) for the past 20 years. Numbers were down especially during the period from 23 Apr until 4 May, with daily capture totals below 12 for five days during that period. Winds from the North quadrant and very chilly start temperatures contributed to the shortage of birds. Dawn temperatures averaged 8.1° C in spring 2005 compared to 9.9° C in spring 2004.

Bobolink was a new species for the spring cumulative list, which now stands at 138 forms. Hooded Warbler was the only species having a record high count (12) during spring 2005. Cedar Waxwing totals (5) were the lowest since 1992 and Black-throated Blue Warbler totals (82) were the lowest since 1990. Totals for Magnolia Warblers (160) were just about half the 10-year average (314.6), as they were for Canada Warblers (34; 10-year average 70.8) and American Redstart (112; av 213).

In addition to our migration monitoring, we took swabbings from the preen gland of some of our Wood and Hermit thrushes and Veeries to obtain samples for Meena Harribal, a research associate at the Lab of Ornithology, who is studying the chemical ecology of preen gland secretions, an understudied area of avian physiology.

We also took feather samples from ASY-M American Redstarts for Katie Langin, a student at Queens University who is working in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. Feather samples were also taken from Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers for graduate student Kevin Fraser at Queens University.

The thrush migration was so poor, Mark Deutschlander of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, was able to examine orientation in only a few thrushes; however his research will be continuing during fall 2005.

Jennifer Dawson, Chris Gates, Marina Phillips, Stephanie Sadlon, and Maggi Sliwinski successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

We gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors to the banding station and to students from the Hannaford Career Center in

Middlebury, VT, who visited from 18 thru 20 May. Members of the Allyn's Creek Garden Club and the Rochester Retired Teachers Association also visited the banding station. We hosted a Press Event to announce the publishing of the newest New York State Audubon Society's IBA book. SUNY Brockport students from Dr. Chris Norment's Field Biology course also visited the banding station.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Ann Adams, Nancy Chevalier, Jack and Barb Duval, Cricket Fegan, Marilyn Guenther, Donna Hilborn, Peggy Keller, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Emily and Andrea Patterson, Gretchen Putonen, Jesse Roberts, Ron and Erin Rockwell, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Gale Smith, Lois Smith, Ruth Stork, Rob van der Stricht, Glenn Wagner, and Scott and Theresa Wolcott.

Special appreciation to Jeff and Joan Dodge, Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, Bob and Charlene Reed, David Frosini, Suzanne and John Olson, and Sue and Bob Bayley 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

**Bander: Rick Ludkin**

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfre

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> spring banding season at Ruthven Park, a field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory. We banded on 54 days starting on 30 Mar and ending on 1 Jun. Missed days were attributable to inclement weather or personal commitments (like working). On a typical day, the nets were opened half an hour before sunrise and closed after six hours. Some banding sessions were shortened due to weather.

April started off with a late winter storm which brought birds to the ground traps but kept the nets closed. Except for some unsettled weather at the end of the month, the rest of April was fairly dry. May was both cool and dry.

The net placements (in the edge habitat bordering the lawns/fields of the historic site) and the census

route have not changed for many years. Fifteen mist nets were set out in nine net lanes. We also used up to four ground traps and one Potter trap. Processing was carried out in the banding lab.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
306 American Goldfinch	46.7	20.3	33.0
101 Yellow Warbler	55.5	12.9	31.7
91 Slate-colored Junco	49.5	26.4	24.2
68 Brown-hd Cowbird	39.7	22.1	38.2
64 Chipping Sparrow	32.8	26.6	40.6
57 Red-winged Blackbird	40.4	28.1	31.5
50 Song Sparrow			100.0
45 Gray Catbird	48.9	31.1	20.0
44 Magnolia Warbler	34.1	11.4	54.5
39 White-thr. Sparrow	66.7	7.7	25.6

In terms of bird captures, April started off great (traps taking the place of nets during the storm at the beginning) and we thought that we might have our best April to date. But the bottom fell out with the advent of a week's worth of poor weather starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Still, we had our second best April with 428 birds banded.

The cool weather in May made for a slow start but picked up in the second week with our best single day (105 banded) on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It tapered off after that. May's total was also our second best and the two together produced our second best spring to date with 1,401 banded.

Although (probably due to the cool weather in early May) we felt that we would have had good results banding into June, logistically it just was not possible.

Even so, the season's total of 1,401 banded (83 species) was just narrowly behind our best ever season in 1999 (1,407). Predictably, the rate of bird capture, 35.5 b/100nh was also our second best.

As well as banding, we also count the numbers of birds and species we see each day as part of the monitoring protocol. This spring we encountered 143 species and one hybrid. We had 25 species (and one hybrid) of warblers move through. We saw several Bald Eagles and a Peregrine Falcon went by on 15 May. We saw Tufted Titmice with

some regularity (and think they must be breeding somewhere on the site)—this is a more 'southern' bird that seems to be making its way north—perhaps a result of the warming trend we've been experiencing.

This spring we had 238 retraps some of which were retrapped several times, and we had 180 returns from a previous season. A Hairy Woodpecker from 1996 and a Warbling Vireo from 1999 were particularly noteworthy.

On 4 May 2005 we retrapped a Chipping Sparrow that had been banded as a young bird at Long Point Bird Observatory on 15 Oct 2004.

We received information on four foreign recoveries in 2004. Interestingly, we seem to have an 'exchange' going on with Mike Furber's backyard operation on Dry Lake Road outside of Cayuga and about 6-7 km west of Ruthven. A HY-M American Goldfinch, banded 30 Oct 2001 was recovered by Mike Furber on Dry Lake Road on 27 Apr 2004. A SY-M American Goldfinch banded 11 May 2003 was recovered by Jim Smith at Rock Point Provincial Park Banding Station on 13 Apr 2004. A HY-F House Finch banded 14 Oct 2003 was recovered by Mike Furber on Dry Lake Road on 31 Jan 2004. A HY-M Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded 10 Sep 2002 was recovered by Mike Furber on Dry Lake Road on 9 May 2004.

The number of visitors continues to climb as Ruthven becomes better known. This year we had 128 come to the banding site.

Ruthven Banding Station is a wholly volunteer organization. We have a dedicated 'crew' that put in a lot of time and energy to make it all happen:

**7 weeks:** Linda Thrower, Al Thrower; **3-4 weeks:** Loretta Mousseau; **1-2 weeks:** Peter Thoem; **4-6 days:** Brian Pomfret, Mike Alkema, Elaine Serena, Shirley Klement; **1-3 days:** Darryl Edwards, Irene Schmidt, Gerald Alkema, Frank Morely, Leanne Jennings, Dimitri Malakhov, Alissa Moenting, Norm Pomfret, Walter Peace, Barb Peace, Roswitha Matuschek, John Shoveler.

We thank the board of the Lower Grand River Land Trust and staff (Marilynn Havelka and Linda Jackson) of Ruthven Park National Historic Site for their encouragement and support (including hot

coffee on cold spring mornings). We also thank friends and members of the Haldimand Bird Observatory for their donations.

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

Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario

**Bander: James A. Smith**

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Chief Assistant: Roswitha Matuschek

This was the worst spring that Rock Point has experienced. Two limiting conditions are responsible for the lower-than-normal number of birds banded. One condition was the lack of cover that was present in the banding area. All of the *Viburnum*-type bushes in the area suffered some sort of blight last year. I expected they would recover this spring but they did not; and until the wild grape took over, those bushes were all bare well into late May. The second limiting condition was my inability due to medical appointments and the lack of an additional bander to keep to my normal consistent six days a week of banding. This resulted in fewer banding days and, in most cases, reduced banding hours.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
151 White-thr. Sparrow	59.6	33.8	6.6
94 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	43.6	51.1	5.3
88 Magnolia Warbler	33.0	63.6	3.4
74 Slate-col. Junco	56.8	40.5	2.7
59 Gray Catbird	67.8	30.5	1.7
52 Song Sparrow	69.2	23.1	7.7
52 Amer. Tree Sparrow	40.4	50.0	9.6
51 Yellow Warbler	64.7	35.3	0.0
50 Golden-cr. Kinglet	48.0	50.0	2.0
44 American Goldfinch	65.9	29.5	4.5

Three foreign retraps were reported. A Common Grackle banded 15 May 2004 and recovered 8 Jul 2004 still in the Dunnville area; an American Goldfinch banded 21 Jan 2004 and recovered 2 May 2004 about 30 km NW of the station; a Blue Jay banded 30 May 2004 and recovered 18 May 2005 some 50 km NW. There appeared to be just one foreign recapture: a Blue Jay recaptured 27 May 2005 had been banded at Long Point.

We recorded 224 recaptures of birds banded originally at Rock Point. Of this number, 30 birds

were caught more than once and some multiple times.

4 were originally banded in 2000.

11 in 2001

16 in 2002

46 in 2003

61 in 2004

85 in 2005

Almost all birds represent either wintering birds of our area or returning breeding birds.

Again this year totals were recorded for birds banded from each net location. The feeder net location resulted in 37% of birds banded and occurred mainly in the first part of the season with wintering birds or early migrants. Other net locations showed from 5% to 14% of the catch. Net locations with significant loss of leaves showed lower-than-normal catch rates.

Noticeably absent from the banding this year were Cedar Waxwings. With no leaves and no fruit on the high-bush cranberries, they were not attracted to the area. Possibly, the lack of this fruit also reduced the normal occasional Hermit Thrush that chose to winter over in previous years. Blue Jays were not encountered until early May, with only one bird caught previous to this time.

Only one banding demonstration was given this season. I declined to do any teaching at Niagara College because of the difficulty in committing due to my health.

In particular this year I give thanks for the volunteers who enabled me to continue with the banding. People who made sure they were out on particular days of the week such as Roswitha Matuschek who gave 198 field hours, Rick Young 44 hours, Dora Young 44 hours, Gisele Mills 33 hours. Fergus Nicole stayed for a week and gave 64 field hours. Others such as Kim Frolick, Andy Morgan, David Millen, Brenda Kerr, Linda and Al Roberts, Lorraine Feenstra, Pauline D'Boer and Brian Pomfrey came for the day and gave 2 to 5 field hours. My wife, Gerda, and son Alex contributed to many behind-the-scenes jobs, such as trail maintenance and supporting me in the wee hours of the morning.

**Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703**  
 Appledore Island, York County, ME  
**Banders: Sara Morris, Compiler; Anthony Hill,**  
**David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala,**  
**Mary Bright**

morriss@canisius.edu

Chief Assistants: Amber Bratcher, Liz Burton, Peggy Buckley, Kristen Covino, Cheryl Deane, Dorothy Fitch, Lindsay Herlihy, Mike Hurban, Liz Lewis, Stephanie Parkinson, Martha Stauffer, Andy Theide,

While spring 2004 was characterized by being a very average season, spring 2005 was not. During spring 2005, weather had a greater impact than any other recent season. The station opened two days later than expected and was closed for four straight days during the season because of bad weather. The result of this bad weather was fewer than average net-hours (2657 in 2005, 10-year average =  $3872 \pm 435$ ). A series of storms caused the closure of nets from May 22<sup>nd</sup> until the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup>. This weather also delayed many of the migrants. On 28 May, two days after the storms abated, the station handled a record-breaking 585 birds (including 345 Common Yellowthroats). Seven other days were considered high-density (150 birds/day), leading to a higher-than-average number of b/100nh (114 in 2005, 10-year average =  $67.6 \pm 7.6$ ).

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
872 Common Yellowthroat	74.3	13.8	11.9
247 White-thr. Sparrow	55.5	8.5	36.0
224 Magnolia Warbler	76.9	15.1	8.0
183 Ovenbird	71.6	16.9	11.5
138 Red-eyed Vireo	29.7	21.0	49.3
109 Black-and-Wh. Warbler	56.9	30.3	12.8
90 Blackpoll Warbler	62.2	30.0	7.8
78 Swainson's Thrush	46.1	51.3	2.6
73 Northern Parula	58.9	31.5	9.6
69 American Redstart	59.7	26.9	13.4

Several species were more abundant in 2005 than average. These were Swainson's Thrush (78 in 2005, average = 46), Ovenbird (183 in 2005, average = 93), Common Yellowthroat (872 in 2005,

average = 518), Lincoln's Sparrow (65 in 2005, average = 29), Swamp Sparrow (66 in 2005, average = 29), and Baltimore Oriole (22 in 2005, average = 11). Only the Bay-breasted Warbler was less common than average (1 banded in 2005, average = 10). We did not capture any new species, but were excited by our first spring banding of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (three of the banders have recently been trained in hummingbird banding by Bob and Martha Sargent, resulting in 29 banded hummingbirds during spring 2005).

The most exciting product using our banding data was Becky Suomala's Master's thesis comparing migration on Appledore and Star Islands. Many of the station banders and band-aides were able to attend her thesis defense at the University of New Hampshire in March 2005 (Congratulations, Becky!). Our banding data were also used in four presentations at the Wilson Ornithological Society and Association of Field Ornithologists joint meeting in April and one paper at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in August.

The banding station gave banding demonstrations for many groups that visited the Shoals Marine Lab during the spring and trained several new volunteers in mist netting. We continue to be supported generously by the Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and our dedicated volunteers.

#### **Selkirk Provincial Park 424-0795**

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario

**Bander: John Miles**

miles@kwic.com

Chief assistants: Dave Jolly, Mike Furber

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>	<u>% HY</u>
225 Wh.-thr. Sparrow			100	
173 Sl.-col. Junco	69.94	28.33	1.73	
155 Red-wg. Blackbird	3.23	10.97	65.81	
154 Gol.-cr. Kinglet			100	
152 Ruby-cr. Kinglet			100	
148 Magnolia Warbler	38.52	27.70	33.78	
110 Song Sparrow			97.27	2.73
101 Gray Catbird			100	
91 Amer. Goldfinch	43.96	14.28	41.76	
91 Amer. Robin			95.60	4.40

The tenth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 27 Feb and finished 12 Jun. The station was manned daily once it opened, except for days of inclement weather or personal commitments, with banding taking place on 95 days. In addition to the bander-in-charge, 17 volunteers spent one or more days assisting with running the station.

Except for days of extreme adverse weather, when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from ½ 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.

Early March was cold, resulting in no netting being attempted until 15 Mar. A late winter storm came through 2-3 Apr dropping nearly two inches of water in the form of rain, sleet and snow. The station was closed for these two days. Except for the last week of the month, the remainder of the month was fairly dry but northeasterly and easterly winds did not promote migration. East and northeast winds persisted through most of May with temperatures averaging below normal. May was extremely dry. Nearby, Buffalo, NY, recorded the driest May in 62 years and the second driest since records were started to be kept in the 1870s. Rainfall at the station was 1.11" for the whole month. It continued dry into June until close down with 0.50" of rain for the first 12 days of the month.

The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location in the southwest part of the park since it was started in 1996. Passerine banding was carried out using 20 mist nets, four 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 on 27 Mar when the Song Sparrows started to arrive. The 31<sup>st</sup> saw the vanguard of Golden-crowned Kinglets appear along with other migrants. April had a good flight arrive on the 6<sup>th</sup> when 55 birds of eight species were banded. The 10<sup>th</sup> saw an influx of Slate-colored Juncos with 46 banded out of the 86 birds of 15 species banded that day. The last third of the month was quiet, with below-normal

temperatures retarding migration. May saw a good influx of birds 5-6 May, when a small influx took place, resulting in a good variety of birds in the banding area. The 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> were big days. This was repeated on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. The 27<sup>th</sup> saw the last drop of the spring. Over 100 birds were banded on seven days this month; two to three days is more normal for Selkirk.

Over 1750 were banded in May for the most productive May during the 10 years the station has operated. There were no large numbers of birds encountered in June up to shut down on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were 2630 birds of 80 species plus one form banded at Selkirk in the spring of 2005, which is the best spring at Selkirk. Most numerous birds banded in the spring of 2005 were White-throated Sparrow, 225, and Slate-colored Junco, 173. No new species were added to the station's list of birds banded.

In the spring, 71 retrapped birds were processed. Some of these birds were retrapped many times.

There were 140 birds recaptured in the spring of 2005 which were returns. While most of these are residents or nesting birds in the area, the recapture of two Yellow Warblers banded in 1996 is noteworthy.

A Blue Jay banded 16 May 2005 was retrapped at the Tip of Long Point on 19 May 2005.

There were 42 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 permission to band in the Park. Hans has been very supportive in many ways. This project was supported financially by the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program, the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Ontario Power Generation, and George Pond. We also received support from the Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, 3-ring loose-leaf binders, file cabinets, materials for boardwalks, other items and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **1-2 weeks:** Nancy Furber, Tim Furber, John Dickie, Jr., Heather Peddie, Katie Peddie, Scott Peddie, **4-6 days:** Sadie Rissemore, **1-3 days:** Blake Edwards, Jamie Furber, Mike Kimber, Kellie Libera, Steven Miles, Linh Nguyen, Larissa O'Neil, Barbara Peddie, George Pond, Heather Whitford.

**Kestrel Haven**  
**Avian Migration Observatory**  
 Burdett, Schuyler County, NY  
**Banders: John and Sue Gregoire**  
 khmo@att.net

**422-0764**

We were able to start early, on this our 19<sup>th</sup> spring, but weather then caused us to close until late April. The weather did not improve much in May when we had a ten-day gap in operations. We closed on 31 May to remain within our constant-effort protocol while still looking for migrants. Daily point counts added few additional species. In all, we had only five species of pass-through migrants. Of only nine warbler species banded, Wilson's was the only non-local breeder and we only had three of those. This was as close to a "silent spring" as we care to get.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
417 American Goldfinch	63	37	0
42 Slate-col. Junco	64	35	1
38 White-thr. Sparrow	47	33	0
37 Song Sparrow	0	0	100
28 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	71	29	0
26 Red-wg. Blackbird	73	27	0
24 Yellow Warbler	88	18	0
24 E. Wh-cr. Sparrow	0	0	100
22 Black-cap. Chickadee	41	0	59
21 Com. Yellowthroat	4	0	96
20 Blue Jay	50	50	0

We banded a record 948 individuals of 59 species in 35 days of operation. We also had 183 repeats, a fantastic 135 returns and two foreign captures, and 12 hummingbirds not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 94 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 129 b/100nh overall. Our best day was 13 May with 86 banded and our most species diverse day was 23 May with 18 species banded. Once again,

American Goldfinch was our bread and butter with 417 banded and 60 returning.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 130 species plus five forms; point count cumulative is 217 species seen at Kestrel Haven. We were excited by our second ever Orchard Oriole. This one was a not very spectacular looking second-year male. We also banded six Brown Thrashers and three Black-billed Cuckoos; we often do not see either of these species. There were also large numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos present on point counts, portending a bad spiny caterpillar year, as the species is quite uncommon here in normal years. We continued our dragonfly studies but netted only one in mist nets, a *Gomphus spicatus*. The cool, wet weather and lack of sun has kept Odonata emergence down and downright late this year. The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns.

We received reports of three encounters. A Purple Finch banded in fall 2003 was recovered in January 2004 in Pennsylvania, some 180 miles SW. An American Goldfinch banded on 29 Sep 2004 was found dead on 5 Dec 2004 in Dunedin, FL, which is some 1060 air miles to the south. Dunedin is west of Tampa. That is the third goldfinch return we have had from central Florida. Finally, our first ever re-encounter of a Wilson's Warbler (banded here on 18 Sep 2002 as an HY-F) was reported by Long Point Bird Observatory in Canada. At the time of release, 20 May 2004, it was three years old. For some reason, the BBL took over a year to report the Florida and Canada encounters! This spring's foreign encounters have not yet been reported by the BBL: a goldfinch and a Song Sparrow.

We enjoyed 135 returning individuals of 19 species of which 32 were over four years of age. The eldest return was a 9+-year-old Chipping Sparrow! Others were:

Hairy Woodpecker at 8+ years old  
 Downy Woodpecker at 6+ years old  
 Black-capped Chickadee at 6 years old  
 Gray Catbirds at 4+ and 8+ years old  
 European Starling at 4 years old  
 Yellow Warblers at 4+ and 6 (2) years old  
 Northern Cardinal at 5 years old  
 Chipping Sparrow at 4 years old  
 Song Sparrows at 4, 5 (2), 5+, and 6 years old

Purple Finches at 4+ and 5 years old  
House Finch at 7 years old  
American Goldfinches at 4 (2), 4+ (2), 5 (2),  
6 (5) and 7 years old.

We had one Song Sparrow return with a pox on its foot. This is the same bird reported last year and it is now six years of age. A Chipping Sparrow also displayed a slight pox of its hallux. A Mourning Dove presented with most of its talons missing and toes swollen. This was the result of frostbite. Pictures of these are available on the national pox database website. Additionally, we had a second-year female goldfinch displaying fault bars near the tips of her secondaries.

In 2003 we 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. Analysis of those data is now complete and showed that none of the marked Red Knots was recaptured in central New York.

We thank Bob and Judy Cosgriff, David Guaspari, Barlow Rhodes, Jylle Benson-Gauss, Jay Schissell and Stillman's Greenhouse for their advice, assistance and generous support.

**Presque Isle** **420-0800**  
Erie, Erie County, PA  
**Bander: Ronald F. Leberman**

Bird banding efforts got underway at Presque Isle on 6 Apr and ended on 31 May with a total of 21 days of operations. A fair total of 685 birds were banded of 71 species in 1,081 net hours. Depending on weather, winds and help, five to 14 nets were used. This was our third cold and damp spring in a row and few birds arrived on time, many being one to two weeks late. Our only new species for the station was a Bank Swallow caught in the very bottom of a net about 20 ft inland from the bay shore. As usual, we caught about 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, all released unbanded. The last week in May produced a good flight of Black-billed Cuckoos in the banding area but none were caught.

112 Yellow Warbler  
73 Magnolia Warbler  
62 Gray Catbird  
36 American Redstart  
22 Song Sparrow  
21 White-throated Sparrow  
21 Swainson's Thrush  
20 Common Yellowthroat  
20 Wilson's Warbler  
18 Chestnut-sided Warbler

There were 46 returns from a previous season. Of these, 23 were Yellow Warblers including one after nine years, two after eight years, and one after five years. Other noteworthy returns were a Warbling Vireo after six years and a Baltimore Oriole after six years.

A special thank you to all those who helped with the banding process and station this year and the many who have helped over the last 45 years. The following have donated their time and effort this spring—Barb Mitchell and Sam Stull of McKean, PA, Karen and Harley Winkleblack of Fort Wayne, IN; Carol Hallgreen, Susan Smith, Larry Massey, Bonnie Ginader, Ruth Swaney, and Janet Price of Erie, PA; Jan Lutz of Cambridge Springs, PA, Linda Kellar of Akron, OH, and Janice Grindle of Greensburg, PA. Thanks also for Jerry McWilliam's beginning birder class visits, the Jamestown, NY, Audubon group, and all the 700 middle school students who came out on 4 May for Earth Force Field Day at Presque Isle, and the park staff and crews.

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

This was our fifth spring season for the Wing Island Banding Station located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. Cold temperatures held on through April and inclement weather put off our normal operations for a month, so we slightly extended our season this year. Our official net opening was not until 31 Mar due to remaining snow cover, with most of the spring season being very wet and cold. The season

ended on 18 Jun with 15 days of operation, mainly due to our ability to band weekends only.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
139 Gray Catbird	80	20	
65 Com. Yellowthroat	69	22	6
56 American Goldfinch	68	32	0
25 Black-cap. Chickadee	77	3	20
16 Song Sparrow	19		81
15 White-thr. Sparrow	60		40
11 Blackpoll Warbler	91	9	
11 No. Cardinal	89		11
9 Magnolia Warbler	78	11	11
9 Yellow Warbler	78	11	11

In total, 440 birds of 47 species were banded. Net hours totaled 1364 for a capture rate of 32 b/100 nh. We used a range of one to 21 nets. Our largest daily catch was on 20 May with 91 birds of 15 species netted, but 15 May brought the greatest diversity, 24 species. Numbers of Gray Catbirds, our #1 bird here on the east coast, increased substantially this year with 139 banded. Warblers banded included American Redstart, Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Myrtle, Nashville, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Pine, Prairie, Wilson's, and Yellow. One new species was added to our list this spring: Great Crested Flycatcher.

We had many notable returns, including three Gray Catbirds at least six years old, seven Common Yellowthroats at least five years old, and 13 birds of seven species at least four years old. Also of note was a foreign recapture of a Gray Catbird previously banded at Manomet Bird Observatory. We had fewer banding days this spring due to bad weather, but captured many more birds than in previous years. I believe this has to do with the fact that last fall the town of Brewster cut down the trees on the western half of Wing Island for the purpose of restoring a meadow. My feeling is that the birds that normally stopped on that half of the island were forced to put down on the eastern half where the majority of our nets are placed. We held a successful bird banding demonstration on 5 May, which was well attended.

I thank bander Gretchen Putonen and assistant Carolyn Kennedy for all their time and effort this spring. I also thank our other banding assistants, Judy Keller, Judith Bruce, George and Barbara

Burr, Emily Broderick, Marilyn Swenson, George Myers, Madaline Grabala, Tom Prince, Rick Kudzman, and Bill Green for their help with our operation. Also a big thank-you to the many people who make us bird bags!

**Bedford Valley** 395-0783  
Bedford County, PA  
**Bander: Janet Shaffer**

Bedford Valley experienced a cool rainy spring, i.e. on 3 May it was 36° F at 6:30 AM, but a Wood Thrush was singing in the woods. Banding effort was doubled from 2004; and by running a "feeder" net, the catch increased by 40%. Two of the most commonly banded birds were American Goldfinch and Purple Finch. New bandings of Chipping Sparrow (23) was almost three times greater than 2004 when eight were banded.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
23 Chipping Sparrow	9		91
18 Purple Finch			100
11 American Goldfinch	36	27	36
11 Gray Catbird	21		79
9 Slate-col. Junco	36		55

Out of 62 return/repeats, 30% were chippies, obviously a common nester in this area. Two Carolina Wrens banded with consecutive bands on 23 Aug 2002 showed up again, though on separate dates of 12 Apr and 26 Apr. Warbler encounters included small numbers of American Redstart, Canada Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Waterthrush. For an Atlas count on 7 Jun, a Worm-eating Warbler was observed at a drip bird bath. One each of Swainson's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve** 400-0791  
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
Banders: **Adrienne Leppold**,  
leppold@pabirdatlas.org  
**Robert C. Leberman**,  
rclieberm@chapterpa.net  
**Robert S. Mulvihill**,  
mulvihill@pabirdatlas.org  
**and Michael J. Lanzone**

The Powdermill Avian Research Center's bird banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve completed its 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring banding season in 2005. Powdermill is a 2,000-acre field

biological station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and is located in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The banding station was in operation on 73 out of a possible 96 days during the spring 2005 season (2 Mar through 5 Jun). While still well within one standard deviation, this spring's total of 2,178 birds was far below the long-term average of 2,735. Still, it was an improvement over last spring's total of 1,827. The highest daily total this spring, and also the most species day, fell on 16 May when 198 birds of 47 species were banded. Eighteen of those 47 species were wood warblers, and Magnolia Warbler lead the day with 72 banded. This became the 12<sup>th</sup> highest single day catch for a spring season and the highest since 1999.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>	<u>% HY</u>
230 Magnolia Warbler	50	50		
138 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	54	27	19	
124 Amer. Goldfinch	56	40	3	
112 Song Sparrow	36	34	6	24
103 Dark-eyed Junco	36	64		
85 Chipping Sparrow	54	32	14	
71 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	36	48	16	
63 Rby-thr. Hum.			100	
61 Cedar Waxwing	64	36		
60 Swamp Sparrow	48	35	15	

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. The total for March was the second lowest total in the 43-year spring banding history. We attribute this low to reduced numbers of Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch, and Evening Grosbeak, species which often have been caught here in very large numbers. A decline in Evening Grosbeak numbers began more than 15 years ago (none has been caught at Powdermill in spring since 1997), probably as a result of a range-wide retraction to the northwest, perhaps in response to spruce budworm control measures in northeastern Canada. American Goldfinch is well known as an irruptive species, prone to wide annual variation in numbers. However, recent declines in the number of migrant and wintering Dark-eyed Junco at Powdermill have yet to be explained. Historically, we have banded as many as 400-500 juncos in spring. As recently as five years ago, spring totals declined to the low hundreds, but within the last few years our spring (and fall) banding totals have not

even exceeded double digits. Given the increasing conservation concern about the condition of boreal-forested habitats in North America, Dark-eyed Junco may perhaps become an important indicator species.

Weather this spring may have also played a role in the lower season total and capture rate (18 b/100nh). April was unseasonably dry and warm; in fact it was the driest April on record for the Ligonier Valley, where Powdermill is located. This may have influenced the record or near-record early arrivals of a couple of species, like a Red-eyed Vireo on 20 Apr, but for the most part the migration seemed a week or two behind its usual progression. Spring migration picked up steadily through May, particularly after the 12<sup>th</sup>, but the weather also shifted to unseasonably cool, windy, and rainy by this point. This impacted banding effort negatively on a few days, particularly in the latter part of the month when many more birds might have been banded. Additionally, the unseasonable and shifty weather likely impacted bird populations and movements in ways we were unable to assess but that ultimately influenced our totals for the season.

Among the highlights from the season was the seventh ever Prothonotary Warbler banded at Powdermill, a beautiful adult male caught on 26 Apr. Also a highlight was the tenth ever Broad-winged Hawk, banded on 27 May.

While most individual species fell within 1 SD of the long-term average, both Magnolia Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler set new record highs for the spring season (MAWA 230 vs. 196 in 1997; CSWA 41 vs. 35 in 2003). Hooded Warbler, with 27 banded, tied our previous spring record set in 2002. Conversely, three species were statistically 1 SD or more below the mean: Dark-eyed Junco, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Golden-winged Warbler.

Some of our "good-gets" (i.e. species with a long-term spring season average of <1 bird) included: Warbling Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, "Brewster's" Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Marsh Wren, and, of course, Prothonotary Warbler. Yellow-breasted Chat, Pine Siskin, Bay-breasted Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Orchard Oriole were among the ten conspicuous "misses" this spring (i.e. species with a long-term spring average of >1 bird).

Finally, we are grateful to the participants of our two informal bander workshops offered this spring: Cheryl Deane, Lisa Abernathy, Jessica Maggio, Lannie Graham, Frank Rouse, Jean Bickal, Margaret Hahn, and Fred and Carol McCullough. For regular help with banding, we thank: Pam Ferkett, Mike Comley, Randi Gerrish, Carroll Labarthe, Molly McDermott, Matt Shumar; and our seasonal interns, Emma DeLeon, Grace Greenwood, and Jessica Maggio. We also appreciate the help and support from Cokie Lindsay, Powdermill's administrative assistant and thank Powdermill's Director, Dr. David A. Smith, for his ongoing support and interest in the banding efforts and research being conducted here. Last, but not least, we are incredibly fortunate to have a highly skilled data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier. Thank you!

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

During the spring 2005 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island Beach State Park, between 19 Mar and 9 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 36 days during that 84-day period; there were two banding days in March, seven in April, 24 in May and three in June. There were four days on which four of the stations were in operation, five days with three stations in operation and 13 days with two stations in operation; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
857 Gray Catbird	80.3	17.4	2.3
614 Com. Yellowthroat	67.6	21.3	11.5
282 Magnolia Warbler	75.2	19.9	5.0
106 Bl.-and-Wh. Warbler	67.3	28.3	4.7
89 No. Parula	64.2	25.8	0.0
86 Blackpoll Warbler	58.1	22.9	19.8
84 Myrtle Warbler	77.4	13.9	9.5
66 Red-eyed Vireo	50.0	30.3	19.7
63 American Redstart	63.5	30.2	6.3
60 White-thr. Sparrow	68.3	13.3	18.3

Banders participating this season were Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley (her first season as a banding permit holder after several seasons as an assistant - congratulations!), Glenn Mahler, Robert Pantle, Gale and Kyle Smith, and Robert Yunick. Assisting were Rebecca Beer, Andy and Cynthia Bernick and Ted Hicks.

The season got off to a slow start with only a trickle of birds in March and April (0.26 birds per net hour for this period) and almost no warbler movements before early May. Things picked up in May, though, and the 3015 birds banded for the season was well above our average of 1970 and was the highest number of bandings since 3215 in 1987 (which was the starting year of spring banding at Island Beach). On a per net-hour basis, the season's 1.17 birds per net-hour was close our average of 1.22.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<u>Date (# stations operating)</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u># Species</u>	<u># B/nh</u>
May 4 (1)	161	26	2.44
May 12 (4)	596	40	3.28
May 15 (4)	464	39	2.36
May 18 (1)	100	21	3.25
May 19 (2)	119	19	3.78

Two new species were banded this spring: a Green Heron wandered into the nets during the "monster" flight of 12 May and a White-breasted Nuthatch (a resident breeder across the bay on the mainland, but uncommon breeder on the barrier beach) was caught on 15 May. Other notable species were: 282 Magnolia Warblers—an all-time high and significantly higher than average; 66 Red-eyed Vireos—one short of an all time high; 9 Hooded Warblers—a tie for all-time high, but significantly higher than average; 2 Louisiana Waterthrush—an infrequent visitor, the first season with more than a single individual; 5 Bicknell's Thrushes—first time for more than a single individual since it was split from Gray-cheeked; 20 Red-winged Blackbirds—significantly higher than average and more than double the previous season high of 9; 1 Fox Sparrow—an infrequent visitor, only our second for the spring.