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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Crown Point State Historic Site

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Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732

Essex County, NY

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Chief Assistant: Gordon E. Howard

Due to record rains in May, the nets at the spring banding station on the 360-ac grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site were open two days fewer than planned, from 13-28 May, a day less at either end. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association (CPBA), through an agreement with NYS OPR&HP, the station is located in hawthorn thickets west of His Majesty's Fort. This 31st consecutive year of Crown Point banding tied 1993 as second-best season for variety, with 63 species banded. Warbler variety was especially excellent, and 22 species tied for best with the great season of '96. The 870 individuals came in third, behind only 1996 and 1997.

411 Myrtle Warbler
39 American Goldfinch
34 Common Yellowthroat
32 Least Flycatcher
32 Blue Jay
28 Magnolia Warbler
25 Baltimore Oriole
23 Gray Catbird
22 American Robin
22 Yellow Warbler

Rain began as the station was set up on 12 May, and a series of lows stalled over the Northeast. On 18 May, the seventh consecutive day of rain, Mike and Susan Peterson and Gary Lee banded 220 grounded birds of 28 species (15 of them warblers), despite a midday downpour with hail that had both birds and banders hunkered down to wait out the storm. Hairy Woodpecker was a new banded species and five House Finches broke the record of four, set in 2000. There were returns of 16 birds of 13 different species banded at Crown Point in previous years—the oldest, an American Goldfinch which was at least 7 yr, 11 mo old, as well as a Great Crested Flycatcher and Gray Catbird that were 6-11.

The CPBA proposal to clear saplings around an old Osprey platform was accepted and carried

out by OPR&HP, and a pair have constructed a nest for the first time. Much of the success of this year's banding is attributed to the previous green ash-thinning project in the hawthorn groves. Governor Pataki is expected to unveil the birding kiosk soon and name the Historic Site a NYS Bird Conservation area. Bobolinks again returned to the recently reclaimed "Bobolink Field" to the south, another CPBA habitat improvement project.

The station welcomed over 250 visitors and groups including NYS OCFS Adirondack Wilderness Challenge & Adirondack Residential Center, Lake George Community Garden Club, 93 from Barstow School (VT), plus classes from Lake Placid Elementary and Middle schools, and Newcomb Central School, with 84 students able to release a bird and receive a Polaroid photo and certificate from CPBA and Clemson University. Our thanks to Karin Emmons, Media Resource Specialist I in the Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Clemson, for preparing and mailing student certificates. Four children will receive notification that birds they released in previous years returned this season, one of them the 7-11 goldfinch.

A Public Radio program by Gerald Zahavi of SUNY, Albany that captures the essence of Crown Point banding—"Ring 'em & Fling 'em"—was broadcast on WRPI-FM on 11 May and can be heard on the Web at: www.lincolnpound.org. Master bander Mark LaBarr and Peregrine Productions shot a second segment for a Vermont Audubon video of Audubon IBAs on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail, while Mark generously helped collect a heavy fallout of migrants from the nets.

We are grateful to those who helped transport the banding station: Gordon Howard, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, Dave Rutkowski, and Bob Wei. The banders appreciate the contributions of elk, bullheads, trout, baked goods, soup, and other food and beverages that helped sustain them during the soggy season of '06. Special thanks go to Historic Site Manager Thomas Hughes, Cheryl Olsen, Jake Putnam, and the rest of the superb Crown Point staff for their close cooperation and many kindnesses. Since 1976, a total of 13,422

birds of 97 species (plus races, subspecies, color morphs, hybrids, as well as a bilateral gynandromorph) has been banded on the grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site, and we look forward to our 32nd year in 2007.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station**

Monroe County, NY

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler

ebrooks@bbbo.org

Banders: Ann Adams, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Chris Gates, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, David Semple and John Waud

Banding Assistants: Linda Boutwell, Luke Donius, Virginia Duffy, Paul Fehringer, Pat Lovallo, Rob van der Stricht, and Barb Wagner. Our Field Assistant was Courtney Rawleigh; our Research Assistant, Ryan Kayhart.

The 21st consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 50 days beginning 15 Apr and ending on 12 Jun 2006. There were 5,296 birds banded of 96 forms. Thirty-five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds but an additional 29 female and 15 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

| | <u>%SY</u> | <u>%ASY</u> | <u>%AHY</u> |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1014 Bl-cap.Chickadee | 86.7 | 3.5 | 9.8 |
| 524 Ruby-cr. Kinglet | 53.6 | 14.5 | 31.9 |
| 306 Gray Catbird | 47.7 | 23.4 | 28.9 |
| 298 Magnolia Warbler | 64.3 | 30.0 | 5.7 |
| 261 Yellow Warbler | 63.8 | 24.4 | 11.8 |
| 241 Com. Yellowthr. | 40.1 | 7.8 | 52.1 |
| 231 Amer. Redstart | 54.3 | 34.2 | 11.4 |
| 151 Wh-thr. Sparrow | 66.9 | 7.7 | 25.4 |
| 129 Wilson's Warbler | 68.5 | 14.6 | 16.9 |
| 120 Traill's Flycatcher | 20.3 | 10.8 | 68.9 |

Constant-effort mist netting was carried out using from one to 35 nets. Included in the total were six elevated net assemblies.

There were over 700 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, 70 were birds that returned from a previous season. Noteworthy returns were a European Starling in its seventh year, a Northern Cardinal in its sixth year, and two Common Grackles, a chickadee, robin, and Common Yellowthroat in their fifth year. In addition, a Hairy Woodpecker in its eighth year and a catbird in its fifth year were returns from the MAPS station located about 600 yards from the banding station.

We had a number of interesting foreign recoveries: A Gray Catbird banded on 16 Sep 2002 was found dead in Cheektowaga, NY, on 12 May 2006. A Magnolia Warbler banded at K-MB on 2 Jun 2003 was recaptured and released alive by David Okines at Prince Edward Point, near Kingston, Ontario, on 27 May 2005. A White-throated Sparrow banded on 29 Sep 2004 was found dead in Lac Dumau, Quebec, on 18 May 2005. And a Common Grackle banded on 18 May 2005 was found dead in Charlotte Hall, MD, on 18 Feb 2006.

Five Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange rather than red crown feathers. Two Black-capped Chickadees had healed (old) tarsus fractures.

A Hermit Thrush, two Magnolia Warblers, and a Song Sparrow were infested with mites; a Gray Catbird had lice; a tick was removed from a Common Yellowthroat and a White-throated Sparrow; and six Yellow Warblers had scaly leg and were released unbanded. A Red-winged Blackbird had an eye infection, which was treated with an ophthalmologic antibiotic. A White-throated Sparrow had a growth on its bill.

Overall, it was a steady, even migration throughout the season with our three biggest days spread out between 27 Apr, 25 and 29 May. The total number of birds banded (5,296) during spring 2006 was the second highest total and well above the mean (3,408) for the past 20 years. Ruby-throated Hummingbird was the only new species; the cumulative total for spring now stands at 139 forms.