

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Crown Point State Historic Site

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

The spring banding station on the 360-acre grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site opened for the 32nd consecutive season of banding between 11&28 May. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association (CPBA), through an agreement with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPR & HP), the station is located in hawthorn thickets west of His Majesty's Fort. The 73 species broke the old record of 70 set in the great fallout year of 1996. Warbler variety was superb; the 23 species breaking the record of 21 set in 1996 and then tied in 2006. The 1,183 individuals rank third behind 1996 and 1997. New species were a transient Marsh Wren netted 14 May and a nesting Eastern Meadowlark banded on 27 May, bringing the all-time list to 99 species banded since 1976.

416	Myrtle Warbler
155	American Goldfinch
71	Yellow Warbler
60	Common Yellowthroat
32	Gray Catbird
31	Least Flycatcher
31	Magnolia Warbler
30	Baltimore Oriole
29	Blue Jay
21	Common Grackle

Sunny weather prevailed for the first four days, until south winds, rain, and a late day thunderstorm arrived on 15 May, followed by more rain the following day and a major fallout of birds. As many as 175 birds on the 15th and 174 birds on the 16th were banded during this two-day window of opportunity. Winds then switched back to the north from 17-22 May, with numbers declining daily. South winds returned on 23 May, bringing hot weather and a modest upturn in numbers before the station closed on Memorial Day. With rain on only two of the 18 days, the season was unusually dry, but quite productive, especially between 15&18 May.

New high records were set for Barn Swallow (19), Eastern Bluebird (7), Brown Thrasher (9), European Starling (3), and Common Grackle (21). The record number of thrashers, along with increased numbers of Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat, suggest that the recent CPBA habitat improvement project to remove green ash saplings is having a positive impact upon these and other birds of open thickets. The annual OPR&HP survey again found grassland birds in the recently reclaimed "Bobolink Field" to the south, and Osprey again occupied the recently cleared platform on the Bulwagga Bay side of Crown Point peninsula. CPBA is proposing further habitat management at the banding station through thinning of invasive common buckthorn.

There were returns of 38 birds of 13 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest a Black-capped Chickadee and a Baltimore Oriole, each now at least seven years, 11 months old. A leucistic Yellow-rumped Warbler was banded 11 May. Other banding highlights included a Pileated Woodpecker (the 4th in 32 years), a Blue-winged Warbler, two Prairie Warblers, and a female and subadult male Orchard Oriole. Notable species seen or heard, but not banded, included Bald and Golden eagles, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Northern Mockingbird, and an adult male Orchard Oriole.

The station welcomed over 300 visitors, with groups including the Adirondack Residential Center, Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Lake George Community Garden Club, North Country Community College Environmental Studies, and Bolton, Lake Placid, Minerva, and Whitehall Central Schools. Out-of-state groups included Boy Scouts of America Troop 32 of Springfield, MA, and Elderly Services, Inc., of Middlebury, VT. Students were able to release birds and receive a Polaroid photo and certificate from the CPBA and Clemson University. Our thanks to Karin Emmons, Media Resource Specialist 1 in the Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Clemson, for preparing and mailing student certificates. Farthest visitor honors went to Erni and Ernst Bauer of Munich, Germany.

Four large interpretive panels explaining birding and banding at the Historic Site have been unveiled along the access road, following the naming of Crown Point as a Bird Conservation Area by the state of New York. We are grateful to those who helped transport the banding station: Gordon Howard, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, and Dave Rutkowski. The banders appreciate the contributions of elk, mule deer, trout, and other food and beverages that helped sustain them while banding over a thousand birds. Special thanks go to Historic Site Manager Thomas Hughes, Jake Putnam, and the rest of the superb Crown Point staff for their close cooperation and many kindnesses, as well as to Ray Perry of OPR&HP in Albany for continuing to conduct avian surveys. Since 1976, a total of 14,625 birds have been banded on the grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site, and we look forward to our 33rd year in 2008.

Lewiston Banding Station

431-0790

Niagara Co., NY

Bander: Jerald J. Farrell

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The 2007 spring banding season got underway on 4 May. The banding on this day was very slow with only three being captured after four hours using 15 12-m nets. Experience has shown that over the last 20 years, the spring arrival dates are approximately one week later. In 1976, when this station was started, 1 May was the time to start nets in operation.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
44 Myrtle Warbler	5		95
40 Gray Catbird	8		92
20 Magnolia Warbler	10		90
14 Bay-Breastd Warb	14		86
14 Chest-sd Warbler	7		93
13 Rose-br Grosbeak	47	23	30
13 Nashville Warbler	8		92
13 Tennessee Warb			100
11 Amer Goldfinch	27	18	25
10 Swainson's Thrsh	50		50

This past spring banding season turned out very well compared to the last few years. The total number of birds captured and banded was up by

177, and species showed an increase of 16 from spring 2006. Due to great banding weather conditions, there were two additional days of banding which increased the total hours. There were no scheduled banding days lost because of poor conditions. Birds captured per 100 net hours (b/100nh) increased from 19.3 in 2006 to 35.8 in 2007.

There were eight local retraps of which five were Black-capped Chickadees, two Wood Thrushes, and one Downy Woodpecker. One of the Wood Thrushes was at least five years old.

This year marked a first for the station with the capture of a foreign retrap. After checking out this band number, it was learned that the bird had been banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding station five days previous to my recapture. This bird had moved in a westerly direction and covered approximately 65 miles.

As in years past, there were over 20 individuals who showed up at the station and were shown the operation. It was also explained to them the reasons for catching and banding birds.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Sta.

Monroe County, NY

Compilers: Elizabeth W. Brooks

brookser@earthlink.net **and Ryan Kayhart**

Banders: Ann Adams, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Margaret Fritze, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Cindy Marino, David Mathiason and Robert McKinney

Banding Assistants: Linda Boutwell, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Peggy Keller, Pat Lovallo, and Doug Smith.

Field Assistant: Karen Velas

Research Assistant: Ryan Kayhart.

The 22nd consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 49 days beginning 15 Apr and ending on 12 Jun 2007. There were 4,752 birds banded of 96 forms. Thirty-three 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.