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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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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

Jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

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.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
564 Ruby-cr Kinglet	63.6	7.7	28.8
453 Magnolia Warbler	66.7	20.5	12.8
303 Gray Catbird	58.9	24.0	17.1
212 Amer. Redstart	51.7	33.5	14.8
201 Com. Yellowthroat	38.3	8.2	53.6
196 Yellow Warbler	71.5	16.6	11.9
152 Myrtle Warbler	86.6	7.0	6.3
151 Bl-thr Blue Warb	68.4	20.6	11.0
151 Traill's Flycatcher	20.8	21.5	57.7
144 Wh-thr Sparrow	62.4	9.6	28.0

Constant-effort mist netting was carried out using from one to 35 nets. Included in the total were six elevated net assemblies. A total of 8,365 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 56.8 b/100nh, down slightly from spring 2006. The best day was 24 May when 328 birds were banded of 38 species; other 200+ bird days were 27 May (280), 16 May (247), 22 May (235), 25 May (202), and 8 May (200). The greatest species diversity occurred on 15 and 16 May, when 40 species were banded each day.

There were over 446 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, 60 were birds that returned from a previous season. Most noteworthy were an American Robin in its seventh year; a Sharp-shinned Hawk, European Starling, and two Common Yellowthroats in their fifth year; and three Red-eyed Vireos, three American Robins, three Gray Catbirds, one Common Yellowthroat, one Song Sparrow, and one American Goldfinch all in their fourth year.

Since the last banding report (Fall 2006), we received information from the Bird Banding Laboratory that a Yellow Warbler banded on 5 May 2006 at K-MB was found dead on 21 Jun 2006 near Ogdensburg, NY—about 145 miles NE of Braddock Bay. A Magnolia Warbler banded on 3 Jun 2003 during a MAPS session at Braddock Bay was captured and released alive on 27 May 2005 by David Okines in Ontario, about 90 miles NE. And a

Gray Catbird, banded at K-MB on 16 May was recaptured five days later by Jerry Farrell at his banding station in Lewiston, NY, about 65 miles west of Braddock Bay.

Discussion - The total number of birds banded (4,752) during spring 2007 was the fifth highest total and well above the mean (3,498) for the past 21 years. There were no new species banded; the cumulative total for spring stands at 139 forms.

There were record high numbers banded of Brown Creeper, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheek/Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Fox Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal. On the negative side, Scarlet Tanager was missing again this spring after being banded during 16 of the past 21 spring seasons; American Tree Sparrow was missing after being banded during 15 of the past 21 spring seasons; House Finch was missing after 13 of 21 past seasons; and Yellow-breasted Chat after 11 of 21 past seasons.

A bilateral gynandromorphic Black-throated Blue Warbler was captured and photographed on 1 Jun. The bird showed male plumage on its left side and female plumage on the right side.

Research - Mark Deutschlander of Hobart and William Smith colleges and visiting researcher Rachael Muheim from Virginia Tech. continued their research on nocturnal migratory orientation of Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and White-throated Sparrows.

Kristi Hannam and her colleague Robert Simon from SUNY Geneseo took fecal samples from birds to test for the presence of *E. coli*.

Cloacal swabbings and feather samples were taken from 100 birds this spring as part of the Avian Influence Monitoring Program being coordinated by the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA). The samples were processed at UCLA.

Education - Marian Klik (Brockport, NY), Harold Mills (Ithaca, NY) and Stephanie Sult (Roanoke, VA) successfully completed our Bander Training

Course. Ten banders attended a workshop given by Dr. Kristi Hannam of SUNY Geneseo on the techniques for taking blood samples from birds.

We enjoyed a visit from the Fairport Retired Teachers Association, the Spring Ornithology class from the Laboratory of Ornithology, a group from the University of Rochester, students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, and a group from the Silver Lake Day Treatment Center. We had visitors from as far away as Holland and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred individuals.

Appreciation - Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: David Alexander, Nancy Chevalier, Don Cowley, Jennifer Cumbo, Charles Eldermire, Judy Engerman, Sue Evans, Kevin Griffith, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Donna Hilborn, Kathleen Holt, Peggy Keller, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Jesse Roberts, Lee Schofield, Francis Scott, Dominic Sherony, Lisa Silvestri, Jeanne Skelly, Bob Spahn, Ruth Stork, Leanna Twohig, Dee Weber, Megan Whitman, Aggie Windig, and Scott and Theresa Wolcott.

Thanks also to Chris Gates and Shirley Meston for repairing our frayed aerial net ropes; to John Boettcher for cleaning and refurbishing the PC at the banding lab; to Virginia Duffy for the cedar posts for Rob's trail; to Dave Mathiason for mowing Rob's trail; and Colleen Gagnon for helping to spread woodchips; to Dave Frosini, Doug Smith, Dave Tetlow, and Boy Scout Dads John Humnicky and Craig Purdy for helping Kelly and Kevin Dockery with the roofing job. Special appreciation is extended 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

Migration monitoring started on 31 Mar and ran through to 2 Jun. In total, we banded/monitored on 59 of a possible 64 days (92% coverage). Days missed were due to very bad weather. Four of

these days occurred in the first three weeks of April; we did not miss any days in May.

Fifteen 12-m nets were set out in nine net lanes cut into the shrubby second growth surrounding the historic mansion. These net lanes have been in place since 1996. The vegetation around the nets is "managed" to try to maintain second growth conditions (both because migrant birds tend to really like it and to keep the data comparable over time). On some days, not all the nets were utilized—especially on days with high winds. [We also closed two nets for about one and a half weeks due to squirrel predation—both red and black squirrels.]

As well as using nets, we caught birds using up to five walk-in ground traps and one Potter trap. These were especially effective when the juncos and sparrows were moving in April.

We ran into a spate of bad weather during the first three weeks of April—cold, windy, and wet. Some days we did not open nets, using just traps; some days we just stayed in bed. We have run two sets of feeders for many years now and these attracted many moving birds during this time, especially American Goldfinches and Dark-eyed Juncos—note that these two species were #1 & #2, respectively, in the "top ten" banded this season at Ruthven.

May was quite pleasant with many "nice" days. Nice days, weather wise, at Ruthven do not usually translate into good banding days. Our sense is that migrants take advantage of good weather to "fly over" the area between the north shore of Lake Erie and the south shore of Lake Ontario in their hurry to get to their breeding area. "Fallouts" of migrants (when you catch birds in large numbers) occur when migrants encounter bad weather. Thus, we never had a "big day" (which we interpret as a day on which we band 100+ birds), but we did catch birds in good steady numbers throughout the month and had two days of 87 (6 and 10 May).

This was a record high season at Ruthven Park—we banded 1,888 birds, which is 394 birds more than the previous high, achieved last year. Both the April and May totals were new records (April by 15 birds and May by 202. The rate of capture, 40.1 b/100nh, is second only to 1999.