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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Appledore Island Migration Station

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We banded 83 different forms or species and had record high spring numbers for 21 species:

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (6)
- Hairy Woodpecker (3)
- Downy Woodpecker (11)
- Brown Creeper (12)
- House Wren (23)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (94)
- Gray-cheeked Thrush (5)
- Swainson's Thrush (19)
- Brown Thrasher (4)
- Blue-winged Warbler (14)
- Tennessee Warbler (12)
- Black-throated Green Warbler (5)
- Black & White Warbler (7)
- American Redstart (11)
- Northern Cardinal (14)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (44)
- Field Sparrow (20)
- Dark-eyed Junco (128)
- Orchard Oriole (15)
- "Baltimore" Oriole (36)
- American Goldfinch (458)

The record number of long-distance migrants that do not breed locally are simply fortuitous—we had the right nets open at the right time. For these birds, the increases should not be interpreted to suggest an increase in their overall numbers. However, the increases in some of these species that breed locally are interesting. Orchard Oriole numbers have taken off in the last two years as have those of Field Sparrow. The latter is likely due to agricultural fields close to the banding area being "let go" to regenerate; hard to say for Orchard Orioles. Could some of the birds be taking advantage of the gypsy moth scourge that has hit local woodlands in the past two years?

The American Goldfinch number is very surprising—152 more than any previous spring. Most of these birds are caught in the area of the feeders. We also had many (68) goldfinch retraps—birds that were banded here in previous years. These birds molt body plumage at this time in preparation for the breeding season. This is energetically demanding and oil sunflower and niger seed is an excellent source of energy. These feeders have been in place for many years. Do these birds now count on

this food source to meet their energy requirements at this time? Are "new" birds following birds that know the feeders are there? These feeders, we feel, were a very important source of nutrients during the bad weather in April; juncos, for example, stayed in their vicinity for more than a week, putting on/maintaining fat loads. The bottom line is that feeding birds attract other birds, and it sure paid off this season for these two species at least.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their ongoing support of the banding program at Ruthven Park. This includes the use of the grounds, use of the banding lab building, and financial support. Ruthven Park staff, Marilyn Havelka (CAO) and Linda Jackson, have been great to work with (especially when they bring tea and goodies). Haldimand Bird Observatory, of which Ruthven is a part, has received support from the Baillie Birdathon Fund which is administered through Bird Studies Canada, from the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Ontario Power Generation, and the Observatory's friends and members. We also thank Pat Chow-Fraser from McMaster University's Biodiversity Program for her involvement (and that of her students).

Appledore Island

425-0703

Migration Station

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Sara Morris, Compiler

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Banders: *David Bonter, Kristen Covino, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright*

Chief Assistants: Amber Bratcher, Liz Burton, Bill Clark, Lindsay Herlihy, Jason Jacobs, Susan Lee, Charlotte Ott, Jeff Ott, Stephanie Parkinson, Carlene Riccelli, Carolyn Schmitz, Bethany Stephan, Amanda Stockwell, Ryanne Sullivan, Andy Theide, Stella Walsh

Spring 2007 was a great season on Appledore. After two years of low numbers and bad weather, spring 2007 was more typical of our expected spring seasons. Weather caused only relatively minor disruptions to our schedule, requiring the station to open a day later than planned and to remain closed only two other days during the season (18 May and 4 Jun). Our total birds banded (3,110) was our highest total in the past eight years and was higher than our spring average of 2457 ±

508. The 72 species banded was exactly our spring average and was higher than the number of species banded in the past four springs. Similarly, we operated for close to our average number of net hours (spring 2007: 3404; spring average 3295 ± 862). The higher-than-average number of species also resulted in slightly more b/100nh than normal (spring 2007: 91.4; spring average 77.6 ± 18.3). We even captured two new species for the station—a Fox Sparrow banded on 11 May and a Least Bittern captured on 23 May. Additionally, a Blue Grosbeak banded on 3 Jun was a new species for spring migration on Appledore

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
620 Com. Yellowthroat	79.8	12.4	7.8
435 Magnolia Warbler	84.7	11.0	4.3
315 Am. Redstart	81.3	11.4	7.3
176 Red-eyed Vireo	11.9	6.3	81.8
135 White-thr Sparrow	97.8		2.2
128 Blackpoll Warbler	84.4	7.8	7.8
103 BI & Wh Warbler	84.0	14.6	1.0
93 BI-thr Blue Warb.	83.9	14.0	2.2
85 Canada Warbler	68.2	17.6	14.1
82 Northern Parula	69.5	25.6	4.9

Several species of birds were captured in higher than average numbers. Five species were captured in higher numbers than any previous year: Acadian Flycatcher (11, average 3, previous high 6), American Redstart (315, average 143, previous high 270), Black-throated Blue Warbler (93, average 41, previous high 79), Indigo Bunting (9, average 3, previous high 7), and Summer Tanager (5, previous high 3). The other species captured in numbers significantly higher than normal was the Traill's Flycatcher (80, spring average 36). Four additional species were within their normal spring ranges, but were on the high end of the range: Blackpoll Warbler (128, average 81), Chestnut-sided Warbler (42, average 27), Magnolia Warbler (435, average 296), and Yellow Warbler (45, average 27). The only species that was below the normal range was the Veery (4, average 18, previous low 11).

During the spring season, Kristen Covino, a master's student at the University of Maine, collected data on the effects of energetic condition on migratory decisions by migrant landbirds. Many

Appledore faculty, students, and researchers enjoyed watching the glowing light from the birds she released at night. The banding station hosted many guests who were visiting or taking classes at the Shoals Marine Lab. We were particularly pleased to host students from David Bonter's Field Ornithology class. The station could not continue without the continued logistic and financial assistance from the Shoals Marine Lab. We also are very grateful for the contributions of our dedicated volunteers and Canisius College.

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 Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801
Banders: Stuart A. Mackenzie 423-0802
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Chief Assistants: Hugh McArthur, Ross Wood

One might expect that after 47 years of migration monitoring at Long Point (LPBO) there might be a tendency for us to grow complacent. Fortunately, Mother Nature is rarely predictable. When you combine her capriciousness and the effect it has upon migrating birds, along with the constantly changing cast of volunteers and visitors, there is little room for boredom at LPBO.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
2173 Wh-thr Sparrow	63.1	10.9	26.0
857 Red-wg Blackbd	41.0	42.0	17.0
829 Br-hd Cowbird	34.3	1.2	64.5
744 Sl-col Junco	61.8	26.8	11.4
648 Chipping Spar.	41.3	7.6	51.1
637 Ruby-cr Kinglet	53.9	25.1	21.0
589 Magnolia Warb	64.0	18.2	17.8
528 Com Grackle	21.2		78.8
497 Gray Catbird	62.6	21.3	16.1
482 E Wh-cr Sparrow	51.5	11.8	36.7

Weather is the ultimate force on the overall shape of spring migration. The intricacies of continental weather systems in combination with the influence of the Great Lakes make the seasonal pilgrimage of northbound migrants very difficult to predict. With the consistently cool weather we experienced throughout the season, there was an additional degree of uncertainty as to the final result.