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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Powdermill Nature Reserve

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Powdermill Nature Reserve Center 400-0791
 Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
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Powdermill Avian Research Center's bird banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve completed its 46th consecutive spring banding season in 2007. 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 72 days during the spring 2007 season (2 Mar through 3 Jun). The season total of 2,873 was slightly above average. The highest daily total this spring was 171 on 17 May. Cedar Waxwings were the most numerous species banded that day, comprising 17.5% of the daily catch. On this day we banded 40 different species, making it also the most diverse day of the season.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
273 Dark-eyed Junco	56.0	43.5	
223 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	37.2	52.4	10.3
203 Am. Goldfinch	62.0	36.4	1.4
144 Cedar Waxwing	59.0	40.9	
132 Gray Catbird	65.1	31.8	3.0
128 Song Sparrow	28.1	65.6	6.2
108 Magnolia Warbler	57.4	42.5	
82 Com. Yellowthroat	37.8	62.1	
77 Swamp Sparrow	35.0	61.0	3.8
75 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	38.6	52.0	9.3

April began with two weeks of extensive freeze, and spring arrived in western Pennsylvania much later than usual. As a result, total birds banded for the month (728) was considerably down from April 2006 (1,383).

This spring totals for 22 of the 102 species banded were above 1 SD greater than the mean. Six of these species exceeded the previous record high: Gray Catbird (140 vs. 114), Hooded Warbler (36 vs. 31), House Wren (38 vs. 26), Lincoln's Sparrow (30 vs. 24), Swamp Sparrow (77 vs. 70), and Tree Swallow (35 vs. 28). Northern Waterthrushes, Mourning Warblers, and Indigo Buntings also had a good flight.

We banded several species with a long term spring average of <1 including: Pileated Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Marsh Wren, and Cooper's Hawk. Other species often missed that we banded were Orange-crowned Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Conspicuous "misses" with a long-term average >1 were Bay-breasted Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Northern Parula.

We welcomed Danilo Mejia and Maria Paulino in April as our Louisiana Waterthrush interns and occasional banding volunteers. Both are from the Dominican Republic and will continue studies of Louisiana Waterthrushes on their wintering grounds. Also, we thank the following volunteers for their help during the 2007 spring banding season: Lauren Schneider, Dean Thompson, Greg and Felicia George, Holly McChesney, Mike Comley, Jessica Scopel, Carol Shanahan, Annie Lindsay, Mary Shidel, Brent Worls, Briana Smrekar, Kristin Sesser, Matt Shumar, Margaret Hahn, Bruce Steger, Sara Sargent, Cailin O'Connor, Joe Schreiber, Steve Latta, Greg Baruffi, Keith McKenrick, and Michael Allen. 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

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Banders: Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks (Ted's first season banding as a new subpermittee—congratulations!), Glenn Mahler, Robert Pantle, Robert Yunick

Banding Assistants: Rebecca Beer, Martha O'Rourke, and Alex Tongas.

During the spring 2007 banding season, six banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 7 Mar and 13 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 51 days during that 98-day period; there were five banding days in March, 14 in April, 26 in May and six in June. There were three days on which four of the stations were in operation, nine days with three stations, and 12 days with two; on all remaining banding days, only a single station was active.