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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Island Beach State Park

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Powdermill Nature Reserve Center 400-0791
 Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Banders: Adrienne Leppold, Robert C. Leberman, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Michael J. Lanzone

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Chief Assistant: Pam Ferkett

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.

	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
803 Gray Catbird	79.4	14.1	6.5
453 Com. Yellowthr	56.1	17.9	26.0
128 Wh-thr Sparrow	64.3	7.0	28.7
110 Magnolia Warb	90.9	4.5	4.5
85 Bl-and-wh Warb	65.9	28.2	5.9
83 Ovenbird	71.1	8.4	20.5
71 Myrtle Warbler	70.0	12.9	17.1
68 Bl-thr Blue Warb	85.3	10.3	4.4
68 No. Waterthrush	39.7	29.4	30.9
60 Blackpoll Warb	76.7	10.0	13.3

The 2,648 birds banded for the season was well above our average of 2,025. However, this number is an artifact of nearly double the number of net-hours effort compared to the average effort from previous years. The season's 77.9 b/100nh was once again well below our average of 121.4. Looking at the major species groups, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers all had capture rates that were about 50% of average. It is purely a speculation, but could this possibly be a reflection of an unusually high mortality rate for Neotropical migrants during the record-breaking severe hurricane season of fall 2005? Thrushes fared a bit better with a capture rate that was 80% of average. Sparrows, at 114%, were the only group to be captured at better than their long-term average capture rate.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<u>Date (No. stations operating)</u>	<u>No. Birds</u>	<u>No. Species</u>	<u>No. B/100nh</u>
May 5 (3)	277	32	128.5
May 6 (2)	124	18	145.9
May 13 (4)	291	32	187.1
May 17 (4)	273	29	142.9
May 18 (3)	257	28	371.8
May 24 (1)	93	19	379.6
May 25 (1)	114	19	330.4

One new species was banded this spring: an American Kestrel, netted on 2 Apr was the 123rd species banded since the start of spring banding in 1987. Other notable species were:

1 American Woodcock (only the second spring capture)
 10 Mourning Doves (a new spring high)
 10 Brown Creepers (a new spring high)
 9 House Wrens (a new spring high)
 68 Black-throated Blue Warbler (a new spring high - previous was 58)
 42 Eastern Towhee (a new spring high - previous was 27)

First Landing State Park **365-0760**
 Virginia Beach, VA
Bander: Peter Doherty

Banding was conducted from 14 Mar 2007 to 31 May 2007. Nets were open 68 days. (Of 79 possible banding days, the station was closed 11 days). There were 1,293 birds banded of 80 species, 294 recaptures (1,587 total) and 36 birds were released unbanded. Additionally, seven banded species were new to the First Landing Banding Station: Yellow-throated Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Marsh Wren, House Finch, Baltimore Oriole, Alder Flycatcher, and Chuck-will's-widow. The two Chuck-will's-widows were captured as part of a nascent, spring evening banding effort.

Brief Comparison between Years:

2005: 1,175 birds banded of 81 species in 2005, 250 recaps, 1,425 total birds (nets open 66 of 84 days, closed 18, from 1 Mar - 23 May 2005).

2006: 1,373 birds of 76 species, 245 recaps, 1,618 total birds. (15 Mar - 15 Jun, open 78 days of 93, closed 15).

Of the three years, the mean daily tally was the highest in 2007. New birds per banding day: 2005 = 17.8; 2006= 17.6; 2007= 19.0. Total birds per day (including recaptures): 2005= 21.6; 2006=20.7; 2007=23.3.

Recaptures

There were no foreign recoveries during the 2007 spring season. However, of First Landing birds banded in 2005, there were 30 recaptures of 17 individuals of nine species. Of these, five were resident species: Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, American Goldfinch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Pileated Woodpecker. Four species were migratory, non-residents: Yellow-