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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 First Landing State Park

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	% 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-

rumped "Myrtle" Warbler (MYWA), Northern Parula, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Swamp Sparrow. Of note, three of the MYWA birds recaptured on "opening day" (14 Mar 2007), each had been banded on 4 Mar 2005. These individuals were not recaptured during the 2006 season.

There were 26 recaptures of 19 individuals of nine species in 2006. Of these, six were resident species: Eastern Tufted Titmouse, American Goldfinch, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, and Carolina Chickadee; three were migratory species: Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler, and Northern Parula.

Additional Activities

The educational function of the First Landing Station expanded during the 2007 spring season. Several interested individuals (some of whom were involved with the inaugural Virginia Master Naturalist Program) were trained in scribing, extracting and banding protocol. Included in this group were: Renee Hudgins, John Young, Kathy Spencer, Sheila Scoville, and Cindy Burke. Five scouting groups made scheduled and unscheduled visits to the station. Foot traffic was brisk over the course of the season, including visitors from previous seasons.

Also, a blog was created for the First Landing Station at: www.cvwofirstlandingspk.blogspot.com.

Finally, a modest and successful effort was begun to capture Chuck-will's-widows at First Landing. This nightjar nests in the park annually, and an increased effort next spring by the Costal Virginia Wildlife Observatory to study the species, its habits, and use of the park habitat appears justified.

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Banders: Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Elizabeth Golden

Cape Florida is in its sixth year as a fall migration banding station. The park is on the southern tip of a mostly developed barrier island just off the coast of Miami. We have up to 18 nets set in a restored tropical hardwood hammock that is part of a multi-million dollar effort to return native vegetation to the park following Hurricane Andrew. We opened for

spring migration in 2007 for the first time, with some interesting results. Unfortunately, due to the time constraints placed on the three volunteer banders, this spring session will most likely be a one-time deal.

275	Common Yellowthroat
177	American Redstart
160	Black-throated Blue Warbler
155	Ovenbird
96	Prairie Warbler
86	Northern Waterthrush
69	Blackpoll Warbler
69	Black & White Warbler
60	Gray Catbird
44	Worm-eating Warbler

Nets were opened for three days in March, and more frequently in April and the first half of May. The station was open for six days a week in the third week of April and the first two weeks of May, during the peak movements. Nets were open from sunrise until around 1300 on most days, but we stayed open until 1600 or 1800 on good fallout days.

The weather was active with front passage and precipitation occurring at regular intervals throughout the spring. Westerly winds seem to create fallout conditions on the east coast of Florida as migrants coming up from the islands 'miss' the peninsula to the east and head back towards shore from the open Atlantic after sunrise. Waves of songbirds can be observed flying in off the ocean to land on the key in the afternoons on days with strong west winds or rain. We also noticed a phenomenon we called 'fair-weather fallouts,' where distinct waves of birds would arrive in late morning or early afternoon without inclement weather or adverse winds. We suspect these birds could be leaving locations such as Hispaniola the night before and using Cape Florida as a regular stepping stone in their migration, rather than as a last-chance shelter.

The weather for May 2007 was somewhat peculiar. Subtropical Storm Andrea parked off the north coast of Florida for several days and provided us with days of westerly winds. Smoke from numerous forest fires to our north reduced visibility for many of the banding days. We had no evidence of birds being disoriented by the smoke, but the sustained west wind gave us our busiest days in the history of the station on 9-12 May. We were never able to maximize these days because of usually having only two to three people available to