

2009

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2008 Lewiston Banding Station

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followed by live shots from the bay below, the students asking why they were doing this to wounded birds and why we could not stop them, until the banders could break in and radio a demand that the DEC killing team switch to another channel. This "control" operation is taking place on both NY and VT sides of Champlain in 2008, while the beaches are covered with dead alewives, a recent invasive in the lake and now a favored dietary staple of cormorants. Go figure.

We are grateful to those who helped transport the banding station: Malinda Chapman & family, Stan Corneille, Gordon Howard, Dan Lee, Gary Lee, and Bob Wei. Special thanks go to Historic Site Manager Thomas Hughes, Jake Putnam, and the rest of the Crown Point staff for their continued cooperation and many kindnesses. We greatly appreciate the interest in habitat maintenance of Matt Medler, Pam Otis, Ray Perry, and Melissa Plemens from OPR&HP in Albany. Since 1976, a total of 14,982 birds have been banded on the grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site, and we look forward to banding #15,000 during our 34th year in 2009.

Lewiston Banding Station **431-0790**
Niagara Co., NY
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The 2008 spring banding season got underway on 5 May. The banding on this day started out very well with 33 birds of 15 different species being captured. The nets were opened again on 6 May for a five-hour period with only 15 total birds of eight different species being captured. Over these two banding days, only six warbler species were handled, totaling 18 birds. It was hoped that things would pick up in the coming weeks with the main flights of warblers usually appearing around the 15th. Weather conditions remained good throughout the spring banding season.

| | <u>Species</u> | <u>#</u> | <u>% L</u> | <u>% SY</u> | <u>% ASY</u> | <u>% AHY</u> |
|-----|-------------------|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | Purple Martin | 37 | 100 | | | |
| 2. | Gray Catbird | 24 | | 29 | | 71 |
| 3. | American Robin | 21 | | 38 | | 57 |
| 4. | Myrtle Warbler | 18 | | 11 | | 89 |
| 5. | Nashville Warbler | 13 | | 8 | | 92 |
| 6. | Ruby-cr. Kinglet | 12 | | | | 100 |
| 7. | Magnolia Warbler | 12 | | 25 | | 75 |
| 8. | Rose-br. Grosbeak | 11 | | 36 | 19 | 45 |
| 9. | Wood Thrush | 11 | | 73 | | 27 |
| 10. | Hermit Thrush | 9 | | 78 | | 22 |

Throughout the month of May there was NO apparent warbler migration taking place at the Lewiston station! Warblers were handled daily with total numbers being down along with total species. Many reasons for this decline were discussed, but no positive theories came out of the discussions. As in many cases, the area surrounding the banding location has grown up with housing developments as well as a 250-ac golf course being constructed within half a mile of the net lanes, creating much loss of very valuable habitat. If we accept this theory for the reduced number of warblers, we can not explain why all the species of birds using this area have not shown similar declines. The thrush species are at an all-time high with Hermit Thrush topping the list. The birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) dropped from 35.8 in 2007 to 22.5 in 2008, mostly showing the decline in warbler species. Again this year, there was a total of eight local retraps.

The spring banding season came to an end on 2 Jun, with a total of 262 birds of 50 species being captured, banded, and released.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory **431-0774**
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station

Monroe County, NY

Elizabeth W. Brooks and Ryan Kayhart,
Compilers; **Ann Adams, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Margaret Fritze, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Cindy Marino, David Mathiason, Robert McKinney, and Sue Smith**, Banders.

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