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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2008 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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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
Jerald J. Farrell, Bander
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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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The 23rd consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 51 days beginning 19 Apr and ending on 12 Jun 2008. There were 3876 birds banded of 95 forms. Fifty-nine Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds, and an additional 41 female and 23 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1. Ruby-cr. Kinglet	367	55.6	21.3	23.0
2. Magnolia Warbler	290	63.7	29.5	6.8
3. Gray Catbird	225	52.9	27.1	24.4
4. Yellow Warbler	205	59.3	25.7	15.0
5. Black-cap Chickadee	192	45.7	25.0	29.3
6. Common Yellowthroat	165	42.3	14.7	42.9
7. American Redstart	159	55.8	31.4	12.8
8. Western Palm Warbler	147	24.8	7.2	68.0
9. White-throated Sparrow	144	40.8	11.3	47.9
10. Myrtle Warbler	137	37.6	45.9	16.5

Banding Assistants were Linda Boutwell, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Marian Klik, Ember Jandebour, Peggy Keller, Pat Lovallo, Karl Miller, Doug Smith, Taza Schaming, David Semple, and Barb Wagner. Our Intern was Noelle Boone; our Field Assistant was Karen Velas; and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

Constant-effort mist-netting was carried out using from one to 34 nets. Included in the total were six elevated net assemblies. A total of 8636 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 44.88 b/100nh, down from spring 2007 (56.8 b/100nh). The best day was 26 May when 349 birds were banded of 47 species; other 200+ bird days were 14 May (236 of 41 species) and 20 May (223 of 38 species). The greatest species diversity occurred on 26 May when 47 species were banded.

There were over 650 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology. Of these recaptures, 89 were birds that returned from a previous season. Noteworthy were a Common Grackle in its 13th year; a Brown-headed Cowbird in its eighth year; a Common Grackle in its seventh year; a Gray

Catbird and Yellow Warbler in their sixth year; and three American Robins, one catbird, one Yellow Warbler, one Common Yellowthroat, one Northern Cardinal, and one Baltimore Oriole—all in their fifth year.

Since the last banding report, we received information from the Bird Banding Laboratory that a **Cedar Waxwing**, banded at K-MB on 20 Jul 2006, was found dead on 26 Jul 2008 one mile east of Livonia Center, NY, a distance of 36 miles from the banding station. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, banded on 30 Apr 2007 was recaptured and released alive on 24 Oct 2007 by Stuart MacKenzie at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario. An **American Goldfinch** banded on 13 May 2007 was found dead on 16 Mar 2008 in Woodstock, GA. Another **American Goldfinch** banded on 1 Nov 2006 was found dead on 15 Feb 2009 in Gaines, NY, a distance of 17 mi NNE. The band of a **White-throated Sparrow** banded on 6 Oct 2007 was found in an owl pellet in the Owl Woods near the banding station on 2 Apr 2008. A **Blue Jay** banded on 24 May 2002 was found dead at McDonalds Corners, Ontario, on 8 Nov 2008. Another **Blue Jay** banded on 19 May 2007 was captured and released in Messener, Quebec, on 13 Feb 2009, 226 mi NNE of the banding station. And a **Black-capped Chickadee**, banded on 24 Oct 2007, was found dead in Churchville, NY, on 8 Nov 2007.

An American Crow had a tumor on one of its left toes; a Western Palm Warbler had a healed fracture of its left tarsus; three Ruby-crowned Kinglets presented with orange or yellow crown feathers. Ticks were found on a Traill's Flycatcher, a Swainson's Thrush, and four Common Yellowthroats. Mites or feather lice were found on a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, six Gray Catbirds, two Magnolia Warblers, one American Redstart, and one Baltimore Oriole. Scaly leg was observed on five Yellow Warblers, one each Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle.

The total number of birds banded (3876) during spring 2008 was slightly above the 22-year average of 3645 birds, but down from 2006 and 2007 totals,

when 5296 and 4752 birds were banded in about the same number of net hours. Red-bellied Woodpecker and American Crow were the only new species added to the cumulative total spring list, which now stands at 141 forms.

There were record high numbers banded of Black-billed Cuckoo (8), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (59), Western Palm Warbler (147), and Blackpoll Warbler (94). On the negative side, Golden-crowned Kinglet was missing this spring, after being banded in all but two of the past 22 years. Because of the early spring, most early migrants had moved through the area before we opened and so were down in numbers (Winter Wren, Tree Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, etc.).

Cloacal swabbings and feather samples were taken from 100 birds this spring as part of the Avian Influenza monitoring program being coordinated by the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA). The samples were processed at U.C.L.A.

Dave Alexander (Duluth, MN), Noelle Boone (Rochester, NY), J. Alan Clark (Armonk, NY), Sue Evans (Bloomfield, NY), Tom Klotzbach (Waterport, NY), Brad Mudzynski (Elba, NY), and Emily Runnells (Concord, NH) successfully completed our spring Bander Training Course.

Visitors included the Spring Ornithology class from the Laboratory of Ornithology, students from Dr. Chris Norment's SUNY Brockport Ornithology class, a class from the Farmington Calvary Christian School, and students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT. The members of the Allyn's Creek Garden Club held their May meeting at the banding station, highlighted by a presentation on migration by David Bonter. We had visitors from as far away as Alaska and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: David Alexander, Jim Bair, Dave Edwards, Judy Engerman, Sue Evans,

Chris Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Kathleen Holt, Peggy Keller, Joanna Klima, Greg Lawrence, John Lehr, Dave Levy, Tom McDonald, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Lee Schofield, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Leanna Twohig, Tom Verhulst, Chris Villone, and Megan Whitman. Special appreciation is extended to Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

Ruthven Park

425-0795

Cayuga, Haldimand County, Ontario

Bander: **Rick Ludkin**

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret

The banding station, founded in the fall of 1995, is situated on the grounds of Ruthven Park, a National Historic Site overlooking the Grand River about two km north of Cayuga, Ontario. The park itself comprises ~1500 ac of mostly agricultural and forested lands with six ac of lawns directly surrounding the historic mansion. The net lanes have been cut into the shrubby second growth, making the transition between the lawns and the surrounding woodland.

1. American Goldfinch	192
2. Yellow Warbler	97
3. Gray Catbird	72
4. Brown-headed Cowbird	67
5. Slate-colored Junco	63
6. White-throated Sparrow	60
7. Chipping Sparrow	56
8. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	49
9. Baltimore Oriole	48
10. Song Sparrow	43

Migration monitoring started on 1 Apr and ran through to 6 Jun. In total, we banded/monitored on 63 of a possible 67 days (94% coverage). Days missed were due to very bad weather. On some days, some (sometimes all) nets were not opened due to rain or high winds and ground traps were used alone. We had 26 people volunteer their time, ranging from one day to 32 days, to help out (see list below).