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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2008 Powdermill Nature Reserve

Robert S. Mulvihill

Molly McDermott

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a total of 24 days of operation. As usual, strong winds, mainly from the NW, continued to blow throughout the spring, turning southerly in June. In total, 382 birds of 46 species were banded and 295 were recaptured. Of those recaptured, 59% were returns from previous years. Older birds of interest included a Black-capped Chickadee at least 8 years old, a Common Yellowthroat at least 7 years old, and two Common Yellowthroats, a Prairie Warbler, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal, and Black-capped Chickadee at least 6 years old.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1. Gray Catbird	130	77	23	0
2. American Goldfinch	44	66	34	0
3. Common Yellowthroat	26	65	31	4
4. Song Sparrow	24	33	17	50
5. White-throated Sparrow	20	65	5	30
6. Prairie Warbler	15	53	47	0
7. Black-cap. Chickadee	12	83	17	0
8. Northern Cardinal	12	33	0	0
9. Yellow Warbler	10	90	10	0
10. Swamp Sparrow	9	78	22	0

A range of 1-32 nets was used. Net hours totaled 2453 (netted birds) for a capture rate of 28 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was 95 birds on 15 May and was also the day with the most species diversity (20). No new species were banded this spring; however we did capture a Purple Finch, a species we have banded typically in fall but never in previous springs. Numbers of both Swamp and White-throated sparrows were higher than in previous years. Three of our birds had cloacal flukes—one being a Northern Cardinal with a brood patch, whose cloaca was so enlarged with growths we could not imagine how she could lay eggs. Four of our birds presented with avian pox.

On 28 May a banding demonstration was held for a group of 16 home-schoolers and we welcomed visitors interested in the banding process during the season. Our old friend, a Gray Catbird, originally banded by Bob McKinney at Island Beach in 2003 as a HY, returned again to breed, which she has done year after year since 2005. We continue to cooperate with the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network and the Center for

Tropical Research in California, pulling feathers and swabbing birds for avian flu. Larval ticks we pull from birds have showed a steady increase of parasitic burden for agents causing lyme disease, anaplasma (formerly ehrlichia), and babesia.

Thanks very much to banders Gretchen Putonen and Carolyn Kennedy and assistants Judith Bruce, Tom Burgess, Kalina Desseaux, Nancy Hipp, Roger Jenks, Judy Keller, Kelly Sattman, Gwen Shipley, and Susan Thompson for helping this spring, as well as the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Robert S. Mulvihill, and Molly McDermott,

Banders

acvitz@yahoo.com

Julie Means and Mary Shidel, Chief Assistants

Powdermill Avian Research Center's bird banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve completed its 47th consecutive spring banding season in 2008. Powdermill is a 2,000-ac 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 for 66 days during the spring 2008 season (2 Mar through 1 Jun). Species captured in numbers above 2 standard deviations (SD) only included the Red-bellied Woodpecker and no species were captured >2 SD less than their long-term mean.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1. Dark-eyed Junco	196	16	83	1
2. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	128	32	34	34
3. American Goldfinch	121	54	44	2
4. Cedar Waxwing	102	55	44	1
5. Song Sparrow	102	30	57	13
6. Magnolia Warbler	96	42	58	0
7. Blue Jay	71	70	30	0
8. Gray Catbird	63	52	48	0
9. Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	58	0	0	100
10. Chipping Sparrow	55	65	29	5

No foreign recoveries or encounters were reported from birds banded during spring 2008.

Interesting captures included a Sutton's Warbler, a probable Nashville x Orange-crowned Warbler hybrid, a female Hooded Merganser, a Vesper Sparrow, and a Pileated Woodpecker.

During this period. we provided banding demonstrations to over 15 groups of approximately 300 individuals.

Island Beach State Park 395-0740

Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ

Glenn R. Mahler, compiler

102071.2661@compuserve.com

Bruce Adams, Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley,

Ted Hicks and Robert Yunick, Banders

Marge Appleby, Laura Barry, Martha O'Rourke,

Bev Shilling and Alex Tongas, Assistants

During the spring 2008 banding season, five banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 18 Apr and 13 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 32 days during that 62-day period; there were no banding days in March, five in April, 22 in May and five in June. There was one day on which four of the stations were in operation, three days with three stations, and eight days with two; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active.

The 2000 birds banded for the season was close to our average of 2070, while the season's 90.6 b/100nh was 76% of our average of 119.9. Lower-than-average capture rates were experienced by four of the five major migrant groups: vireos (43% of average), thrushes (83%), warblers (78%), and sparrows (61%). Flycatchers, however, fared a bit better, coming in at 120% of average.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1. Gray Catbird	588	84.4	9.1	6.5
2. Common Yellowthroat	347	59.4	21.6	19
3. Magnolia Warbler	202	71.4	14.3	14.3
4. Black-and-white Warbler	74	51.4	39.2	9.4
5. Northern Parula	64	82	13.1	4.9
6. Northern Waterthrush	49	53.1	22.4	24.5
7. Myrtle Warbler	46	54.3	21.78	23.9
8. American Redstart	41	61	21.9	17.1
9. Yellow Warbler	40	60	32.5	7.5

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<u>Date</u> <u>(# stations</u> <u>operating)</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u># Species</u>	<u># b/100nh</u>
May 4 (2)	120	24	192.8
May 7 (1)	111	17	267.5
May 18 (4)	502	42	253.6
May 19 (3)	197	31	112.1
May 22 (2)	131	29	155.2

Notable species were: 22 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (a new high; previous high was 13); seven Red-eyed-Vireo (new all-time LOW; previous low was 12, average is 34); and 16 Red-breasted Nuthatch (new all-time high; previous high was 11, average was 2.5).



Magnolia Warbler
by George West