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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2009

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ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2009

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We welcome the addition of Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory located in Branchville, Sussex County, NJ, to the Spring 2009 AFR report, bringing the total of reporting stations to 13. We would welcome additional reporting stations from the Atlantic Flyway. If you would like to join the spring 2010 report, please request a reporting form.

Total birds banded in spring 2009 was 34,683, up from 25,574 in spring 2008. Only Rock Point, Wing Island, and Bedford Valley reported fewer birds in 2009. Kestrel Haven called their spring "dismal" and may have been in the group with fewer birds but were saved by the incredible invasion of Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches.

Read the narratives to learn about the banding of Appledore's 100,000th bird (a Gray Catbird); Long Point's record-setting single day of banding (1,321 birds on 6 May); the Black-capped Chickadee with a grape-vine tightly wrapped around its tarsus (carefully removed by Wing Island staff); and the Traill's Flycatcher that sang in its holding cage, allowing Island Beach banders to call it a Willow Flycatcher.

Braddock Bay, Ruthven, and Rock Point each have websites for daily banding totals and blogs.

Thanks to all who participated.

(see tables next page)

Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732
Essex County, NY
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The spring banding station on the 360-ac grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site opened for the 34th consecutive season of banding between 8 and 25 May. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association (CPBA), through an agreement with the New York's Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the station is located in thickets of hawthorn-juniper west of His Majesty's Fort. The modest totals of 57 species and 457 individual birds were a slight improvement over May 2008 (51 species., 384 birds), but below usual expectations. Notable for their absence were Myrtle Warblers, with no major waves and just 20 banded.

78 American Goldfinch
44 Gray Catbird
38 Common Yellowthroat
32 Blue Jay
22 Baltimore Oriole
20 Myrtle Warbler
18 Yellow Warbler
15 American Robin
• **12 Black-capped Chickadee**
12 Cedar Waxwing

Despite torrential rains on 9 May (followed by a double rainbow over Vermont), strong winds and rain on 14 May, plus a morning with frost as late as 19 May, the weather was generally favorable and

Table 1. Spring 2009 AFR Banding Summary

	Crown Point, NY	Lewiston, NY	Braddock Bay, NY	Ruthven, ONT	Rock Point, ONT	Appledore, ME	Long Point, ONT
Inclusive Dates	5/8 to 5/25	4/30 to 5/26	4/16 to 6/8	4/1 to 5/31	4/2 to 6/7	5/4 to 6/7	4/1 to 6/10
Total Days	18	14	47	57	44	35	71
# Nets Used	10 to 16	15	1 to 34	16	1 to 16	5 to 10	0 to 44
Total Net Hours	3529	884	7607	4515	3567	3896	9100
% Caught in Traps	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	27.2%
Best Day # (date)	39 (5/15,5/16)	60 (5/15)	250 (5/8)	71 (4/28)	139 (4/27)	249 (5/31)	1094 (5/6)
Best Diversity (date)	18 (5/9,5/18)	22 (5/15)	40 (5/16)	26 (5/17)	27 (5/15)	28 (5/20)	64 (5/6)
Total Banded 2008	384	262	3876	1512	1553	2462	10,209
Total Banded 2009	457	416	4305	1677	1502	2771	17,128
Total Species 2008	51	50	95	86	84	74	126
Total Species 2009	57	46	91	88	73	76	130
Birds/100nh 2008	12	22.5	44.9	25.6	37.3	72.3	91
Birds/100nh 2009	13	40.3	56.6	32.7	42	71.1	188

Table 1. Spring 2009 AFR Banding Summary (Continued)

	Kestrel Haven, NY	Presque Isle, PA	Wing Island, MA	Bedford Valley, PA	Raccoon Ridge, NJ	Powdermill, PA	Island Beach, NJ
Inclusive Dates	4/14 to 5/26	4/16 to 5/30	3/5 to 6/15	4/16 to 6/6	3/9 to 6/23	3/3 to 5/31	4/13 to 6/13
Total Days	22	33	26	30	34	66	33
# Nets Used	1 to 10	8 to 12	2 to 32	1 to 10	6 to 14	6 to 66	5 to 36
Total Net Hours	538	2204	2298	453	1264	10,728	2122
% Caught in Traps	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na	7.0%	0.0%
Best Day # (date)	107 (5/3)	113 (5/15)	47 (5/19)	15 (5/11)	33 (5/8)	128 (5/10)	318 (5/15)
Best Diversity (date)	20 (5/3)	24 (5/15,5/22)	14 (5/8)	10 (5/11)	19 (5/16)	34 (5/10)	31 (5/15)
Total Banded 2008	506	251	382	297	na	1880	2000
Total Banded 2009	779	945	360	161	363	2175	1644
Total Species 2008	53	43	46	47	na	102	71
Total Species 2009	46	78	42	48	64	103	67
Birds/100nh 2008	105	57.5	28	81.8	na	22.2	98.5
Birds/100nh 2009	145	53.3	26	35	-	20	77.49