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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2009 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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No.	Species	% SY	% ASY	% AHY	% L
59	American Goldfinch	53%		47%	
41	Gray Catbird	8		92	
37	Purple Martin				100%
26	Magnolia Warbler	18		82	
25	Swainson's Thrush	31		69	
24	Myrtle Warbler	14		86	
21	Tennessee Warbler			100	
16	American Robin	15		85	
13	Black-capped Chickadee	12		88	
13	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	40	9	51	

There were 11 local recaptures. Seven individuals visited the banding station and all left with a better understanding of the catching and banding of birds with mist nets.

**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.

Web updates and blog www.bbbo.org
brookser@earthlink.net

The 24th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 47 days beginning 16 Apr and ending on 8 Jun 2009. There were 4305 birds banded of 91 forms. Thirty-four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 43 male and 31 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

Banding assistants were Virginia Duffy, Sue Evans, Ember Jandebaur, Peggy Keller, Tom Klotzbach, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, and Barb Wagner. Our Field Assistants was Martyna

No.	Species	% SY	% ASY
567	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	74.8	25.2
297	Magnolia Warbler	79.0	21.0
284	American Redstart	70.5	29.5
253	Gray Catbird	83.7	16.3
179	Myrtle Warbler	84.8	15.2
172	White-throated Sparrow	85.9	14.1
171	Common Yellowthroat	81.8	18.2
166	Yellow Warbler	76.4	23.6
141	Traill's Flycatcher	64.3	35.7
120	Wilson's Warbler	80.2	19.8

Boruta, Emily Runnells and 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 7607.4 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 56.6 birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh), up from spring 2008 (44.9 b/100nh). The best day was 8 May when 250 birds were banded; 58% of the total that day was made up of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows. Other 200+ days were 27 May (233), 27 Apr (217), and 16 May (213). The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 May, when 40 species were banded.

There were 613 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, 68 were birds that returned from a previous season. The most noteworthy were a Red-eyed Vireo, American Robin, Gray Catbird, two Northern Cardinals, and an American Goldfinch, all in their sixth year; and a Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, three American Robins, a Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, and two Common Yellowthroats, all in their fifth year.

A Gray Catbird banded at BBBO on 24 May 2007 was found dead by James Hale of Palmyra, NY, on 9 Jun 2009, 4 mi NE of Manchester, Ontario

County, NY. A Common Grackle banded at BBBO on 6 Oct 2007 was found dead on 5 Jun 2009 by Douglas Metzer in the town of Clarkson, Monroe County, NY. A Pine Siskin banded at BBBO on 12 Nov 2008 was killed by a cat one mile east of Canterbury Center, NH, at Crane Neck Pond on 21 Mar 2009. This is 310 miles east of the banding location. A Cedar Waxwing banded on 16 May 2009 was found dead on 3 Aug 2009 at Cardinal, Ontario. A Nashville Warbler banded at BBBO on 14 May 2009 was recaptured and released alive three days later at McGill Bird Observatory in Montreal, Quebec.

Mites or feather lice were observed on nine birds, ticks were removed from nine individuals (one had four ticks on its head), and one bird had a hypoboscid fly. Six birds had deformed or missing toes or claws, one individual had a tumor under its lower mandible, and three Ruby-crowned Kinglets had orange crowns.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2009 (4305) was above the 23-year average of 3569 birds, but down from 2007 and 2008 totals when 5296 and 4752 birds were banded in about the same number of net hours. There were no new species added to the cumulative total spring list, which stands at 141 forms.

There were record high numbers banded of Gray-cheeked Thrush (28), Blackpoll Warbler (102), Eastern Towhee (5), and Brown-headed Cowbird (10). On the negative side, Downy Woodpecker was missing after being banded in 14 of the past 19 years; and American Tree Sparrow was missing after being banded in 12 of the past 19 years.

Cloacal swabbings and feather samples were taken from 56 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 UCLA.

Dr. Susan Smith of Villanova University took blood samples from Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Hermit thrushes, Veery, White-throated and

Lincoln's sparrows, Blackpoll Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos for her research on energetic condition and ecological factors that limit passerines during long-distance migrations.

Dr. Mark Deutschlander and Martyna Boruta of Hobart & William Smith Colleges, took spectroradiometric data as part of his study on bird plumage and coloration. Mark also collected data on wingspan and wing area in migrants, which will be used to model potential remaining flight distances for birds of different energetic condition.

Martyna Boruta (Geneva, NY), Rachel Bricklin (Armonk, NY), Victoria Cadby (Chestertown, MD), Nate Grosse (Brockport, NY), Peggy Keller (Rochester, NY), Nancy Keppel (Rochester, NY), Jennifer Landry (Rochester, NY), Kelly Wicks (Rochester, NY), and Aggie Windig (Rochester, NY) successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

We enjoyed visits from the spring ornithology class from the Laboratory of Ornithology, a class from the Farmington Calvary Christian School, members of the Chili Senior Citizens club, and students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT. We had visitors from as far away as Montana and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors. We held an Open House for members of the Genesee Land Trust on 17 May. We welcomed Shelly Remillard and her students from the Spencerport fifth grade Service Learning Club, who donated beautiful nest boxes they had made for BBBO.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Cathy Belair, Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Amy Finfera, Chris Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Susan Hall, Kathleen Holt, Kyle Horton, Greg Lawrence, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, Sarah Piecuch, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Linda Rossi, Stephanie Saxby, Lee Schofield, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Leslie Stoltz, Ruth Stork, Lona Van Orden, Tom Verhulst, and Ann Yuhas.

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, ON

Bander: Rick Ludkin

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret

Migration monitoring started on 1 Apr and ran through to 31 May. In total we banded/monitored on 57 of a possible 61 days (93% 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 34 days, to help out (see list below).

- 377 American Goldfinch**
- 99 White-throated Sparrow**
- 93 Slate-colored Junco**
- 81 Yellow Warbler**
- 80 Chipping Sparrow**
- 77 Gray Catbird**
- 66 Pine Siskin**
- 61 Red-winged Blackbird**
- 47 Rose-breasted Grosbeak**
- 37 Song Sparrow**

Sixteen 12-m nets were set out in 10 net lanes cut into the shrubby second growth surrounding the historic mansion. Nine of these net lanes have been in place since 1996. We set up a new net in an area that we had planted in red-osier dogwood five years ago specifically for this purpose. The vegetation around the nets is "managed" to try to maintain second growth conditions (both because migrant birds tend to really like it and to keep the data comparable over time). As well as nets, we caught birds using up to five walk-in ground traps and one Potter trap. These were especially effective when the juncos and sparrows were moving in April/early May.

We have run two sets of feeders for many years now and these attracted many moving birds during this

time, especially American Goldfinches, Dark-eyed Juncos, and sparrows.

April tended to be cold and damp. May was cool and damp. In fact, this was one of the coldest and wettest springs we have encountered for many years. There was a pronounced effect on insects – mosquitoes, which can be hellacious, were present only late and in small numbers, to the point that the part of the census that went through the forest was never intimidating. Despite periods of poor weather, we never had a "big day" (which we interpret as a day on which we band 100+ birds) but we did catch birds in good steady numbers throughout the banding period.

Our banding total of **1,677** was our second highest (behind 1,888 in 2007). We set a new record for April banding, 766, and we began to think about a new spring record but...the bottom fell out in May when our capture rate was only 30.9 b/100nh, the second lowest in our history. Our "biggest" day was 28 Apr, when we banded 71 birds. On the bright side, we had the most diversity—88 species banded.

We had record high spring numbers for nine species:

- Orange-crowned Warbler (2) – we usually only see these in the fall
- American Redstart (18)
- Yellow-breasted Chat (1) – only the 2nd one banded at Ruthven
- Prothonotary Warblers (2) – a first for us
- Indigo Bunting (26)
- Swamp Sparrow (23)
- Fox Sparrow (4)
- Purple Finch (19)
- Pine Siskin (66) – an irruption; the next highest previous spring total was 2.

- We had 249 "Returns" of 35 species. Especially noteworthy was a Yellow Warbler that was banded in 2000. The most commonly retrapped returning birds were Song Sparrows (36), American Goldfinches (28), and Yellow Warblers (28).