

2011

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2010 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Elizabeth W. Brooks

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Brooks, Elizabeth W. (2011) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2010 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 36 : Iss. 4 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol36/iss4/11>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
10	Gray Catbird	60		40
9	Blue Jay	75		25
9	Wood Thrush	75		25
8	Nashville Warbler	22		78
8	Myrtle Warbler			100
6	Rose-br. Grosbeak	20	35	45
6	Magnolia Warbler			100
4	Northern Waterthrush			100
3	White-thr. Sparro			100

No adverse weather conditions were encountered during the spring season. There were a total of five local retraps handled of four different species. Again this year I had nine individuals observe the banding operation. I just wish I would have had more birds to show them.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station
 Monroe County, NY

Ann Adams, Dave Alexander, David Bonter, Linda Boutwell, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Ember Jandebaur, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, Rachel Muheim, Richard Joos, Susan Smith, Karen Velas, Banders.

Banding assistants were Amanda Burns, Greg Cunningham, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Peggy Keller, Nancy Keppel, Tom Klotzbach, Greg Lawrence, Pat Lovallo, Andrea Patterson, Rick Shearman, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, Barb Wagner, and Aggie Windig. Our Field Assistant was Angelica Kallenberg, and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

brookser@earthlink.net

The 25th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 47 days beginning 17 Apr and ending on 3 Jun 2010. There were 4,113 birds banded of 94 species. Seventy-five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 21 male and nine

female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
335	Magnolia Warbler	74.5	18.6	6.9
321	Yellow Warbler	62.8	26.3	10.9
302	Gray Catbird	60.2	16.5	23.4
293	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	56.9	21.9	22.3
244	American Redstart	69.1	24.1	6.8
155	Trail's Flycatcher	34.4	8.4	57.3
151	Common Yellowthroat	56.5	8.7	34.8
148	White-thr. Sparrow	52.5	20.9	26.8
122	Myrtle Warbler	65.3	25.4	9.3
121	Blackpoll Warbler	61.3	18.7	20

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 8,419.5 net-hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 48.9 b/100nh, down from 56.6 b/100nh in spring 2009 but up from spring 2008 (44.9 b/100nh). The best day was 23 May when 402 birds were banded; 16% of the total that day were Magnolia Warblers; 11% were American Redstarts; and 9.0% were Traill's Flycatchers. This is in contrast to our best day in spring 2009 when the three most commonly banded birds on our best day were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows. The second best day was 14 May when 329 birds were banded. We had a record-breaking 14 days when 100+ birds were banded each day. On only one day during the period from 14 to 25 May were there fewer than 100 birds captured, and the total for that 12-day period was 2,208 birds! The greatest species diversity occurred on 14 May when 46 species were banded.

There were 767 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, 72 were birds that returned from a previous season. The eldest of these were an American Robin, a Gray Catbird, and Northern Cardinal all in their seventh year; and a Downy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, two Yellow Warblers, an American Redstart and a Common

Grackle all in their sixth year. In addition, five birds were recaptured that had been banded during the 2009 MAPS season at the Kaiser MAPS Station run by Marian Klik.

A Gray Catbird banded at BBBO on 27 Aug 2009 was found dead on 24 May 2010 near Brampton, Ontario. The recovery site is 106 miles WNW from the point of banding. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird banded by Ann Adams at BBBO on 24 May 2008 was recaptured and released alive at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, on 27 May 2010. A Nashville Warbler banded at BBBO on 14 May 2009 was captured and released alive at McGill Bird Observatory in Montreal, Quebec, four days later.

A Blue Jay banded in Oct 2007 in Ontario was recaptured and released alive in May 2010 at BBBO.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2010 (4,113) was above the 24-year average of 3,599, but down from 2007, 2008 and 2009 totals when 5,296, 4,752 and 4,305 birds were banded in about the same number of net hours. There was one new species, a Pileated Woodpecker, added to the cumulative total spring list, which stands at 143 forms.

There were record high numbers banded of Ruby-throated Hummingbird (75), Winter Wren (24), Blue-winged Warbler (24), Northern Parula (19), Blackpoll Warbler (121), Northern Waterthrush (75) and Indigo Bunting (40). On the negative side, Northern Flicker was missing, after being banded in 21 of the past 25 springs; Fox Sparrow (17 of the past 25 springs); and Acadian Flycatcher (16 of the past 25 springs). Other notable "misses" were Yellow Palm Warbler, Purple Finch and Rusty Blackbird. Numbers were down for Least Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Eastern White-crowned sparrow, and American Goldfinch.

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. Rachel Muheim of Lund University in Lund, Sweden, took feather samples and tested nighttime direction inclinations of several species of birds including White-throated Sparrows, Blackpoll Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos and Swainson's Thrush.

Oriana Chan (Brooklyn, NY), Tait Johansson (Katonah, NY), Angelica Kallenberg (Auburn, AL), Gayle Lazoration (Fairport, NY), Sandra Morrissey (Hartsdale, NY), Andrea Patterson (Rochester, NY), Jesse Ross (Brooklyn, NY), Judith Slein (Rochester, NY), and Gavin J. Small (Reston, VA) successfully completed our Bander Training Class.

We enjoyed visits from the Spring Ornithology class from the Laboratory of Ornithology, a class from the Farmington Calvary Christian School, and students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT. We had visitors from Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, and as far away as Thailand and the United Kingdom, and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors.

We welcomed visitors from BBRR's Bird of Prey Festival for a tour of the banding station on 24 and 25 Apr, and hosted students from the Lab of Ornithology's Spring Field Ornithology class on 1-2 May. We held an Open House for members of the Genesee Land Trust on 16 May, and for members attending the annual meeting of the Wilson's Society being held in Geneva, on 23 May. We hosted a workshop attended by 14 people (from California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia) on Advanced Aging and Sexing Techniques given by Peter Pyle from 24-28 May.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Jane Archibale, Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Amy Finfera, Chris Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Kathleen Holt, Lyn

Jacobs, Tiara Jandebeur, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Steve Maley, Dottie Mason, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Ann Nash, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Debbie Reed, Jesse Roberts, Linda Rossi, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Leslie Stoltz, Ruth Stork, Alice VanDeMoere, and Tom Verhulst.

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

This marks the 15th spring banding season at Ruthven Park. We started on 1 Apr and banded/monitored almost continuously for the next 60 days – finishing on 31 May. Although we did not open nets on days of seriously inclement weather, and opened fewer nets in poor conditions (e.g., high winds), we would do a census and try to get a sense of the types and numbers of birds moving through the site. We missed only 1 day – 26 May. This excellent coverage – all volunteer – was due to the sharing of the load by seven “resident” and “guest” banders: myself, Loretta Mousseau, Nancy Furber, Christine Madliger, Audrey Heagy, David Brewer, and Cindy Cartwright. We also had a LOT of help (see volunteer help below). We ended up banding 1,214 birds of 87 species.

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
160	American Goldfinch	66.2	24.2	9.6
97	Yellow Warbler	72.5	17.4	10.2
81	Chipping Sparrow	33.7	4.8	61.5
80	Gray Catbird	72	15.9	12.2
57	Brown-headed Cowbird	30.9	16.4	52.7
52	Song Sparrow			100
49	Slate-colored Junco	60.4	15.9	12.2
41	Red-winged Blackbird	45.2	23.8	31
37	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	48.6	29.7	21.6
34	White-throated Sparrow	51.5	6.1	24.4

Ruthven Park National Historic Site is located on the banks of the Grand River about 2 km north of the town of Cayuga (Lat-Long: 425-0795). The area is a mosaic of agricultural lands, old fields, and forest tracts (associated with numerous ponds or ‘sloughs’). The banding area surrounds the spacious lawns/grounds of the historic Mansion. The net lanes are cut into the successional scrub which provides a buffer between the open meadows and lawns and the surrounding forest.

We had “odd” weather throughout the banding period. April started off unseasonably hot for the first five days and then we got five days of rain. The second half of the month was punctuated with precipitation and a number of days back-to-back of overnight frosts – the last week of April was much colder than the first one. We got a lot of rain in the first two weeks of May and a cold snap that played havoc with birds in nest boxes and significantly reduced the insect biomass in the forest (necessary food for migrants). The latter part of May was quite hot and dry. One would have expected the unsettled conditions, especially in early May, to have resulted in “fallouts” of migrants at Ruthven (a pattern we have seen in many other years) but this was not the case this year.

Ten (10) net lanes contain 16 12-mm nets (5 singles and 5 “chains” containing 2-3 nets each). We also used up to four ground traps and five Potter traps; these were moved throughout the season in response to movements of birds on the property. Birds were “processed” in the recently refurbished banding lab located in one of the small outbuildings of the historic site.

This was one of the poorest years, in terms of overall numbers banded, since we started spring banding in 1996. Although our net-hours (i.e., the number of hours our nets were open), at 4,385, were 619 above the 10-year average, the number banded, 1,214, was 208 below the 10-year average. This is emphasized by the rates of capture in April and May [this is calculated as birds caught per 100 net hours]: the 10-year average is 24.0 and 35.1 respectively. Our results this spring were 12.9 in April (a record low) and 26.3 in May. It was actually quite frustrating as we had such great