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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2010 Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory

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There was a heavy snow pack through the beginning of March, but then we had warm temperatures for much of the spring. We recorded high numbers for many of the migrant birds, and species captured in numbers above 2 standard deviations (sd) included the Cedar Waxwing, Magnolia Warbler, Gray Catbird, Traill's Flycatcher, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Carolina Wren, Solitary Sandpiper, Hermit Thrush, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, and Swainson's Warbler. No species were captured >2 sd less than their long-term mean.

No foreign recoveries or encounters have been reported from birds banded during spring 2010. Interesting captures included two Swainson's Warblers, as only four of these had been recorded in the 49-year history of the Powdermill banding program.

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations to over 15 groups of approximately 500 individuals. Additionally, we hosted two bird banding workshops, with one of them geared towards beginners and the other for intermediate level banders.

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
321	Cedar Waxwing	51	48	1
272	Magnolia Warbler	40	53	7
120	Gray Catbird	22	68	10
91	Dark-eyed Junco	35	63	2
89	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	20	51	29
72	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	0	0	100
67	Canada Warbler	30	54	16
64	Song Sparrow	39	16	45
63	American Redstart	46	52	2
62	American Goldfinch	31	68	1

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The banding station opened for the year on 25 Mar, operating 17 nets and one trap, whenever possible, for 24 banding days. The station operated for three days in Mar, 12 days in Apr, and nine days in May. We closed for the season on 29 May, having banded 307 and recaptured 53 individuals. We banded a total of 56 species, which is eight fewer species than spring of 2009, possibly due to having the station open for over a month shorter this season. We banded 15 species of warblers, seven fewer warbler species than spring 2009. Warblers banded include Prairie, Palm, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Canada, and Mourning. We also captured several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, which we do not band.

As usual for our station, Gray Catbirds were the most common species captured with 29 banded and 10 recaptured. Slate-colored Juncos were the most common species banded, however, with 32 banded and three recaptured. Chipping Sparrows (29 banded, six recaptured), White-throated Sparrows (27 banded, one recaptured), and American Robins (19 banded, two recaptured) round out our top five most common species of the season. Also common (>10) were Blue Jays, Magnolia Warblers, and Red-winged Blackbirds. New species for the station this spring include Eurasian Starling, Least Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher.

Most individuals in a day were captured on 16 May with 40 birds banded of 20 species and seven recaptures, adding an additional species encounter to the day. Of the birds banded that day, the most common species was Magnolia Warbler with nine individuals banded. The day with highest species diversity was also 16 May, coinciding exactly with spring 2009.