

2012

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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We are indebted to the fine staff at the Crown Point State Historic Site and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for allowing us to continue to collect data on the site. Thomas Hughes, the site manager, has been extremely supportive of our program. Additionally, Jake Putnam has been instrumental in seeing that site preparation and maintenance needs are met. The interpretive staff has been wonderful in directing our visitors to the station and in informing other historic site visitors about our program. This year the Crown Point State Historic Site celebrates its 101<sup>st</sup> year of operation. We are pleased to have been associated with the Site for over one-third of its history. We celebrated by banding our 101<sup>st</sup> species, the Grasshopper Sparrow.

# **Lewiston Banding Station 431-0790**

Niagara Co., NY

**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**

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The 2011 spring banding season got underway on 1 May. There was very little cover on the trees with even fewer numbers of birds being observed. Only two birds were caught and banded that day after 2.5 hours using 15 nets. Things did not improve very much over the month, with only a total of 21 birds being caught and banded. Of these 21 birds, only four were warblers. This is hardly what you would call a migration!

1. Gray Catbird	6	100%
2. Northern Cardinal	3	100%
3. Black-capped Chickadee	2	100%
4. Wood Thrush	2	100%

The nets were opened on four days only because the rainy weather was a major problem. But even on the four days, there were hardly any birds in the wooded block. Water was running down the net lanes throughout the whole banding season. On 21 May, after three hours of banding and catching only eight birds, it was decided to take the nets down and end the banding operation for this spring.

Many questions have come up as to the lower number of birds at the Lewiston Station. In particular, what happened to the spring migration of warblers at this location? This has been by far the worst spring banding season in 36 years.

# **Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774**

## **Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station**

Monroe County, NY

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Chief banding assistants: Ann Adams, David Bonter, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, and Robert McKinney.

The 26th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was carried out for 51 days beginning 17 Apr and ending on 10 Jun 2011. There were 4,660 birds banded of 93 species. Ninety-two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 17 male and 11 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	Black-capped Chickadee	684	74	5	20
2.	Magnolia Warbler	488	73	20	7
3.	American Redstart	344	62	38	10
4.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	253	59	6	35
5.	Yellow Warbler	221	64	20	16
6.	Trail's Flycatcher	200	11	4	85
7.	Common Yellowthroat	193	43	11	45
8.	Gray Catbird	190	40	23	36
9.	Wilson's Warbler	177	71	8	21
10.	White-throated Sparrow	94	52	10	37

Banding assistants were Dave Alexander, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Laura Evans, Peggy Keller, Jenny Landry, Greg Lawrence, Pat Lovallo, Ann Nash, Andrea Patterson, Rick Shearman, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, Claire Trombley, Barb Wagner, Aggie Windig, and Monika Wood. Our Field Assistants were Cindy Marino and Monika Wood, and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

A total of 7,897 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 59.0 birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh) up from 48.9 b/100nh in spring 2010, and actually the best b/100nh ratio we have had in recent years. The best day was 23 May, when 342 birds were banded in 214 net hours (159.8 b/100nh). On that day, 20% of the total birds banded were Magnolia Warbler, 13% were Traill's Flycatcher, and 12% were American Redstart. However, the best b/100nh ratio of the season occurred on 28 May, when 212 birds were banded in just 54 net hours (392.6 b/100nh). This is the highest b/100nh ratio ever recorded at BBBO. The predominant species that day were Blackpoll Warbler (13.7 b/100nh), and Magnolia and Wilson's warbler (each 12.7 b/100nh). There were seven additional 200+ bird days and twelve 100+ bird days.

There were over 900 recaptures of birds banded at the station. Of these recaptures, 104 were birds that returned from a previous season. The eldest of these were a Common Yellowthroat in its seventh year, and an American Robin, three Yellow Warblers and a House Finch, all in their fifth year.

A Northern Waterthrush banded as a HY-U at K-MB on 8 Sep 2006 was recaptured and released alive on 30 Apr 2011 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, one mi S of Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, Florida! This bird was in its sixth year and was in the process of making its fifth spring northward journey.

A SY-M Mourning Warbler banded on 31 May 2006 was killed when it flew into an object in Baltimore, MD, on 20 May 2011. According to the BBL's report, this ties their previous longevity

record for Mourning Warbler. A SY male Sharp-shinned Hawk was captured and released at K-MB on 1 May 2011. It had been banded on 13 Sep 2010 at Sparta, Ontario, Canada.

There were record high numbers banded of Ruby-throated Hummingbird (92), Blue-headed Vireo (13), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (3), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (28), Magnolia Warbler (488) and American Redstart (344). On the negative side, four Cedar Waxwings banded was the lowest in 25 years. Golden-winged Warbler was missing after being recorded for 25 years; Eastern Towhee and Scarlet Tanager were also missing after being recorded in 19 of the past 25 years. There were no new species added to the cumulative total spring list, which stands at 143 forms.

Dr. Sara Morris, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding Station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested Blackpoll, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped warblers in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) parked at the banding station. Their goal was to study flight-calling behavior.

Students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, visited the station for three days in May. Members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society visited, as well as a group from Bridges For Brain Injury, the Chili Senior Citizens Club, and members of the Brooks Bird Club of West Virginia. We welcomed visitors from BBRR's Bird of Prey Festival, and hosted students from the Lab of Ornithology's Spring Field Ornithology class for a weekend. We held an Open House in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day and another for members of the Genesee Land Trust, and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred additional visitors.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Elisabeth Harrod, Jim Heckman, Kathleen Holt, Lyn Jacobs, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Sarah MacLean, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Allen Nash, Bill,



Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Debbie Reed, Jesse Roberts, Linda Rossi, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Alice VanDeMoere, Tom and Jeanne Verhulst, and Kelly Wicks. Special appreciation is extended to Nancy Britton, Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

# **Ruthven Park 425-0795**

Cayuga, Haldimand County, Ontario

## **Rick Ludkin, Bander**

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Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Nancy Furber, Faye Socholotiuk, Peter Thoem, Carol Jones, Marie-Pier LaPlante, Christine Madliger, Chris Harris, Liz Vanderwoude

Here are some of the highlights of the 2011 season: The total number banded – 2,034 – exceeds the old record (1,888, set in 2007) by 146 birds. This is due to increased net hours; i.e., we had the nets open more than in any other year (5,173 “net hours”).

The 1,375 birds banded in May exceeds the old May record of 1,183, set in 2007. Our single day banding of 144 (on 12 May) greatly exceeds the old 112 bird mark. We had new spring high banding numbers for 18 species and added two new species to our banding list: Purple Martin and Clay-colored Sparrow.

1. American Goldfinch	324
2. Gray Catbird	112
3. White-throated Sparrow	111
4. Yellow Warbler	103
5. Slate-colored Junco	92
6. Brown-headed Cowbird	85
7. Chipping Sparrow	75
8. Song Sparrow	67
9. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	60
10. Common Yellowthroat	56

# **Rock Point Banding Station 420-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand/Norfolk County, Ontario

## **James A. Smith, Bander**

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Chief Assistant(s) Roswitha Matuschek, Jason Lymburner, Kim Christoff

The first part of April was cold with one day where nets could not be opened because they were frozen solid. We had, in general, wet weather making the banding area very muddy. Without the boardwalks we would have been in trouble. In spite of the amount of rain, we missed only a few days in April with May being quite consistent. Threatened showers kept us guessing.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	160	86	14	0
2.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	107	61	38	1
3.	Yellow Warbler	79	59	41	0
4.	Gray Catbird	75	91	7	2
5.	Magnolia Warbler	57	60	39	1
6.	Myrtle Warbler	52	69	27	4
7.	American Redstart	46	70	30	0
8.	Common Yellowthroat	46	48	50	2
9.	Red-winged Blackbird	41	54	44	2
10.	American Tree Sparrow	41	39	44	17

On the whole, this spring was fairly consistent with the past five years. I did, however, notice a drop of about 200 birds from the 2007 to 2009 period. Last year was really quite low. This drop can be attributed to many variables– from fewer birds, to change in habitat, to fewer banding days. On the whole, our effort has been reasonably consistent, with this year showing a loss of about a week from previous years.

Species wise, we are about normal with 74. Last year showed an all-time high with 87. We had no really special birds show up this year and missed a number of species that might have been expected.