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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Patuxent Powerline Right-of-way

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numbers above 2 standard deviations included Cedar Waxwing, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hooded Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Broad-winged Hawk.

Interesting captures included the Broad-winged Hawk banded on 13 May, the first banded here since 2005. A Purple Finch banded on 22 Apr was recovered on 28 Feb 2012 in Hilden, Nova Scotia.

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations to over eight groups and several individuals for a total of 157 visitors, and we held a public celebration of Powdermill's 50<sup>th</sup> year of Bird Banding on 14 May that was attended by approximately 300 people. Additionally, we hosted a Beginning and an Advanced Bander Workshop in the first and third weeks of May, respectively.

**Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way**

Patuxent Research Refuge  
Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD  
**Jo Anna Lutmerding, Head Bander**  
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This station is in a powerline right-of-way that bisects an upland deciduous forest. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along a one-half mile east-west axis. The habitat is dominated by a dense six- to eight-foot high canopy of shrubs, and is an excellent source of shelter and food for breeding and migrating birds. Nets were opened by dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later. We have operated as a spring banding station since 2010 (and a fall banding station since 1980). In spring 2011, we operated for 22 days starting on a M/W/F schedule in mid-April. We went to a M-F schedule when migration picked up from 2-18 May and ended our season on 25 May.

This being only our second spring season, any comparisons will be to spring 2010. Twelve warbler species accounted for 49% of all our bandings, up from 39% in 2010. Warblers that did well compared to 2010 were American Redstart,

Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat, Myrtle Warbler, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The remaining bandings were comparable to 2010 except where noted: sparrows at 22%; mimids at 13%; vireos at 3%; thrushes at 2%, down from 8% in 2010; kinglets at 2%, down from 5% in 2010; flycatchers at 1%; and all others at 8%. The drop in thrushes from 2010 to 2011 were in American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Veery and Wood Thrush.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	111	6	2	92
2.	Common Yellowthroat	105	14	0	86
3.	Gray Catbird	91	54	43	3
4.	American Redstart	47	26	62	13
5.	Magnolia Warbler	46	37	57	7
6.	Swamp Sparrow	28	4	0	96
7.	Black-throated Blue Warbler	24	54	42	4
8.	Indigo Bunting	23	78	17	4
9.	Myrtle Warbler	17	71	12	18
10.	Northern Parula	17	65	29	6

Species very uncommon to this station that were banded included three Lincoln's Sparrows and two White-crowned Sparrows.

Other notable bandings included 18 American Redstarts on 10 May alone. This is a single-day high for this species, regardless of season, since 1980. The previous single-day high was 14.

We had 121 recaptures of 93 unique birds. Eighteen were banded in previous years/seasons – the earliest being a Prairie Warbler banded in fall 2008. Over the past few years, a preliminary review including the fall migration data suggests that the number of recaptures of birds banded in previous years as a percentage of birds banded is declining and that the percentage of older recaptures is declining as well. We need to look at our data set closer in this regard.

The station continues to be a focal point for visitors from foreign banding programs, as well as serve as a frequent training and educational site for interested staff. We also have two experienced volunteers as well as employees to help with set-up, data entry, bird extraction, etc. Because the station is located in an area of the refuge that is closed to the general public, we cannot encourage outside participation. Researchers, however, wishing to visit the site are encouraged to contact Jo Lutmerding (jlutmerding@usgs.gov). Interested banders wishing to follow our spring and fall banding effort may go to [http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/BBL\\_Banding/BBLBanding.cfm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/BBL_Banding/BBLBanding.cfm) We post our banding results and pictorial highlights on a fairly timely basis.

Greatly assisting in this effort were volunteers Mike Quinlan and Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report) and BBL staff Bruce Peterjohn and Danny Bystrak. Our thanks also to the other staff who lent assistance.

**Bill Baggs** 254-0800

**Cape Florida State Park**

Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade Co., FL

**Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Elizabeth Golden,**

**Evan Adams, Kate Williams, Banders**

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The banding station at Cape Florida was operated in spring 2011 as part of a cooperative project with Evan Adams and Kate Williams from the University of Maine, who are collecting data on migration physiology and mercury loads of northbound migrants, particularly Blackpoll Warblers. The habitat is restored tropical hardwood hammock in a state park on a barrier island offshore from Miami.

The spring banding period ran from 9 Apr until 12 May 2011. Seventeen to 19 nets were used in the same locations as the fall season and we never had to close nets due to volume. There were 691 birds captured overall of 25 species. Highlights included a first ever Bahama Mockingbird banded on 21 Apr, and a foreign capture on 30 Apr of a Northern

Waterthrush originally banded on 8 Sep 2006 at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. A male Painted Bunting recaptured on 15 Apr was originally banded by us as a second-year bird on 7 Apr 2007.

Species	Number
1. American Redstart	113
2. Black-throated Blue Warbler	107
3. Northern Waterthrush	84
4. Common Yellowthroat	79
5. Blackpoll Warbler	72
6. Ovenbird	59
7. Gray Catbird	39
8. Northern Cardinal	32
9. Black-and-white Warbler	25
10. Worm-eating Warbler	20

This spring was generally very slow, as easterly winds caused by stubborn high pressure over the Atlantic kept migrants out of our area. The winds shifted to the west in early May and migration picked up right as all the collaborators had to leave. We were able to band only on one day of a great movement during the second week of May, but we were rewarded with the busiest day of the season by far: 142 birds on 12 May. Connecticut Warblers 'fell out' all over the county and were seen in most of the local migrant traps on 11 May. We banded two on 12 May, probably individuals not in good enough condition to leave the night before. If only we had been open on 11 May....

Extra thanks go out to banders-in-training Angel and Mariel Abreu, who provided much assistance during the spring season.

