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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

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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.

