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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Crown Point State Historic Site

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Table 1 (cont'd). Spring 2012 AFR Banding Summary

	Long Point, ON	Presque Isle, PA	Wing Island, MA	Powdermill, PA	Aboretum, PA	Patuxent, MD
Inclusive Dates	3/27 to 6/10	4/17 to 5/31	4/13 to 6/16	3/1 to 5/31	3/26 to 5/9	4/16 to 5/25
Total Days	75	35	24	65	12	21
Nets Used	0 to 45	5 to 12	15 to 35	6 to 63	4 to 10	26
Total Net Hours	11,909	1,816	2,301	13,997	450	1,698
% Caught in Traps	10.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Best Day # (date)	1017 on 5/3	82 on 5/22	57 on 5/14	110 on 5/13	30 on 5/9	134 on 5/3
Best Diversity (date)	58 sp on 5/3	20 sp on 5/10,11,24	18 sp on 5/14	30 sp on 5/4	11 sp on 4/7	27 sp on 5/3
Total Banded 2011	15,830	1,394	265	2,340	139	756
Total Banded 2012	11,909	923	264	1,723	215	719
Total Species 2011	134	80	48	98	22	53
Total Species 2012	-	67	44	94	30	53
Birds/100nh 2011	214	75.1	24	23	70	41.6
Birds/100nh 2012	110	61.3	24	16.9	56	42.3

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The 2012 spring Crown Point Banding Station began operations on 4 May, continuing until the afternoon of 20 May. This was the 37th consecutive year of operation on the grounds of the 360-ac Crown Point State Historic Site. The Crown Point Banding Association (CPBA) operates the station through an agreement with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The station is located on the Crown Point Peninsula - Lake Champlain - west of His Majesty's Fort in the hawthorn-juniper thickets. Banders participating this spring were: Ted Hicks, Gordon Howard, Gary Lee, Melanie McCormack, Catherine Pohl, Nina Schoch, and Robert Wei.

Oct - Dec 2013

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
Myrtle Warbler	227	38	61	1
Gray Catbird	41	39	46	5
Common Yellowthroat	25	60	40	0
Least Flycatcher	20	20	40	20
Baltimore Oriole	18	89	11	0
American Goldfinch	17	29	24	47
Black-capped Chickadee	10	70	20	10
Magnolia Warbler	9	45	44	1
Northern Waterthrush	9	0	100	0
Song Sparrow	9	78	11	11

The station banded four new species this year, bringing the total number of species banded to 105 since the station's inception in 1976. New species banded this year included Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and female Cerulean Warbler (banded on 11 May) which was the first observed Cerulean on the Crown Point

Peninsula, much less the first banded. The fourth new species had been captured many times but no birds were banded for lack of the proper permit to band hummingbirds. This year, Ted Hicks assisted with the banding. He is permitted to band hummingbirds; thus, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was added to the species list.

Individuals banded were 552, up from the 518 in 2011, of 62 species, up from 58 species from the previous year. Station returns were 18, up from 16 in 2011. In total, 17,042 birds have been banded since the station's inception in 1976.

Last year, net numbers were reduced due to predation by a red fox. The fox was not an issue this year. The station operated 18 nets most of the session. Net hours for 2012 were 3810, up from 2610 in 2011. Two Potter traps accounted for less than 1% of the captures.

Last spring, the Yellow-rumped Warbler count plummeted from 221 in 2010 to 10. This year, 227 were banded. Blue Jays banded in 2011 were 84, this year three were banded. Only one of the 84 from 2011 was recaptured this year. A station record of 106 Black-capped Chickadees in 2011 dropped to 10 this year. Only one Black-capped Chickadee (female) was a recapture from previous years. It was banded in 2006, having been recaptured each year since save for 2008. It was 6 years and 11 months old.

For the second year in a row one FLIN (Northern Flicker Intergrade) was banded. Both the FLIN from 2011 and the FLIN from 2012 were males. The only other FLIN banded at the station (1993) was a female.

The weather was much more accommodating this year. Temperatures were above seasonal averages and there was only one really wet day. The first two full days were busy with 74 birds banded on 6 May (high count) and 43 birds banded on 7 May, accounting for 21.5% of the birds banded this year. The slowest day was 16 May with only six birds banded in 180 net hours (4 b/100nh). Banding was shortened that day for the previously scheduled annual banders' dinner.

There were 18 station returns of 11 species: Baltimore Oriole 6, Blue Jay 2, American Goldfinch 2, and one each for: Yellow-Shafted (N.) Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

In addition to the Black-capped Chickadee cited earlier, there were three other notable returns: a Baltimore Oriole male banded in 2008 (5 yr 11 mo), a male oriole banded in 2009 (4 yr 11 mo), and a male Eastern Kingbird banded in 2008 (4 yr 11 mo).

Warbler species numbered 15 for the third consecutive year. Yellow-rumped Warblers made their return as the most banded species: 227. They were banded on every day except 4 and 20 May. Common Yellowthroats (25) and Magnolia Warblers (9) held steady from last year. Uncommon warblers at the station which put in solo appearances this year were Orange-crowned, Cerulean, and Yellow Palm. A trio of Wilson's stopped by. Regulars that were missing this year were Black-throated Blue Warbler and Ovenbird.

The tick invasion of 2010 seemed to remain in abeyance this year with two birds, three ticks total, notwithstanding the local folk forecast that this would be a bad year due to the very mild winter with little snow. In fact, on 4 May the spring indicators (trees in full leaf, columbine in full bloom) were well advanced by the time the station opened. Moth larvae, a staple for the warblers, were hard to come by. Presumably they were already underground for the summer.

Three school groups visited the banding station this year. There were 188 different visitors, but several visited on multiple days. About 22% of the non-group visitors were from out of state.

The Crown Point Banding Association is an independent, participant-funded, peer-managed volunteer organization. Station personnel numbered 23 this year. Special thanks are due to Gary Lee, who stayed at the station 24/7 for duration of the banding operation, and Tom Barber for missing only two nights of camping, net raising and

lowering, and to founder J.M.C. (Mike) Peterson for his foresight in establishing the banding station and the use of his equipment. The following people assisted the banders with the transport and set-up/take-down of the station, net checking, etc.: Mary Brandt, Sophie Brandt, Eberhardt Burkowski, Wendy Burkowski, Malinda Chapman, Brenna Corey, Mary Curtis, Ellie George, Judith Heintz, JoAnne McKenzie, Susan Peterson, Molly Proper, Erika Walsh, Vince Walsh, and Annette Yardan. We thank all who helped and all who made donations in support of the station. Additionally, we thank Karin Emmons of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University, for her assistance with our education program, materials development, and out-reach program.

This March, a staunch supporter of the banding station and great fellow passed away. We missed and will continue to miss Daniel Charles Lee (1938-2012). Dan, thank-you for all of your contributions.

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 our 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 102nd year of operation. We are pleased to have been associated with the site for over one-third of its history.

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The 2012 spring banding season got started on 5 May. I was unable to start earlier because of bad weather. It is too bad for the later start because the 5 May day was the best day for total birds and species.

	Banded	% SY
Gray Catbird	11	37
Veery	6	83
Nashville Warbler	6	66
Magnolia Warbler	6	33
Palm Warbler	5	55

Again, this spring banding was very disappointing with a total of only 87 birds banded. There has been a downward trend over the last four years—the most notable being the almost total loss of warblers. It was very hard to invite people to the station because of the lack of birds.

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The 27th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 61 days beginning 18 Mar and ending on 5 Jun 2012. There were 4610 birds banded of 90 species. Thirty-nine Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 35 male and 33 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

Banding was done by licensed banders Ann Adams, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Peggy Keller, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Rodney Olsen, Andrea Patterson, and Doug Smith. Banding assistants were Dave Alexander, Heather Calabrese, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Laura Evans, Jenny Landry, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Pat Lovallo, Maggie MacNeill, Ann Nash, Emily Patterson, Jesse Rubenstein, Rick Shearman, Leanna Twohig, Barb Wagner, and Aggie Windig. Our Field Assistant was Jennalee Holzschuh; our data techs were Heather Calabrese and Monika Wood, and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.