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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

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

**Lewiston Banding Station** 431-0790  
Niagara Co., NY  
**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**  
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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.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory** 431-0774  
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station  
Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab  
Monroe County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Bander**  
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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.

|                         | Banded | % SY | % ASY | % AHY |
|-------------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|
| Magnolia Warbler        | 466    | 81.0 | 8.6   | 10.5  |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | 437    | 38.5 | 11.1  | 50.5  |
| Golden -Crowned Kinglet | 281    | 21.0 | 8.5   | 70.5  |
| Gray Catbird            | 232    | 57.4 | 13.2  | 29.4  |
| American Redstart       | 213    | 63.3 | 24.9  | 11.8  |
| Yellow Warbler          | 166    | 63.5 | 20.5  | 15.8  |
| Trail's Flycatcher      | 163    | 18.5 | 4.3   | 77.2  |
| Common Yellowthroat     | 135    | 50.0 | 12.5  | 37.5  |
| Wilson's Warbler        | 135    | 58.5 | 17.8  | 23.7  |
| Blackpoll Warbler       | 124    | 74.2 | 10.5  | 15.3  |

Constant-effort mist-netting was carried out using from one to 34 nets, which included six double-high net assemblies. A total of 9800.25 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 47.0 birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh), which was down from the record-breaking 59.0 b/100nh of spring 2011 and from 48.9 b/100nh in spring 2010. The best day was 21 May, when 325 birds were banded in 204 net hours (159 b/100nh). On that day, 106 of the total birds banded were Magnolia Warblers. There were two 200+ bird days and 13 100+ bird days. The greatest species diversity occurred on 13 May when 38 species were banded.

There were record high numbers banded of Mourning Dove (10), Blue-headed Vireo (16), Brown Creeper (92), Golden-crowned Kinglet (281), Hermit Thrush (73), Blackpoll Warbler (124), Mourning Warbler (79), Hooded Warbler (15) and Indigo Bunting (59).

On the negative side, European Starling was missing after being recorded in 24 of the past spring seasons; Eastern Towhee after 21 of the past 25 years; Red-breasted Nuthatch after 17 of the past 25 years; Brewster's Warbler after 16 of 25 years; Yellow Palm Warbler after being banded in 15 of the past 25 spring seasons.

There were over 700 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in

stopover ecology. Of these recaptures, 62 were birds that returned from a previous season. The eldest of these were a Northern Cardinal in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, a Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and a Common Grackle in their 8<sup>th</sup> year, two Gray Catbirds in their 7<sup>th</sup> year, and a Yellow Warbler in its 6<sup>th</sup> year!

Dr. Sara Morris of Canisius College, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding Station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested six warbler species in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) parked at the banding station. Their goal was to study flight-calling behavior.

We collected blood samples from Yellow-rumped Warblers for Kristen Covino, a doctoral candidate at Southern Mississippi University and from several additional thrush species for a study of nutritional quality of native and invasive berries by Dr. Sue Smith Pagano of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Nine students coming from Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin successfully completed our Bander Training Class.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Jane Capellupo, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Kathleen Holt, Lyn Jacobs, John Lehr, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Allen Nash, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Padulka, Linda Rossi, Susan Schantz, Lee Schofield, 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.

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Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Nancy Furber, Matt Timpf, Joanne Fleet, Carol Jones, Liz Vanderwoude, Peter Thoem, Marie-Pier LaPlante

It was a frustrating spring banding season. Cold, wet weather through April and into May (we even