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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Ruthven Park

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	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 10th year, a Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and a Common Grackle in their 8th year, two Gray Catbirds in their 7th year, and a Yellow Warbler in its 6th 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.

Ruthven Park
Cayuga, Haldimand County, ON

425-0795

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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

had frost patches in the middle of May) kept numbers low and would have a marked impact on our fall catch conditions, migrants were flying over. Even though we had a record number of net hours (having retired, I am upping our banding effort, but will maintain the current net hours going forward), our rate of capture per 100 net hours was one of our lowest since inception in 1996.

One plus to the increased banding effort was that surprising numbers of two species: 272 Yellow-rumped Warblers (long-term average was 28) and 43 Western Palm Warblers (average 5). But, generally, the numbers of long-distance migrants were down.

357	American Goldfinch
272	Myrtle Warbler
114	Yellow Warbler
100	Gray Catbird
93	Brown-headed Cowbird
72	Red-winged Blackbird
70	White-throated Sparrow
52	Field Sparrow
52	Mourning Dove
45	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
45	Song Sparrow
45	Slate-colored Junco

The banding program at Ruthven is becoming much better known. This spring a wide variety of people contributed 1,810 volunteer hours and we accommodated 1,336 visitors.

We would like to thank the staff of Ruthven Park National Historic Site and our colleagues in the Haldimand Bird Observatory for their ongoing support.

Rock Point Banding Station 420-0793

Dunnville, Haldimand/Norfolk County, ON

James A. Smith, Bander

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Web page: www.rockpointbirdbanding.com

Chief Assistant(s): Roswitha Matuschek, Kim Christoff, Bev Stevenson, Jason Lymburner.

Oct - Dec 2013

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.

On the whole, this spring was fairly consistent with the past five years. I do, 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. In general, we had 11 species that were represented by one to three individuals. (Black-billed Cuckoo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, (2); Philadelphia Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch (3). An interesting day was had on 28 May, when we banded 34 American Redstarts with 79% all being second-year birds and 59% were females. Next day we banded one and had only one re-trapped bird. Previously, we had never banded that many American Redstarts in one day.

Net locations and equipment used was consistent, although an aerial net was used for a short period of time but needed design modifications and was taken down. In general, we use North Ronaldsay, Polish and Finnish nets all in 12-meter lengths. Being fat and having trouble getting down (actually getting back up), no ground traps were used.

I have a great crew of local volunteers, many having been with me for a number of years. In addition to the main helpers I have: Rick Young, Dora Young, Rob Kuret, Lorraine Feenstra, and Fraser, Owen,