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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013

Elizabeth W. Brooks

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Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2013

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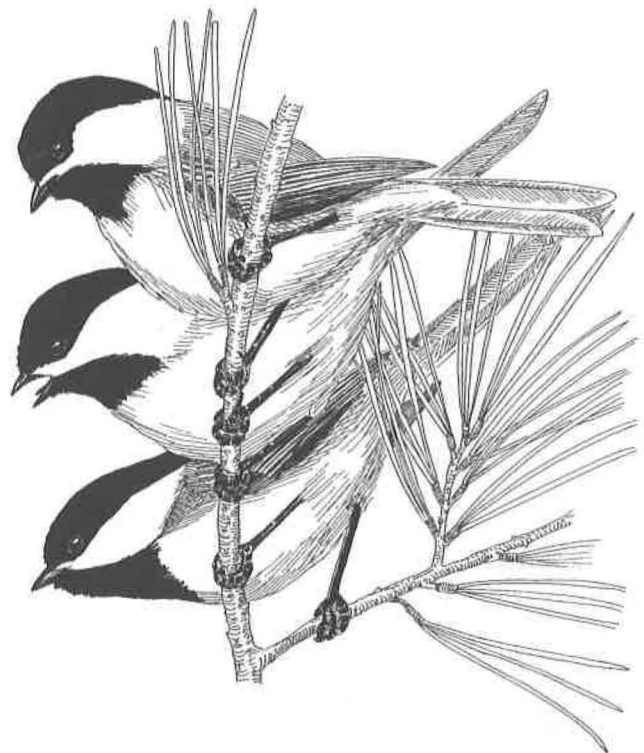
The eruption of Black-capped Chickadees in fall 2012 produced some interesting recapture statistics this spring. Nine chickadees banded either in fall or spring in Ontario, Canada (one at Ruthven, two at Prince Edward Point, five at Long Point, and one at Nelles Corners) were recaptured and released alive at Braddock Bay during Apr and May 2013.

It was a slightly better spring, banding-wise, in spring 2013. Results were markedly up at six stations but down at four stations.

Red was the color of the season at Long Point, with Northern Cardinals, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Red-headed Woodpeckers all topping previous yearly records in just one season. There were 125 cardinals banded on just three days in May and 558 for the spring season.

Gordon Howard reported that the early hawthorn tree maturation at Crown Point resulted in inch-long moth larvae descending to the ground on their silk threads by the end of the first week of May. The larvae are a staple food for the warblers, orioles and other bird species. This is the second year in a row that this food source has been out of synchronization with the timing of the migration. This is the kind of observation that we all should be looking for and trying to document.

As always, we would welcome the participation of additional reporting stations for the spring AFR report. Let me know if you are interested, and I will send you a reporting form.



Black-capped Chickadees
by George West

Table 1. Spring 2013 AFR Banding Summary						
	Crown Point, NY	Lewiston, NY	Braddock Bay, NY	Ruthven, ONT	Rock Point, ONT	Appledore, ME
Inclusive Dates	5/3 - 5/19	4/30 - 5/25	3/24 - 6/5	4/1 - 5/31	4/1 - 6/4	5/9 - 6/8
Total Days	16	9	57	61	44	31
Nets Used	17-18	15	1 to 34	21	16 to 21	7 to 10
Total Net Hours	3,438	465	9,471	6,844	5,236	3,217
% Caught in Traps	<1%	0.0%	0.0%	13.4%	8.3%	0.0%
Best Day (#/date)	68 on 5/10	16 on 5/17	250 on 5/19	62 on 4/8 & 4/14	55 on 5/16	390 on 5/21
Best Diversity (date)	20 on 5/10	9 on 5/13	45 on 5/19,20	30 on 5/19	44 on 5/21	37 on 5/19
Total Banded 2012	522	87	4,610	2,045	1,565	2,310
Total Banded 2013	332	65	5,038	1,793	1,406	3,324
Total Species 2012	62	26	90	86	79	67
Total Species 2013	53	24	92	82	78	79
Birds/100nh 2012	15	11.9	47	24.2	27	66.7
Birds/100nh 2013	10	14	53	22.7	24	103.3

Table 1A. Spring 2013 AFR Banding Summary

	Long Point, ONT	Wing Island, MA	Powdermill, PA	Aboretum, PA	Patuxent Powerline, MD
Inclusive Dates	3/27 - 6/10	4/14 - 6/13	3/1 - 5/31	3/28 - 5/7	4/15 - 5/22
Total Days	73	29	63	14	22
Nets Used	38 to 50	17 to 32	7 to 67	10	26
Total Net Hours	9,173	3,380	13,924	585	1,601
% Caught in Traps	21.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Best Day (#/date)	785 on 5/1	61 on 5/21	107 on 4/13	31 on 3/30	66 on 5/12
Best Diversity (date)	55 on 5/10	17 on 5/21	32 on 5/15	12 on 4/25	18 on 5/15
Total Banded 2012	11,909	264	1,723	215	719
Total Banded 2013	16,348	433	2,478	249	536
Total Species 2012	158	44	94	30	53
Total Species 2013	138	50	95	29	60
Birds/100nh 2012	110	24	16.9	56	42.3
Birds/100nh 2013	178	23	17.5	53	33.5

Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732

Essex County, NY

Gordon E. Howard, Bander

ghoward@clemson.edu

John M.C. Peterson, Founder

The 2013 spring Crown Point Banding Station began operations on 3 May, continuing through the morning of 19 May. This was the 38th 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 and under a permit from the NYS Department of Environment Conservation. 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 year were: Ted Hicks, Gordon Howard, Gary Lee, Mike Peterson and Nina Schoch.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Yellow-rumped Warbler	93	55.0%	43.0%	2.0%
2.	White-throated Sparrow	34	18.0	82	0
3.	Blue Jay	20	55	45	0
4.	Gray Catbird	19	42	58	0
5.	Common Yellowthroat	19	32	58	10
6.	American Robin	15	47	47	6
7.	Yellow Warbler	13	13	77	0
8.	Western Palm Warbler	9	67	33	0
9.	American Redstart	9	0	100	0
10.	Baltimore Oriole	8	75	25	0

The station banded one new species this year, a Carolina Wren, bringing the total number of species banded to 106 since the station's inception in 1976. This was the first Carolina Wren observed on the Crown Point Peninsula, much less the first banded. However, Carolina Wren has been documented on the nearby mainland since 1981. Individuals banded were 332 (down from 552 during the same period in 2012) of 53 species (down from 62 species

from the previous year). Station returns were 12, down from 18 in 2012. A total of 17,374 birds have been banded since the station's inception in 1976. The median for the annual species count is 50, while the mean is 45. The median annual number of the birds banded count is 413 and the mean is 458.

Between 17 and 18 nets were operated for a total of 3438 b/100nh, down from 3810 in 2012. Two Potter traps accounted for less than .05% of the captures. The new bird capture rate of b/100nhs was 10, down from 15 in 2012. A surprise Potter trap capture was a Veery.

In 2011, the Yellow-rumped Warbler count plummeted from 221 in 2010 to 10. In 2012, 227 were banded; this year only 97 were banded. Blue Jays banded in 2011 were 84, three in 2012 and 20 this year. Only one of those 84 has been recaptured (2012) at the station. A station record of 106 banded Black-capped Chickadees in 2011 dropped to 10 in 2012 and to three in 2013. None of those 106 has been recaptured. A Black-capped Chickadee (female) banded in 2006 was recaptured. It has been recaptured each year since 2006, save for 2008. It was 7 yr 11 mo old.

At set-up, the region around the station had seen little precipitation. One net location, fondly called "The Swamp", typically has standing water in some places. For the entire banding session, the swamp nets could be worked without rubber boots – a first. While the trees were bare at setup, for the most part the first week's sunny weather with highs near 80 quickly brought out the leaves. Temperatures were above seasonal averages and there was only one really wet day. Winds were persistently southerly.

The first week was slow, to say the least, averaging four birds a day. The second week started well with a spurt of 68 birds on 10 May and 28 on 11 May. Then the counts declined into the teens until the total count for the two day period, 16 May (49) and 17 May (61), was 110 birds. Another decline ensued. High count days were: 10 May, 20.5%; 16 May, 14.8%; 17 May, 18.4%. The lowest count day was 5 May with two birds or 0.6%.

There were 13 station returns of seven species: Baltimore Oriole, four; Black-capped Chickadee, Brown-headed Cowbird and American Goldfinch two, and one each for Barn Swallow, Warbling Vireo and Song Sparrow.

Notable returns were: A 2006 Black-capped Chickadee female 7 yr 11 mo; a 2010 American Goldfinch male 3 yr 11 mo; and a 2011 Baltimore Oriole male 3 yr 11 mo.

Warbler species numbered 15 for the fourth consecutive year. Yellow-rumped Warblers (93) and Common Yellowthroats (19) were banded on seven days. Yellow Warblers (13) were banded on six days. A station record of nine Western Palm Warblers was set, while Yellow Palm Warblers (two) tied the station record. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, missing last year, were captured this year. Another regular, Ovenbird, was not captured for the second year in a row.

In 2010, many birds had ticks. While the subsequent years saw few ticks on birds, this year saw many ticks on the banders—not a welcome trend.

Notwithstanding the late spring indicator, trees barely leafed out but by 10 May, the hawthorn trees were well advanced. Moth larvae, which hatch in the hawthorn leaf buds, had grown to nearly an inch long and had begun to descend to the ground on their silk threads by the end of the first week of operation. They are a staple food for the warblers, orioles and other bird species. This is the second year in a row that this food source has been out of synchronization with the timing of the migration.

Three school groups visited the banding station this year, along with three other organizations, for a total visitation of 168 people. Some made multiple visits. This year the furthest travelers came from Lubbock, TX. Additionally, there was a radio/webpage story produced about the station.

The Crown Point Banding Association is an independent, participant-funded, peer-managed, volunteer organization. Station personnel numbered 18 this year. Special thanks are due to Gary Lee, who stayed at the station 24/7 for the duration of the

banding operation, 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; Colvin, Glen, Malinda and Riley Chapman, Brenna Corey, Mary Curtis, Lisley Fisher, Susan French, Ellie George, Judith Heintz, Liana, Lois Glenn and Michael Karp, Elizabeth Lee, JoAnne McKenzie, Jim Otto, Molly Proper, Erika Walsh, Vince Walsh, and Annette Yardan. We thank all who helped and all who made donations in support of the station. We give special thanks to Karin Emmons, Media Resource Specialist of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University, for her assistance with our education program, materials development, and out-reach program.

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 have 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 103rd 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
Jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

The spring 2013 banding season got started on 30 Apr with a total of four birds being caught using 15 mist nets. The weather allowed me to start right on schedule but did not produce any great results.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Gray Catbird	21	42	-	58
2.	Magnolia Warbler	8	25	-	75
3.	Swainson's Thrush	5	40	-	60
4.	Black-and-white Warbler	4	25	-	75

As happened in previous years, the warbler species have not returned to this station, with only 23 birds of nine total species recorded this spring.

Four different people observed the mist netting with a very positive response from all.

I had a single recapture of a Blue Jay that had been banded in Oct 2011.

Ruthven Park 425-0795
Haldimand County, ON
Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret, Banders
rludkin@hotmail.com

The banding station was founded in the fall of 1995 as a pilot and came into full operation, for spring and fall seasons, in 1996. It is run almost entirely on a volunteer basis. The station is situated on the grounds of Ruthven Park National Historic Site, the banding lab being about 100 m from the historic mansion. The entrance to the site is located about two km north of the town of Cayuga on Highway/Regional Road 54 (latitude/longitude: 425-0795). This station is one of two banding stations that make up the Haldimand Bird Observatory; the other being Rock Point Provincial Park. The two stations are within 40 km of each other. Ruthven is an “inland” station, while the others are coastal; the mix of species and number of birds can be quite different between Ruthven and the coastal sites.

Up to 21 12-meter mist nets (30 mm mesh) were deployed in 12 net lanes. Most of these net lanes are long-standing with some being in the same place since 1995 and nine have been in place since 2000. Most of the lanes have been cut into the dogwood/scrubby edge habitat that acts as a buffer between the lawns and fields of the historic site and the surrounding forest. On some days not all the nets

were utilized – especially on days with high winds. We also deployed up to four ground traps and four Potter traps.

We banded 883 birds of 33 species in April. This is 117 over the previous high of 766 achieved in 2009. It is also more than two standard deviations above the average since 1999.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	American Goldfinch	288	74%	16%	11%
2.	Golden-crowned Kinglet	145	67	10	12
3.	Slate-colored Junco	115	86	13	1
4.	Yellow Warbler	106	66	30	4
5.	Chipping Sparrow	99	24	4	72
6.	Song Sparrow	86	7	-	93
7.	Gray Catbird	74	51	46	3
8.	White-throated Sparrow	73	90	8	1
9.	Brown-headed Cowbird	73	22	16	62
10.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	62	65	19	16

After such a prolific April we were poised to set an overall spring record with May’s results. But then the wheels fell off; we experienced the worst May ever in terms of b/100nhs: 20.2. This is well below the average of 34.2 and marks the first time that our May rate of capture was *below* the April rate. (We have always been able to say that we will catch birds at a greater rate in May....until now.) We had a fair amount of wonderful weather (for being outdoors) – sunny and warm. But in these conditions migrants tend to “fly over” our inland site, taking advantage of the good conditions to clear not only Lake Erie but Lake Ontario as well (we sit about half way between these two Great Lakes). As described in April, bad weather often will result in a “fall-out”: migrants are forced to drop down and find shelter and food when encountering inclement weather. But even during the periods of poor weather this year, we did not get large accumulations of migrants. This was especially noticeable in our warbler numbers. As everyone knows, May is

“warbler month”, the time that these long-distance Neotropical migrants pass through southern Ontario on their way to more northern breeding grounds. Usually warblers make up 21% of our overall banding total (and remember: the vast majority of these are caught in May). But this year warblers made up only 15% of the “catch”. And if you take Yellow Warblers out of the mix (as they breed at Ruthven in large numbers), warblers made up only 9.6% (versus an average of 16.2%). This is difficult to explain.

So, we banded a total of 910 birds in May for an overall spring total of 1,793, certainly respectable, but well below what we were anticipating when we moved into May.

Birds that we caught that were two standard deviations *above* the 14-yr spring average: Golden-crowned Kinglet (145), Warbling Vireo (11), Philadelphia Warbler (four), Cape May Warbler (three), Northern Cardinal (14), Chipping Sparrow (99), Song Sparrow (86). Only Least Flycatcher (four) was *below* two standard deviations.

These are birds that were banded at Ruthven in other years. We get a fairly large number of returning Neotropical migrants each year which breed at Ruthven. Most noticeable was a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak that was eight years old and a Yellow Warbler, also eight years old.

Recoveries of birds banded at Ruthven and recovered elsewhere (for which we got notification from the Banding Office this year included):

- Pine Siskin:** banded 25 Oct 2012; recovered 27 Dec 2012; Ann Arbor, MI
- Cedar Waxwing:** 26 Oct 2011/17 Mar 2012; Perry, GA
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 22 Oct 2011/16 Apr 2013; Whitefish Point Lighthouse, MI (Whitefish Point is a “jumping off” place for spring migrants moving from Michigan’s northern peninsula to northern Ontario.)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 20 Oct 2012/11 Feb 2013; Ridgemount (QEW at Bowen Road), ON
- American Goldfinch:** 13 Oct 2012/1 May 2013; Harmony, NC

- American Goldfinch:** 8 Feb 2012/29 Mar 2013; Dunnville, ON
- Tree Swallow:** 5 Jun 2009/21 Mar 2013; Selkirk, ON
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** 1 Apr 2012/27 May 2013; Ajax, ON
- Black-capped Chickadee:** 15 Jan 2013/16 Apr 2013; Toronto, ON
- Black-capped Chickadee:** 2 Apr 2013/9 May 2013; Hilton, Monroe County, NY

I would like to thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their ongoing support of the banding program at Ruthven Park. This includes the use of the grounds, use of the banding lab building and financial support. Ruthven staff Marilyn Havelka (CAO), Sandy Turner (Species at risk Co-ordinator), and Natalie Campbell (Education Coordinator) have been especially helpful and supportive. Natalie has done a wonderful job coordinating the visitation by numerous school groups. We also thank Oliver Love and the University of Windsor for their practical support and personnel. Haldimand Bird Observatory provides a great deal of practical support.

This spring we had 1,090 visitors, made up of interested adults and students. We are able to operate at the level we do because of the input of a dedicated group of volunteers. In total, this group put in 1,263 volunteer hours.

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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www.braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com

The 28th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 57 days beginning 24 Mar and ending on 5 Jun 2013. There were 5038 birds banded of 92 species. There were 86 Ruby-

throated Hummingbirds included in the list of banded birds and an additional 7 male and 4 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. There were two new species for the spring records – Northern Mockingbird and Yellow-throated Warbler-bringing the species total for all spring seasons to 144.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Black-capped Chickadee	962	63.5%	6.4%	30.1%
2.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	446	37.0	16	46.9
3.	Gray Catbird	282	51.9	14.1	33.9
4.	Magnolia Warbler	282	71.3	29.2	14
5.	American Redstart	267	64.8	22.3	12.9
6.	White-throated Sparrow	209	44.6	6.2	54.4
7.	Common Yellowthroat	181	45.6	6.1	55.4
8.	Traill's Flycatcher	154	7.6	1.9	90.4
9.	Wilson's Warbler	131	68.2	16.3	15.5
10.	Yellow Warbler	128	61.4	21.3	17.3

There were over 1000 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, 70 were birds that returned from a previous season (shown in Table 3). The eldest of these were a Northern Cardinal (12 yr), a Gray Catbird (9 yr), two Yellow Warblers (both seven yr), and a Warbling Vireo, American Robin, Gray Catbird, two Yellow Warblers, and an American Goldfinch, all in their sixth year.

Foreign recoveries, besides the chickadee re-encounters mentioned in the introduction, included a HY Gray Catbird banded at K-MB on 27 Aug 2012, found dead on 13 May 2013 in New Braunfels, TX.

New spring species banded were Northern Mockingbird and Yellow-throated Warbler. There were record high numbers banded of American Robin (57), Field Sparrow (19), Swamp Sparrow

(39) and Northern Cardinal (49). It was the second best spring ever for Black-capped Chickadees with 962 banded. On the negative side, the number of Yellow Warblers banded (128) was the second lowest since 1988. The species total now stands at 145.

Sara Morris, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding Station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested Blackpoll, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped warblers in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) parked at the banding station. Their goal was to study flight-calling behavior.

Mark Deutschlander and grad student Jenna Holzschuh continued their research on orientation of migrating birds.

Richard S. Bailey of WV; Claire Buck of Spencerport, NY; Cristina Contreras of Chiapas, Mexico; Kathy Dilliplane from Fordham University, NY; Mike Ellis of Pittsburgh, PA; Audrey Martin of NV; Jason Mayberry of Buffalo, NY; Grace Parikh of Duluth, MN; Lee Schofield of Rochester, NY; and Christine Zolnik of Fordham University, NY, successfully completed our Bander Training Class.

We had several hundred visitors from 10 states and four foreign countries, including two guests from the British Trust for Ornithology and gave informal banding demonstrations to 15 college and school groups.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Raelena Allen; John Boettcher; Mark Caitlin; Jane Capellupo; Don Cowley; Marilyn Guenther; Kathy Habgood; Kathleen Holt; John Lehr; Chita McKinney; Shirley Meston; William Norton; Bill, Lisa, and Sandy Podulka; Rosemary Reilly; Jesse Roberts; Lee Schofield; Dominick Sherony; Ruth Stork; Alice VandeMoere; Tom Verhulst; and Cici Weber.

Special appreciation is extended to Nancy Britton, Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for the use of their land.

Rock Point Banding Station **425-0793**
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

Banding, number-wise for 2013, was almost average compared with the past 12 years. We had 20 volunteers with three of them distance volunteers: Martino Guerre came from Italy, Rebecca Gouge from Quebec, and Anna Wittmer from Ohio. The remaining volunteers were local or from a near distance and gave a day or two a week. We have four licensed banders: Jim Smith, Jason Lymburner, Kim Christoff, and Roswitha Matuschek.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	130	52	44	4
2.	Yellow Warbler	118	87	13	-
3.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	98	43	53	4
4.	Slate-colored Junco	79	59	38	3
5.	Common Grackle	79	48	11	41
6.	Red-winged Blackbird	74	72	28	-
7.	Gray Catbird	61	66	33	1
8.	Swamp Sparrow	56	80	20	-
9.	Song Sparrow	55	86	4	10
10.	American Goldfinch	53	68	32	-

April was wet with quite a bit of flooding early in the month. We lost days to the weather and managed to band on only 18 of the possible 26 days, as we take Sundays off. Catch-wise, the month was good with 575 birds banded and 225 recaptured. We had a Northern Waterthrush on 20 Apr and Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow by the 18th. Two White-eyed Vireos were caught: one on 23 Apr and another on 29 Apr. This species is not common for us. All-in-all, April was a good month for us.

During May we banded only 660 birds and the b/100nh was the lowest in 12 years. A Pine Siskin on 14 May was unusual. Warblers were in lower numbers than expected and some species were missed. Magnolia Warblers were particularly low in numbers in comparison to previous years. In contrast, Yellow Warbler numbers were the highest in five years.

Tree Swallows were banded from nest boxes and 124 were banded. Four Eastern Bluebirds were also banded.

Recovered Birds:

2571-11242 – a White-throated Sparrow banded 27 Sep 2012 found dead 16 Nov 2012 by Angela Owens of Gatonia, NC, 850 km South of Rock Point.

2401-66856 – a Purple Finch banded 18 Oct 2012 and found dead on 25 Apr 2013 by Carl Moningstar of Simpsonville, Greenville County, SC, 923 km SW of Rock Point.

Foreign Recaptures:

2700-89659 – an American Goldfinch banded at Cayuga, NY, on 5 Feb 2013 and recaptured at Rock Point 7 Apr 2013.

As part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, we submit data on bandings, recoveries, and casual observations to Bird Studies Canada from which trend analysis is calculated over the long term. These data have been published and is available on line for each station of the network.

We acknowledge the support of Ontario Parks, TD Friends of the Environment, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Niagara Falls Nature Club, Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Studies Canada and the Baillie Fund for continued support.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703
Appledore Island, York County, ME
Sara Morris, Compiler
morriss@canisius.edu

Chief Banders: Liz Burton, Kristen Covino, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright

Address: Sara Morris (coordinator), Department of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208

Chief Assistant(s): Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Kristin Cantele, Bill Clark, Jill Fleming, Lindsay Herlihy, Tracy Holmes, Jason Jacobs, Karen Mitchell, Darlene Moore, William Nichols, Jeff Ott, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kathy Whittier, Zooey Zullo.

The spring 2013 season was a welcome change to recent years. The 3324 birds banded was our highest spring banding total since 1995 and well above our 2456 average spring banding total. This is particularly notable because our 3217 total net-hours was below our average of 3334. Consequently, our 103 b/100nh was well above our average of 75.9 b/100 nh. We banded birds of 79 different species, which is slightly higher than normal (average 71.7) but still within our normal range.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Common Yellowthroat	726	57.3	20.7	22.0
2.	Magnolia Warbler	323	66.0	27.6	6.4
3.	Red-eyed Vireo	207	1.4	5.3	93.2
4.	American Redstart	197	53.4	18.2	23.4
5.	Black-and-white Warbler	164	62.8	34.2	3.0
6.	White-throated Sparrow	152	26.3	32.2	39.5
7.	Trail's Flycatcher	141	0.7	-	99.3
8.	Northern Parula	110	44.5	51.8	3.7
9.	Gray Catbird	106	64.1	25.5	10.4
10.	Ovenbird	95	45.3	38.9	15.8

During this season, we recorded our highest spring total bandings for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (53), Traill's Flycatcher (141), Red-eyed Vireo (207), Black-and-white Warbler (207), Mourning Warbler (46), and Savannah Sparrow (11). We also banded our first ever Semipalmated Plover and our first spring Clay-colored Sparrow. We continue to see some birds that are more typical further south, like two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a Kentucky Warbler, a Hooded Warbler, and a Summer Tanager. Other birds of note included a Bicknell's Thrush, a Hairy Woodpecker, and a Merlin. No birds were below normal numbers.

We hosted several research projects at the station. Kristen Covino is working on her PhD thesis and we serve as her northern field site in her study of testosterone in migration. The Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology brought one of its Mobile Avian Recording Studios to the island this spring to work on flight calling behavior during migration. It was quite a production to bring the trailer on to the island, but fun to ride on the boat with it and watch the engineers puzzling through the logistics.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of the Shoals Marine Lab, who are very generous with their support of the banding station – arranging boat schedules, planning logistics runs, and even keeping meals warm when the birds prevented us from getting to meals on time. The lab also provides financial support to the station. We could not run without the generosity of our many volunteers, who donate their time each year to keeping this project going. Additionally, we have financial support from several anonymous donors and from the Canisius College Department of Biology.

Long Point Bird Observatory
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Chief Assistant: Hugh McArthur

The Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO) 54th spring migration monitoring season started at Old Cut on 27 Mar and the Tip and Breakwater were opened on 9 Apr and 21, respectively. Forty-eight volunteers, representing three countries, logged over 8,930 hours collecting migration data on over 250 species, and banding 16,348 of 138 species. LPBO had 73 days of coverage, yielding 9,173 net hours with a catch rate of 178 b/100nh. Twelve ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 21% of the catch, with the balance captured in mist nets. Twenty-four volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to service over 1,300 visitors alongside an additional 1,500 students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the spring migration at Long Point.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	2,374	34	15	21
2.	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	2,188	15	8	12
3.	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1,733	4	2	15
4.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1,576	12	8	14
5.	Slate-colored Junco	1,445	17	9	16
6.	Chipping Sparrow	840	54	29	14
7.	American Goldfinch	759	52	32	6
8.	Brown Creeper	690	1	0	24
9.	Blue Jay	655	79	14	3
10.	Yellow Warbler	642	53	31	6

The 2013 spring season will forever be known as the 'Red Season'. We had an astounding abundance of Red-bellied and Red-headed woodpeckers, as well as Northern Cardinals. These three red species topped previous yearly records in one season. A total of 155 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were banded, nearly four times the next highest yearly total of 42 in 2007. Similarly, 43 Red-headed Woodpeckers were banded, making 2013 the first spring since 1982 with more than 40 banded at LPBO. A surge of Northern Cardinals was first

observed around the station's feeders, but the spike of 31 banded at the Tip on 17 Apr raised some eyebrows. More surges came and went with 40, 35 and 50 banded on 2, 8 and 12 May, respectively. The spring season wrapped up with a grand total of 558 Northern Cardinals banded – 387 at the Tip, 120 at Breakwater and 41 at Old Cut.

Other notable highlights of the spring season include a Bewick's Wren banded at the Tip on 25 Apr, the first record since 1 May 1997. The season's best day was on 1 May with 799 birds banded of 56 species. The following morning, although not as busy, was just as exciting when LPBO's third ever Swainson's Warbler was banded at the Tip. Swainson's Warblers have now been banded at all stations with first being banded at Old Cut in 1991 and the second at Breakwater in 2005. A Least Tern was observed flying along the beach at the 'new' Provincial Park on 14 May, resulting in Long Point Birding Area's 395th species. The season wrapped up with Long Point's second Ash-throated Flycatcher, which was found on Lighthouse Crescent mid-morning on 29 May.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700
Brewster, Barnstable County, MA
Susan Finnegan, Compiler
Gretchen Putonen, Bander
suefinnegan@comcast.net

This is our 13th spring season banding on Wing Island. We had a slow start, but ended up with a higher number of birds than average as birds picked up midseason. Weather cooperated this year so we were able to have our nets open for five more days than last year.

Banding began on 14 Apr and ended on 13 Jun for a total of 29 days of operation. A range of 17-32 nets were used. With good weather and more help this season, we were able to keep nets open more hours for a total of 3380 net hours with a capture rate of 23 b/100nh (netted birds). Fifty species of 433 birds were banded and 330 were recaptured. We had 42 returns of spring-banded birds including a Common Yellowthroat in his tenth year, a six-yr-old Eastern Towhee, four 5-yr-old Gray Catbird and

three Common Yellowthroats, six 4-yr-olds, and three American Goldfinches, with the rest being three years and younger.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Gray Catbird	124	89	35	0
2.	American Goldfinch	57	47	9	1
3.	Common Yellowthroat	52	24	26	2
4.	Black-capped Chickadee	30	19	8	3
5.	Yellow Warbler	19	15	4	0
6.	Northern Cardinal	15	7	0	8
7.	Prairie Warbler	10	4	6	0
8.	Song Sparrow	9	2	2	5
9.	Magnolia Warbler	8	6	2	0
10.	American Redstart	7	6	1	0

Our best day was 21 May with 61 birds of 17 species captured. Song Sparrow numbers (9) dropped compared to previous years, with an average of 17±5.6. Higher-than-average captures included American Redstart (7) with average 2.14±2.27; Baltimore Oriole (5) 2.2±1.64; Black-and-white Warbler (4) 2.1±1.76; Common Yellowthroat (52) 30.38±15.18; Magnolia Warbler (8) 4.09±2.95, and Yellow Warbler (19) 9.42±4.7.

A banding demonstration was held on 11 May, for students taking a Field Ornithology class with Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and on 19 May.

The winter of crossbills on Cape Cod was 2012 to 2013. On 20 May we were fortunate to band two White-winged Crossbills (an ASY female and SY male) for the first time. Our first and only ASY male Red Crossbill was banded on 27 May. We had our first ever Chestnut-sided Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo for spring this year; we normally only capture them in fall. Our first and only spring-banded Canada Warbler was in 2003 and this spring season we banded four! Field Sparrow is another species we normally band only in fall, but in the past two

years, we have banded them in spring too. Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Veery were other species we have captured only once before in spring but captured again this year.

In April we received a report from the Banding Lab that a Gray Catbird, originally banded by us on 7 Oct 2012, was found dead by striking a window on 1 Apr 2013 in a nearby town. An Eastern Phoebe we banded as a HY on 24 Sep 2012 was also killed by a window strike on 3 Jun 2013 in Brewster. Another Gray Catbird banded on 14 Jul 2012 as a HY was found injured in Brewster on 25 May 2013 and brought into a wildlife rehab facility. An Eastern Towhee first banded as a HY on 1 Sep 2011 was found dead in Delaware on 2 May 2013.

Many thanks to Jo-Anna Ghadband, Ron Kielb, Keenan Yakola, Gretchen Putonen, Alex Mueller, Carolyn Kennedy, Corey Accardo, and others who helped for a morning with the banding this spring!

Powdermill Nature Reserve 401-0791
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Bander: Luke DeGroot
Address: 1847 Route 381, Rector, PA 15677
email address: deGrootel@carnegiemnh.org
Chief Assistant(s): Mary Shidel, Katrina Johnston, Jason Gleditsch

This spring we encountered a record early arrival of a Northern Waterthrush caught on 16 Apr, the earliest (by three days) of this species ever caught in the 52-year history of Powdermill's banding program. Other individuals that tied for earliest arrivals were an American Redstart (20 Apr in 2012 and 2013) and a Hooded Warbler (17 Apr in 2002 and 2013).

Species captured in numbers above 2 SD included Blue-headed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Swamp Sparrow.

Interesting captures included a Common Redpoll banded on 15 Mar, the first of this species banded here since 1996, and a recapture of a 14-year-old Blue Jay banded at Powdermill as an after-hatch-

year on 27 Dec 2000. The BBL reported to us that a Cedar Waxwing banded here on 27 May was recaptured in Rensselaer County, NY, on 18 Aug 2012.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	370	32	39	30
2.	Cedar Waxwing	300	53	46	1
3.	Gray Catbird	112	56	43	1
4.	Magnolia Warbler	105	30	69	1
5.	Song Sparrow	96	24	21	55
6.	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	94	0	1	98
7.	Swamp Sparrow	80	43	23	35
8.	White-throated Sparrow	75	25	65	9
9.	Dark-eyed Junco	74	26	72	3
10.	American Goldfinch	71	74	21	5

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations for various groups and individuals and held a *Pledge 2 Fledge* Family Day on 27 Apr. Additionally, we hosted a Beginning and an Advanced Bander Workshop during the month of May.

The Arboretum **404-0775**
at Penn State College
State College, Centre County, PA
Bander, Nick T. Kerlin
bluebird6771@verizon.net
Chief Assistant, Margaret Brittingham

An Eastern Towhee banded 27 Sep 2012 was found dead (cause unknown) on 26 Jan 2013 in Statesboro, GA. Distance of recovery from Arboretum banding site is approximately 635 miles. Local recaptures totaled 59 individuals of 14 species.

Twenty-four volunteers (PSU students and others) provided a total of 435 hours of volunteer time in extracting birds from nets, processing, record keeping, daily set-up and take-down and educational contact with visitors.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	78	0	1	99
2.	American Robin	26	31	38	31
3.	Song Sparrow	21	1	0	99
4.	Cedar Waxwing	14	43	14	43
5.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	25	42	33
6.	Slate-colored Junco	10	20	40	40
7.	Northern Cardinal	10	50	0	50
8.	American Goldfinch	9	45	55	0
9.	Blue Jay	8	75	25	0
10.	Brown Thrasher	8	16	0	84

A total of 131 people visited the banding operations including groups from PSU Wildlife and Fisheries 407 class, State College Area School District, Penns Valley Area School District and Centre Charter School.

Patuxent Powerline **390-0764**
Right-of-Way
Patuxent Research Refuge
Laurel, Prince George's County, MD
Jo Anna Lutmerding, Head Bander
jlutmerding@usgs.gov

This station is in a powerline right-of-way that bisects an upland deciduous forest. 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. We have operated as a spring banding station since 2010 (and a fall banding station since 1980).

Weather patterns, particularly prevailing winds from the N/NE, had a negative impact on this season's banding effort as manifested in our lowest number of bandings, our lowest number of net hours, and our lowest b/100nh since 2010.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Common Yellowthroat	82	2	1	97
2.	White-throated Sparrow	69	3	0	97
3.	Gray Catbird	47	59	41	0
4.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	45	2	2	96
5.	Magnolia Warbler	32	44	41	15
6.	Swamp Sparrow	26	4	0	96
7.	American Redstart	16	18	64	18
8.	Black-throated Blue Warbler	15	40	33	27
9.	Red-eyed Vireo	14	0	0	100
10.	Northern Cardinal	11	18	0	82

Twenty-two warbler species accounted for 42% of all our bandings, which falls within our previous three year range of 39%-57%. Our 2012 warbler numbers, which resulted in the 57% proportionality, were skewed by our banding of 156 Myrtle Warblers that year, when the previous two-year average is only twelve. Warblers this season notably below their three-year average were American Redstart, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Blue-winged and Northern Parula. All other warblers were at, or slightly above, their previous three-year average. All other family of birds were +/- 2% of their three-year average excepting for kinglets at 9%, when their average is 3%, and mimids at 9%, down from their three-year average of 12%. We banded 46 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which is almost twice our three-year average of 24. On the other hand, a 54% drop in Gray Catbird bandings this season from their previous three-year average (81) accounts for the drop in mimid proportionality.

We added three new species to our station's spring season banding list: Bay-breasted Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Northern Mockingbird. Other species fairly uncommon to our station that were banded included (one each): Worm-eating Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo

and White-crowned Sparrow. 2013 is the first year we have included Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers, since we only recently began banding those we capture.

Other noteworthy events this season included: (1) a Red Bat flying into a net on 17 May, extracted and released unharmed; (2) one, and sometimes two, Whip-poor-wills vocalizing in our area from 22 Apr-12 May; (3) on 12 May we banded 23 Common Yellowthroats which is the third highest single-day total – regardless of season – since 1980; and (4) on 13 May we banded an ASY/F Indigo Bunting with an unusual amount of blue feathering on the crown.

We had 111 recaptures of 89 unique birds of 29 species. Thirty-nine were banded in previous years/seasons. The earliest being a Song Sparrow banded on 22 Oct 2007 as an AHY, making it at least seven years old. It had been recaptured previously in the fall seasons of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011. The longevity record for Song Sparrow is just over 11 years.

This station continues to be a focal point for visitors from foreign banding programs, as well as serving 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 extractions, 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.

Greatly assisting in this effort were volunteers Mike Quinlan and Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report) and BBL staff members Bruce Peterjohn and Danny Bystrak. Extra thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky, Samantha Collins, Elaine Nakash and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

