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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013- Lewiston Banding Station

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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 103<sup>rd</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 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