



# Eastern Regional News

*Eastern Bird Banding Association*

*Founded 1923*

## **ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2001**

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We welcome two new stations to this, the fourth AFR Spring Report. Jim Smith reports from the north shore of Lake Erie at Rock Point (32 miles west of Buffalo) and Bob Pantle from Northview Sanctuary, located 18 miles south of Cayuga Lake in the Fingerlakes region of New York State. Both stations add geographic diversity to the spring migration analysis. We also welcome back Bill Oberman's report from Calmes Neck, VA. On the minus side, the two-year migration research project of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory at Yanty Creek was completed in June 2000 and was not continued this spring.

The results over the whole region were somewhat mixed, with Crown Point, Bedford Valley, and Island Beach having higher birds/net hour ratios in spring 2001 compared to the previous spring, but Lewiston, Manitou Beach, Ruthven, Appledore, Selkirk, Long Point, Kestrel Haven, and Presque Isle had poorer results. Overall, 26,407 birds were banded at the 17 reporting stations, 6.8% less than the previous spring. American Goldfinches made the 'top ten' at eight stations, with a total of 1230 banded at those stations alone.

John Miles at Selkirk had the most foreign re-encounters of any contributing station. Included in his eight re-encounters were two Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Cooper's Hawk, and a chickadee "exchange" with Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Selkirk is located 123 miles WSW of Braddock Bay.

Several banders commented about the ageing and sexing 'learning curve' using the new Pyle. As we all improve our ability to age SY birds correctly in the spring, the %SY numbers will become as analytically valuable as the %HY numbers in the fall.

Again this spring, it is encouraging to note that over 130 individual volunteers are cited in these reports as making a valuable contribution to the success of the banding program.

We are still seeking new stations to contribute their records to the spring AFR report. Please contact me for a reporting form for the spring 2002 banding season.

The Eastern Bird Banding Association will conduct a North American Banding Council bander certification session 13 -15 Sep 2002 at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory near Rochester, NY. This session will accept a maximum of 12 candidates already possessing U.S. or Canadian banding permits or sub-permits.

Applications or additional information are available from  
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**Table 1. Spring 2001 AFR Banding Summary**

	Crown Pt NY	Lewiston NY	Maitou Bch NY	Ruthven ON	Rock Pt ON	Appledore ME	Selkirk ON	Long Pt ON
Inclusive Dates	5/11 - 5/28	4/29 - 6/5	4/18 - 6/6	3/29 - 6/2	3/8 - 6/9	5/3 - 6/10	3/3 - 6/8	3/30 - 6/15
Total Days	18	13	45	60	64	39	93	77
# Nets Used	17 - 19	11 - 15	1 - 43.5	8 - 14	10 - 12	7 - 9	up to 18	1 - 38
Total Net Hours	4339	768	9888	4239	4469	4493.6	10,234	7894
Number Traps	1	-	-	5	0	0	6	19
% Caught in Traps	1%	0	0	11.8%	0	0	10.88%	0
Best Day (Date)	137 (5/12)	43 (5/14)	445 (5/22)	52 (5/5)	183 (5/18)	265 (5/29)	206 (4/30)	440 (5/18)
Best Diversity	19 (5/19)	13 (5/14)	41 (5/22;5/24)	23 (5/22)	35 (5/18)	35 (5/17)	23 (4/30)	50 (5/18)
Total Banded 2000	486	177	5647	1156	na	2533	2506	10,125
Total Banded 2001	523	169	5015	1102	1961	2684	1793	7510
Total Species 2000	55	40	94	81	na	82	81	119
Total Species 2001	57	35	98	80	81	76	77	113
Birds/100 nh 2000	10.3	44.5	57.2	25.3	na	61.89	23.47	104
Birds/100 nh 2001	12.1	22	50.7	21.9	43.9	59.73	15.49	95

**Table 1 (cont'd). Spring 2001 AFR Banding Summary**

	Kestrel Hven NY	Northview NY	Presque Isle PA	Powdermill PA	Bedford Val PA	Isl Beach NJ	Calmes Neck VA	Greenwell MD
Inclusive Dates	4/10 - 5/27	3/31 - 6/4	4/23 - 5/31	3/1 - 6/3	4/23 - 5/19	4/14 - 5/27	4/13 - 5/24	3/17 - 6/2
Total Days	22	22	14	na	15	23	22	12
# Nets Used	1 - 8	1 - 4	10 - 14	2 - 55	3 - 11	4 - 21	3 - 16	3
Total Net Hours	641	190	1061	10,015	473.75	1612.3	2412	65
Number Traps	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Caught in Traps	0	32%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Best Day (Date)	63 (4/29)	16 (5/3)	72 (5/20)	76 (5/18)	19 (5/4)	269 (5/1)	76 (4/21)	14 (3/17)
Best Diversity	16 (4/15)	10 (5/3)	24 (5/12)	30 (5/12)	11 (5/15)	35 (5/12;5/20)	17 (4/21)	7 (4/7)
Total Banded 2000	421	na	792	2099	95	1823	479	na
Total Banded 2001	619	115	447	1819	111	2021	439	79
Total Species 2000	47	na	71	101	28	72	50	na
Total Species 2001	53	29	71	104	34	74	48	24
Birds/100 nh 2000	178.3	na	75	26.2	18	98.78	9	na
Birds/100 nh 2001	96.6	52	30	na	23	125.35	18	122

**Crown Point State Historic Site**      **440-0732**  
Essex County, N Y  
**John M.C. Peterson, Bander**  
<jmcp7@juno.com>  
Gordon E. Howard, Chief Assistant

This marked the 26th consecutive year of operation of the spring banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site. Located in hawthorn thickets near the tip of Crown Point peninsula, a natural migrant trap that juts northward into Lake Champlain, the station was open from 11-28 May. Operated by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., the station is situated west of the ruins of French and British forts on the 360-acre grounds of the historic site.

**166 Myrtle Warbler**  
**56 American Goldfinch**  
**51 Gray Catbird**  
**28 Yellow Warbler**  
**18 American Robin**  
**18 Common Yellowthroat**  
**13 Song Sparrow**  
**12 Least Flycatcher**  
**12 Black-capped Chickadee**  
**12 Common Grackle**

When the banding station opened, less than an inch of rain had fallen over the previous six weeks. Rain finally fell all day on 12 May, bringing a fallout of migrants, including 87 Myrtle Warblers. Although some showers followed, May was mostly sunny and dry, and this undoubtedly kept numbers relatively low, with the 523 birds banded only slightly better than May 2000. The occasional rains helped ground a fair variety of 57 species, also just ahead of '00.

Last year, 46 Gray Catbirds took first place, while this year's 51 catbirds came in third, thanks largely to a jump in Myrtle Warblers from just 20 to 166.

Warbler variety was good, with 16 species netted, including a Blue-winged Warbler on 14 May, but the fair weather kept numbers low. The greatest warbler variety came on 16 May when seven species were banded. There were 26 returns of 12 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. Making it to an age of 8 years, 11 months were a Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, and American

Goldfinch, while an Eastern Kingbird made it to 7 years, 11 months. The green open field net yielded two Barn Swallows and a Savannah Sparrow.

The more than 250 visitors included Adirondack Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Bolton Central 5th grade, Elizabethtown-Lewis Central 3rd grade, Ticonderoga Central kindergarten & 6th grade, and home-schoolers, as well as atlas observers from the Adirondack-Champlain Region.

Intrusive green ash that are choking and shading out the hawthorn groves were flagged for winter removal, in cooperation with the NYS OPR&HP management and staff. The hope is to be able to maintain at least a small portion of the thickets in the immediate vicinity of the net lanes. What was quite orchard-like in appearance in 1976, with scattered hawthorn trees and junipers, is today half open, grassy field (site of the original banding station, which was cleared subsequently), with the remaining half now growing up into dense young, second-growth hardwoods and even taller white pines.

The banding station was to be featured in a *Champlain 2000* segment on WCAX-TV Plattsburgh, the local CBS affiliate, as well as in a film to be aired by *National Geographic Today* on the Society's new satellite channel. Bander Gordon Howard and subpermittees Rich MacDonald, Nina Schoch, Carole Slatkin, and Bob Wei assisted with technical chores, while countless volunteers helped check the net lanes. Gary Lee deserves special mention for helping to transport the station and staying for a week, and we are most grateful to Greg Furness for his generous gift of a pair of Bellsouth sport radios. As always, we thank the OPR&HP for their hospitality, especially Historic Site Manager Bill Farrar and the staff of the Crown Point State Historic Site, especially Tom Nesbitt and Jake Putnam. After 26 years, a total of 10,102 birds of 91 species have been banded on Crown Point peninsula during May, and we hope the removal of some successional growth will provide another decade or so of fruitful banding and continued studies at this station.

**Lewiston**  
 Niagara County, NY  
**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**  
 <jsfarrell3940@juno.com>

**431-0790**

The spring banding season started on 29 Apr which is the earliest starting date in the last 10 years. As expected, there were no early migrants with only one new Black-capped Chickadee being recorded after four hours using 15 mist nets. There were, however, five local chickadees retrapped.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
42 Gray Catbird			100
28 Myrtle Warbler			100
16 Magnolia Warbler			100
11 Wood Thrush			100
7 Bay-breasted Warbler			100
6 Common Yellowthroat	16.7	16.7	66.6
6 American Robin			100
5 Nashville Warbler			100
5 Common Grackle			100
4 Black-cap. Chickadee			100
4 Rose-br. Grosbeak	25	25	50

This station continues to show a downward trend in number of birds as well as species. This was the 25th spring of banding and by far the worst. The habitat has not changed enough to warrant the reduced number of birds. As far as I can see, we did not have a warbler migration in this banding area. Local breeding birds were back in normal numbers with one of the highest years for local retraps (37). Weather was not a problem; lack of birds was!

As in the past, there were three talks given on banding to different organizations. There were five different individuals that observed the actual bird banding, all for their first time.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774**  
**Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station**  
 Monroe County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler**  
 <brookser@infoblvd.net>

The 16th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 45 days beginning 18

Apr and continued until 6 Jun 2001. There were 5015 birds banded of 98 forms. An additional 123 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
519 Magnolia Warbler	56.7	27.5	15.8
474 Myrtle Warbler	35.6	38.3	25.0
334 American Redstart	55.8	25.4	18.8
327 Yellow Warbler	55.4	28.8	15.8
323 Gray Catbird	18.0	45.9	36.0
244 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	15.2	33.8	51.0
181 Wilson's Warbler	60.0	13.3	26.7
160 Com. Yellowthroat	18.6	16.4	65.0
153 Traill's Flycatcher	7.9	22.8	69.3
153 White-thr. Sparrow	40.2	21.2	38.6

Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Dan deRoos, Jon Dombrowski, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sue Smith, and Martha Zettel. Chief banding assistants were Katherine Clemens, Luke Donius, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Karl Miller, Patti O'Kane, and spring intern Charley Eiseman.

Constant-effort mist-netting was carried out using from one to 43.5 nets. Included in the total were six aerial net assemblies. A total of 9888 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 50.7 birds/100 net-hr. The best day was 22 May when 445 birds of 41 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 334 on 8 May, 203 on 9 May, 241 on 21 May, 297 on 23 May, 254 on 24 May, and 227 on 25 May. A record-breaking total of 1627 birds were banded in the six days between 21-26 May. The best species diversity was on 22 and 24 May when 41 species were banded. Of the 45 days when banding was carried out, 20 had more than 100 birds banded. Weekly banding summaries may be found on our webpage at <http://www.bbbo.org>.

There were over 520 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology. There were 44 returns from a previous season including a robin and a cardinal in their eighth year, a robin and catbird in their seventh year, a Yellow Warbler and a grackle in their sixth year, a Song Sparrow and a cardinal in their fifth year and 13 birds in their fourth year.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk (#1513-14777) banded by John Miles at Selkirk Provincial Park in Ontario on 9 Sep 2000 was recaptured at Kaiser-Manitou Beach on 10 May 2001. Selkirk is located approximately 123 mi WSW of Braddock Bay.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2001 (5015) was the second highest total, second only to spring 2000 (5644) which was a chickadee irruption year (555 chickadees banded). Marsh Wren, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, and Orchard Oriole were new species, bringing the cumulative number captured in spring to 131 forms.

Birds banded in record high numbers were Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush, Gray Catbird, and European Starling. Seven warbler species were banded in record numbers (Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, American Redstart, Wilson's, and Canada). Common Grackle and four species of sparrows (Chipping, Field, Swamp, and Eastern White-crowned) were also handled in record numbers.

American Tree Sparrow was missing after being captured in 11 of the past 14 years and House Finch was missing after being captured in 10 of the past 14 years.

Jean Alden, Pat Bogan, Sharon Dehn, Mark Deutschlander, Pat Lovallo, and John Waud successfully completed our Bander Training Class. David Bonter, a doctoral candidate at the University of Vermont, continued his research using data collected at the banding station, and his analysis of staging and stopover areas in the northeastern United States as identified by NEXRAD imagery.

We gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors to the banding stations and to a group of girl scouts from Troop 107 in Fairport and Hilton. We conducted workshops for approximately 90 students as part of the BOCES Project ADEPT. We co-sponsored an open house with Genesee Valley Audubon in celebration of

International Migratory Bird Day. On 26 May we held an open house for Genesee Land Trust Board members.

Thanks to our route censusers Don Cowley, John and Suzanne Olson, Eldon Remy, Dominic Shérony, and Bob Spahn,

Appreciation to Mark Conti, Don Cowley, Kelly Dockery, Jack Duvall, Tracy Ford, Chris Gates, Tom Greg, Marilyn Guenther, Myrt Harding, Betty Hooker, Mirian Hulst, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Katie Marino, Chita McKinney, Catherine Pohl, Jeanne Skelly, Greta Stephany, Doug Smith, Lois Smith, and Chris Villone,

Special appreciation to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara; to Debbie Reed for Security; to Tom Muller and his Boy Scouts for net lane maintenance; to Dan Carroll of the Dept. Environ. Cons. for a grant to purchase crushed stone for the trails and hire a logger to remove ash from the back net lane; to Bob and Charlene Reed, David Frosini, and Peg Beckman for providing housing to visiting banders, interns, and students; and to Bill and June Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

#### **Ruthven Park**

**425-0795**

Haldimand County, Ontario

**Rick Ludkin, Bander**

<rludkin@hotmail.com>

Loretta Mousseau, Maureen Moore, Jim Smith, Chief Assistants

This marked the 6th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring/banding at Ruthven Park. There were 1102 birds banded of 80 forms. Banding started on 29 Mar and ran for 60 days through to 2 Jun. Sixteen volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander-in-charge with the running of the station. Most days the nets were opened a half hour before sunrise and were in operation for about six hours. Banding was carried out using 14 nets deployed in nine lanes cut into the scrub, which provides the buffer between the open fields/lawns and surrounding forest at Ruthven Park. Additionally, up to four ground traps and one Potter trap were used.

- 219 American Goldfinch**
- 75 Song Sparrow**
- 65 Slate-colored Junco**
- 63 Yellow Warbler**
- 60 Tree Swallow**
- 50 Magnolia Warbler**
- 48 Chipping Sparrow**
- 39 White-throated Sparrow**
- 37 Gray Catbird**
- 32 Red-winged Blackbird**

April was quite cool, with periods of precipitation. On 15 days, at opening time the temperature was 0° C or less; in fact, on 25, 26, and 29 Apr the temperatures at open were -5, -3, and -2° C respectively. As a result, vegetation growth and the subsequent emergence of insects was delayed by at least a week.

The first week of May was warm; the temperatures then moderated. The last half of the month was quite wet with 4.5" of rain falling. Insect food (as gauged by the annoying presence of mosquitoes— which, in our experience, is correlated with the availability of caterpillars) was not present until after the middle of the month.

It was hard to get excited by this spring's migration – we seemed always to be in a state of anticipation of a "big day" which never came. Comparatively, we banded more birds in April this year than in 2000 but this was almost certainly due to a large influx of American Goldfinches. Medium-distance migrants were down; for example, we banded a total of only 23 kinglets (12 Golden-crowned; 11 Ruby-crowned) compared to 131 in 1999 and 120 in 2000. Myrtle Warblers dropped to nine from a high of 60 in 1999. We heard of good numbers at coastal banding stations around the Great Lakes (e.g., Rock Point outside of Dunnville and Kaiser-Manitou Beach near Rochester) but we did not see them. We are assuming that migrants would concentrate along the "leading lines" that the coasts provide and then fly over when conditions permitted.

The bottom fell out in May. We captured only 602 birds, which is 188 and 140 birds fewer than we caught in '99 and '00 respectively despite our best coverage ever. Our capture rate in May of 23.42 birds/100 net hours is the second lowest in six

years and considerably lower than the 41.4 and 34.3 that we had in the past two years. Particularly noticeable was the lack of warblers. Although we observed 20 species (and one hybrid) in the course of the month, we never saw them in good numbers. Many of these species were represented by only a few individuals. The reasons for our low numbers this year are obscure, especially as stations such as Kaiser-Manitou Beach were having record-breaking springs. The presence or absence of actively migrating birds at Ruthven Park is probably related to local weather conditions encountered en-route. The largest catch of the season (52 on 5 May) was associated with the passing of a cold front with brisk NE winds. Days with other good catches were associated with unsettled stormy conditions which would have "grounded" migrating birds. In the absence of such conditions, it would appear that migrants, on clearing the shoreline, just keep on going, flying over sites like Ruthven which are only a comparatively short distance in from Lake Erie.

In all, 141 forms of birds were recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Notable sightings included a Bald Eagle, both color phases of the Snow Goose, and a Great Egret and Cattle Egret flying up the river in tandem.

I thank the volunteers who have supported this season's effort, without whom the coverage we had would have been impossible: Loretta Mousseau, Darryl Edwards, Laura Spence, Marylene Boulet, Pascal Petitclerc, Laura Zimmerman, Katie, Scott and Barb Peddie, Heather Lissemore, Marg Ludkin, Colleen Mousseau, Leigh and Lynne Elgersman, Geoff Ludkin, Sr., and Barb McKay.

I also thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their commitment to this project. Not only has the Trust given me access to the grounds but they have supplied financial, material, and manpower resources as needed. This project was also supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon and by the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated.

**Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand County, Ontario

**James A. Smith, Bander**

< benavis@sympatico.ca >

David Millen, Chief Assistant

This was Rock Point Banding Station's first spring. The station was opened in July 2000. Considering that it is primarily a one-man operation, the location has proven to be very productive. The station is open on six days of the week, with Sundays taken off for family time. With additional banders the station could be open seven days a week.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
199 American Goldfinch	55	30	15
159 Magnolia Warbler	52	32	16
155 White-thr. Sparrow	54	45	2
117 Yellow Warbler	48	52	0
109 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	45	55	0
86 Gray Catbird	47	53	0
81 Cedar Waxwing	68	32	0
75 Song Sparrow	4	8	88
74 Am. Tree Sparrow	5	3	92

Twelve nets were used in seven locations. As to net location and number of birds caught per net, all nets produced with varying degrees of success depending on leaf cover, wind and birds migrating.

Weather was, for the most part, very good with only seven days being reduced because of rain or frozen nets. A period of 10 days was lost in April because the chief bander went to Point Reyes, CA, for the Advanced Landbird Course with Peter Pyle and no other banders were available to take over the station. This was a very interesting course and the information learned was used and is reflected in the above data.

No predation by cats was experienced this season mainly due to a small dog that did net rounds with me and the smell of the dog plus his presence kept cats at a distance.

Foreign retraps included a Sharp-shinned Hawk (#1152-64336) caught 3 May 2001; so far no data have been received. An American Goldfinch was

recaptured from the Ruthven station. Forty-one percent of my retraps and returns were originally banded in the fall of 2001.

The count of 10 Mourning Warblers made for pleasant catching on a number of days. The American Goldfinch numbers remain high although I was surprised at the number of SY birds in relation to ASY. I would have thought the numbers would be reversed. *Empidonax* remains a high catch genus with 78 birds being represented. Thrushes were very low with only 41 birds, not including 29 American Robins. Twenty-two species of warblers were caught with 609 birds or 31% of birds banded being warblers. If I exclude the 117 Yellow and 159 Magnolia warblers, there were just 333 birds banded. High species were 47 Wilson's Warbler, 51 Common Yellowthroat, and 40 Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Continual climbing of the Pyle learning curve in relation to age and sex is an ongoing activity, with some concerns and questions which are slowly being resolved. The mist on Lake Erie is being looked at with a preliminary viewpoint to increased catches when the lake is misted over.

One group of two classes, and another school where I was involved in their activities, visited during the spring season. Two other classroom demonstrations with slide presentation were done. One slide presentation was made to the Buffalo Ornithological Society. One presentation was made to the Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Group. One group of three children being home schooled came out for four days as part of their science work.

**Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703**

Appledore Island, York County, ME

**Sara Morris, Compiler**

<morrisncanisius.edu>

Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, John Munier, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright, **Banders**

This year was the 12th year of substantial spring migration monitoring on Appledore. We continue to operate the station from before sunrise until after sunset, weather permitting. Our nets are in the same position each year, allowing across-year comparisons.

	<b>% SY (vs ASY)</b>	<b>%SY (of all)</b>
<b>465 Com. Yellowthroat</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>67.6</b>
<b>358 Magnolia Warbler</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>67.6</b>
<b>292 White-thr. Sparrow</b>	<b>98.9</b>	<b>61.0</b>
<b>149 Gray Catbird</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>63.8</b>
<b>123 Red-eyed Vireo</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>N/A*</b>
<b>104 Bl. &amp; Wh. Warbler</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>68.3</b>
<b>84 Ovenbird</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>64.3</b>
<b>83 Am. Redstart</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>74.7</b>
<b>83 Ruby-cr. Kinglet</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>94.0</b>
<b>75 Myrtle Warbler</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>68.0</b>

**\*N/A - species that we aged more than 50% of the birds as AHY.**

The 76 species and 2684 individuals indicate that the spring 2001 season was an average spring migration season (ten-year average = 75.3 species and 2619 individuals). We did not lose any full days due to inclement weather, resulting in our second highest number of net hours for the spring. This year there were four days on which we banded more than 200 birds and three more on which we captured between 150 and 199 birds, which contrasted starkly with only two days of more than 150 birds captured in 2000. While we had several "big days" we also experienced several extremely slow days (10 or fewer new birds captured), several of which occurred during our normal peak migration period of the last 10 days in May.

There were no new species captured at the station this spring. Our most frequently captured species were those that were expected, and the only species that was in the top ten last year but not this year was the Blackpoll Warbler (# 6 in 2000, # 13 in 2001). This year's addition was the Myrtle Warbler. Only two species were captured in numbers outside the normal range of spring captures. Nashville Warblers (40) and Gray Catbirds (149) were captured in numbers higher than normal (more than 2 SD above average, NAWA average = 19.4, GRCA average = 87.9). Our common species were captured in numbers that are typical for the spring, although the

American Redstart was substantially less common than average (83 captures in 2001), even though it was within 2 SD of the mean (ten-year average = 158). Some of the milestones we passed this spring included our 1000th Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1500th spring Red-eyed Vireo, 2000th White-throated Sparrow, 4000th spring Magnolia Warbler, 4500th Northern Waterthrush, and 9000th Common Yellowthroat (over 6500 in the springs).

Our returns of breeding birds included an after-seventh-year Common Grackle; Common Yellowthroats that were after-fourth-year, fifth-year, and seventh-year birds; several fourth- and fifth-year Gray Catbirds and one that was banded on Star Island in the fall; several second-year Song Sparrows; and a third-year Yellow Warbler. All of our returns were of species that breed on the island. We did not recover any birds banded elsewhere this spring.

Our station hosted many visitors who were participating in credit and non-credit programs through the Shoals Marine Lab. We also continued the spring tradition of involvement with the field ornithology class at Shoals during the early morning hours, giving them individual training in banding operations as well as having their support as recorders and assistants.

The station could not have run this spring without the able assistance of our band-aides: Katie Battaglia, Alex Chang, Carol Cushing, Dorothy Fitch, Clif Horrigan, Peter Kalenda, Amanda Larracuente, Joyce Marshall, Garth McElroy, Megan McElroy, Kathie Palfy, Stephanie Parkinson, Martha Stauffer, Erica Turner, Jo Weldon, and Lynn Zeltman, several of whom also made generous contributions to the station. The Shoals Marine Lab staff was very supportive with logistics, housing, and great understanding and patience for the schedules we keep. Canisius College continues to fund generously the Appledore Island Migration Station by purchasing many of the station supplies, providing funding for student travel to the station, and providing grants to students involved in data analysis and presentation.



**Selkirk Provincial Park****424-0795**

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario

**John Miles, bander**

&lt;miles@kwic.com&gt;

Chris, Mike and Sue Kimber, Jim Smith, chief assistants

The sixth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced on 3 Mar and ended 8 Jun. The station was manned almost daily during this time period with the banding effort taking place on 93 days. Twelve volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander-in-charge with the running of the station.

	% HY	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
170 White-thr. Spar.				100
160 Golden-cr. Kinglet				100
153 Slate-col. Junco				100
138 Song Sparrow				100
94 Amer. Goldfinch		55.3	10.6	34.0
79 Amer. Robin	1.3			98.7
76 Hermit Thrush		76.3		23.7
72 Ruby-cr. Kinglet				100
60 Amer. Tree Spar.				100
57 Myrtle Warbler		10.5	43.9	45.6

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out the station was manned from ½ hour before sunrise, usually for a minimum of six hours.

After a fairly quiet January and February, winter returned several times in March with several days of snowfalls and high winds resulting in the station not operating for five days after opening. April warmed up fairly early after the beginning of the month with several days of rain. The latter part of the month was fairly dry and warm. Consequently, vegetation growth was accelerated by about a week or two for the third spring in a row.

The first half of May was fairly dry but 4.5" of rain fell during the last 10 days of May, slowly turning the banding net trails into mud. The drainage ditch system was expanded to drain off the excess water as some of the trails around the netting area progressively got worse as the rains continued to fall.

The Selkirk field station operated in the same location in the south west corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area remain the same.

Banding was carried out using 18 mist nets, up to five ground traps, and a Jay trap. The same net lanes used in the previous springs were used again. The changes in net locations that were done in the fall of 1999 to improve coverage of the birds moving through the area and to create a circular net run were maintained. After nine banding seasons of experimentation, it appears we have finally achieved the best setup possible.

The first detectable migration occurred 18 Mar when Song and American Tree sparrows showed up in reasonable numbers. Another flight of these species took place on 25-26 Mar with other species filtering through with them.

It was quiet at the beginning of April until the 5th. From 5-12 Apr inclusive it was steady, with a peak of 69 birds banded on the 8th and 50 on the 12th. Juncos came through in reasonable numbers with a good number of Golden-crowned Kinglets, although there were not the kinglet numbers present as encountered over the past couple of springs. From then on there was only a trickle of birds present each day. After a dismal day on 29 Apr with only two birds banded, the next day was another story. The birds were everywhere all day long. Selkirk had its best banding day ever with 206 birds banded. The major catches were White-throated Sparrow 67, Myrtle Warbler 44, Hermit Thrush 31 and Ruby-crowned Kinglet 18. All told, 23 species of birds were banded, including seven species of warblers.

The first day of May started out strong with 86 birds banded as an echo of 30 Apr. Although 2-4 May were good days, numbers started to drop off on 5 May. The next reasonable day was 10 May with 56 birds banded as Veery and Ovenbirds led the day. The next little wave arrived 15 May with 46 birds banded. Things were fairly quiet until 20 May when 44 birds were banded. The rest of the month was very quiet with a variety but no numbers filtering through the banding area. May 2001 is the first May Selkirk has operated when there was not at

least one day when 100 or more birds were banded in one day. In June there was only a trickle until the station closed down on 8 Jun.

There were 181 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Noteworthy birds included up to three Little Gulls together and a Pileated Woodpecker. A Yellow-breasted Chat, a Lawrence's Warbler, a Hooded Warbler, and a Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow, all of which were banded, rounded out the noteworthy birds.

There were 1793 birds of 77 species banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the spring of 2001. In addition, one hybrid, a Lawrence's Warbler, and an identifiable race, a Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow, were banded. Two species, Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird, were banded for the first time at Selkirk.

In the spring of 2001, 207 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly, some as many as 10-20 times.

There were 110 birds retrapped that were returns from another season. While most of these were resident nesting birds in the area, the recapture of 12 Slate-colored Juncos and three American Tree Sparrows are noteworthy. The return of two Red-winged Blackbirds and an American Robin from 1996 were also noteworthy.

This spring three foreign retraps were encountered. A male Cooper's Hawk that had been banded as a second-year bird on 14 Apr 1991 at Braddock Bay Raptor Research in Greece, NY, was retrapped on 16 Mar. The data have been received on a Cooper's Hawk retrapped 11 Oct 2000. This male bird was banded near W. Greece, NY, on 4 Jul 2000, by Kevin Griffith. The banding data have not been received on a Wood Thrush retrapped on 6 May.

News of several recoveries has been received: a Sharp-shinned Hawk (#1513-14777) banded on 9 Sep 2000 was recovered at Braddock Bay Bird Obs., near W. Greece, NY, 10 May 2001. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, #1513-14796, banded 6 Oct 2000, was recovered at Lakeport, MI, 24 Apr 2001.

A Black-capped Chickadee, banded 21 Oct 1999, was recaptured at Braddock Bay, NY, on 29 Apr 2000. American Tree Sparrow #2140-48720, banded 30 Oct 1998, was recovered 17 Mar 2001 near Sherwood, MI. And #2160-48720 Field Sparrow, banded 21 Oct 2000, was recovered 14 Feb 2001 near McCrory, AR.

There were 77 visitor days recorded to the banding site. The Niagara Falls Field Naturalists were given banding demonstrations.

I extend my appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, and the park contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Birds Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program and the Haldimand Bird Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, 3-ring loose leaf binders and file cabinets collected by Miss Gail King, snacks, and timely cash donations.

Finally, I thank the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: 1-2 weeks: Tom Ford, Sue and Mike Kimber; 4-6 days: Angela Baitz, Leslie Campbell, Chris Kimber; 1-3 days: Eric Cleland, Tom Crooks, Dave Don, Stacie Harder, Jamie Miles, Jim Smith.

**Long Point Bird Observatory** 423-0800  
Haldimand-Norfolk 423-0801  
R.M., Ontario 423-0802

**Jody Allair, Matt Hindle, Banders**

<lpbo@bsc-eoc.org>

Miguel Demeulemeester, Jerome Fischer, Sindy Publitz, Hugh McArthur, Chief Assistants

The spring of 2001 started off very cold and wet and remained that way for the duration of the first month. In fact, the ice from spring breakup surrounded most of the point well into the month of April, making for many a treacherous boat trip to the Tip field station. The temperature in March and much of April continued at an unseasonably cool level. Consequently, the spring migration season had a rather lethargic beginning. Fortunately, by mid-May the weather became quite hot and

sunny, with all of the field stations experiencing very little in the way of precipitation or cloud cover. Eventually, the more favorable weather enticed the birds to come through the point. Most birds observed were regular migrants through the area, yet the Long Point birding community received some visitors possessing the field marks to cause quite a stir!

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
1009 White-thr. Sparrow	40	06	54
553 Magnolia Warbler	44	32	24
426 Red-wg. Blackbird	23	75	02
356 Gray Catbird	08	09	83
249 Yellow Warbler	51	37	12
245 Com. Grackle	08	05	87
189 Brown-hd. Cowbird	29	35	36
186 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	31	10	49
182 Golden-cr. Kinglet	32	04	44
182 White-cr. Sparrow	40	25	35

The Old Cut field station was opened for banding on 29 Mar but caught only a few White-throated Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Slate-colored Juncos. The migrants slowly trickled in throughout the week and by 6 Apr good numbers of American Tree Sparrows, as well as the first Caspian Terns and Purple Martins, arrived at Old Cut. Unseasonably warm weather on 8 Apr brought in our first major rush of migrants, including an astounding 329 Northern Flickers recorded flying over the dyke at Old Cut in a 2.5 hr period. The first major bird highlight of the spring also came on 8 Apr, with a Gyrfalcon observed at Old Cut mid- morning.

By the middle of April, the migrant Hermit Thrushes, Myrtle Warblers, and Slate-colored Juncos were right on schedule, although the overall number of birds banded was slightly below average for the time of year. Myrtle Warblers, in particular, had a very poor showing this spring. On 13 Apr, Old Cut had Ontario's earliest ever Prairie Warbler, along with good numbers of Eastern Towhees, Fox Sparrows, and Field Sparrows. Our first big banding day occurred on 29 Apr, with over 120 birds banded at Old Cut, most of which were White-throated Sparrows. Additionally, the 29th produced a superb Yellow-breasted Chat and a Worm-eating Warbler that chose to make the Old

Cut woodlot its home for approximately three weeks. Despite low banding totals at all three stations (only 7232 banded for the season), spring 2001 was undoubtedly spectacular for rare and unusual species at Long Point. May pulled in the bulk of rarities, with species not generally caught during migration appearing in surprising numbers. Most notable were Prairie Warblers, Northern Parulas, and Yellow-breasted Chats. Surprisingly, all of the LPBO field stations included each of these species in their banding totals this spring.

An average number of birds came through the field stations during May, primarily due to the clear and sunny weather that had settled over southern Ontario. However, a fallout occurred on the 18th presenting all three field stations with their busiest day of the spring. Of the 169 birds banded at the Tip, two Hooded Warblers and one Prairie Warbler were included. Breakwater banded the third Worm-eating Warbler of the year and Old Cut banded 39 Magnolia Warblers, 19 Wilson's Warblers and 26 Gray Catbirds—reason enough to give the banding lab floor a thorough cleaning!

The spring migration slowed down considerably toward the end of May. The last songbirds to migrate north in the spring, flycatchers and Blackpoll Warblers, were coming back through but in fairly low numbers. Some very unusually late migrants were banded at Breakwater on 4 Jun, including a Slate-colored Junco and a pair of White-throated Sparrows. Both species of cuckoo were recorded quite frequently at all three stations until close on 10 Jun. Also by this point, most songbird migrants had completed their perilous journey back north.

**Kestrel Haven** **422-0764**  
**Avian Migration Observatory**  
 Burdett, Schuyler County, NY  
**John and Sue Gregoire, Banders**  
**<khmo@att.net>**

Weather allowed a bit more net time this year although winds continued to be the major reason for closing early or not being able to net safely. Some species were quite early owing to an unusual April warm spell while others were evidently blocked by ensuing frontal systems and arrived quite late, or not at all.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
<b>343 Amer. Goldfinch</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>27 White-cr. Sparrow</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>25 Red-wg. Blackbird</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>23 White-thr. Sparrow</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>23 Com. Grackle</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>21 Yellow Warbler</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>19 Amer. Robin</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>18 Song Sparrow</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>11 Cedar Waxwing</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>9 Chipping Sparrow</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>

We banded 619 individuals of 53 species during 22 days of operation. We also had 67 repeats, 118 returns, a foreign recapture of a goldfinch banded in Pennsylvania in 1999, and five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds which were not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 96.6 birds/100 net-hr for newly banded birds and 126.2 overall.

Once again, the American Goldfinch carried the season. In our first 11 years here (1986-1997) we banded 1745 goldfinches, while in the last 3.5 years, we've banded 1847. That significant population surge is supported by anecdotal reports from throughout the immediate area and a sharp increase in Niger seed sales at local feed stores. On a sad note, all those active feeders may be contributing to the inter-species spread of *Mycoplasma*. We had one ASY-M present with a fully involved left eye; no House Finches were banded. Of note, we had very few warbler, vireo, and flycatcher species this spring. Black-throated Blue has still not arrived and it is a breeder on the property. Strangely, we did band several Wilson's Warblers over the entire period, which is quite uncommon here for spring.

Returns were fantastic and a spring high for the station. Twenty-five percent of all returns were Neotropical migrants. Of the 118, representing 22 species, 25% were over four years of age. These included: two Common Yellowthroats at 6 and 4 years; seven American Goldfinches at 8, 6+, 5+, 4+ and 4 years; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 5+ years; three Baltimore Orioles at 7, 5 and 4 years; an Eastern Kingbird at 4 years; six Yellow Warblers at 6, 5+, 5 and 4+ years; three Chipping

Sparrows at 6,5 and 4 years; a Hairy Woodpecker at 4 years; two American Robins at 5+ and 4+ years; three Gray Catbird at 8, 5+ and 4 years; four Black-capped Chickadee at 7, 4+ and 4 years; two Eastern Phoebes at 4+ years and a Song Sparrow at 5+ years of age. The eldest were the eight-year-old catbird and goldfinch, two years shy of the listed record longevity. The foreign goldfinch was the same bird we encountered last fall.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak (AHY-F) presented with a withered leg apparently caused by her biting herself. An Eastern White-crowned Sparrow (ASY-U) had a deformed, chunky bill and an American Goldfinch (SY-F) suffered from huge pox infestations of both feet.

Shortly after closing for the season, a Pine Siskin brought her new fledgling to the thistle feeders. This was both an early fledge and the second consecutive year that species has bred here.

As we write this report in early June, a Baltimore Oriole has settled into her nest at the top of a fifteen-foot Sugar Maple in our yard. This nest is clearly visible from an upstairs window and symbolic of the wonders we enjoy at this station.

**Northview Sanctuary** **421-0762**  
 Candor, Tioga County, NY  
**Robert Pantle, Bander**  
 <bbpbird@pronetisp.net>

This being the first spring report for this station, a brief description of its location and habitat follows. Northview Sanctuary is at an elevation of 1350 feet and approximately 18 miles south of the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in south-central New York state. Banding is carried out on a three-acre plot consisting of overgrown meadows and small wood lots with multiflora rose and autumn olive being the dominant plants. Trees are white pine, maple, spruce, and the remains of an old apple orchard.

Weatherwise, this spring could be characterized as being a season of contrasts. The average temperature in April was higher than normal, breaking an all-time record on 23 Apr of 83° F., with precipitation way below normal (23% of what we normally get). The whole month of April was

characterized by breezy, windy, dry conditions, making mist netting very difficult. Temperature was normal for May (with the average at 56° F.); however, precipitation level continued to be 59% below normal.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
20 Red-wg. Blackbird	15	70	15
15 Com. Yellowthroat	53	20	27
14 Slate-col. Junco	50	0	50
14 White-thr. Sparrow	71	0	29
11 Am. Tree Sparrow	0	0	100
11 Song Sparrow	27	0	73
11 Bl.-cap. Chickadee	18	0	82
9 Gray Catbird	11	11	78
8 Br.-hd. Cowbird	50	12	38

I captured a total of 146 birds (11 of which were repeats; 20 returns). In April and May, I used four-cell Potter traps when mist netting became impossible due to very windy conditions. These traps accounted for 32% of all birds captured.

Very few warblers were captured (Common Yellowthroat, Myrtle, Ovenbird, and Black-and-white). The only noteworthy capture was a Red-bellied Woodpecker which is very uncommon at my station.

**Presque Isle** **420-0800**  
 Erie, Erie County, PA  
**Ronald F. Leberman, Bander**

This was a very odd spring at Presque Isle with few birds and cold, wet, very dreary days. A total of 447 birds were banded, of 71 species (about half the number of birds banded for this period in 2000) in 1061 net hours. Although we did not add a new species to the fall cumulative list, two rarely banded birds did manage to get caught: a Grasshopper Sparrow on 23 Apr and a Worm-eating Warbler on 26 Apr.

- 53 Gray Catbird
- 38 White-throated Sparrow
- 37 Yellow Warbler
- 34 Magnolia Warbler
- 17 Swainson's Thrush
- 15 Chestnut-sided Warbler
- 14 Canada Warbler
- 13 American Robin
- 12 House Wren
- 12 Red-eyed Vireo
- 12 Black-throated Blue Warbler

During the last week in May the park had the Niagara boat-ramp parking lot paved, resulting in no banding being done; however, that should be a great improvement as our cars will no longer be covered in dust at the end of the day.

A House Wren with a very long and crooked bill (both upper and lower) was netted. It seemed to be in good condition and was banded and released. Three deer ticks were removed from a Red-eyed Vireo and one from a Yellow Warbler.

Thanks goes to all those who helped in the banding process: Barb Mitchell, Sam Stull, Pat and Dona Peters, Thelma Patton, Harley and Karen Winkleblack, Joyce Hoffman, Jean and Toby Cunningham, the Park staff and many others.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve** **400-0791**  
 Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
**Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill**  
 <mulvipnr@westol.com>

The bird-banding program at Carnegie Museum of Natural History's 2000-acre field research station in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, Powdermill Nature Reserve, was in operation on 75 out of a possible 94 days during the spring 2001 period (1 Mar through 3 Jun). A total of 1819 birds were banded, and there were an additional 655 recaptures, for a total addition of 2474 banding records to our database. On 24 Apr we reached a program milestone—our 400,000th original banding, a Chipping Sparrow. We ended up the season just 676 records shy of achieving a combined total of a half million original bandings plus recapture records in our database (this milestone was achieved on 11 Jul).

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
194 Am. Goldfinch	65	30	5
125 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	38	39	29
117 Song Sparrow	44	25	31
110 Gray Catbird	71	26	03
82 Chipping Sparrow	54	36	02
69 Magnolia Warbler	64	36	0
61 Sl.-col. Junco	33	67	0
55 White-thr. Sparrow	58	33	09
49 Com. Yellowthroat	59	39	02
48 Red-eyed Vireo	002	02	96

We failed to band >100 birds on any day during this spring season; in fact, we banded >50 birds on just four days. Our busiest days were 12 May (71 birds banded) and 18 May (76 banded). In general, capture rates were much higher early in the season, when we operated fewer nets and when most of the birds being banded were those concentrated at bird feeders. Capture rates declined from late April through May.

Our overall spring capture total in 2001 (1819 birds banded) was the third lowest in 40 years, and our spring capture rate (18 birds/100 net-hr) may well be the lowest ever (we have not yet completed compiling data for spring banding effort for all years, but we will provide them when they become available). With 104 species or recognizable forms banded; however, the diversity of our catch this spring was above average.

Typically, a comparatively small number of species makes up a large proportion of our total catch at any season—this spring’s “top ten” list of most commonly banded birds (together constituting >50% of our spring banding total) was very similar to previous years, with the exception that Dark-eyed Junco, a perennial leader on that list, was relegated to seventh place, following our poorest catch for this species since the program’s very first spring season in 1962. The poor junco flight was probably the biggest factor in our overall very poor early spring totals—on average, we band almost 200 juncos in March alone, whereas this March we banded just 40.

Highlight of the season was our fourth ever Swainson’s Warbler. Only our banding total for Gray Catbird (114) set a new spring season record. Conspicuous spring “misses” included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Palm Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow.

During the spring 2001 season, we were very lucky to have some exceptional banding trainees: Adrienne Leppold (California University of Pennsylvania), Annie Lindsay (Grove City College), and Brian Jones (Penn State University) all showed great enthusiasm, learned quickly, and dedicated many hours and days to helping with the banding—far beyond what their college and work

schedules easily allowed. Brian deserves special mention for skillfully manning the weed-whacker and getting our overgrown net lanes into perfect condition for banding in May.

We were fortunate, as always, to have assistance from a number of dedicated volunteers, especially Darlene Madarish, Carole Shanahan, Mary Helen Chiodo, and Carroll Labarthe. Others who assisted from time to time included Powdermill interns Jami Paul, Kerry Keto, and Matt Demarines. And, occasionally, we pressed visitors like Jack and Karyl Merchant and their daughter, Jessica, Bob Shaw, Peggy Wisner, Louise Carroll, Kevin Georg, and Geoff Burtner into service to help carry bags with birds or as record-keepers. Last, but certainly not least, our good friend and very talented fellow bander, Jim Gruber, gave us the benefit of his energy and banding expertise for a week near the end of our season (and this was on the heels of a very busy season of banding at his own station on the eastern shore of Maryland).

Finally, for supporting and facilitating our efforts in many ways beyond direct help with the banding, we thank Powdermill’s Director, Dr. Joseph F. Merritt, and the station’s maintenance crew, Gilbert and Albert Lenhart and Lloyd Moore. Also, we owe a tremendous debt to our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum’s Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who painstakingly enters, checks and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and fulfilling data requests.

Readers are reminded that we maintain a website (<http://www.westol.com/-banding>) where we post our banding totals and pictorial highlights throughout the year (updated almost daily during migration seasons). A detailed summary of the spring 2001 banding season can also be found on the site.

**Bedford Valley** **395-0783**  
Bedford County, PA  
**Janet Shaffer, Bander**  
<jgshaffer@yellowbananas.com>

Spring migration 2001, at my station was cut short by about three weeks due to a family emergency. However, banding was carried out for 15 days,

beginning 23 Apr and ending 19 May. Up to 11 nets were operated, but many times closed early due to being in direct sunlight. Weather did not seem to be much of an influence. One demo was held on 12 May for ten 4-H members and four mothers.

	% SY
<b>22 Chipping Sparrow</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>15 Gray Catbird</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>12 Am. Robin</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8 Am. Goldfinch</b>	<b>12</b>

On 14 May a female Myrtle Warbler was caught which appeared normal except for the legs. Both legs had a black "line" or thread exposed on the front of the legs. It was surrounded by what appeared to be a gray spongy-like substance. The weight, 13.5 g, was close to that of a normal-looking male (weight 13.3 g) caught on 15 May. Attempts to photograph the abnormality were not successful. The bird was not banded.

**Island Beach State Park** **395-0740**  
 Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ  
**Glenn R. Mahler, compiler**  
 < 102071.2661@compuserve. com>

During the spring 2001 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park between 14 Apr and 27 May. One or more of those stations was in operation on 23 days during that 44-day period; there were five banding days in April, and 18 in May. There were two days (5-6 May) on which three of the stations were in operation simultaneously and eight days with two stations in operation; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active. Banders participating this season were Mary Doscher, Glenn Mahler, Doris McGovern, Ray and Marlene Miller, Nick Pulcinella, and Robert Yunick. Bob Pantle assisted at Bob Yunick's station.

- 467 Gray Catbird
- 319 Myrtle Warbler
- 255 Common Yellowthroat
- 140 White-throated Sparrow
- 88 Black-and-white Warbler
- 76 Magnolia Warbler
- 58 Northern Parula
- 50 Yellow Warbler
- 42 Ovenbird
- 40 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 40 Ovenbird

Total bandings (2021) for the season were the highest since 1955 and for the first time since 1995 were above the long-term average (1617). This season's 125 birds/100 net-hr was the highest since 1993 and was well above our long-term average of 103, breaking a pattern of consistent below-average results reported last season. The 74 total species this season was also above our 73.5 average and was the highest since 1996.

There were no really big flight days reported this season. Peak flights occurred as follows:

Date	# Birds	# Species	# Birds/100 nh
<b>28 Apr (2)*</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>1 May (2)</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>2 May (1)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>11 May (1)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>12 May (2)</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>20 May (2)</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>182</b>

\*( ) # stations operating.

Highlights of the season included an all-time spring high of 13 White-crowned Sparrows, a Summer Tanager, and a Hooded Warbler. There were also several interesting returns: A Myrtle Warbler banded by Mary Doscher in spring of 2000 was recaptured by her this spring. While definitely not a breeder at this location it may be a bird that winters here or it may simply have been following the same northbound path as last season. Definitely neither a breeder nor a wintering bird at Island Beach was a Great Crested Flycatcher banded (also by Mary) in fall of 1999 and recaptured by her this spring. Among returns from locally breeding species were a Common Yellowthroat just shy of eight years of age banded in spring 1994 by Bob Yunick and recaptured by him this spring, and a Gray Catbird banded by Bob McKinney at Island Beach in fall of 1991 and recaptured this spring by Bob Yunick.

**Calmes Neck** **390-0775**  
 Boyce, Clarke County, VA  
**J. William Oberman, Bander**

This was an average year with maximum yield the last week of April and the first week of May. Increased yield from last year may be due in part to earlier net closure during the day. It was very slow after the second week in May

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
117 Am. Goldfinch	70	30	
64 Myrtle Warbler			100
31 White-thr. Sparrow	90	10	
18 Wood Thrush	90	10	
17 No. Cardinal	50	50	
16 Carolina Chickadee	70	30	
15 E. Tuf. Titmouse	66	34	
15 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	90	10	
12 Red-eyed Vireo	44	56	
7 Scarlet Tanager	70	30	

Whip-poor-will was a new species for the station. The numbers for Wood Thrush were improved.

**Greenwell Field Station 382-0763**

Greenwell State Park, St. Mary's County,  
Hollywood, MD

**Ron Runkles, bander**

<ron.runkles@nema.org>

Dean Newman, Assistant

Except for a Wild Turkey that paraded down main street, the main net lane on 14 Apr—the first sighting of one at Greenwell Field Station in its four years of operation—no unusual birds were seen or captured during this spring season. However, interesting things were happening with regard to several of the more common species, including Winter Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Prairie Warblers.

	% SY	%ASY	% AHY
21 Song Sparrow	48	38	14
11 White-thr. Sparrow	55	36	9
9 Com. Yellowthroat	67	22	11
8 Field Sparrow	100	0	0
4 Gray Catbird	50	50	0
3 Carolina Wren	67	33	0
3 Swamp Sparrow	100	0	0
2 N. Cardinal	0	100	0
2 White-eyed Vireo	50	0	50

**Winter Wrens.** Three Winter Wrens that spent the winter in the area of the field station seemed to be molting in late March and early April. One was captured on 8 Apr and it was molting about the

head. It had heavy molt on the crown (including the forehead) and nape (including the occiput). In this case, heavy molt in a region is defined as five or more feathers growing on each side of the mid-line. Pyle (1997) claims that pre-breeding (or pre-alternate) molt is absent for Winter Wrens. This then raises the question of whether this was an aberration or a characteristic of just the local winter population.

**White-throated Sparrows.** While banding White-throated Sparrows during this spring season, it was noted that they seemed heavier than usual. When we compared the weight, or mass, of White-throated Sparrows captured this spring ( $n = 18$ ) with those captured last fall ( $n = 26$ ), there was a significant difference in the average weight ( $P_{null} = 0.015$ ). The average weight of the White-throated Sparrows captured this spring was 26.0 g versus 24.5 g for those captured last fall. This difference may be attributed to an abundance of food in the area during the winter and spring. The spring and summer of 2000 were wet and seemed to supply abundant food resources, both in grains and fruits, while the winter of 2000-2001 was mild with little snow cover in the area of the field station. Thus, White-throated Sparrows seemed to be the beneficiaries of nature's largess.

**Song Sparrows.** Not only did the White-throated Sparrows benefit from abundant food and a mild winter, but Song Sparrows seemed to do so as well. The Song Sparrows captured this spring ( $n = 22$ ) averaged 1.0 g heavier than those captured last fall ( $n = 17$ ). Again the difference was significant at the 90 percent level of confidence ( $P_{null} = 0.10$ ). However, toward the end of the period of 30 days (17 Mar through 15 Apr) in which Song Sparrows were captured, it was noticed that their weights tended to decrease. Linear regression analysis was applied, and the slope was found to be  $-0.15$  g/day ( $R^2 = 0.436$ ) over the course of the period.

What might have accounted for the decrease in weight? From February through March, the number of Song Sparrows steadily increased in the area of our banding station. At the end of March, many of these birds left the area. Evidently, this was a staging area for northward migration. The sparrows that over-wintered at Greenwell



State Park and staged there benefited from the abundant food. One Song Sparrow captured in the fall and recaptured in March gained 3.5 g and another gained as much as 2.25 g. Those captured in April evidently were migrants coming into the area that had either used their body mass in migration or had not had the advantage of an abundant food supply prior to migration.

**Prairie Warblers.** Three Prairie Warbler territories within the area of the field station were lost this spring. A pair of warblers occupied each of these territories for each of the preceding three breeding seasons, starting in mid to late April. It is unknown whether these birds relocated. It seems two were lost due to normal plant succession—the

tree canopies over these territories became almost totally closed. This had been anticipated. However, the ground cover, such as tall fescue and scattered blackberry bushes, within the third territory was mowed within several inches of the ground in late March for a Boy Scout jamboree. Had the mowing not been so close to the ground, this territory may well have been occupied this spring. From banding and observations at Greenwell, the habitat requirements for this species seem specific: ground cover roughly 18 inches to three or four feet in height with scattered short trees such that the canopy is less than 50 percent closed. Territories have been established within the field station along woodland edges and in abandoned pastures where these conditions are met.

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## ***Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central) Fall 2001***

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This season was as strange as it was productive throughout our transect of New York state. All stations report excellent totals, unusual species, high numbers of species seen infrequently on the norm, exceptionally mild weather late into the season, and an extension of the drought begun last year.

A tremendous invasion of Black-capped Chickadees reached Braddock Bay on the Lake Ontario littoral in October. Fortunately many additional helpers were manning the station at the time. That dynamic failed to present itself at the other stations, although both Kestrel Haven and Northview experienced significant increases (but well under 100 as compared to the 1600+ at Braddock) in numbers of the species, and the other station chickadee totals were higher than normal. In past irruptions, the numbers remained strong through the central Finger Lakes corridor, giving rise to the speculation that this surge routed much further to the west. During the last irruption in fall 1999, the cumulative total between Braddock

Bay and Kestrel Haven was around 2000 birds. Only one was recovered (recaptured 93 mi WSW of Braddock Bay 13 days after banding).

Two other species irrupted in good numbers throughout the state with all stations reporting many juncos and White-throated Sparrows. While the former has accompanied chickadee irruptions in past years, the widespread presence of White-throated Sparrows was an unusual bounty. These birds normally cluster at the Lake Ontario migrant trap and then proceed south along the ridge route much to the west of this year's movement. Six stations banded 1975 chickadees, 1755 White-throated Sparrows, 701 goldfinches, 618 juncos, and 217 Purple Finches.

The winter finches joined the chickadees in this year's irruption. Strangely, the flocking type experience was not extended to Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, or White-winged Crossbill. Both Ellenville and Kestrel Haven enjoyed record high numbers of Purple Finch, which arrived in small numbers over the entire season. Pine Siskins were very early and may reflect local nesting. White-winged Crossbills were also early and widespread although only three were banded. The mild nature of November combined with the