



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2002

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator
1435 Waterwells Road
Alfred Station, NY 14803
<ebrooks@bbbo.org>

We welcome one new station to this, the fifth AFR Spring report: Sue Finnegan's Wing Island Banding Station on Cape Cod. We also welcome back Bill Oberman's report from Calmes Neck, VA. Powdermill's report will be included with the spring 2003 summary.

The weather during spring 2002 was mentioned as a negative at ten reporting stations, and it was a real trial at several stations. Not once in the entire season was Braddock Bay staff able to walk around the net lanes without slogging through either thick mud or up to 12" of water. After nets were closed on many days, volunteers carried bucket-loads of gravel to try to fill in the wettest spots or at least make the footing safer.

Birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) were up at eight stations (Crown Point, Lewiston, Ruthven, Rock Point, Appledore, Selkirk, Bedford Valley, and Greenwell), but down at Braddock Bay, Kestrel Haven, and Wing Island. The best day ranged from 11 Apr at Selkirk to 23 May at both Appledore and Braddock Bay, with eight stations falling in the 4-11 May time period.

Braddock Bay captured a Black-throated Gray Warbler on 30 Apr—a first for the Rochester area and only the eighth record for New York state, all others being seen in the fall.

The habitat changes made by the Department of Natural Resources made for some interesting

results at Greenwell, and Crown Point's green field mist net continues to yield interesting birds. 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 2003 banding season.

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

This marked the 27th 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 10-27 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.

242 Myrtle Warbler
55 Black-capped Chickadee
50 Gray Catbird
50 Common Yellowthroat
49 Yellow Warbler
36 Baltimore Oriole
35 American Goldfinch
28 Least Flycatcher
27 Blue Jay
23 White-throated Sparrow

While April was extraordinarily warm, much of May was rainy, cold, and blustery, with sleet/hail falling along Lake Champlain as late as 20 May. Three

Table 1. Spring 2002 AFR Banding Summary

	Crown Point NY	Lewiston NY	Manitou Beach NY	Ruthven ON	Rock Point ON	Appledore ME	Selkirk ON
Inclusive Dates	5/10-5/27	5/8-6/2	4/14-6/2	3/29-6/2	3/18-6/8	5/6-6/9	2/28-6/7
Total Days	18	9	49	56	63	35	92
Nets Used	15 to 18	15	10 to 39	8 to 15	4 to 14	5 to 9	up to 19
Total Net Hours	4173	787.5	10,115	3757	4030	3591.4	-
% Caught in Traps	1%	0	0	9.5%	9.5%	0	12.83%
Best Day # (date)	142 on 5/16	61 on 5/8	310 on 5/23	95 on 5/11	106 on 5/7	254 on 5/23	143 on 4/11
Best Diversity (date)	29 on 5/16	20 on 5/21	47 on 5/23	25 on 5/8	31 on 5/15	32 on 5/27,5/29	30 on 5/15
Total Banded 2001	523	169	5015	1102	1906	2684	1793
Total Banded 2002	852	247	4749	1343	2283	2519	2081
Total Species 2001	57	35	98	80	82	76	77
Total Species 2002	61	45	98	77	79	80	83
Birds/100nh 2001	12.1	22	50.7	21.9	43.9	59.73	15.49
Birds/100nh 2002	20.4	31.37	46.95	32	62.3	70.14	18.62

Table 1 (cont'd.). Spring 2002 AFR Banding Summary

	Kestrel Haven NY	Northview NY	Presque Isle PA	Wing Island MA	Bedford Valley PA	Island Beach NJ	Greenwell MD
Inclusive Dates	4/16-5/29	4/16-6/2	4/10-6/2	3/9-6/9	4/16-5/27	4/4-6/8	3/31-5/25
Total Days	21	6	22	21	27	28	10
Nets Used	1 to 8	1 to 3	4 to 14	1 to 17	1 to 10	3 to 18.5	3
Total Net Hours	495	77	1382	1479.6	844	1516.1	53
% Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Best Day # (date)	76 on 5/4	46 on 4/27	187 on 5/7	60 on 5/5	18 on 4/16	516 on 5/10	36 on 5/11
Best Diversity (date)	20 on 5/25	18 on 6/2	34 on 5/7	16 on 5/5	11 on 5/8	51 on 5/10	12 on 5/11
Total Banded 2001	619	115	na	347	111	2021	79
Total Banded 2002	450	122	1207	478	194	2989	72
Total Species 2001	53	29	na	35	34	74	24
Total Species 2002	53	31	81	44	38	76	22
Birds/100nh 2001	96.6	60	na	37	23	125.3	122
Birds/100nh 2002	90.9	158	na	32	23	197.2	136

days of rain shortly after the station opened were followed by a clearing trend that saw 142 birds banded on the 16th and 134 birds the following day. Numbers declined daily thereafter as the weather continued to improve, until an afternoon shower on 24 May helped ground overhead migrants and push the day's catch to 52 birds. By the time the station closed on Memorial Day, we had enjoyed the third best year ever for numbers, with 852 birds banded, and the fourth best for variety, with 61 species recorded.

The variety of spring warblers, the jewels of Crown Point, was excellent, with the 22 species tied with the record season of 1996. Best days for warbler variety were 16 and 24 May, with a dozen species banded on both days. Highlight was the third-ever Orange-crowned Warbler on 19 May. Similarly noteworthy were our first-ever Bank Swallow and Tufted Titmouse, second-ever Dark-eyed Junco, and third-ever Philadelphia Vireo and Gray-cheeked Thrush. There were 24 returns of 10 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest an American Goldfinch now at least five years, 11 months old. A Barn Swallow banded two years ago brought our all-time list of returning birds to 25 species. Heavy return flights of Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees were noted, and record numbers of the latter were banded. The green open field net yielded four Tree Swallows, two Barn Swallows, an American Robin, and an American Goldfinch, as well as one of many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds released unbanded.

About 275 visitors included Adirondack Girl Scouts, Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Bolton Central fifth grade, fourth and sixth graders from two Lake Placid Schools, Schroon Lake Elementary, Ticonderoga Developmental Kindergarten, and home-schoolers, as well as atlas observers from the Adirondack-Champlain Region. We continue to work with the NYS DEC and OPR&HP on the green ash thinning project to preserve part of the hawthorn habitat in the vicinity of the net lanes, and the permitting process is nearing completion. Three neighboring dogs drove a buck white-tailed deer through the net lanes, destroying three nets. A report was made to DEC Law Enforcement and the owner was issued a summons.

Bander Gordon Howard and sub-permittees Nina Schoch, Carole Slatkin, and Bob Wei assisted with technical chores, while countless visitors helped check the net lanes and radio back requests for assistance. Gary Lee deserves special mention for helping transport the station equipment to and from Elizabethtown and staying for the first week. As always, we also thank the OPR&HP for their hospitality, especially Historic Site Manager Bill Farrar and the staff of the Crown Point State Historic Site, most notably Tom Nesbitt and Jake Putnam. Ray Perry of the Albany headquarters of OPR&HP camped at the station and helped survey the green ash. After 27 years, a total of 10,954 birds of 93 species have been banded on Crown Point peninsula during May, and we are looking forward to our 28th season in 2003.

Lewiston

431-0790

Niagara County, NY

Jerald J. Farrell, Bander
<jsfarrell3940@juno.com>

Our spring 2002 banding season got off to a late start. The nets were opened for the first time on 8 May. This proved to be the best day, with a total of 61 birds of 18 different species being banded.

28 Magnolia Warbler
28 Nashville Warbler
19 Gray Catbird
16 Yellow Warbler
11 Bay-breasted Warbler
10 Wood Thrush
10 Swainson's Thrush
8 Black-throated Green Warbler
8 White-throated Sparrow
8 Red-eyed Vireo
8 Baltimore Oriole

This station showed an upward trend from the spring of 2001, thank goodness for that. The Nashville Warbler and Yellow Warbler showed greater numbers. Gray Catbird numbers were down for this station, the first time in 26 years. There were 16 local retraps of which seven were Black-capped Chickadees. Weather was a major factor this spring, with many planned banding days lost to either rain or strong winds. The net lanes were under 2" to 3" of mud for most of the banding season.

There were a total of two banding demo/education sessions this spring. Both were given to area garden clubs. Just prior to the season, we hosted an NABC landbird bander certification session held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0774
Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station
 Monroe County, NY
Elizabeth W. Brooks, Compiler
 <ebrooks@bbbo.org>

The seventeenth consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 49 days beginning 14 Apr and continuing until 2 Jun 2002. There were 4749 birds banded of 98 forms. An additional 58 female and 20 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	<u>SY</u>
573 Black-capped Chickadee	89.0%
417 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	48.0
249 Magnolia Warbler	68.7
228 American Redstart	63.3
224 White-throated Sparrow	80.6
213 Common Yellowthroat	73.7
194 Traill's Flycatcher	55.3
194 Myrtle Warbler	63.2
191 Yellow Warbler	75.2
180 Gray Catbird	80.6

Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Dan deRoos, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Erin Karnatz, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sue Smith, and Martha Zettel. Chief banding assistants were Jessie Barry, Anna Batchelder, Kelly Dockery, Luke Donius, Anna Ludi, Cindy Marino, Doug Smith, Chris Villone, John Waud, and spring field assistant Charley Eiseman. Our special student intern was Ryan Kayhart.

Constant-effort mist-netting was carried out using from one to 39 nets. Included in the total were six aerial net assemblies. A total of 10,115 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 46.95 b/100nh. The best day was 23 May when 310 birds of 47 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 24 May (277), 5 May (260), 16 May (241), 6 May (238), 31 May (211), and 29 May (207).

There were 913 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, 60 involved birds banded in a previous season, with 16 different species involved. The most noteworthy of these were a Blue Jay and a cardinal in their ninth year, a Song Sparrow in its seventh year, a robin and a Song Sparrow in their sixth year, and a Yellow Warbler, redstart, two cardinals, a Song Sparrow, and a goldfinch—all in their fifth year.

There were three foreign retraps. A HY-U Black-capped Chickadee banded by Eric Machell on 10 Oct 2001 at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory near Waupoos Island, ON, was retrapped at K-MB on 21 Apr 2002. A HY-U Black-capped Chickadee banded by John Miles on 1 Nov 2001 at Selkirk Provincial Park, near Peacock Pt., ON, was retrapped at K-MB on 27 Apr 2002. A HY-U Black-capped Chickadee banded on 4 Nov 2001 at Ruthven Park in ON, by Rick Ludkin, was retrapped at K-MB on 1 May and again on 8 May 2002.

There was one foreign recovery—an AHY-U Black-capped Chickadee banded on 1 May 2002 at K-MB was found dead near Burlington, ON, on 13 May. This bird had moved 106 mi W in 12 days.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2002 (4749) was the third highest total ever. Lawrence's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Grasshopper Sparrow were new taxa, bringing the cumulative number of 'forms' captured in spring to 135.

Birds banded in record high numbers were Eastern Phoebe, Warbling Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole.

On the negative side, Yellow Palm Warbler was missing after being captured in 11 of the past 14 spring seasons; Brewster's Warbler and House Sparrow were missing after being captured in eight of the past 14 springs; and Savannah Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird were missing after being caught in seven of the past 14 springs.

Marion Adeney, Susannah Buhrman, Regen Jamieson, Bill Michalek, Jane Rodrigue, Doug Smith, and Rebecca Smith successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

David Bonter, a doctoral candidate at the University of Vermont, continued his research using various 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 and to a troop of girl scouts. We co-sponsored an open house with June Summers and Genesee Valley Audubon on 11 May in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. On 17 May we held an open house for members of the Allyn's Creek Garden Club, and on 19 May we hosted the Genesee Land Trust Board of Directors.

The cold, wet weather of late April and early May made banding difficult and the net lanes a challenge, but there were many memorable moments which more than made up for the conditions. Thanks to Jim, Liz and Katie Barry, Don Cowley, Virginia Duffy, Jack Duvall, Tracy Ford, Marilyn Guenther, Donna Hilborn, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Janice Marsden, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Loretta Morrell, Carolyn Marrocco, Patti O'Kane, Debbie Reed, Cathy Ryan, Jeanne Skelly, Greta Stephany, Lois Smith, Kathy Taddeo, Frances Taormina, Andy and Karen Taylor, and Barb Wagner.

Special appreciation to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara; to Dan Carroll of the NYS DEC for crushed stone for the trails, and to Tom Muller for arranging to have it delivered; to Bob and Charlene Reed, David Frosini, John and Suzanne Olson, Doug Smith, Lois Smith, and Doris and John Waud 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 was the seventh consecutive year of spring migration monitoring/banding at Ruthven Park National Historic Site. There were 1343 birds banded of 77 forms. Banding started on 29 Mar and ran for 56 days through to 2 Jun. This was the first year that we were able to put a "team" of banders into the field: myself and/or three subpermit holders (Loretta Mousseau, Marylene Boulet, and Darryl Edwards). This allowed us to have fairly complete coverage while managing work, school, and family obligations without undue stress. We were also assisted on one or more days by 13 other volunteers. On most days (depending on the weather) the station nets were opened one-half hour before sunrise and were left open for six hours.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
150 American Goldfinch	57%	25%	18%
119 Yellow Warbler	30	17	53
89 Slate-colored Junco	64	11	25
87 Gray Catbird			100
77 White-throated Sparrow			100
58 Chipping Sparrow	56	9	35
58 Myrtle Warbler	40	14	46
50 Ruby-crowned Kinglet			100
46 Song Sparrow			100
43 Golden-crowned Kinglet			100

Ruthven Park National Historic Site, which is owned and administered by the Lower Grand River Land Trust, sits by the Grand River, approximately 2 km north of Cayuga in Haldimand County, Ontario. We used 15 mist nets set out in nine "lanes" cut into the scrub, which provides a buffer between the open fields/lawns of the Historic Mansion area and the surrounding forest. We also used up to four ground traps and one Potter trap. Banding was carried out in the newly refurbished banding "lab" – one of the historic buildings originally known as "the Piggery" (we have been reassured there is no connection). How nice it is to have electricity and heat!!

Despite a teasing hot spell in early March, the spring was cold and relatively wet with many

periods of unsettled weather. (In April over 3 ½" of rain fell and in May, 4 ½"). We felt that the migration was anywhere from one week to 10 days later than usual. Especially noticeable, as a consequence of these weather conditions, was a lack of insects, especially small caterpillars. Further, the first mosquito was not encountered until 27 May—a full three weeks after their usual emergence. Conditions began to moderate around the end of the second week of May and this is when the majority of birds moved through.

Despite the weather conditions, April was a reasonably productive month. The total of 415 birds banded was second only to the record year of 1999 (597 banded; 1407 overall) as was the rate of capture—21.25 b/100nh (vs 41 b/100nh in 1999). There were no significant "big days" in April, just a moderate but steady flow through the site. However, kinglet numbers recovered from their plummet of the year before: 93 this year vs 23 last year. (Still, this does not approach the 121 and 131 banded in 2000 and 1999 respectively.)

May was a record month for Ruthven Park: we banded 828 birds (vs 790 in 1999) at a rate that equaled that of 1999: 41.4 b/100nh. The previous spring's "big day" for the station was 78 birds banded on 21 May 1997. This mark was exceeded twice this year: 80 on 17 May and 95 on 11 May. These totals were helped by marked increases in bandings of Yellow Warblers (119 banded vs 75 in 2000) and Gray Catbirds (87 vs 52 in 1999). We also had two banding firsts: an Acadian Flycatcher (26 May) and a Hooded Warbler (8 May).

In total, we banded 1343 birds at a capture rate of 32 b/100nh. Both numbers are second to the record year of 1999 (1407; 41.3/100nh.).

This spring we had 185 returns from another season.

We have received notification from the Bird Banding Office about six of "our" birds that were recovered recently at other locations. One was of particular interest: an American Goldfinch banded 18 Oct 2001 was recovered by Chris Cafarelli in West Islip, NY, 16 Nov 2001. [This bird had traveled approximately 380 miles in an ESE direction within 28 days of banding.]

Thanks to our team of banders and all those who helped out **2-3 weeks**: Loretta Mousseau; **1-2 weeks**: Darryl Edwards; **4-6 days**: Marylene Boulet, Pascal Petitclerc, Gail Collins, Marg Ludkin, Nancy Furber; **1-3 days**: Geoff Ludkin, Audrey Heagey, David Okines, Elaine Serena, Brandon Holden, Eric Holden, Greg Schmaltz, John Shoveler, and Betsy McBurney.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their ongoing commitment to and support of this project. The conversion of the Piggery into the banding "lab" was wonderful and greatly appreciated! Marilynn Havelka, Ruthven CAO, has been especially helpful and supportive. 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, ON

James A. Smith, Bander
<benavis@sympatico.ca>

David Millen, Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Jack Custers, Chief Assistants

This was Rock Point's second spring in operation. This year I was fortunate to have some dedicated people willing to come out one or two days a week on a regular schedule. They became skilled at scribing and/or extracting birds from the net. This streamlined the operation considerably.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
222 American Goldfinch	61%		
222 White-throated Sparrow	47		
168 Yellow Warbler	41		
164 Golden-crowned Kinglet	38		
117 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	49		
109 Gray Catbird	38		
98 Blue Jay	74		
93 Slate-colored Junco	65		
82 Song Sparrow	51		
61 Brown-headed Cowbird	44	25	31

Nets were in the same location as last year except for the addition of one net in one location. This makes all net locations a double net configuration with 14 nets in seven locations. Three ground

traps were used throughout most of the season as well as a J-trap.

A new protocol was instituted which tightened the number of birds to be processed versus leaving the nets open or closing them. It also looked more strictly at the length of time a bird could be held. Restrictions on heat and number of helpers versus number of nets were also put in place. Although only once were parts of the protocol actually enforced, having it in place is important.

In relation to numbers of birds banded we were higher in 2002 yet some species did not seem to come through in any great numbers. Some species were not banded at all (Philadelphia Vireo, Cape May Warbler, etc.) while others were banded in 2002 which had not been banded in spring 2001 (Whip-poor-will, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Eastern Towhee, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow breasted Chat, etc.).

Weather may have played a part in the lower numbers of some birds. April had a warm spell and then May was cool and wet. Some birds during May suffered because of the lack of insects, and most birds were going through with no fat at all. This may have resulted in some birds hanging back and then, when the warm front went through, they flew over in a hurry to get to their breeding territory.

In addition to banding, we also had 835 birds that were retrapped. Of these, five were foreign returns: three American Goldfinches from Ruthven, our other Haldimand Station 26 km away; a Gray Catbird from Presque Isle State Park; and a Blue Jay from Long Point.

Interesting to me were the 14 American Goldfinches banded in 2000 not seen in 2001 and then returned in 2002. Seven other birds also showed this pattern but only as one or two individuals in any one species. Also interesting, but not surprising, were the birds that have been trapped in the same net almost to the day in 2000, 2001, and 2002. Most are Yellow Warblers which breed in the area and obviously have breeding territories consistently the same each year.

A slide presentation was presented to the postgraduate Ecological Restoration class at

Niagara College, St. Catharines, resulting in nine students coming out for one or more days. Later in the season, the professor also helped for four days. The statistics class at the college will analyze the data generated at Rock Point. Hopefully this connection will continue.

Rock Point is a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. The data generated by banding, retraps, a set census route, and casual observations makes up an estimated total. This information is submitted to Bird Studies Canada.

A school group was given a banding demonstration outside the banding area with three groups rotating through for a presentation and games; one game involved themselves as migrating birds facing all the dangers involved. A film crew came in to do a segment on bird banding. This apparently will be used to promote Haldimand County for Habitat Haldimand.

Personal education was continued in being certified at the Bander level through the North American Bird Banding Council program. I prepared hard for both the written and the practical, which was held in Lewiston, NY. An interesting process which the examiners tried to make less tense. On retrospect, an enjoyable and fulfilling exercise with thanks to the organizers and trainers.

A thanks to Haldimand Bird Observatory of which Rock Point is a member, the Canadian Wildlife Services which gives a small grant, and the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada which also supplies some funds to Haldimand Bird Observatory.

Appledore Island Migration Sta. 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Sara Morris, Compiler

<morriss@canisius.edu>

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

The spring 2002 season was somewhat average, with 80 species and 2519 individuals (ten-year average = 75.8 species and 2623 individuals). We did not lose any full days due to inclement weather but we lost numerous partial days, resulting in our lowest number of net-hours in the spring during the

last five years (by more than 300 net-hours, almost three days' worth) and were 900 net-hours lower than last year (a 25% decrease). This year there were two days on which we banded more than 200 birds and three more on which we captured between 150 and 199 birds, which is within our normal range of "big days."

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
589 Common Yellowthroat	65.0	17.3	17.7
293 Magnolia Warbler	68.3	21.2	10.6
247 White-throated Sparrow	86.6	4.9	8.5
110 Red-eyed Vireo	31.8	12.7	55.5
107 American Redstart	64.5	18.7	16.8
85 Blackpoll Warbler	62.3	22.4	15.3
84 Black-and-white Warbler	56.0	34.5	9.6
77 Ovenbird	49.4	32.5	18.2
71 Gray Catbird	63.4	26.8	9.9
65 Northern Waterthrush	24.6	49.2	26.2

The big excitement at the station in the spring was the capture of two new species: a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and a Painted Bunting! We also captured our first spring Yellow-throated Vireo. Common Yellowthroats continue to be our most common spring species, with Magnolia Warblers maintaining a consistent, if distant, second place. Blackpoll Warblers returned to the top-ten list this year, after dropping off the list last year. Northern Waterthrushes also joined the top-ten list for the first time. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers were not on the list this year, perhaps indicating a slightly earlier-than-normal migration. Our common species were all captured in numbers close to their spring average (less than 1 standard deviation from the mean, and most were very close to the mean), and no species were captured in numbers outside the normal range of spring captures. Some of the milestones we passed this spring included our 1000th Least Flycatcher, 1000th Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2000th Blackpoll Warbler, 5000th Magnolia Warbler, and over 35,000 total spring birds.

Our oldest returns of breeding birds included an after-eighth-year Common Grackle; Common Yellowthroats that were fourth-year and sixth-year birds; a sixth-, fifth- and several fourth-year Gray Catbirds and a fourth-year bird that was banded on Star Island in 1999; an after-fourth-year and a fourth-year Yellow Warbler; a third-year American Goldfinch; and a second-year Carolina Wren. We did not recover any birds banded elsewhere this

spring, although data analysis revealed a missed recovery from the past. On 26 May 1999 we recovered a Common Yellowthroat banded on 4 Sep 1998 on Jekyll Island, Georgia, at the station where I learned to band!

The station continued to provide banding demonstrations for anyone visiting Appledore who expressed an interest, particularly participants in credit and non-credit courses at the Shoals Marine Lab, visiting birding groups, and a number of classes from visiting high school and college classes. The station also continued the spring tradition of involving field ornithology students as recorders and assistants as part of their course.

The station is lucky to have a number of dedicated volunteers who helped run the station this spring: Sara Agugliaro, Anne Brooke, Alex Chang, Carol Cushing, Amanda Donovan, Clif Horrigan, Peter Kalenda, Susan Lee, Megan McElroy, Kathie Palfy, Stephanie Parkinson, Martha Stauffer, Matt Tarr, Gerry Tilley, and Erica Turner. We continue to benefit from the fantastic staff at the Shoals Marine Lab, who are very supportive of our work and understanding of the schedules and needs we have during our station. Canisius College generously provided funding for many of the station's supplies, funding for student travel to the station, and grants to students who are involved in data analysis and presentation.

Selkirk Provincial Park

424-0795

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, ON

John Miles, Bander

<miles@kwic.com>

Mike Furber, chief assistant

The seventh year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced 28 Feb and ended 7 Jun. The station was manned almost daily during this time period with the banding effort taking place on 92 days. Thirteen volunteers spent one or more days assisting the bander-in-charge with the running of the station. Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from a half-hour before sunrise usually for a minimum of six hours.

After a fairly quiet and mild January and February, winter returned several times in March and even

into April with several days of snow falls and high winds resulting in the station not operating for several days after opening. April warmed up in the middle of the month for a few days which caused a spurt in the vegetation growth, but then the weather turned cool and remained so until around the middle of May. During this period it was extremely wet with 3.52" of rain in April and 4.55" in May. Consequently, the banding area did not dry out and rubber boots were needed throughout the banding season.

	<u>HY</u>	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
264 Golden-crowned Kinglet				100
143 White-throated Sparrow				100
127 Ruby-crowned Kinglet				100
112 Song Sparrow				100
107 Magnolia Warbler		30.8	61.7	7.5
101 Slate-colored Junco		25.7	54.5	19.8
96 Gray Catbird		1.1	3.6	95.0
75 American Goldfinch		64.0	28.0	8.0
73 American Robin	2.7			97.3

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

Banding was carried out using 19 mist nets, up to three ground traps, and a jay trap. The same net lanes used in the previous springs were used again with one more net lane which was started in the fall of 2001. After ten banding seasons of experimenting with net locations, it appears we have finally achieved the best set up possible.

The first detectable migration occurred 5 Mar when American Tree Sparrows showed up in reasonable numbers. The rest of the month was fairly quiet with no peaks noted.

It was quiet until 8-12 Apr when it was fairly active with a peak of 143 birds banded on the 11th and 97 on the 10th.

A small flight came through 14-15 Apr. The return of cool weather for the remainder of the month retarded migration, or else the birds went right over Selkirk. Juncos came through in reasonable numbers with a good number of Golden-crowned Kinglets the first half of April. This movement died when the warm spell occurred in the middle of the month.

May started out poorly as the cool weather continued. The period of 4-20 May were mostly good days, but numbers started to drop off after 17 May. The best day during this period was 5 May with 139 birds banded as White-throated Sparrows and Ovenbirds led the day. The next little wave arrived 15 May with 46 birds banded. The last peak flight was 22-23 May with 106 and 90 birds banded. It was busy from 26-29 May with no day under 30 birds banded. Overall, May 2002 was a very good month with over 1200 birds banded. In June there was only a trickle until the station closed down 7 Jun.

There were 179 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 White-eyed Vireo, two Connecticut Warblers, and two Orchard Orioles all of which were banded, rounded out the noteworthy birds.

There were 2081 birds of 83 species banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the spring of 2002. Most numerous birds banded were Golden-crowned Kinglet 264, White-throated Sparrow 143, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 127, Song Sparrow 112, and Slate-colored Junco 101. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was banded for the first time at Selkirk in the spring of 2002.

In the spring of 2002, 233 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly, some as many as 10 to 20 times.

There were 116 birds of 21 species retrapped in the spring of 2002 that were returns from another season. While most of these were resident nesting birds in the area, the recapture of two Slate-colored Juncos and six American Tree Sparrows are noteworthy. A Baltimore Oriole and Song Sparrow, first captured in 1997, were also noteworthy. This spring only one foreign retrap was encountered. An American Tree Sparrow was retrapped on 23 Mar that had been banded at the Maitland River Bird Observatory near Wingham, Ont. late in October 1996. A Wood Thrush banded 2 May 2001 at Long Point as an ASY bird was retrapped 6 May 2001 at Selkirk.

There was one foreign recover: a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded at Selkirk P.P. on 12 May 1996 was recovered near Greeneville, TN, 14 May 2002.

There were 43 visitor days recorded to the banding site in the spring of 2002.

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. Other donations included bird bags, notebooks, and file cabinets collected by Miss Gail King, tidbits, and timely cash donations.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **1-2 weeks**, Mike Furber; **4-6 days**, Allison Furber, Dave Tomlinson; **1-3 days**, Michelle Englehart, Matt Furber, Jenn Jung, Mike Kimber, Sue Kimber, Ann Miles, George Pond, Barb Summers, Lai Wingfield, and Steve Wingfield.

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

Snow, rain, and wind combined to limit severely the banding this spring. Unsafe winds caused us to close prematurely on 16 of the 21 days on which we were able to open nets. To ensure bird safety, station policy mandates closing in sustained winds above 5-7 mph.

	<u>SY</u>
66 White-throated Sparrow	85%
55 Red-winged Blackbird	45
49 American Goldfinch	67
39 Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	33
32 Slate-colored Junco	69
31 Blue Jay	48
12 Song Sparrow	20
12 Black-capped Chickadee	44
12 Yellow Warbler	89
12 Gray Catbird	33

We banded 450 individuals of 53 species. We also had 111 repeats, 103 returns, and 16 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds not banded. Two Red-winged Blackbirds were also released unbanded due to extremely heavy pox on their tarsi. Our measure of efficiency was 90.9 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 137.5 b/100nh overall.

No new species were added to the cumulative station banded list of 124 species and five forms, although two new species were observed during point counts that raised the station total to 213. Most Neotropicals were present in very small numbers, but we were pleased to band three Acadian Flycatchers, handle many Baltimore Orioles, and band our third anomalous flicker. That bird presented with bilateral red shafts on the fifth primaries. This is a regional phenomenon as indicated by many wing samples in the Cornell collection which were obtained in the last few years. We also continued our dragonfly migration studies but, due to the cold weather, only one *Epithecacanis* was netted.

Returns were our highpoint. We experienced 102 returning individuals of 20 species of which 25% were in excess of four years of age. Two Baltimore Orioles and a Black-capped Chickadee who were eight years old particularly thrilled us. Twenty-six birds of 13 species were over four years old as follows: two Black-capped Chickadees were 8 and 4 years old; five Baltimore Orioles were 8 (2), 6, 5, and 4+ years of age; four Yellow Warblers were 7, 5+ and 5 (2); two Red-winged Blackbirds were 6+ and 4+; a Chipping Sparrow was 6+; two Downy Woodpeckers were 6 and 4; four American Goldfinch were 5+, 5 (2), and 4+; a Gray Catbird was 5 and returned for the first time this spring; a Song Sparrow also returned at 5 years of age; an Eastern Kingbird was 4+, while a Purple Finch, an American Robin, and a Blue Jay all were 4 years old.

We usually do not have helpers, so were pleased for the assistance of Barlow Rhodes and our West Virginia detachment of Bill and Jane Martin. We also wish to thank A.L. Donahue, Stillman's Greenhouse, and Dotty Dorney for their continued support. We will all miss Dotty (Sue's mom) who completed her grand migration by slipping the bonds of earth on 1 Jun.

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

Local weather conditions and one week away from this banding station during the peak of spring migration equals a poor report. Nevertheless, banding was carried out sporadically over a month and a half for a six-day period. Using one to three 12 m nets, I banded 122 new birds and had 20 returns and 13 repeats. Of the returns, probably the

most interesting was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird banded as an AHY-M in May 1999, making it a three-year-old return. Also interesting to note, the 20 returns were made up of 13 species.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
35 American Goldfinch	71%	26%	3%
17 Black-capped Chickadee	12		88
15 Chipping Sparrow	6		94
10 Slate-colored Junco			100
10 White-throated Sparrow	70		30
7 Gray Catbird	71		29
7 Red-winged Blackbird	29	43	28
6 Downy Woodpecker	17		83
5 White-breasted Nuthatch	20	20	60
5 Song Sparrow	40	20	40

During mid-April 2002 when I first started this year's spring banding at my location, we had record-breaking high temperatures. On 16 Apr the temperature went to 85°F and for the next three days stayed in the 80s. On 27 Apr, I captured 47 birds (includes six returns and four repeats) of 16 species over a seven-hour period—my best effort this spring—perhaps the result of warm temperatures and SW winds the previous week. The average temperature for April 2002 was 46.2° F and the precipitation was a bit above normal.

May, in contrast, was very different, however—a very windy, cool month, with the average temperature only 51.5°F. The temperature never got into the 80s all month and the precipitation was above normal at 5.45", making up for the very dry early spring, with practically no snow runoff at all.

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

Bird banding operations this spring started on 10 Apr and ended on 2 Jun for a record 22 days of banding. Perhaps because of the colder and wetter weather, the spring migration was from one to two weeks late, with many warblers and flycatchers still migrating well into June.

127 Gray Catbird
123 White-throated Sparrow
116 Yellow Warbler
69 Blackpoll Warbler
58 Western Palm Warbler
54 Magnolia Warbler
53 Myrtle Warbler
37 Hermit Thrush
33 Swainson's Thrush
33 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Despite the windy, cold, and wet spring, a spring record number of birds were banded—1207 birds of 81 species in 1382 net hours. An additional 25 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were netted and released unbanded. Mourning Dove was the only new species banded to add to the overall station list. Numbers of Western Palm Warblers (58) and Blackpoll Warblers (69) were well above the average (10) at this station. Our best day in the last three years was 7 May with 187 birds banded.

This spring we had a total of 53 birds return from other seasons. An adult male Hooded Warbler was netted 15 May with a regular band and a white plastic band above it on the right leg. The bird's left leg was missing its foot but otherwise the bird seemed in good shape. It remained in the area for about 10 days. It had been banded as a young bird too young to fly on 8 Jul 1997 at Long Point Bird Observatory, making it about four years and 10 months old.

We learned that a catbird banded at Presque Isle 14 May 1999 was recovered at Fergus, Ontario, on 2 Jul 2001, about 135 miles northwest of Erie.

A special thank you goes out to the Presque Isle State Park Office and crew for their continued support; to Barb Mitchel, Sam Stull, Thelma Patton, Karen and Harley Winkleblack, Donna and Pat Peters, and the many others that helped in many ways.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700
Brewster, Barnstable County, MA
Susan Finnegan, Bander
<sfinn8688@aol.com>
Gretchen Putonen, Chief Assistant

The Wing Island Bird Banding Station is located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Nets are placed in shrubby thickets on a 50-acre tidal salt marsh island behind the museum. The island abuts Cape Cod Bay with Paines Creek running by the east side of the island and Quivett Creek running by the west side.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
97 Gray Catbird	74%	15%	11%
59 Black-capped Chickadee	39	20	41
47 Common Yellowthroat	8		87
29 American Goldfinch	38	62	
22 White-throated Sparrow			100
17 Northern Cardinal	12		88
14 Song Sparrow	7		93
8 Blue Jay	75	25	
8 Red-winged Blackbird	13		87
7 Myrtle Warbler	57	43	

Our second spring season began 9 Mar and continued through 9 Jun. This year proved more productive than last year as weather conditions were more conducive for banding. We banded a total of 351 birds of 44 species. We captured one Ruby-throated Hummingbird that was released unbanded. There were 190 birds recaptured, one being a foreign re-encounter of a Black-capped Chickadee. As of this writing, we have not heard back from the BBL where this bird was banded.

Net hours totaled 1008 for a capture rate of 35 b/100nh. The range of nets used was 1-17. Our largest daily catch was on 5 May for a total of 60 birds of 16 species. Gray Catbirds topped the list once again at 97 individuals. We banded 12 species of warblers this spring: Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia, Myrtle, Nashville, Pine, Wilson's, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow, and Eastern Palm. Five new species of birds were added for the station this year: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Acadian Flycatcher, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, and Mourning Dove for a total of 77 species.

We held two programs—one each at the Eddy Elementary and Stony Brook Elementary Schools this spring—along with a number of museum programs for the public.

Many thanks go to Chief Banding Assistant Gretchen Putonen for all her time and effort this year. She is working toward getting her subpermit. Many thanks also to banding assistants Diane Silverstein, Tom Higgins, Esther Conway, Judith Bruce, Bill Finnegan, Janet DiMattia, Liz Beardsley, Lori Peterman, Jude Colt, Rita Fleming, and Sarah Toadvine for all their help. This station could not be run without the financial support of the French Foundation, the Wharton Foundation, EMS, and both the financial and helpful support of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

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

Banding was carried on for 27 days in spring 2002, beginning 16 Apr and ending 27 May, which was almost a week longer than in 2001. There were 194 new birds banded of 38 different species, as compared with 111 birds of 34 species in 2001. From 1-10 nets were opened for a total of 844 net

hours (more than 50% increase over last year), but number of birds per net hour was the same as last year.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
25 Chipping Sparrow	4%	96%
23 White-throated Sparrow	34	66
18 Gray Catbird	10	90
15 American Robin	6	93
8 Eastern Phoebe	25	75
8 Magnolia Warbler	12	88
8 Eastern Towhee	75	25
8 Lincoln's Sparrow	12	88

There were 58 repeats which typically accounts for 30-40% of birds trapped here. The most interesting capture was a White-throated Sparrow netted on the first day, 16 Apr. A call to the banding office revealed that it had been banded as a HY on 10 Aug 2001 by Mr. Peter Homann in SW Quebec, about 75 km northwest of Montreal. Seldom does a recovery come along like that one! Three Lincoln's Sparrows stayed around and were recaptured anywhere from four to six days after initial banding. A Carolina Wren banded August 1999 returned; also five Chipping Sparrows banded between 1998 and 2001 were back. A Red-eyed Vireo returned having been banded May 1999 and an Ovenbird returned, initially banded May 2000. Two Baltimore Orioles returned, one banded May 2000 and one banded May 2001; they were together in the net.

A check of daily notes shows that weather was unseasonably warm in mid-April when I opened. A number of times I closed due to rain and/or wind. By mid-May it was freezing at night and poles and nets were frosted closed in the mornings.

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

During the spring 2002 banding season, five banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 4 Apr and 8 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 28 days during that 65-day period; there were four banding days in April, 21 in May and 3 in June. There were three days (11, 14, and 15 May) on which three of the stations were in operation simultaneously, and 10 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, Robert Pantle, and Robert Yunick.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
910 Gray Catbird	76.6%	16%	7.4%
471 Common Yellowthroat	61.8	14.6	23.6
252 Magnolia Warbler	82.1	13.1	4.8
144 Black-and-white Warbler	59.7	38.2	2.1
111 White-throated Sparrow	58.6	7.2	34.2
79 Myrtle Warbler	79.7	12.7	7.6
73 American Redstart	38.4	47.9	27.8
72 Blackpoll Warbler	50.0	22.2	13.7
59 Canada Warbler	73.3	26.0	6.7
58 Black-throated Blue Warb.	74.1	22.4	3.5

What a change it was from the below-average results of the last nine seasons! Total bandings (2989) for the season were the highest since 1987, the starting year for spring banding at Island Beach. This season's 1.97 b/100nh was the highest ever and was more than double our long-term average of 0.96 b/100nh (and more than 2 SD above average!). The 76 total species this season was also above our 73.5 average and was the highest since 1996.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

Date (# stations operating)	# Birds	# Species	# Birds/ net-hr
May 8 (2)	264	31	2.08
May 10 (2)	516	51	5.42
May 11 (3)	450	44	3.38
May 14 (3)	323	31	3.39
May 16 (2)	236	26	4.81

Highlights of the season included all-time spring high capture totals for eight species: Ruby-throated Hummingbird (13 in 2002/prev. high of 11), Least Flycatcher (11/8), Scarlet Tanager (16/11), Black-throated Green Warbler (37/26), Gray Catbird (910/865), Carolina Chickadee (7/6), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (55/44) and Veery (50/43). Two species— Golden-winged Warbler and Cedar Waxwing—were new for the spring season, bringing the 16-year total to 120 species. Other species with notably higher-than-average capture rates were Veery, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Species which had been captured in 11 or more of the 15 prior years but which were missed completely this year were Cape May Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Greenwell Field Station 382-0763
Greenwell State Park, St. Mary's County
Hollywood, MD
Ron Runkles, bander
<ron_runkles@nema.org>

Over the winter, the Department of Natural Resources made major changes to the habitat in the area of my field station at Greenwell State Park. Of course, this is one of the reasons I located at the park—I know that over time the land-use patterns will change within the park, and I am interested in what impact those changes might have on the avian fauna. Since 1997 I have placed three or more nets around a fallow field, a field that is mowed once a year. During late fall 2001, this field was mowed "to the ground." Throughout the spring banding season, the grasses and weeds were very short—shorter than any previous season. There were even large patches of bare ground in the field.

	<u>SY</u>	<u>ASY</u>	<u>AHY</u>
15 Common Yellowthroat	20%	27%	53%
9 White-throated Sparrow	67	11	22
8 Northern Cardinal	25	50	25
6 Field Sparrow	50		50
5 Indigo Bunting	60	40	
5 Gray Catbird	40	40	20
3 Swamp Sparrow			100
3 Blue Grosbeak	33	67	
3 Yellow-breasted Chat		33	67
3 House Wren			100
3 Carolina Wren	33		67

One of the nets was set along a lane with the lane and fallow field on one side and what had been very early forest succession habitat on the other side. The early forest succession habitat was completely cleared and corn planted.

One change was very obvious from the habitat disturbances: Prairie Warblers utterly disappeared from the area of my field station as their breeding habitat preferences seem to be rather specific, as I have commented on in the past. I did not capture any and did not see or hear a single one in casual observations. During the previous four spring seasons, there were from two to five breeding territories in the vicinity of the field station.

Song Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows used what had been the fallow field as a staging area in Feb, Mar, and Apr 2001, as they collected in num-

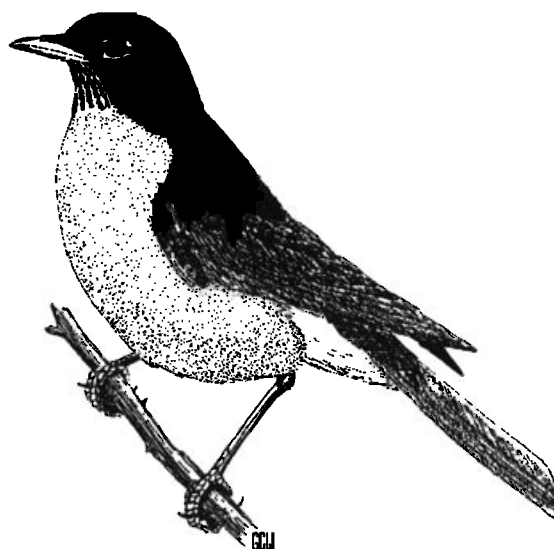
bers and fed heavily before migrating. This was not the case this spring as their numbers were down, evidently due to the loss of cover while feeding.

During the spring migration and early breeding season, there were a couple of positive changes: Carolina Wrens seemed to over-winter very well. Of the ten Carolina Wrens I caught, seven were recaptures from past seasons. House Wrens also seem to be on the increase in southern Maryland. I captured three this spring— have not caught more than one in any previous spring or fall season—and there were two breeding territories within my banding station, the first time they have bred within the area of the station.

Three individual birds were of particular interest: a Mourning Warbler, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The Mourning Warbler was only the second that has been captured at Greenwell Field Station (25 May) since banding began in the fall of 1997. For some unexplainable reason, it is always exciting to catch

one. The White-crowned Sparrow captured 4 May was the first of its species for this field station, as was the male Ruby-throated Hummingbird captured 25 May. The hummingbird was interesting in that it was shedding many feathers about the abdomen—often one of the last areas on a bird to finish molting. The remainder of its body plumage looked very fresh. I suspect that the local population of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds undergoes a partial body molt during late April through mid-May. They typically appear in the area in mid-April and stay around a week before disappearing (to molt?) until about the third week in May. Does this spring appearance, disappearance, and reappearance cycle occur in other parts of their breeding range?

Due to the very cold weather during March, I missed the passage of Palm and Myrtle warblers. I folded the nets after the last weekend in May as the weather turned unseasonably very hot and dry and may have missed some late-migrating flycatchers and warblers.



**American Robin
by George West**