

**Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700**

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

**Bander: Susan Finnegan**

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Chief Assistant: Gretchen Putonen

Our sixth spring season for the Wing Island Banding Station located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA, began on 6 Apr. This was the worst spring season for us since beginning our banding operations due to the cold, rainy weather that lasted through May. Migrants were difficult to come by anywhere on Cape Cod this year. White-throated Sparrows were the only migrant passing through which we captured; others were birds that spent the summer with us. The season ended on 16 Jun with 17 days of operation, due to inclement weather and our ability to band primarily on weekends. A total of 244 birds of 26 species were banded. Net hours totaled 946 for a capture rate of 26 b/100nh. We used a range of 1 to 22 nets. Our largest daily catch was on 18 May with 82 birds of nine species netted, but 30 Apr brought the greatest diversity: 13 species.

	<u>%SY</u>	<u>%ASY</u>	<u>%AHY</u>
63 Gray Catbird	83	17	
52 Amer. Goldfinch	62	38	
31 Bl-cap Chickadee	61	23	16
17 Com. Yellowthr.	59	23	18
13 Song Sparrow	38	8	54
9 Myrtle Warbler	78	22	
7 Yellow Warbler	57	43	
7 Br-hd Cowbird	43		57
6 Cedar Waxwing	17	17	66
6 No. Cardinal	50		50

Typically, we have had twice the number of species in past years. The only warbler species we banded this spring were Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Pine, Prairie, and Yellow warbler—all summer residents. We also banded Myrtle Warblers, but many spend the winter here. No new species were added to our list this spring.

We had many notable returns, including one Gray Catbird at least six years old, a Common Yellowthroat at least six years old which we have

captured every year since 2001, a Prairie Warbler at least four years old, and many old resident birds. Also of note was a Pine Warbler we banded last year with a broken upper mandible that had grown back when we captured him this year!

We participated in a BioBlitz orchestrated by the museum on 2 May, and many people observed the banding activities. I thank bander Gretchen Putonen and assistant Carolyn Kennedy for all their time and effort this spring. I also thank our other banding assistants: Peter Brown, Judith Bruce, Judy Keller, Kate Yard, Antonia Stephens, Noelani Karlson, and Gwen Shipley for their help with our operation. Judy Olsen deserves many thanks for keeping us supplied in bird bags and Susan Putonen for all those tasty treats she made!

**Bedford Valley 395-0783**

Bedford County, PA

**Bander: Janet Shaffer**

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Spring 2006 banding was started on 9 Apr and continued to 14 Jun for a total of 33 days. It resulted in about a 75% increase over the number of birds banded in spring 2005. The number of different species encountered changed from 46 in 2005 to 52 in 2006. Actually, 346 birds were processed and about 1/3 (103) were repeats, which is typical of this station.

- 28 Chipping Sparrow
- 24 Slate-colored Junco
- 21 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 21 White-throated Sparrow
- 14 Gray Catbird
- 13 American Goldfinch

In a normal spring, only one or two Ruby-crowned Kinglets would be encountered, so 21 this spring was unusual.

Four Chipping Sparrows recaptured had been banded in spring of 2005. Two Downy Woodpeckers were recaptured, having been banded in 2001 and 2004. One Gray Catbird had been banded in spring 2003 and two others were banded in 2005. One Red-winged Blackbird and one Eastern Towhee were returns from 2005.

A Northern Parula banded on 24 May was observed in the area a number of times later. It was a good addition to the Pennsylvania State Atlas.

**Powdermill Avian Research Ctr. 400-0791**

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Banders: Adrienne J. Leppold, Robert S.**

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Powdermill Avian Research Center's bird banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve completed its 45<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring banding season in 2006. Powdermill is a 2,000-ac field biological station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History and is located in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The banding station was in operation on 71 out of a possible 93 days during the spring 2006 season (1 Mar through 1 Jun). While still well within one standard deviation, this spring's total of 3,481 was more than 1000 birds higher than last year and well above the long-term average of 2,716. The highest daily total this spring was 170 on 30 Apr, 70 of which were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, setting a new single day spring record for that species. On 20 May, we banded 40 different species, making it the most diverse day of the season. Wood Warblers comprised 35% of the catch that day.

- 493 American Goldfinch**
- 352 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**
- 213 Slate-colored Junco**
- 173 Magnolia Warbler**
- 156 Cedar Waxwing**
- 142 Song Sparrow**
- 121 Ruby-throated Hummingbird**
- 94 Gray Catbird**
- 90 Chipping Sparrow**
- 89 Black-capped Chickadee**

Unlike recent past seasons, weather this spring had an insignificant effect on effort and also seemed to play a neutral role in movements and migration patterns. Many species staged impressive flights, though, and highlights were not few and far between. Among them was our

first spring capture of a Marsh Wren in eight years, only the eleventh spring season capture of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the 45-year history of the program, and our eighth Cooper's Hawk ever. In addition, three Yellow-breasted Chats were banded, a species that has been a conspicuous "miss" during the last three spring seasons at Powdermill.

While most individual species always fall within 1 SD of the long-term average, an impressive 33 of the total 108 species banded were statistically greater than the mean. Fourteen either tied or exceeded the previous record high (listed here) and only one species, Downy Woodpecker, was banded in well-below-average numbers. The spring 2006 totals are given for each species, along with the previous record high: Ruby-throated Hummingbird (121/119), Eastern Wood-Pewee (13/12), Blue-headed Vireo (4/4), Tree Swallow (28/28), Black-capped Chickadee (89/82), Red-breasted Nuthatch (4/4), Winter Wren (9/8), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (352/246), Hermit Thrush (7/6), Wood Thrush (45/38), "Brewster's" Warbler (2/2), Black-throated Green Warbler (11/11), Hooded Warbler (31/27).

In addition to those mentioned above, other "good-gets" this season (i.e., species with a long-term spring average of <1) included. Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Cerulean Warbler. Brown Creeper, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Worm-eating Warbler were among the conspicuous "misses" this season (i.e., species with a long-term spring average of >1).

Finally, we held three successful bander development workshops again this spring and appreciate the participation of Jeff Michaels, Jonathon Gottsche, Cailin O'Connor, Beth Girard, Andrea Adams, Erin High, Jason Reppart, Joe Schreiber, Jack Hilsabeck, John Rushin, and Andy Eller. We welcomed and enjoyed a wonderful working visit from Simone Immler, a post-doc researcher from the University of Sheffield, UK, for two weeks this spring as she collected samples from, primarily, North American wood warblers for her study of sperm morphology. We also welcomed 90+ members of the Pennsylvania Society for