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# ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2008

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The spring of 2008 was not a good one number-wise for all but two reporting stations. Wing Island and Bedford Valley were the only stations with better totals in 2008 than in 2007. One reason may have been that warmer temperatures in late March and early April got birds moving earlier, when banding stations were not yet open. Braddock Bay, for instance, began spring banding at about the same time as in previous years (19 Apr) but visual counts in the area had reported large flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglets moving through the area two weeks earlier than that. Not a single Golden-crowned Kinglet was banded this spring! In the 21 previous spring seasons, an average of 51 had been banded each spring with as many as 151 banded in 1989. Global warming may be causing northward

migration to take place earlier and banding stations may need to adjust start-up dates accordingly. Not only was spring 'early,' many banders complained that the weather in May was 'too nice,' with few fronts pushing birds northward. When the fronts came, birds flew on north without stopping.

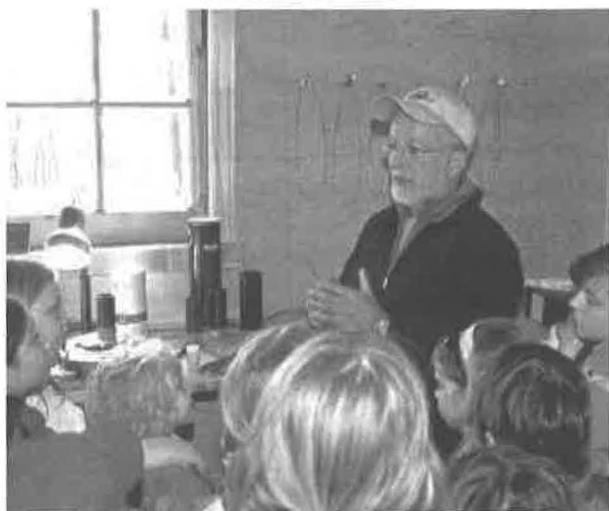
Highlights in the narratives include the banding of Long Point's 750,000<sup>th</sup> bird—a Brown Creeper! Lowlights (!) include the details of the report of the cormorant control project at Crown Point. There were many excellent longevity records, but a recaptured Common Grackle in its 13<sup>th</sup> year at Braddock Bay was the best.

John Gregoire's report has interesting comments about using covert shape to age, as well as his reflections on the negative influence of concentrated animal feeding practices on avian populations.

We would welcome additional reporting stations for the spring AFR report. Thanks to all who participated.

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## AFR BANDER SPOTLIGHT RICK LUDKIN



**Rick Ludkin**, the head bander at Ruthven Park National Historic Site banding station, started his banding "career" in the early 1980s as a trainee at Long Point Bird Observatory. As a subpermit holder under Martin McNicholl in the late 80s and early 90s, he banded in the

forests around his hometown of York (in southern Ontario), giving special attention to Golden-winged Warblers. He started the banding program at Ruthven Park in the fall of 1995, and in 1996 he collaborated with the late John Miles to form the Haldimand Bird Observatory. The banding program at Ruthven Park is part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and runs daily in both spring and fall. For the past three years there has been a MAPS banding effort in the summer.

Since 2004, Rick has spent part of his summers working on Canadian Wildlife Service studies in the Canadian Arctic studying and banding Northern Fulmars, Common Eiders, and Snow Buntings.

When asked what improvements he would like to see in the Atlantic Flyway Review, Rick responded, "perhaps a format/template for the written reports would make it somewhat easier to visualize the various sites and to compare data."

Thanks, Rick, for your contributions to the AFR!

**Table 1. Spring 2008 AFR Banding Summary**

	<b>Crown Point, NY</b>	<b>Lewiston, NY</b>	<b>Braddock Bay, NY</b>	<b>Ruthven, ON</b>	<b>Rock Point, ON</b>	<b>Appledore, ME</b>	<b>Long Point, ON</b>
Inclusive Dates	5/9 - 5/26	5/5 - 6/2	4/19 - 6/12	4/1 - 6/6	3/26 - 6/7	5/5 - 6/8	4/1 - 6/10
Total Days	18	12	51	63	51	35	71
Nets Used	10 to 14	15	up to 37	up to 16	1 to 16	10	0 to 53
Total Net Hours	3,192	998	8,636	5,223	4,154	4,114	8,315
% Caught in Traps	1%	0	0	-	0	0	25.6%
Best Day # (date)	49 on 5/10	36 on 5/5	349 on 5/26	86 on 5/14	131 on 5/2	247 on 5/26	626 on 5/14
Best Diversity (date)	19 on 5/22	18 on 5/23	47 on 5/26	-	26 on 5/2	34 on 5/24	54 on 5/14
Total Banded 2007	1183	290	4752	1888	1598	3110	15,760
Total Banded 2008	384	262	3876	1512	1553	2462	10,209
Total Species 2007	73	45	96	83	72	72	133
Total Species 2008	51	59	95	86	84	74	126
Birds/100nh 2007	31.2	35.8	56.8	40.1	46.9	91.4	174
Birds/100nh 2008	12	22.5	44.9	25.6	37.3	72.3	91

**Table 1 (cont'd.) Spring 2008 AFR Banding Summary**

	<b>Kestrel Haven, NY</b>	<b>Presque Isle, PA</b>	<b>Wing Island, MA</b>	<b>Bedford Valley, PA</b>	<b>Powdermill, PA</b>	<b>Island Beach, NJ</b>
Inclusive Dates	4/10 - 6/1	4/15 - 6/7	4/26 - 6/18	4/9 - 6/12	3/2 - 6/1	4/1 - 6/13
Total Days	26	20	24	30	66	39
Nets Used	1 to 14	4 to 12	1 to 32	1 to 10	2 to 60	6 to 28
Total Net Hours	480	632	2453	363	8460	2030
% Caught in Traps	0	0	0	-	2.9%	0
Best Day # (date)	57 on 4/27	48 on 5/24	95 on 5/15	23 on 4/9	90 on 5/14	502 on 5/18
Best Diversity (date)	18 on 5/6	16 on 5/24	20 on 5/15	12 on 5/6	27 on 5/4	42 on 5/18
Total Banded 2007	1150	0	292	124	2873	2354
Total Banded 2008	506	241	382	297	1880	2000
Total Species 2007	63	0	35	33	102	83
Total Species 2008	53	43	46	47	103	71
Birds/100nh 2007	139	0	30	69	24.2	90.6
Birds/100nh 2008	105	57.5	38	81.8	22.2	98.5