dismayed to note the documentation of tragic declines in many migrant species. No longer do we see the large groups of Neotropicals or "fallout" mornings. Many species have declined, while some have been extirpated as breeders in this area.

While some of this can be attributed to Neotropical deforestation and wintering habitat loss or fragmentation as well as increasing man-made hazards encountered during migration, the bulk of the cause is right here in the breeding grounds. No, the prime cause is not fragmentation or loss of habitat due to housing or population and consumerism growth. The root of the loss of these migrants is soundly rooted in changing agricultural practices.

In this area, small dairy farms following pasturing techniques have given way to huge agri-businesses that practice Concentrated Animal Feeding. The huge increase in the animal base has caused a need for a larger land base to handle liquid manure (slurry) and much of that pasture has given way to mono-cropped field crops in support of animal forage. Legumes, such as alfalfa, have largely replaced hay. Very few species will nest in corn and alfalfa or in the biomass crops. To make matters worse, harvest techniques and timing occur more quickly and catch what birds remain before they fledge.

Further, equipment has grown in size and efficiency demanding larger fields. The concomitant loss of hedgerow habitat has caused the degradation or loss of many species requiring such places for nesting. Add to that the burgeoning interest in growing bio-fuel crops and both field and edge nesting birds are in greater peril today than ever before. Short of eschewing dairy products and advocating against CAFOs and biomass energy schemes, there is little we can do. It's truly a depressing situation.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 131 species plus five forms; point count cumulative grew to 220 species seen at Kestrel Haven. Abnormalities were unremarkable and no significant health or parasite problems were noted. The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns. We enjoyed 114 returning individuals! Of that number, over a third, or 45, were at least four years of age or older. The eldest return was a Downy Woodpecker at nine years of age. The elders were:

- Four Downy Woodpeckers at 4, 4+ (2) and **9** years old
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 5 years old
- Blue Jay at **7+** years old
- Four Black-capped Chickadees at 4, 4+ (2) and 6 years old
- Six American Robins at 4 (3), and 4+ (3) years old
- Three Gray Catbirds at 4 and 4+ (2) years old
- Brown Thrasher at 4+ years old
- Red-eyed Vireo at 4+ years old
- Four Yellow Warblers at 4, 4+, **7+ and 8+** years old
- Two Common Yellowthroats at 4 years old
- Northern Cardinal at 6+ years old
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 4+ years old
- Song Sparrow at 4 years old
- Four Red-winged Blackbirds at 5+, **8(2) and 8+** years old
- Two Baltimore Orioles at 4 years old
- Purple Finch at 4 years old
- Seven American Goldfinches at 4 (2), 4+, 5 (2), 5+ and 7+ years old.

A Tree Swallow we had as a foreign recovery was banded as a nestling last June at Long Point, near Port Rowen, Ontario.

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Wing Island Banding Station **414-0700**
Brewster, Barnstable County, MA
Susan Finnegan, Bander
sfinnegan@wingisland.org
Gretchen Putonen, Chief Assistant

Our eighth spring season was certainly an improvement over the past two springs even with starting much later than usual due to many factors. Nets were open for the first time on 26 Apr and our season ended on 16 Jun for

a total of 24 days of operation. As usual, strong winds, mainly from the NW, continued to blow throughout the spring, turning southerly in June. In total, 382 birds of 46 species were banded and 295 were recaptured. Of those recaptured, 59% were returns from previous years. Older birds of interest included a Black-capped Chickadee at least 8 years old, a Common Yellowthroat at least 7 years old, and two Common Yellowthroats, a Prairie Warbler, Gray Catbird, Northern Cardinal, and Black-capped Chickadee at least 6 years old.

Species	#	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1. Gray Catbird	130	77	23	0
2. American Goldfinch	44	66	34	0
3. Common Yellowthroat	26	65	31	4
4. Song Sparrow	24	33	17	50
5. White-throated Sparrow	20	65	5	30
6. Prairie Warbler	15	53	47	0
7. Black-cap. Chickadee	12	83	17	0
8. Northern Cardinal	12	33	0	0
9. Yellow Warbler	10	90	10	0
10. Swamp Sparrow	9	78	22	0

A range of 1-32 nets was used. Net hours totaled 2453 (netted birds) for a capture rate of 28 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was 95 birds on 15 May and was also the day with the most species diversity (20). No new species were banded this spring; however we did capture a Purple Finch, a species we have banded typically in fall but never in previous springs. Numbers of both Swamp and White-throated sparrows were higher than in previous years. Three of our birds had cloacal flukes–one being a Northern Cardinal with a brood patch, whose cloaca was so enlarged with growths we could not imagine how she could lay eggs. Four of our birds presented with avian pox.

On 28 May a banding demonstration was held for a group of 16 home-schoolers and we welcomed visitors interested in the banding process during the season. Our old friend, a Gray Catbird, originally banded by Bob McKinney at Island Beach in 2003 as a HY, returned again to breed, which she has done year after year since 2005. We continue to cooperate with the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network and the Center for Tropical Research in California, pulling feathers and swabbing birds for avian flu. Larval ticks we pull from birds have showed a steady increase of parasitic burden for agents causing lyme disease, anaplasma (formerly ehrlichia), and babesia.

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Powdermill Nature Reserve **400-0791**
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Robert S. Mulvihill, and Molly McDermott,
Banders
acvitz@yahoo.com
Julie Means and Mary Shidel, Chief Assistants

Powdermill Avian Research Center's bird banding program at Powdermill Nature Reserve completed its 47th consecutive spring banding season in 2008. 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 for 66 days during the spring 2008 season (2 Mar through 1 Jun). Species captured in numbers above 2 standard deviations (SD) only included the Red-bellied Woodpecker and no species were captured >2 SD less than their long-term mean.

Species	#	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1. Dark-eyed Junco	196	16	83	1
2. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	128	32	34	34
3. American Goldfinch	121	54	44	2
4. Cedar Waxwing	102	55	44	1
5. Song Sparrow	102	30	57	13
6. Magnolia Warbler	96	42	58	0
7. Blue Jay	71	70	30	0
8. Gray Catbird	63	52	48	0
9. Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	58	0	0	100
10. Chipping Sparrow	55	65	29	5

No foreign recoveries or encounters were reported from birds banded during spring 2008.