



Banding assistants were Dave Alexander, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Laura Evans, Peggy Keller, Jenny Landry, Greg Lawrence, Pat Lovallo, Ann Nash, Andrea Patterson, Rick Shearman, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, Claire Trombley, Barb Wagner, Aggie Windig, and Monika Wood. Our Field Assistants were Cindy Marino and Monika Wood, and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

A total of 7,897 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 59.0 birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh) up from 48.9 b/100nh in spring 2010, and actually the best b/100nh ratio we have had in recent years. The best day was 23 May, when 342 birds were banded in 214 net hours (159.8 b/100nh). On that day, 20% of the total birds banded were Magnolia Warbler, 13% were Traill's Flycatcher, and 12% were American Redstart. However, the best b/100nh ratio of the season occurred on 28 May, when 212 birds were banded in just 54 net hours (392.6 b/100nh). This is the highest b/100nh ratio ever recorded at BBBO. The predominant species that day were Blackpoll Warbler (13.7 b/100nh), and Magnolia and Wilson's warbler (each 12.7 b/100nh). There were seven additional 200+ bird days and twelve 100+ bird days.

There were over 900 recaptures of birds banded at the station. Of these recaptures, 104 were birds that returned from a previous season. The eldest of these were a Common Yellowthroat in its seventh year, and an American Robin, three Yellow Warblers and a House Finch, all in their fifth year.

A Northern Waterthrush banded as a HY-U at K-MB on 8 Sep 2006 was recaptured and released alive on 30 Apr 2011 at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, one mi S of Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, Florida! This bird was in its sixth year and was in the process of making its fifth spring northward journey.

A SY-M Mourning Warbler banded on 31 May 2006 was killed when it flew into an object in Baltimore, MD, on 20 May 2011. According to the BBL's report, this ties their previous longevity

record for Mourning Warbler. A SY male Sharp-shinned Hawk was captured and released at K-MB on 1 May 2011. It had been banded on 13 Sep 2010 at Sparta, Ontario, Canada.

There were record high numbers banded of Ruby-throated Hummingbird (92), Blue-headed Vireo (13), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (3), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (28), Magnolia Warbler (488) and American Redstart (344). On the negative side, four Cedar Waxwings banded was the lowest in 25 years. Golden-winged Warbler was missing after being recorded for 25 years; Eastern Towhee and Scarlet Tanager were also missing after being recorded in 19 of the past 25 years. There were no new species added to the cumulative total spring list, which stands at 143 forms.

Dr. Sara Morris, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding Station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested Blackpoll, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped warblers in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio (MARS) parked at the banding station. Their goal was to study flight-calling behavior.

Students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, visited the station for three days in May. Members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society visited, as well as a group from Bridges For Brain Injury, the Chili Senior Citizens Club, and members of the Brooks Bird Club of West Virginia. We welcomed visitors from BBRR's Bird of Prey Festival, and hosted students from the Lab of Ornithology's Spring Field Ornithology class for a weekend. We held an Open House in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day and another for members of the Genesee Land Trust, and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred additional visitors.

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Elisabeth Harrod, Jim Heckman, Kathleen Holt, Lyn Jacobs, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Sarah MacLean, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Allen Nash, Bill,

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**Ruthven Park 425-0795**

Cayuga, Haldimand County, Ontario

**Rick Ludkin, Bander**

rludkin@hotmail.com

Chief Assistants: Loretta Mousseau, Nancy Furber, Faye Socholotiuk, Peter Thoem, Carol Jones, Marie-Pier LaPlante, Christine Madliger, Chris Harris, Liz Vanderwoude

Here are some of the highlights of the 2011 season: The total number banded – 2,034 – exceeds the old record (1,888, set in 2007) by 146 birds. This is due to increased net hours; i.e., we had the nets open more than in any other year (5,173 “net hours”).

The 1,375 birds banded in May exceeds the old May record of 1,183, set in 2007. Our single day banding of 144 (on 12 May) greatly exceeds the old 112 bird mark. We had new spring high banding numbers for 18 species and added two new species to our banding list: Purple Martin and Clay-colored Sparrow.

- 1. American Goldfinch 324
- 2. Gray Catbird 112
- 3. White-throated Sparrow 111
- 4. Yellow Warbler 103
- 5. Slate-colored Junco 92
- 6. Brown-headed Cowbird 85
- 7. Chipping Sparrow 75
- 8. Song Sparrow 67
- 9. Rose-breasted Grosbeak 60
- 10. Common Yellowthroat 56

**Rock Point Banding Station 420-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand/Norfolk County, Ontario

**James A. Smith, Bander**

benavis@sympatico.ca

Web page: www.rockpointbirdbanding.com

Chief Assistant(s) Roswitha Matuschek, Jason

Lymburner, Kim Christoff

The first part of April was cold with one day where nets could not be opened because they were frozen solid. We had, in general, wet weather making the banding area very muddy. Without the boardwalks we would have been in trouble. In spite of the amount of rain, we missed only a few days in April with May being quite consistent. Threatened showers kept us guessing.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	160	86	14	0
2.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	107	61	38	1
3.	Yellow Warbler	79	59	41	0
4.	Gray Catbird	75	91	7	2
5.	Magnolia Warbler	57	60	39	1
6.	Myrtle Warbler	52	69	27	4
7.	American Redstart	46	70	30	0
8.	Common Yellowthroat	46	48	50	2
9.	Red-winged Blackbird	41	54	44	2
10.	American Tree Sparrow	41	39	44	17

On the whole, this spring was fairly consistent with the past five years. I did, however, notice a drop of about 200 birds from the 2007 to 2009 period. Last year was really quite low. This drop can be attributed to many variables– from fewer birds, to change in habitat, to fewer banding days. On the whole, our effort has been reasonably consistent, with this year showing a loss of about a week from previous years.

Species wise, we are about normal with 74. Last year showed an all-time high with 87. We had no really special birds show up this year and missed a number of species that might have been expected.