

and we had expected more. House Finches were the most attractive to these parasites with Song Sparrows a close second. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks carried three flies each and every one was quite large compared to the smaller versions we normally see on songbirds. As a matter of proportion, those on Black-throated Green Warblers and Yellow Warblers were quite small. We saw no conjunctivitis until a couple of wintering House Finches arrived late in the season.

Our fourth year of identifying and marking dragonflies incidentally netted, resulted in identification of 45 individuals of 12 species. The station total of odonates is now at 65 species. Incidental to banding, we netted *Anax junius*, *Aeshna umbrosa* and *tuberculifera*, *Libellula lydia*, *pulchella* and *luctuosa*, *Sympetrum internum* and *vicinum*. New and exciting were *Celithemis elisa*, *Perithemis tenera* and two unusual *Somatachloras* – *tenebrosa* and *walshii*.

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We started on 7 Jul and ended on 17 Oct. Weather was extreme and record setting. Normal July precipitation averages one inch or less. This year, some local areas recorded as much of 10 in of rain. Much time was spent opening and closing mist nets; however, this station managed to open nets and band on 76 days.

We accumulated 616.3 net hours banding 590 birds of 57 species with eight returns and 14 repeats. Two Gray Catbirds returned at five and six

years of age. Peak day happened on 16 Jul with 21 birds banded. In 2003 we had 44 species, in 2004, 57, an increase of approximately 23%.

The top three species are the same as last fall. We more than doubled our total number of catbirds this season, probably due to the super crop of honeysuckle berries. Also increasing slightly in numbers banded were Song Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat.

Only seven species of warbler were captured and banded at this station, as the habitat is not conducive for netting. This banding station is surrounded by large fields of multiflora rose and is ideal habitat for the top three species banded here.

Highlights this year include the first ever Orchard Oriole banded at this station and three HY Eastern Kingbirds. The three kingbirds were caught in the same net on 28 Jul. EBBA's new monograph, *Relationships Among Body Mass, Fat, Wing Length, Age, and Sex for 170 Species of Birds Banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve*, helped cinch the identification, age, and sex of the Orchard Oriole. It also was a treat to examine the plumage of the three young kingbirds.

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The 2004 AFR season was anything but boring. The first day of banding produced a young, female Cooper's Hawk. She, her parents, and siblings had been in my woods for several weeks. She had nailed a cardinal, so I decided I was going to brave her impressive talons with my bare hands. I carried her back to my banding site using both hands hugging her to my body. I put her in my dark laundry room and called Harriet Marsi who came and helped me band and measure her. (By now I had my leather gloves on). Her wing cord was 265 mm, the largest bird I have ever caught and banded. I caught her two more times and she was easily removed from the nets with bare hands. Fortunately, she and her family moved to the neighboring woods and shortly were gone.