
2021 ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW

Spring Migration

NORTHEAST REGION

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station
Rochester, Monroe County, New York

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Braddock Bay Bird Observatory is situated on the south shore of Lake Ontario midway between the eastern and western ends of the lake. The early successional site is dominated by fruiting woody plants – primarily dogwood, viburnum, and honeysuckle – along with a mixed wet forest until recently dominated by ash, and a field of grasses and goldenrod. The 36th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 45 days beginning 15 Apr and ending on 31 May 2021. Four days were entirely lost to inclement weather.

3,942 birds of 87 species and one hybrid form were banded, exceeding Spring 2020's total by 654 birds. There were no new species this season; our spring cumulative total stands at 139 species with 140 identified subspecies, and two additional hybrid forms.

Constant effort-mist netting was carried out using 32 nets. Included in the total were six double-high assemblies. A total of 8,512.25 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 46.3 birds per 100 net hours, compared with 47.9 birds per 100 net hours in Spring 2020 and 61.0 birds per 100 net hours in Spring 2019.

We recaptured 1,002 individual birds a total of 1,350 times; 527 birds were captured after their initial banding day. Of these recaptures, 70 returned from a previous season. 52.9% of the returning birds had originally been banded as hatch year birds. The oldest of the returning birds was a Common Yellowthroat in its 10th year; a Northern Waterthrush and a Yellow Warbler both in their Oct. - Dec.

9th years; a Gray Catbird in its 7th year; a Red-eyed Vireo, a Gray Catbird, a Baltimore Oriole, a Northern Cardinal, and a Yellow Warbler each in their 6th years; and 16 birds in their 4th or 5th year.

We recaptured four birds originally banded at other stations; all were Black-capped Chickadees. One was banded 27 Mar 2021 in Brooke County, WV; the other three were banded in the fall of 2020 in Ontario, Canada.

We received reports that 11 of our banded birds were found elsewhere. A Cooper's Hawk banded 29 Apr 2020 was recaptured and released alive on 23 May 2021 at a nearby raptor-banding station; three Gray Catbirds were found dead – one in nearby Genesee County NY, one in Goochland County VA, and one in Lake County FL; a Swainson's Thrush struck a window and died in Sevier County TN; three American Robins were found dead – one in Monroe County NY, one in Wayne County NY, and one in Gatineau QC; an American Redstart was found dead in Monroe County NY; a Magnolia Warbler was found dead near Oka QC; and a Yellow Warbler was found dead in Monroe County NY.

We deployed Lotek nanotags registered with the Motus Wildlife Tracking System on 23 Canada Warblers. 57% of the tags were detected at other towers. Our local tower detected one Blue Jay and one Ovenbird tagged elsewhere.

After running the Spring 2020 season with just two people, we were relieved to return to near-normal operations this spring with a full volunteer staff . . . especially as Black-capped Chickadees dominated our captures. They wandered the lakeshore following a Fall 2020 irruption, with 2/3 of the nearly 700 birds passing through during the last two weeks of April. Most other species were less notable. No species broke a record, but Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Parula tied their high count. Eastern Phoebe was an unusual miss.

Many thanks to our fantastic crew of volunteers and to our partners - the Genesee Land Trust and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Wing Island Banding Station

Brewster, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

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Facebook : Wing Island Bird Banding Station

Instagram: wing_banders

Banders: Sue Finnegan, Gretchen Putonen

The Wing Island Bird Banding station is affiliated with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. It is located on a tidal island located behind the museum. Wing Island consists of 49 ha with 5ha of Cape Cod Bay beach, 13 ha (mainly shrubs, pitch pine and oak trees and a 4 ha meadow), and 32 ha of tidal saltwater marshland. The banding station was opened in 2000 by Master Bander Sue Finnegan.

Our 21st spring season began on 15 Apr and ended on 11 Jun. We operated nets for 26 days, with numerous days of wind and/or rain preventing banding. A range of 20-33 nets was used for a total of 2558.63 net hours for a capture rate of 25 birds/100net-hours (netted birds). We banded 386 new birds, recaptured 184 birds and had 113 returns of the following species: 10Y- Song Sparrow (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); 8Y- American Goldfinch (1); A7Y- Eastern Towhee (1); 7Y- Common Yellowthroat (1); 6Y- Black-capped Chickadee (1), Prairie Warbler (1); A5Y- Gray Catbird (1), American Goldfinch (1), Common Yellowthroat (1); 5Y- 1 each of Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler ; A4Y- Common Yellowthroat (1), Song Sparrow (1); 4Y: Gray Catbird (3), Common Yellowthroat (6), Yellow Warbler (2); ATY- Song Sparrow (3), Common Yellowthroat (3), American Goldfinch (1). The rest of the birds were three years or younger.

We added no new species for this season. Our best day was 15 April with 85 birds of 7 species netted. We had the most species diversity on 1 Jun with 13

species recorded. Highlights included our 3rd ever spring capture of a Blackburnian Warbler on this day. We had a 2nd spring capture of a Barn Swallow on 28 May.

We had two birds with scaly leg, an American Robin and a 4Y Yellow Warbler. An American Goldfinch presented with mycoplasma in the right eye. We had a 7Y Common Yellowthroat with the right hallux missing and we had reported a case of pox on this bird on previous captures. We noted only one bird with leucism, a Gray Catbird with one white greater covert. A Song Sparrow with a large growth above the right eye on 11 Jun was not seen in the previous 3 recaptures. We caught him once more a month later with the tumor still visible but have not seen him since. A 5Y Eastern Towhee was recaptured with a crossed upper mandible and oddly there was no mention of it in our notes for the previous five captures dating back to 2017. Lastly, we recaptured a male Song Sparrow with a CP of 2 (MAPS criteria) and a brood patch both on 11 May 2020 with BP of 2 then again with BP of 3 on 11 May. This bird was captured a third time on 4 Aug with a dried-up BP of 4. Looking back at past captures, he was captured 7x over the previous years with a full CP.

A Hermit Thrush we banded on 22 Oct 2020 as HY was found dead due to striking a window in Brewster on 15 Feb 2021. A Gray Catbird we banded as HY in 2020 was recaptured by Austin Banding Station in Wellfleet on 23 May 2021. A Gray Catbird we banded as HY in Sep 2020 was found dead in Dennis on 20 Jun 2021. We recaptured a Black-capped Chickadee on 15 Apr 2021 that was originally banded by Manomet in Oct 2020. A Black-capped Chickadee we originally banded at our other location in Punkhorn as a HY in June 2019 was recaptured on 15 Apr 2021 on Wing Island and has remained since. We find birds hatched on Punkhorn disperse from there and settle on Wing Island for their remaining years.

Many thanks to the French Foundation and the Cape Cod Bird Club for monetary support. A big thank-you to Natalie Minster and Keelin Miller who helped out for this spring season.

Crown Point Banding Association

Crown Point, Essex County, New York

Ted Hicks, TedHicks61@gmail.com

Banders: *Gordon Howard, Gary Lee, Bob Wei, Tom Barber, Wendy Burkowski*

The Crown Point Banding Station opened on 8 May with daily banding operations conducted through 23 May. This banding station was established in 1976 by J.M.C. "Mike" Peterson at the Crown Point State Historic Site on the Lake Champlain (NY) peninsula of the same name, and the 2021 banding session was the 46th consecutive year that this Station has been in operation there.

The station is operated as the Crown Point Banding Association, an unincorporated, independent, participant-funded, peer managed, 100% volunteer organization. Any visitor is considered a member. There are no dues or assessments. Our annual meeting is the banding program at the Banding Station.

The weather for this session was typical for the region and season. Day and evening temperatures were cool during the first week and then warmed up for the second week. Overnight temperature and weather patterns were often conducive for bird migration: several consecutive nights with south winds, clear skies, and little or no precipitation. These conditions were a little too conducive in that they were ideal for migrating birds to fly on over the banding station with no need to stop. The result was fewer birds at ground level to be caught in our nets.

The surrounding habitat is primarily Hawthorn thicket and the hawthorns had delayed foliage development with no leaves, typical for early Spring at this latitude and elevation. Within one week, leaves began to develop, and by the end of the two-week session most of the foliage on the Point was fully developed or close to it.

At this time of the year, Lake Champlain is normally still full from spring run-off and the banding station is only a few feet above lake level. This year the lake was at typical spring levels, so despite experiencing little rainfall, some of the net

lane areas remained saturated with standing water in some areas for most of the session.

The Banding Station operates under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC.) One addendum to the agreement for this year, as it was for 2020, was to operate under the New York State Division of Lands and Forests Volunteer Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Work Practice Control Guidance Information, updated for 2021. This guidance provided a wealth of information on how we would safely operate, and under further guidance of the Crown Point Historic Site Manager, Lisa Polay and her staff, we achieved a second year of operation during the COVID-19 pandemic without incident or infections.

Our totals for the two-week session were 496 birds banded of 54 species. The total number and species count both fall well below the previous ten-year station averages and this is mostly due to the weather patterns over the banding session as previously discussed.

Our most numerous warbler species, Yellow-rumped Warblers were plentiful with 36 banded. However, they were second in number to Common Yellowthroat (44 individuals) on our warbler species list this year.

Overall, the top five species in number were Blue Jay (66), Gray Catbird (59), Common Yellowthroat (44), White-throated Sparrow (38), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (36).

We had only one intergrade this year, and new species for the station, the Brewster's Warbler. This intergrade is considered rare in our area and was not even listed in the Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site listing. It is a hybrid of the Blue-winged Warbler and the Golden-winged Warbler, both species that have been banded at the site previously and likely are site breeders as well.

The Banding Station responded to a request for assistance in regard to its participation in the Bird Genoscape Project (<https://www.birdgenoscape.org/about/learn-more-about-genoscape/>) for a second consecutive year. Neotropical migratory birds are declining across the Western Hemisphere,

but conservation efforts have been stalled by the inability to assess where migrants are most limited – the breeding grounds, migratory stopover points, or tropical wintering areas. This project is a cooperative avian genetics project between researchers at the University of California-Los Angeles and the Colorado State University to gather data at these locations. We collected samples from 303 individuals of 20 species included among the 53 project focus species.

The Crown Point Banding Association wishes to thank the staff at the Crown Point State Historic Site for its gracious hospitality and support. Lisa Polay, the Site Manager, has been extremely helpful and supportive of the Banding Station, guiding us through COVID-19 restrictions, and providing other support. Additionally, and equally, we would like to thank all on the maintenance staff for their enthusiastic support and assistance with the myriad day-to-day needs including the initial site prepar

Manomet Observatory

Plymouth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

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www.manomet.org

Banders: *Megan Gray, Sarah Duff, Amy Hogan, Tahira Mohyuddin, Trevor Lloyd-Evans*

This is the 52nd official year of spring Banding at Manomet. Coming out of a COVID lockdown, we operated our nets within an isolated bubble. That said, the birds did not seem to notice, as they wound up in our 50 nets strung through the scrubby forests along Manomet's coastal bluff. Cold, wet weather in April gave way to a healthy push of migrant birds by May. Our 1,950 new bandings over 15,811 net hours represents our highest total birds per effort since spring 1985. Our busiest days were 14 May (275 total captures, 246 new bandings), 17 May (227 captures), 6 May (207), 1 June (187), 18 May (186), 5 May (160), 3 May (153) and 12 May (102).

Unusual species included a spring Bay-breasted Warbler on 25 May, a total of 19 Great Crested Flycatchers, plus an unexpected Louisiana Waterthrush with a regressing brood patch banded on 1 June. Our last spring Louisiana Waterthrush

was captured in April 2004. Notable recaptures this spring (113 from previous seasons) included a 10-year-old Baltimore Oriole, a Manomet record age for the species. We also recaptured a 9-year-old Gray Catbird, an 8-year-old Black-capped Chickadee, a 7-year-old Tufted Titmouse and catbird, plus 6-year-old catbird, chickadee and Song Sparrows

We are grateful for recent support from Manomet donors and members as well as the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Dorr Foundation.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland

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<https://www.washcoll.edu/learn-by-doing/ces/fbbo.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/ForemansBranch>

<https://www.instagram.com/foremansbranch>

Banders: *Jim Gruber, Maren Gimpel, Madelaina Ondo, Cat Werth*

Spring 2021 marked FBBO's 24th year of banding. The station has nets in a mix of habitats including fallow fields, second growth forests, mature woodlands and over a lake. The habitat has remained mostly the same over the years.

This spring we banded our second highest number of birds (4,372) and the second highest number of species (107), though our birds per 100 nh was below our long-term average.

Species caught in record high numbers that were also >2 SD above average included White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, and Swainson's Thrush. Record highs that were not 2 SD above average included Ovenbird, American Redstart, and Gray Catbird.

Species caught in near-record or record lows included Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Chipping Sparrow and Wood Thrush, though none of these were >2 SD below our long-term average.

Returns of note included Red-winged Blackbird #1352-09722 banded originally as an ASY-M on 18 Mar 2022 who was 10 years 9 months when

captured on 22 Mar 2021. Pileated Woodpecker #914-51225 was banded as an ATY-F on 28 May 2016 and was 7 years and 10 months when captured on 29 Apr 21.

We had no foreign recaptures, but we had some interesting recoveries. A Pine Siskin we banded in fall 2020 was recaptured at Hilton Pond, York, SC, in February 2021. A Gray Catbird we banded in October 2020 was found dead in April 2021, 1,398.52km miles south of us in Clearwater, FL. Lastly, an American Robin we banded in spring 2018 was found dead in May 2021 1455km north in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada, in May 2021.

Collaborative research projects included deploying radio tags on behalf of Luke DeGroot of Powdermill Avian Research Center who is studying effects of glass collisions on birds; collecting ticks for Dr. Holly Gaff at Old Dominion University; and collecting fecal samples of Blackpoll Warblers from Dr. Brian Trevelline of Cornell University.

We are most grateful to Dr. Henry F. Sears for his years of support as well as to six volunteers who gave 568 hours of their time.

Meadowlands Bird Banding Station

Lyndhurst, Bergen County, New Jersey

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Banders: *Cailin O'Connor (Master Bander), Drew McQuade, Erica Mueller*

The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station historically operated under a different Master Bander from 2008-2015. The station was reopened in the fall of 2019 as a migratory and MAPS banding station on roughly half of the footprint of the original banding site with plans to expand to the full site at a future date. The banding site contains saltmarsh, mudflat, and mid-successional shrub/scrub habitats. The station follows a narrow strip of land between a tidal marsh and an impoundment. The site has undergone some ecological restoration efforts in the past.

The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station operated 10 mist nets over 13 banding days from 7 April–19 Oct. - Dec.

May, 2021. While the station did run through the end of spring migration, it shifted to MAPS protocol in late May; therefore, data from that period are not included in this report. In total, 480 individuals of 39 species were banded for the season, which is several dozen individuals and 11 species more than the previous spring season in 2020. The top 10 species encountered were: Yellow-rumped Warbler (n=101), Savannah Sparrow (n=66), Common Yellowthroat (n=58), Red-winged Blackbird (n=54), Gray Catbird (n=31), Swamp Sparrow (n=30), Yellow Palm Warbler (n=24), Song Sparrow (n=21), American Robin (n=13), and White-throated Sparrow (n=10). The large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Savannah Sparrows, the latter of which was not even in the top ten species for spring 2020, together comprised one-third of all birds banded this season. There were 40 recaptures during the season, of which 17 were repeats and 23 were returns.

Unique species of note encountered this season included our fourth Wilson's Warbler in the history of the station, our second and third Black-throated Green Warbler, second Tree Swallow, and first and only Clay-colored Sparrow in the short history of the reopened station.

Individual mist nets caught between 15-70 birds each throughout the season with the most productive nets placed along pathways cut through dense vegetation, notably *Phragmites* and *Baccharis* on both sides. Another productive net spanned an unpaved road separating a tidal mudflat from an impoundment to which birds relocated when the tide came in on the rare days this coincided with banding efforts.

Thank you to New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for use of their land on which the banding station is situated, and to our volunteers and interns for the season, especially Joseph Affinito, Olivia Haas, Kevin Boguszewski, and Ken Wilson.

Powdermill Avian Research Center

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Banders: *Annie Lindsay, Mary Shidel, Luke DeGroot, Laura Porter, Kevin Chumpitaz Trujillo*

Powdermill's banding station opened in 1961, and has been running continuously year-round since then. The spring season begins in early April and continues through 31 May. Fall begins around the second week of August and continues through 31 Oct (and sometimes into early November). Powdermill Avian Research Center (PARC) is a long-term bird monitoring station operated and supported by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Powdermill operates 63 nets during the spring migration season and 67 nets in the fall. The nets are grouped together into various net lanes, and they're spread across a 10-hectare banding area. The habitat is mostly early successional or transitional and is quite shrubby. There are four ponds in the banding area. One usually dries during late summer and into fall, and two are relatively shallow, but the biggest one remains full and is roughly 4.5m deep. The banding area is surrounded by forest and sits at the foot of the Laurel Ridge, bordering Forbes State Forest.

Noteworthy high counts (above average ± 2 SDs): Black-and-White Warbler (n=17), Downy Woodpecker (n=7), Eastern Kingbird (n=6), Fox Sparrow (n=20), Grasshopper Sparrow (n=1), Mourning Dove (n=4), Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler (n=20), Orange-crowned Warbler (n=3), Orchard Oriole (n=6), Prairie Warbler (n=4) Red-breasted Nuthatch (n=3), Red-shouldered Hawk (n=1), Savannah Sparrow (n=1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (n=1).

A second-year, undetermined sex Red-shouldered Hawk banded on 8 May 2021 is only the 5th in Powdermill's banding history. A HY (FCF) male Indigo Bunting initially banded at Powdermill

on September 15 Sep 2020, was recaptured in Sarasota, Florida on 19 April 2021.

We hosted four virtual "Ageing Birds via Molt" workshops in early 2021, and a Motus workshop in March 2021, reaching 140 participants.

PARC's banding crew facilitated several in-house research projects, and collaborated with and hosted outside researchers to collect the following data:

- Tracking migrating songbird movement and stopover length in the area immediately surrounding PARC
- Sampled subcutaneous fat for a dissertation project (University of Toledo and PARC) testing the feasibility of using stable isotope analysis to determine previous stopover habitat in migrating songbirds
- "Behavioral responses of migrating songbirds of perceived risk of predation" – a University of Maryland PhD student's dissertation project designed to study behavioral responses of Gray Catbirds exposed to predators (Cooper's Hawk) and non-predators (rabbit), and to cats to determine whether catbirds recognize cats as predators and whether they change their stopover behavior or stopover habitat usage post-exposure
- Partnered with the American Bird Conservancy to test avian perception of glass, an ongoing, multi-year project
- Collected feathers for the Genoscape Project
- Collected tick and blood samples from birds opportunistically for a master's student at Shippensburg University

Publications: *NABB* 46:68-72

Lindsay, A.M. and B.D. Ankney. 2021. Save your breath: Using an air compressor system to part feathers during bird banding.

We thank our banding crew and the staff of Powdermill Nature Reserve. Our many dedicated volunteers are invaluable and we could not do the work we do at Powdermill without their help.

Powdermill's bird banding operation is funded through the generosity of the Colcom Foundation, the Laurel Foundation, and numerous private donors who have supported Powdermill Avian Research Center since its inception.

Rushton Woods Banding Station

Newtown Square, Delaware County,
Pennsylvania

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<https://wctrust.org/bird-banding/>

Banders: Lisa Kiziuk, Blake Goll, Michelle Eshleman, Doris McGovern

This was the 11th year of spring migration songbird banding at Rushton Woods Banding Station (RWBS), which has been in operation since 2010, missing only the spring of 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We operated fifteen nets, three days a week from 13 April through 20 May 2021.

RWBS is located on an 35 ha preserve that is a matrix of mature deciduous forest, meadows, early to late successional shrub-scrub hedge rows, and six acres of organic agriculture owned and managed by Willistown Conservation Trust. Songbird migration and NSWO banding take place in the hedge rows, while a MAPS station is operated in the mature forest.

Fair weather allowed us to open 16 days, however, three days of banding were lost to poor conditions and several late morning net hours were lost due to high winds. Additionally, on 4 May, light rain and heavy fog settled in, causing a migratory fallout resulting in more than six times the average number of birds caught on a single day during any-given spring migration.

We banded 493 birds of 49 species with a capture rate of 45.2 birds/100nh, with an additional 73 repeats, 49 returns, and one foreign recapture. One new species, Brewster's Warbler, was banded at the station, bringing the cumulative spring total to 78 species.

The largest single-day catch was on 4 May, with 164 new birds of 26 species. This amounted to 33% of our entire season total in just one day. Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat remained the three most frequent

Oct. - Dec.

captures. A notable high count for the season was 41 Ovenbird (spring average: 9).

Three interesting returns were all birds originally captured in 2015. A seven-year-old Gray Catbird captured on 28 April was first banded in May of 2015 as a second-year (SY), was later determined male at our MAPS station, and has been captured at least once every year since the original banding. A male Common Yellowthroat, at least eight years old, was captured on 6 May that was originally banded on 12 May, 2015, and then again in spring of 2016 and 2018. Finally, a six-year-old resident female Tufted Titmouse, originally banded as a hatch-year (HY) in 2015, was later captured in 2016, 2017, and again this spring on 20 May.

We had one foreign recapture on May 4, 2021. This after-second-year (ASY) Gray Catbird had been banded originally near Millbrook, NY on 15 May, 2019 as an ASY male.

This was our best spring with the most birds captured, yielding our third highest capture rate. We hosted more than 100 visitors to the station including classes from three universities, students from local elementary and high schools, and many members of the public. We continue to collaborate with Drexel University as a study site and the University of Pennsylvania graduate research projects. Annual songbird banding reports can be found at: <https://wctrust.org/research/>.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who gave their time, in some cases for many years, in contributing to the long-term data collection at the Rushton Woods Banding Station.

Potomac River NWR Complex, Occoquan Bay (OCCO)

Woodbridge, Prince William County, VA 22191

Suzanne Miller, suz.miller@cox.net

Banders: William Teetz, Joanna Taylor, Mary Thompson, Janet Martin, Paul Napier, Mary Scala

Prior to becoming a National Wildlife Refuge in 1998, these 237.15ha were the US Army's Harry Diamond Laboratory. The refuge is one of the last large undeveloped grassland areas in Northern Virginia, located 32 km miles south of Washington, DC, at the confluence of the Potomac

and Occoquan Rivers. The bird banding station was established by Dr. Joseph Witt, refuge wildlife biologist, on 8 Apr, 2001, on 6 ha of narrow, wet and steep wooded tract on the southern shore, along Marumsc Creek. 2021 is the 20th consecutive year of spring migration bird banding.

The 2020 season was canceled due to Covid. In 2021 we were able to open by adhering to US F&WS policies for Covid Phased Recovery, Job Hazard Analysis, Safety and Health Training. Crew was limited to four experienced volunteers following all Public Health requirements. Visitors were not allowed (the past five years the station had over 1,000 visitors) so it felt lonely, but good to be back. Brood "X" of the 17-year cicada did not hit the nets' area, nor had they in 2004.

On opening day, we waited for the temperature to climb from below freezing to 4.4 C so a Winter Wren was appropriate. By the end of March early numbers of White-throated Sparrows and Carolina Wrens portended above average seasons for them. 2021 would be a record year of 54 Northern Cardinals. Some of these cardinals were in the nets again the same day, some repeated throughout the season and yet others returned from prior years, so fingers were bitten 87 times! Noteworthy returns were two NOCA we'd banded in Apr 2016 and in Apr 2014.

Banding a Pileated Woodpecker ended March and banding a Sharp-shinned Hawk started April. In April it was obvious we hadn't been here for over a year: turkeys roost over the nets, rat snakes are active under the nets, Barred Owls call at net 12, a coyote left big paw prints on the path to net 1 and rabbits are everywhere. A Carolina Wren built a nest in the portalet – we knock on the door, wait for her to exit under the door (never could see if she was banded). Noteworthy returns were a Carolina Wren banded in April 2015, and a White-throated Sparrow from March 2016.

After 80 km/hr wind gusts fronts in late April, three days in early May were the only 30+ bandings days. There was a 'flathead' Gray Catbird with a band of light gray feathers across the forehead: it had possibly hit a window and the only damage was a

dent in the cranium that did not harm the brain but might have interrupted the melanin process.

A Blackburnian Warbler was species #103, and OCCO's 25th warbler species. 2021 saw 17 species of warbler, but only 85 warblers banded, the 3rd worst year. There was one (1) Yellow-rumped Warbler. Blackbirds continue their decline which started about 10 years ago – I don't know why – they'd averaged 60, but now average below 40.

Some birds not commonly caught were a Traill's Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird; the sole Great-crested Flycatcher banded in 2019 returning to build a nest near net 12 using big fluffy white feathers.

There were ten volunteers put in 938 hours in the field. 20 years of 20,671 volunteer hours and 10,535 birds banded works out to about 1 bird for every 2 'people-hours.'

SOUTHEAST REGION

Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station

Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, South Carolina

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<https://www.facebook.com/sullivansislandbirds>

SIBBS operated for Fall 2015, Spring 2016, and Fall 2016 seasons. The station resumed banding activities under Sarah Harper in Spring of 2020 and continues to operate for Spring, Fall, and Winter banding seasons. The banding station is located within a 60.7ha conservation easement known as the Protected Land. The station habitat mainly includes early successional scrubland dominated by myrtles, cedars, cherry laurels and shrubby oaks. Eight net lanes are operated in the scrubland habitat. Three net lanes are operated in mid-successional maritime forest habitat dominated by live oaks.

The Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station's Spring 2021 season commenced on 21 February and ended on 16 June with a total of 48 days of banding. A total of 296 birds were banded across 33 different species. Highlights of this season's captures were a Swainson's Warbler, 8

Painted Buntings, and a Louisiana Waterthrush. As expected during spring migration along the southeastern coast, the capture rate was low: The capture rate was 25.7 birds/100 net hr. The Spring 2020 capture rate was only slightly lower at 21.5 birds/100 net hr.

There were 102 recaptures including 87 repeats and 15 returns. The returns included a Northern Cardinal banded in the Fall of 2015 and a Painted Bunting banded on 21 Apr, 2020. Remarkably, the Painted Bunting was recaptured in the same net lane exactly one year later, on 21 April, 2021. A total of 33 species were banded in Spring 2021. The total number of species banded to date at the Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station is 69.

The Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station would like to thank all of its loyal volunteers for their help! Operation of the station would not be possible without the regular assistance of trained volunteers that help with extraction as well as net set-up and take-down. The station is close to a public beach, so all of the equipment, including nets and poles, has to be taken down, packed up and hauled out (or stashed) at the end of each banding day! The Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station is owned by the nonprofit Carolina Avian Research Program and is funded by the generosity of small private donors.

Hilton Pond
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www.facebook.com/HiltonPond

This was our 40th year for banding (2021) at Hilton Pond, Center for Piedmont Natural History is an 4.5ha tract in the heart of South Carolina's Piedmont Physiographic Province (34.972422°, -81.223631°). A circa-1918 farmhouse serves as the Center's headquarters and banding facility. Historically the property was in agricultural use (row crops such as corn, cotton, and tobacco) and livestock grazing. Beginning in 1982 bird banding commenced and vegetational succession was allowed to proceed, from grassy old field to Oct. - Dec.

shrubland to Eastern Red Cedar stand to the mixed hardwood/pine forest of today. Numerous trails some doubling as net lanes meander and allow access to various microhabitats. A 0.4ha pond hemmed by shrubs and trees is an bird attractant, as are assorted feeders and water features. Seed feeders (primarily black sunflower seeds in tubes and on platforms) are maintained year-round, while hummingbird feeders with 4:1 sugar water mix are hung primarily March through October, a few maintained year-round in case of winter vagrant trochilid species. A cornucopia of natural foods is produced by trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants; abundant Trumpet Creeper vines (*Campsis radicans*) are a big spring and summer draw for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

Various passive and bird- and bander-triggered traps are deployed on a near-daily basis throughout the year—in winter for songbirds and during warm seasons for hummingbirds—while 8-14 mist nets are operated almost every day except during inclement weather. Because of this method of operation and because we do not differentiate trap captures from netted birds in our totals, we long ago determined keeping track of net-hours and trap-hours was a nearly impossible task.

The 2021 calendar year was the 40th for bird banding at Hilton Pond Center. In recent years we arbitrarily established 2,000 as a realistic round-number goal for how many birds we would like to band annually. We easily succeeded in 2021 with 3,110 bandings—our best total since 1992(!) and our 3rd-highest ever. The total was also well above our 40-year average of 1,873.

The year's biggest numbers came from five species: Pine Siskin (988, in an unprecedented irruption year that exceeded our previous record of 770); American Goldfinch (341, more than the 40-year average of 298); Purple Finch (320, also irrupting and surpassing our average of 234); Myrtle Warbler (279, far greater than the average of 65); and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (265, well above the average since 1984 of 182). Just these five species combined for 2,193 individuals, or 71% of the yearly total for 2021.

In all, 81 species crossed our banding table in

2021—our highest total since 1995(!) and more than half our 128 species banded locally; this was well above the long-term average of 65.7. By the end of 2021 we reached a grand total of 74,911 bandings in 40 years.

We banded one new species in 2021 at Hilton Pond: An out-of-range adult female Broad-tailed Hummingbird on 20 September that was the first state record for South Carolina. This was our 128th banded species and 173rd species recorded at the Center.

Noteworthy returns/recaptures

- 39 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (34 females, five males) banded in previous years returned to Hilton Pond in 2021. Oldest was a female banded as an adult in 2015 and recaptured every year since; she is now an after-7th-year bird in at least her eighth year and could be even older. Other RTHU returns included the following—ALL females: One after 6th-year, one 6th-year, one after-5th-year, three 5th-year, one after-4th-year, and one 4th-year. The oldest male was an after-2nd-year individual; the other four were 2nd-year. Male hummingbirds typically return to the Center at a far lower rate than females.
- A 7th-year Hermit Thrush that returned to the Center each winter since it was banded in October 2015 was recaptured once again in January 2021.
- Two American Goldfinches banded at Hilton Pond a week apart as 2nd-year birds in February 2017 were recaptured here in February 2021—three days apart. (Both were also re-trapped in 2018, the male in February and the female in March.) These two are now 6th-year.
- Even older was an American Goldfinch captured during a remarkable first ten days of March 2021. During that period we caught seven “old” goldfinches, the most elderly of which was banded here in February 2016; in his seventh year, he is our oldest goldfinch of record at Hilton Pond Center. Other notable goldfinches

included males aged as after-6th-year, 6th-year, after-5th-year, and 4th-year; and female goldfinch as after-3rd-year and after-4th-year.

- In early March we also recaptured a 7th-year White-throated Sparrow banded at Hilton Pond in February 2016 that is our oldest for its species.
- A female Purple Finch we banded at the Center in January 2015 was all brown and white with a bit of gold wash to her face, with pointed tail feathers of a young (2nd-year) bird that must have fledged in 2014. We re-trapped this Purple Finch in February 2017 when she was a “mere” four years old and with a gold wash to her feathers. When we caught her once more in February 2021 she still had a gold rump but had acquired partial raspberry plumage more typical of adult males—and now she’s in her 8th year!
- A male Carolina Chickadee recaptured in March 2021 and banded as a recent fledgling in June 2014 has hung around Hilton Pond Center and been recaptured many times; he's now in his 8th year—a new local longevity record for his species.
- Three “old” female Downy Woodpeckers—all locally produced year-round residents at Hilton Pond—were recaptured during late March 2021 after being banded in 2016 (now 6th-year), 2017 (5th-year), and 2018 (4th-year).
- A Song Sparrow banded here in January 2019 as a 2nd-year bird of unknown sex is now 5th-year at recapture in 2021. Hilton Pond Center is just south of the edge of Song Sparrow breeding range, so this bird is technically a migrant—although possibly over a short distance.
- In December 2021 we had two returns of species we seldom encounter again after banding: A male Ruby-crowned Kinglet first captured at the Center a year ago in November 2020 (now an after-2nd-year bird), and a 3rd-year Yellow-rumped Warbler from November 2019.

Foreign recaps (and encounters with the station's birds elsewhere)

Most years none of our banded birds from Hilton Pond Center are encountered elsewhere, so the following nine encounters made 2021 more productive than usual:

- An American Goldfinch banded at Hilton Pond Center as a second-year male in winter plumage on 24 Jan 2016 was found dead 204 km north at Stoneville NC on 20 Apr 2021—making it a 7th-year bird.
- A wandering immature Pine Siskin banded 26 October 2020 was found dead in its second year on 2 March 2021 at Dallas GA, about 344 km southwest of the Center.
- A 2nd-year Pine Siskin banded 26 Jan 2021 at Hilton Pond was found dead about three months later on 6 Mar in neighboring Mecklenburg County NC, 66 km to the northeast.
- Six additional Hilton Pond bandings were found dead within York County in 2021 and reported to the Bird Banding Lab by finder—some within just a few kilometers of the Center. These included: Three Pine Siskins (banded 2020 or 2021), Northern Cardinal (banded 2019), House Finch (banded 2018), and Carolina Chickadee (banded 2019).

It is even less common for us to encounter birds banded elsewhere, something that's happened just ten times in 40 years at Hilton Pond.

- A Pine Siskin we re-trapped at the Center in February 2021 had been banded and released as a hatch-year female three months prior in Nov 2020 at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory near Kingstown MD, 663 km miles to the northeast. (In an interesting coincidence, two American Goldfinches banded at Hilton Pond were recaptured and released at Foreman's Branch in previous years.)

A detailed summary of 2021 Hilton Pond banding efforts with photos, charts, and maps is at <http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek211222.html>; lists of new bandings and recaptures are included in our

regular Web-based installments of "This Week at Hilton Pond."

Hilton Pond Center would like to acknowledge our individual donors who provide on-going support, especially through "Operation RubyThroat: The Hummingbird Project." Susan B. Hilton helps immensely with day-to-day operations at the Center.

Cape Florida Banding Station

Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, Florida

Michelle Davis, capefloridabanding@tropicalaudubon.org

<http://capefloridabandingstation.wordpress.com/>

Banders: *Miriam Avello, Elizabeth Golden, Marc*

Kramer, Steffanie Munguia, Mario Porcelli

The Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS) has now become a flagship program of the Tropical Audubon Society. This, along with a generous grant from the Batchelor Foundation, has allowed us to initiate regular spring migration banding for the first time in our 20-year history. We have conducted spring banding sessions previously in 2007, 2009-2011 and 2014 in cooperation with researchers that were using our site to collect data. Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (BBCFSP) is on the southern tip of a largely developed barrier island just off the coast of Miami. Mist nets are set in a restored tropical hardwood hammock that is the result of a multi-million dollar effort to return native vegetation to the park following Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The spring banding period ran from 14 Mar until 16 May 2021. Twenty-three nets were used, in the same locations as the Fall 2020 season. 964 birds were captured overall of 33 species, with American Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat the top three species in abundance. Four species were banded for the first time in spring: Chuck-will's Widow, Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, and Mourning Warbler, a very unusual species for our location in spring.

Twenty-five individuals banded during other seasons were recaptured, including an Ovenbird

that was banded in 2012 and has returned to Cape Florida for the last 9 years. Of the returning birds, 10 were resident Northern Cardinals and the balance were made up of wintering Gray Catbirds, Black-and-white Warblers, Ovenbirds and Common Yellowthroats. No foreign recoveries were captured this spring.

This spring was generally very slow, as easterly winds caused by stubborn high pressure over the Atlantic kept migrants out of our area. We caught mostly wintering birds for the last two weeks of March, including the Ovenbird from 2012. Northbound migrants began to move through in early April, peaking in both numbers and diversity around 22Apr. The winds were out of the east, southeast or south for the majority of the season, with very few days of westerly or northerly winds and little rainfall. Consequently, migrants traveling up the Florida peninsula were likely either shunted to the west coast or flew over South Florida completely with the tailwind. This made for one of the slowest migration seasons in recent memory for on-the-ground observers in our area, and the lowest birds/100 net hours (13) seen in either spring or fall for the past two decades.

Fifty individuals of 14 species were recaptured within-season, including four resident Northern Cardinals. The average length of time between

first and last capture was 1.93 days for all actively migrating individuals combined, and the recaptured birds gained an average of 0.85% of their original body weight during this time. The length of stopover is shorter than we have observed in fall, probably due to the more temporally ‘compressed’ nature of spring migration in general. We were able to observe pre-departure fat gains in wintering Gray Catbirds and a Black-and-white Warbler with several individuals gaining as much as 22.7 % more body mass in anticipation of the northbound migration.

Our new partnership with Tropical Audubon Society is allowing the Cape Florida Banding Station to continue fall banding, initiate spring banding, and expand our outreach to the community by providing fundraising and logistical support. This project would also not be possible without the assistance of our dedicated volunteer extractors and banders-in training for the Spring 2021 season. Special thanks go to Robin Diaz, data entry master and all-around repository of knowledge and to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park for continuing to support the project.

CANADIAN REGION

No reports received.



Northern Cardinal
RJP

SPRING 2021		NORTHEAST REGION					MID-ATLANTIC REGION				
Summary Statistics	Braddock Bay	Wing Island	Crown Point	Manomet Observatory	Foreman's Branch	Meadowlands	Occoquan Bay	Powdermill	Rushton Woods		
# of Birds Banded	3,943	386	496	1,955	4,372	480	416	1,960	493		
# of Repeats	527	184	97	946	1,151	17	67	1,154 recaps	73		
# of Returns	70	113	33	113	1,172	23	36	-	49		
# of Foreign	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	1		
# of Species	87	40	54	77	107	39	51	104	49		
Effort (net-hours)	8,512.25	2,558.60	3,780	19,098	35,522	455	2,409	-	1,091		
Capture Rate	46.3	25	13.12	15.8	12.3	105	17.3	-	45.2		
# of Nets	32	20-33	18	50	93	10	17	63	15		
Dates of Operation	4/15-5/31	4/15-6/11	5/8-5/23	4/15-6/15	3/1-5/31	4/7-5/19	3/19 - 6/2	4/1-5/30	4/14-5/20		
# of Days Operated	45	26	15	42	84	13	31	47	16		
Top 10 Species Banded	1	BCCH (675)	GRCA (110)	BLJA (60)	GRCA (480)	WTSP (598)	WTSP (94)	CEDW (237)	GRCA (115)		
	2	RCKI (528)	BCCH (96)	GRCA (59)	WTSP (263)	COYE (596)	GRCA (62)	RCKI (213)	WTSP (54)		
	3	GRCA (325)	AMGO (40)	COYE (44)	COYE (146)	GRCA (485)	COYE (58)	NOCA (54)	COYE (49)		
	4	MYWA (254)	COYE (30)	WTSP (38)	AMRE (131)	RWBL (351)	RWBL (54)	COYE (42)	OVEN (41)		
	5	MAWA (189)	YEWA (17)	MYWA (36)	MAWA (108)	AMGO (253)	GRCA (31)	SWSP (16)	AMGO (21)		
	6	AMRE (163)	NOCA (15)	BCCH (34)	BAWW (101)	SWSP (204)	SWSP (30)	CARW (13)	BAWW (17)		
	7	YEWA (153)	SOSP (13)	AMRO (21)	OVEN (68)	BHCO (111)	YPWA (24)	SOSP (9)	NOCA (17)		
	8	BLJA (136)	WTSP (9)	BAOR (15)	SWSP (47)	SOSP (96)	SOSP (21)	AMGO (9)	NOWA (15)		
	9	WTSP (115)	PRAW (7)	AMGO (14)	HETH (35)	NOCA (96)	AMRO (13)	CACH (8)	VEER (15)		
	10	COYE (93)	SWSP/TUTI (4)	YEWA (12)	YEWA (34)	BLJA (81)	WTSP (10)	RCKI (8)	LEFL (40)	SWTH (12)	

SPRING 2021		SOUTHEAST REGION		
Summary Statistics	Sullivan's Island	Hilton Pond	Cape Florida	
# of Birds Banded	296	3,110	939	
# of Repeats	87	-	50	
# of Returns	15	-	25	
# of Foreign	0	10-Jan	0	
# of Species	33	81	33	
Effort (net-hours)	1,612.00	N/A	7,818.00	
Capture Rate	26	N/A	13	
# of Nets	8	8-14, + traps	23	
Dates of Operation	2/21-6/16	Year-round	3/14-5/16	
# of Days Operated	48	300+	64	
Top 10 Species Banded	1	MYWA (100)	PISI (988)	AMRE (214)
	2	GRCA (69)	AMGO (341)	BTBW (145)
	3	WTSP (19)	PUFI (320)	COYE (137)
	4	EATO (14)	MYWA (279)	GRCA (99)
	5	NOCA (14)	RTHU (265)	NOWA (76)
	6	CARW (8)	HOFI (112)	BAWW (67)
	7	PABU (8)	NOCA (104)	OVEN (62)
	8	BRTH (7)	AMRE (51)	PRAW (47)
	9	HETH (7)	CACH (39)	WEWA (36)
	10	COGR (5)	AMRO (37)	NOPA (15)