2023 ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW (SPRING MIGRATION)

Appledore Island Migration Station (AIMS)
Appledore Island, York County, Maine
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appledorebanding.org
Banders: Liz Burton, Kristen Covino, Rebecca Esch, Lindsey Herlihy, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Andy Thiede

This was the 33rd season of extensive spring banding at the Appledore Island Migration Station. We began our substantial spring banding in 1990, following about a week of banding each spring during the 1980s. Our net locations have remained consistent between years and seasons, and netting occurs in scrub/shrub and low treed habitats on the offshore island. Our start dates are dependent on the logistics of our host institution, and this year was similar to the last, although later than our traditional start date. Weather did have an impact on our banding this year, as we lost two full days due to rain and parts of six additional days. Our operations were also impacted by limitations to staff that were related to housing at some times during the season. This was the third year that our station operated in a large garage with extensive airflow. We removed plexiglass dividers between banders and recorders, allowing better flow of information and transitions between roles. We continue to follow Powdermill's lead by using an air compressor, hoses, nozzle, and foot pedal to allow fat scoring without blowing on birds.

Despite the impact of weather and a late start, the 2019 birds banded this year was respectable. The number of birds banded was well within our normal range (average: 2398 ± 498), although it was almost 20% lower than our average. The effort as represented by the number of net-hours was similar. We operated for 2725 net-hours, which was within the normal range (average 3268 ± 671),but was almost 20% lower than average. The fact that both of these statics were lower resulted in a capture rate of 74.1 birds/100 net-hours which was close to our average (75.0 ± 15.7).

We did not band any new species at the station this year. Our 77 species captured were slightly higher than average (71.0 ± 6.1), although still within the normal range. We captured several species in numbers higher than average including Red-bellied Woodpecker (2023: 5; average: 1.8±0.9), White-throated Sparrow (2023: 226; average: 117±81.1), Bay-breasted Warbler (2023: 28; average: 8.1±3.7), and Cape May Warbler (2023: 9; average: 3.0±2.4). We note that the 5 Red-bellied Woodpeckers is the highest we have ever banded in a single season, and the first encounter of this species occurred in 1996. Several other species, while not new, are always exciting like Merlin, Warbling Vireo (3), Orchard Oriole, Kentucky Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler. We captured several species in numbers lower than average including Traill's Flycatcher (2023: 4; average: 42.7±25.6), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2023: 7; average: 35.6±26.8). Red-eyed Vireo (2023: 56; average: 130±48.8), White-breasted Nuthatch (2023: 4; average: 1.3±0.5), Canada Warbler (2023: 25; average: 52.3±29.2), Common Yellowthroat (2023: 355; average: 504±155), and Magnolia Warbler (2023: 188; average: 283±88). Because several of the species captured in below average numbers are among our most common species (Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, and Red-eyed Vireo), their lower capture rates this spring reduced our overall numbers for the season. The combination of high numbers of White-throated Sparrows, and lower later migrants like the Red-eyed Vireo and the flycatchers suggest an overall delayed timing of migration at this site this year, possibly exacerbated by the loss of two full days of banding just two days before the station closed.

This spring felt like a prepandemic season, although some changes necessitated by Covid are being continued because they were beneficial to the station. Canisius College students continue to collaborate with the station, helping with the station operations while also collecting data on warbler flight calling behavior. One of the

Canisius students, Alex Sidare, was awarded the Alexander Wilson Prize for best student paper at the 2022 Wilson Ornithological Society meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Their paper, ''Are flight calls used for intraspecific or interspecific communication in two species of warblers?'', was coauthored with Sara Morris and used flight calls recorded at AIMS. We were also excited by the paper published in the Journal of Animal Ecology in 2023 entitled "Six decades of North American bird banding records reveal plasticity in migration phenology" authored by Kyle Horton, Sara Morris, Benjamin Van Doren, and Kristen Covino, three of whom are current or former AIMS banders.

We continued to offer educational opportunities for students, visitors, volunteers, and staff at the Shoals Marine Laboratory. AIMS benefits greatly from an amazing group of volunteers, several extremely generous donors, and the collaborations with the staff of the Shoals Marine Laboratory, all of whom are critical to running the station. In 2021, we said goodbye to one of the long-time AIMS banders, Mary Wright. We were happy to host a celebration of her life with her family and friends on Appledore during this season, reminding us of how she had touched our lives and improved our banding operations.

Crown Point Banding Association
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The Crown Point Banding Station opened on 6 May with daily banding operations conducted through 20 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 2023 banding session was the 48th 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 banding station operates under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and is very competently and enthusiastically supported by the Crown Point State Historic Site Manager and staff.

The weather for this session was a bit milder than normal for the region and season, though similar to the past two previous years. Day and evening temperatures remained slightly warmer compared to years prior to 2019, and seasonal averages. Overnight temperatures and wind/weather patterns were often conducive for bird migration during the session timeframe. There were some stormy overnight conditions on a few nights to the north, and the following day we had good activity in the net lanes. It has been noted for many years that these conditions push birds to ground. We theorize they can detect the stormy conditions which causes them to halt their migration.

The surrounding habitat is primarily hawthorn thicket, and upon our arrival the hawthorns had not yet leafed out. By the end of the first week they were pretty much in full foliage. This is important to the station as these trees provide habitat for a variety of insects when they are fully leafed out. This, in turn, provides good forage for migrating birds.

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. So normally the ground throughout the net lanes is saturated with standing water. This year the lake water level was up several inches compared to normal for early/mid-May and as a result, several areas of the net lanes remained soggy throughout the season. There were no impact on the birds, but troublesome for banders. The lake water temperature spanned a range of 6.39 C to 10.28 C. which is about normal for the month of May. Even on a hot day, wind coming off the lake is cooled and can be quite chilly.

Our totals for the two-week session were 782 birds banded of 58 species. The total number and species count are close to the previous ten-year station average, and significantly up from the previous

two years. A solid theory for this is the weather patterns over the banding session, as previously discussed, providing greater opportunities for birds to come to ground.

Historically, Yellow-rumped Warblers are our most numerous warbler species and often our most numerous species overall. This year they came in number three on the list behind Blue Jay and Black-capped Chickadee. This was the second year in a row that our most numerous species was Blue Jay with 226 banded, and this year we just about doubled the 2022 number. No real surprises this session with no new species and most of the usual suspects. Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers were up for the second year in a row with 11 of them banded, compared to the record of 17 in 2022, and still many more than the next highest total of seven banded in 2015. Overall, the top five species in number were Blue Jay (226), Black-capped Chickadee (97), Yellow-rumped Warbler (68), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (40), Gray Catbird (37).

The banding station participated in the Bird Genoscape Project (BGP) (https://www.birdgenoscape.org/about/learn-more-about-genoscapes\) for a fourth consecutive year. We know that many neotropical migratory bird species are declining in numbers 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 Angles and the Colorado State University to gather data at these locations. This year we submitted 219 samples of 26 species. Our total contribution to date is 1137 samples from 38 species. This year's submission was the smallest sample size submitted because we have either satisfied the sample number requirements for the most common species, or the BGP has completed its analysis on select species and no longer needs feathers.

Regarding returns and repeats, there is nothing exciting or noteworthy to report. We had 17 returns of 10 species that were initially banded in 2022 or 2021, and all were of the usual species that we typically recapture. No foreign recaptures were made. We did have 88 repeats which is a significant increase in that category compared to previous years.

One of the highlights of the banding sessions at Crown Point for us is the visitors from local schools. This year we had groups from 5 local schools, mostly elementary age with one junior high school group. It is always a great pleasure to introduce bird banding to kids and to see the enthusiasm and excitement from them after they get to release a bird.

The Crown Point Banding Association wishes to thank the staff at the Crown Point State Historic Site for their gracious hospitality and support. The new Site Manager, Sam Huntington, continued a very strong support effort for this project, and was as extremely helpful and supportive of the banding station as his predecessor. Additionally and equally, we would like to thank the site maintenance staff for their enthusiastic support and assistance with the myriad day-to-day needs including the initial site preparation. Their efforts allow us to easily focus on banding birds and public interaction/education, and makes the session a great experience for all.

Manomet Observatory

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This was the 54th official year of spring banding at Manomet. After clearing the net lanes, the banding team erected our 50 nets through the coastal scrub, bluffs and wetlands of our field station. From 15 April to 15 June, we sampled the birds migrating through the area to build upon our standardized dataset of bird migration in the northeast.

A dry spring led to few net closures and our numbers reflect an excellent amount of coverage over the entire spring. Unlike last year, there was no significant drought in the region and local berry

crops are now burgeoning just in time for fall migration. Smoke from wildfires in Western and Eastern Canada blew over our region for a couple weeks, bathing everything in golden light.
Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were exceptional this spring. The 163 birds banded this spring were more than double our previous record high count of 59 in 2010. This flies in the face of a crash in recent years for fall captures of the same species. Other short and medium-distance migrants (Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow) and resident species (Carolina Wren, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Cardinal) showed higher than average numbers and provide evidence of mild weather this past winter along the Atlantic coast. Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler and Canada Warbler numbers were below average. Wilson's warbler numbers were well above average and the highest total in over 30 years. An incredible 13 Acadian Flycatchers set the record for the species this spring.

Coastal Massachusetts received several major pushes of migrant birds, and the weather cooperated to allow us to capitalize on them. The busiest days were the 19, 18, 21 and 15 of May with 207, 172, 171 and 170 new birds banded, respectively. Interesting captures included extremely early and unexpected Indigo Bunting and Orange-crowned Warbler, both on 19 April. The nets also yielded a Worm-eating Warbler on 12 May and a Saltmarsh Sparrow on 31 May.

Notable returns to our station included a nine-year-old Tufted Titmouse and two male Song Sparrows aged eight and seven years-old. Two six-year-old Common Grackles showed signs of breeding and probably nest in the bogs on our property. Not included in our migration station numbers were 29 Tree Swallows and 5 Eastern Bluebirds banded from nesting boxes along our public nature trails.

This spring, Manomet hosted over 550 visiting grade-schoolers, university students and bird club members as part of formal education programs on-site. In June, we also held our second Ornithology Careers Institute, providing the opportunity for four young professionals from Latin America to network and gain more experience in ornithological techniques.

As always, we are indebted to the many Manomet donors and volunteers as well as the Devonshire and Dorr Foundations for helping ensure the continuation of our banding operation.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory (FBBO)
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Spring 2023 marked FBBO's 26th year of banding. The station has nets in a mix of habitats including fallow fields, second growth forests, mature woodlands and over a lake. This habitat has remained mostly the same over the years.
This spring we banded 4,184 new birds (well above average) of 99 species (slightly below average), but our capture rate (birds/100 net-hr) was one of the lowest in years. We captured eight species in record high numbers, three of these were two SD above our long-term average: Brown Creeper, Veery and Bicknell's Thrush. Four species were caught in record low numbers, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Orchard Oriole, Chipping Sparrow and House Wren, though none were more than two SD below our long-term average.
Banding highlights included our second ever Yellow-throated Warbler, a SY-M on 26 April and two Greater Yellowlegs, one on 27 April and one on 9 May.

Our 1,382 returns were comprised of 56 different species. Nearly 40 of these returns were birds over 6 years old and we captured ten birds that were older than nine years old. The oldest bird of

the season was Great-crested Flycatcher #2411-74131 which was 12 years and 11 months at the time of its last capture. Amazingly, the longevity record for this flycatcher is 14 years 11 months. Blue Grosbeak #2571-64824 was 11 years and 11 months when last captured. We have been lucky enough to net Pileated Woodpecker #924-51225 nearly every year. This bird was 9 years 11 months when recaptured in May.

We learned of a Brown-headed Cowbird banded in spring 2022 that was found dead in Holliston, MA (813 km north) and a White-throated Sparrow banded in fall 2022 that was found dead in New Hill, NC (476 km south). Another interesting recovery was of House Finch #2941-52923 which was photographed at a feeder in Camden-Wyoming, DE. This location is only 32 km from FBBO, but remarkably, this is the third bird from FBBO this homeowner has documented at his feeders. He also photographed a Pine Siskin and a Purple Finch in winter 2021.

Our collaboration with the American Bird Conservancy to test bird-friendly glass continues. Our outreach efforts included over 40 banding demonstrations to nearly 250 people.
We are most grateful to Dr. Henry F. Sears for his years of support as well as to 13 volunteers who

Meadowlands Bird Banding Station
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The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station historically operated under a different banding team from 2008-2015. The station was reopened in the fall of 2019 as a migratory and MAPS banding station, though only half the original footprint was utilized in the spring of 2023. This site consists of saltmarsh, mudflat, and mid-successional shrub/scrub habitats. A major portion of the station follows a narrow strip of land between a tidal marsh and an impoundment. The area has undergone some ecological restoration efforts in the past due to historic contamination with heavy metals but holds a wide diversity of breeding and migratory birds.

The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station operated between eight and 11 mist nets during the spring 2023 season on the saltmarsh site only. Several nets remained closed for most of the season due to two litters of fox kits. One litter was born in a den directly behind one of our most productive nets, which unfortunately remained closed for the season due to their presence. The foxes remained in the area for the duration of spring banding. An additional net was set up further away to partially make up for these closures, but banding numbers certainly suffered.

We operated on 15 banding days from 4 April – 15 May 2023. In total, 343 individuals of 42 species were banded for the spring season. The number of individuals banded was ~25% lower than average for the spring, undoubtedly due to the reduced net-hours due to the closed nets. The station's first American Tree Sparrow was banded, bringing the total species count at the station during spring migration to 51 species and total species to 97.

The top species banded this season was Common Yellowthroat (97), accounting for more than a quarter of individuals banded this season. Notably, nine Wilson's Warblers, an uncommon bird at the station, were banded this season, making the species the 11 most commonly encountered for the season. The station had never banded more than two Wilson's Warblers in a season before. Eighteen species were represented by a single banded individual this season, including several species of warblers, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, Chipping and Field Sparrows, and Indigo Bunting. This season's results are mostly in line with frequency averages across spring seasons for these species, though there were considerably fewer Yellow-rumped Warblers than average ($\bar{x}$ =120), and this is usually the most common species we band in both spring and fall. There were also double the number of Common Yellowthroats than average ($\bar{x}$ =56), though the species is always comfortably in our top three.

There were 43 recaptures this season of which 14 were returns and 29 were repeats. The returns represented ten species, the most common of which were Song Sparrows (n=3).

Thank you to New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for use of their land for the banding station and funding and to our volunteers and interns for the season, especially Michael Turso, Olivia Haas, and Matthew Wolfe. Thank you to Kean University and Bergen County Audubon Society for their financial support.

Potomac River NWR Complex, Occoquan Bay (OCCO)

Woodbridge, Prince William County, VA
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Prior to becoming a National Wildlife Refuge in 1998, these 237 ha were the U.S. Army's Harry Diamond Laboratory. The refuge is one of the last large undeveloped grassland areas in northern Virginia, located 32 km 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 April 2001, on 5-ha of narrow, wet and steep wooded tract on the southern shore, along Marumsco Creek. This spring is the 22 year of migration bird banding.

2023 was a nice steady spring season. OCCO was open 28 of the 31 days scheduled. Birds banded were slightly above normal but were three fewer per 100 net-hours. Species count was our average 56. No new species were added to the station list which remains at 103. The weather also brought more visitors, especially on Sundays.

The first day was cancelled due to cold, and the next day we had our second ever Fox Sparrow. A Carolina Chickadee from 2021 was the first recapture, as it was in 2022. The oldest return was a Northern Cardinal banded 1 April 2016.

Song Sparrows more than doubled their average this year, Swamp Sparrows tripled (and half of them were in the nets yet again), and American Goldfinches came in at five times their average number!

The first warbler of the season was a Palm Warbler (Yellow) on Palm Sunday. Almost two weeks later there was a Common Yellowthroat. A week after that it was a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Like pulling teeth. April had seven warblers. April ended with 5 cm of rain over two days; one day breaking a 100-year record.

May started at a nice pace. 10 May had most birds banded (51) and most species (19). Mid-May had two more outstanding days, but migration drew to a close. We said a quick hello/goodbye to flycatchers and warblers. The only hatching-year capture was a blue-eyed fuzzy brown Common Grackle on the last day. Thank goodness a Wild Turkey walking past Net Low did not walk into it.

No Cooper's Hawks were caught, but they made their presence known tearing holes through three nets.

Of the 12 Carolina Wrens banded and five returns from last year, they were in the nets 40 times! Ruby-crowned Kinglets set a record of 12. The Winter Wren from 2022 was the first return for a Winter Wren – it was too cute – there is no other word.

Thrushes were way off their average of 20: this year saw one Veery, four Gray-cheeked Thrushes and five Swainson's Thrushes. An American Robin was banded after having none in past five years.

Warblers … hard to explain. Good news: 16 species are 2 above average. Another Blue-winged Warbler in 2023, two Chestnut-sided Warblers, two Yellow-throated Warblers, six Prothonotary Warblers (a nice rebound), and a Worm-eating Warbler (one every 4+ years). Bad news – 92 birds themselves are only slightly above half their usual numbers. No Northern Parulas Warblers no Prairie Warblers (not since the field grew back), two Palms Warblers, one Blackpoll Warbler (granted they are hit or miss), no Ovenbirds, Common Yellowthroats at only 60% of their average. One Yellow-rump Warbler, their numbers vary from single digits to 100 to 158.

Northern Cardinals and Indigo Buntings are above normal. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle may be stopping their declines. We Need more Orioles. American Goldfinches came out of hiding.

White-throated Sparrows held steady as the #1 bird. About one out of every seven birds banded is a White throated Sparrow. Making up 52% of all banding, the top five species include White throated sparrow, Common Yellow-throat, Gray Catbird, Myrtle Warbler, and Northern Cardinal. The next five species got rearranged to Swamp sparrow, Song sparrow, Northen Waterthrush, Red Winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. These 10 species continue to represent 69% of the birds banded at OCCO.

Nets 3 and 4 are amazing – despite being the first to be closed for wind, they still caught the most birds. The 15 volunteers providing 1,130 hours in the field are amazing, too!

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Powdermill Avian Research Center (PARC) is a long-term bird monitoring station operated and supported by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Powdermill's banding station opened in June 1961, and has been running continuously year-round since then, and spring 2023 marks the 61 spring banding season. The spring season begins in early April and continues through 31 May.

Powdermill operates 63 nets during the spring migration season. The nets are grouped together into various net-lanes, and they are spread across a 10-ha banding area. The habitat is mostly early successional or transitional, and is quite shrubby. There are four ponds in the net-lane area. One usually dries during late summer and into fall, and two are relatively shallow, but the biggest remains full and is roughly 4.5 m deep. The banding area is surrounded by forest and sits at the foot of the Laurel Ridge, bordering Forbes State Forest.Cold, wet weather and winds from the north in early May likely affected migration patterns through our area diverting birds to the west of our station. Consequently, the capture rate was low during what has historically been the busiest part of spring at Powdermill.

We banded 1,898 and recaptured 1,024 birds (and released two unbanded) of 105 species and one hybrid ("Brewster's" Warbler) during our spring 2023 season, none of which were species new to Powdermill's dataset. Although the season total was lower than most recent years, we only had a noteworthy (± 2 standard deviations) low capture for one species: Kentucky Warbler (n = 0; ave. 6.6 ± 2.96), although we had three Kentucky Warblers recaptures from previous years. There were several species with noteworthy above average captures including Black-billed Cuckoo (n = 11; ave. 2.2 ± 2.76), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (n = 2; ave. 0.4 ± 0.77), Red-bellied Woodpecker (n = 1; ave. 0.08 ± 0.28), Olive-sided Flycatcher (n = 1; ave. 0.15 ± 0.38), Great-crested Flycatcher (n = 2; ave. 0.3 ± 0.48), Marsh Wren (n = 2; ave. 0.5 ± 1.86), Carolina Wren (n = 7; ave. 1.4 ± 1.26), American Robin (n = 24; ave. 8.9 ± 5.19), European Starling (n = 4; ave. 0.7 ± 0.95), House Finch (n = 7; ave. 1.2 ± 1.88), Rusty Blackbird (n = 5; ave. 1.2 ± 1.28), Red-winged Blackbird (n = 111; ave. 33 ± 35.45), Swainson's Warbler (n =1; ave. 0 ± 0), and Yellow-throated Warbler (n = 2; ave. 0.2 ± 0.38). New Red-bellied Woodpeckers are almost exclusively caught during the winter months at Powdermill when our traps and nets are baited with sunflower seeds, so it is unusual to catch new individuals during spring migration. Numbers of Carolina Wrens and Yellow-throated Warblers have been increasing in southwest Pennsylvania in recent years, a trend that is reflected in our banding data.

Season highlights include a record-breaking high total for Black-billed Cuckoos, edging out spring 2022's ten birds with eleven individuals banded. Although this season's two Yellow-throated Warblers did not break a record, the species is not caught annually at Powdermill and there have only

been four other years where two have been banded in a spring season and one year (1987) where three were banded. One of this year's Yellow-throated warblers was a male in breeding condition, which is somewhat unsurprising because a male spent much of the past several spring-summer months singing in the tops of sycamores near Powdermill's banding station.

Old, between-season recaptures are particularly interesting, and two Black-capped Chickadees stood out this spring. One that was initially banded on 17 April 2019 and aged as an after-second-year (DCB) is a "frequent flyer" with 86 captures at Powdermill, primarily during the winter months. This bird was recaptured on 19 May when it was at least six years old. Another Black-capped Chickadee that was recaptured on 24 May was initially banded on 17 April 2016 and aged as a second-year (A-FCF) making it eight years old this summer. Another old bird this spring was a Kentucky Warbler that was initially banded on 7 June 2018 as a second-year (A-FCF) male and recaptured on 19 May 2023.

Perhaps the most exciting highlight from spring 2023 was a Swainson's Warbler that was caught on 11 May and recaptured on 12 May. A species that historically breeds significantly south of western Pennsylvania, this is only the eighth individual banded at Powdermill. However, since 2020, birders have spotted several Swainson's Warblers in southwest Pennsylvania during spring and summer, which may be indicative of a northward expansion of the species' breeding range. Nick Liadis, of Bird Lab, and David Yeany II, of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, documented the first confirmed breeding Swainson's warbler in Pennsylvania when they banded a fledgling less than 40 km south of Powdermill in summer 2023.

This spring, we received reports of two foreign recoveries of birds banded at Powdermill:

- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded on 9 September 2022 was found injured on 12 May 2023 in Horseheads, Chemung County, N.Y.
- A HY (FCF) Gray Catbird banded on 25 August 2018 was found dead 6.4 km northwest of Powdermill on 28 June 2023. Interestingly, this bird was not encountered again at Powdermill after its initial banding and two subsequent recaptures in early fall 2018.

We hosted an in-person Ageing Birds workshop in May, and two virtual "Ageing Birds via Molt" workshops in early 2023. PARC facilitated several in-house research projects, and collaborated with and hosted outside researchers. Projects included tracking migrating songbird movement and stopover length in the area immediately surrounding PARC; our partnership with the American Bird Conservancy to test avian perception of glass, an ongoing, multi-year project; deploying transmitters for the Lake Erie Crossing project; and collecting feathers for the Genoscape Project. With the help of a seasonal Avian Outreach Technician, we were able to host 636 visitors at the banding station and provide outreach programs to the public and school groups.

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

Rushton Woods Banding Station (RWBS)
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Banders: Lisa Kiziuk, Blake Goll, Michelle Eshleman, Aaron Coolman, Doris McGovern

Two thousand twenty three was year 13 of spring migration songbird banding at Rushton Woods Banding Station (RWBS), which has been in operation since 2010. We operated fifteen nets, three days a week for a total of 16 days from 11 April through 18 May 2023.

RWBS is located on a .4-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.

This spring we banded 237 new birds of 35 species with a capture rate of 22.43 birds/100 net-hours, with an additional 61 returns and 36 repeats. The largest single-day catch was on 9 May, with 49 new birds of 14 species. Cape May Warbler was a new species for spring, bringing the cumulative total to 81 species caught during spring migration. Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat remained the top three captures and accounted for 56% of all birds banded in spring 2023. Carolina Wren made the top ten list for only the second time in station history.

Weather conditions were average for spring, having to close early only once for rain; however, we experienced the lowest capture rates in station history. Though none of our top species had record low capture numbers we did have some species notably absent this spring, including Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Making up for the low numbers of new birds this spring were the 61 returning birds of 15 species. We had two returning Baltimore Orioles - one female banded as an ASY in 2019, and one male, banded as an ASY in 2018! We had no new Carolina Chickadees, however, we had four returns. Other exciting returns included two Indigo Buntings, a Red-eyed Vireo, and six White-throated Sparrow; four of which were banded the previous spring, one banded fall 2021 and one banded fall 2019. Indicating that RWBS may be a regular over-wintering location for these White-throated Sparrows.

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 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.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Cape Florida Banding Station (CFBS)
Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade County, Florida
Michelle Davis**,** capefloridabanding@tropicalaudubon.org
http://capefloridabandingstation.wordpress.com/
Banders: Miriam Avello, Michelle Davis, Elizabeth Golden, Nasim Mahomar, Steffanie Munguía,

The partnership between Tropical Audubon Society and the Cape Florida Banding Station, along with a generous grant from the Batchelor Foundation, has allowed us to continue for a third year the regular spring migration banding that was initiated in 2021. 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. This park 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 March until 15 May 2023. We used 23 regular nets and two canopy nets set in the same locations as the Fall 2022 season. We captured 1,311 birds of 32 species, with Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Black-throated Blue Warbler the top three most abundant species. No new species were banded for the station or the season, although we banded our second ever Wood Thrush, a bird that may be more frequently wintering in South Florida in recent years.

Thirty-one individuals banded during other seasons were recaptured. Of the returning birds, 8 were resident Northern Cardinals and the balance were made up of wintering Gray Catbirds, Black-and-white Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, and two Swainson's Warblers. No foreign recoveries were captured this spring.
The spring of 2023 in South Florida was dominated by easterly or southerly winds for most of March

and April. The March captures were mostly wintering individuals, but weather fronts brought north-bound migrants to the area in mid-March and a distinct wave of Prairie Warblers passed through around 10 April, when they made up 40 of 59 birds banded that day. The banding station was closed for the next two days while an extreme rain event that flooded Ft Lauderdale on 12 April moved through. The east winds returned for the rest of April, but this warm humid weather pattern changed on 1 May with the arrival of a squall line. Winds shifted to the west for the next five days, resulting in large waves of migrants landing at Cape Florida. The two biggest days of the entire spring season were 3 May with 230 birds banded and 4 May with 148 banded. Nets had to be closed due to the high volume of captures, a rare event at Cape Florida. As a result, the same number of birds were banded during the last two weeks as during the first 6 weeks of the season, a pattern that we also saw during Spring 2022. The station broke records for Veery and Swainson's Warblers, with 10 and 20 respectively. This follows the record-breaking 62 Swainson's Warblers banded in the fall of 2022; two who were confirmed as overwintering. The late-season activity brought the overall capture rate to 20 birds/100 net-hours. Large numbers of Blackpoll Warblers continue to be noticeably absent from our location in recent springs. The average of 14 per season for 2021-2023 is much lower than the average of 60 per season seen during 2007 and 2009-2014.

Fifty-nine individuals of 15 species were recaptured within-season, not including four resident Northern Cardinals. The average length of time between first and last capture was 3.1 days for all actively migrating individuals combined, and the recaptured birds gained an average of 3.5% 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, but both stopover length and weight gains for all birds combined has steadily increased for each of the last three years. Spring 2022 saw 2.9 days with a 3.0 % gain, and Spring 2021 had a stopover length of 1.9 days and 0.9 % weight gain. We were able to observe pre-departure fat gains in eight individuals of six species, with one American redstart gaining 17.2 % more body mass in anticipation of the northbound migration.

Our partnership with Tropical Audubon Society is allowing the Cape Florida Banding Station to continue 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 2023 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.

Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station

Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, South Carolina
Sarah Harper, sullivansislandbirds@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/sullivansislandbirds

The Sullivan's Island Bird Banding Station (SIBBS) has operated under Sarah Harper (Diaz) since March 2020. From fall 2015-Fall 2016, it was managed under a different master bander. SIBBS operates mainly during the "Spring" (February through May) and the "Fall" (September through November). We ended the spring season a little early this year, becasue we had a handful of May dates canceled due to wind and rain. The banding station is close to the beach and includes early successional scrubland habitat as well as mid-successional maritime forest habitat. Most of the net lanes are located in the scrubland, where there is cooling shade from the wax myrtles and red cedars but the canopy level is low. Spring migration banding along the South Carolina coast is notoriously slow and grueling; however, our small data set collected this spring provides valuable information on species diversity and site fidelity on a barrier island. We banded 345 birds and recaptured a total of 84 birds. Thirty-three of our recaptures were returns. From these returns, site fidelity to a wintering grounds was observed in Yellow-rumped Warbler, Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Two Gray Catbirds banded in Fall 2016 and Fall 2015 were

recaptured in early-April 2023. A Gray Catbird banded at SIBBS in September 2022 was recovered as a window strike fatality in Oakwood, GA, in May 2023. In addition, A Yellow-rumped Warbler banded at SIBBS in December 2022 was recaptured by Aaron Given on Kiawah Island in February 2023. Site fidelity to the breeding grounds was recorded in both male and female Painted Buntings. One male Painted Bunting originally banded in April 2020 has been recaptured every subsequent Spring at least once. This year, he was recaptured in the same pocket of the same net with a female Painted Bunting. The female was originally banded as a hatch-year bird in the spring of 2022. Data collected at SIBBS shows that the approximately 150-acre conservation easement on Sullivan's Island, known as the Protected Land, is a vital coastal oasis for migratory songbirds as a breeding grounds, overwintering grounds, and stopover location. SIBBS is a volunteer-based organization that relies on regular trained volunteers for setting up and taking down equipment, extracting birds and scribing data. We would like to thank all of our volunteers and donors that make this research possible! SIBBS is a program of the Carolina Avian Research Program, a nonprofit that relies on small private donations to fund educational outreach programming and materials, bird banding equipment, and liability insurance. Running a bird banding station in 2023 is a complicated endeavor, to say the least, but it's worth the effort!

CANADIAN REGION

No reports received.

SPRING 2023	NORTHEAST REGION				SOUTHEAST REGION	
Summary Statistics	**Appledore**	**Crown Point**	**Manomet**	**Wing Island**	**Cape Florida**	**Sullivan's Island**
# of Birds Banded	2,019	782	1,453	390	1,280	345
# of Repeats	150	88	265	310	80	33
# of Returns	29	17	119	150	31	51
# of Foreign	0	0	1	0	0	0
# of Species	77	58	75	43	32	25
Effort (net-hours)	2,724.8	3,990.0	9,455.0	4,317	6,908	582
Capture Rate	80.7	22.2	19.4	19.7	20.1	73.7
# of Nets	9	19	50	21-35	25	8
Dates of Operation	5/10 - 6/6	5/6 - 5/20	4/15 - 6/15	4/13 - 6/14	3/14-5/15	2/7 - 5/4
# of Days Operated	26	15	38	30	60	17
Top 10 Species Banded						
1	COYE (355)	BLJA (226)	GRCA(337)	GRCA(146)	COYE (225)	MYWA (216)
2	WTSP (226)	BCCH (97)	MYWA (163)	BCCH (37)	AMRE (198)	GRCA (55)
3	MAWA (188)	MYWA (68)	WTSP (154)	YEWA (34)	BTBW (172)	NOCA (14)
4	AMRE (176)	RCKI (40)	BAWW (83)	COYE (31)	OVEN (129)	WEVI (8)
5	GRCA(122)	GRCA(37)	AMRE (78)	AMGO (29)	BAWW (110)	AMRO (6)
6	BAWW (102)	COYE (36)	MAWA (64)	SOSP (15)	NOWA (109)	COYE (6)
7	NOPA (67)	WTSP (28)	COYE (43)	NOCA (8)	GRCA (95)	WTSP (6)
8	BLPW (64)	AMRO (19)	OVEN (38)	RTHU (7)	PRAW (69)	CACH (4)
9	REVI (56)	COGR (16)	WIWA (31)	RWBL (7)	WEWA (55)	CARW (4)
10	YEWA (52)	YEWA (13)	YEWA (30)	WTSP (7)	NOPA (30)	MODO (4)

SPRING 2023	MID ATLANTIC REGION			
Summary Statistics	**Foreman's Branch**	**Meadowlands**	**Occoquan**	**Powdermill**	**Rushton Woods**
# of Birds Banded	4,184	343	559	1,900	237
# of Repeats	1,443	29	87	-	36
# of Returns	1,382	14	65	-	61
# of Foreign	0	0	0	0	0
# of Species	99	42	56	105 + 1 hybrid	35
Effort (net-hours)	38,854.0	525	2,625.0	12,305	1,043.0
Capture Rate	18	73.5	27.1	23.76	32
# of Nets	104	11	17	63	15
Dates of Operation	3/1-5/31	4/4-5/15	3/17-5/28	4/4-5/31	4/11-5/18
# of Days Operated	87	15	28	44	16
Top 10 Species Banded					
1	RWBL (673)	COYE (97)	WTSP (87)	CEDW (302)	GRCA(75)
2	GRCA (437)	RWBL (46)	SWSP (57)	RCKI (240)	WTSP(35)
3	WTSP (398)	SWSP (30)	GRCA (56)	GRCA (112)	COYE(22)
4	COYE (378)	SOSP (19)	AMGO (48)	RWBL (111)	AMRO(10)
5	AMGO (256)	WTSP (18)	COYE (43)	MAWA (92)	AMGO(7)
6	SOSP (158)	GRCA (16)	SOSP (43)	AMGO (70)	NOCA(7)
7	SWSP (156)	AMRO (12)	NOCA (43)	RTHU (59)	BAWW(6)
8	NOCA (111)	YEWA (12)	NOWA (17)	SWSP (54)	HOWR(6)
9	COGR (110)	MYWA (11)	CARW (12)	REVI (47)	OVEN(6)
10	BHCO (108)	SAVS (10)	RCKI (12)	WTSP (44)	CARW(5)