



THE MARSH WREN

BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY





BBBO UPDATES

BBBO RESEARCH PUBLISHED

An article based on research conducted at the Observatory by Mark Deutschlander and Rachel Muheim was recently published in the *Journal of Avian Biology*. The article is entitled “Fuel reserves affect migratory orientation of thrushes and sparrows both before and after crossing an ecological barrier near their breeding grounds”.

Mark and Rachel examined the effect of fat stores on migratory orientation of both long- and short-distance migrants at Braddock Bay. They studied the orientation behavior of Swainson’s and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows during spring and autumn. During both seasons, fat birds oriented in a seasonally appropriate direction. Lean thrushes showed a tendency for reverse orientation upon encountering Lake Ontario in the spring (moving back south) and movement along the shoreline (instead of south) after crossing the lake in the autumn. Lean sparrows were not consistently oriented in any direction during either season. The complete article will be available at the banding station this spring.

BBBO visitors likely remember Rachel, who spent several seasons at Braddock Bay as a post-doctoral researcher based at Virginia Tech University. Rachel is now a scientist at Lund University in Sweden, where many top European scientists who study migration are located.

Congratulations on your fine research, Mark and Rachel!

KIOSK DEDICATION

On September 20, 2008, family and friends of the late Margaret and Clarence Klingensmith assembled at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory to dedicate an educational kiosk in their memory. The kiosk features four panels with information on shrubs and flowers to plant that provide food, nest sites and

shelter for birds. The kiosk also includes information on invasive plant species to avoid.

The kiosk was built as an Eagle Scout project by Jared Bennett of Troop #278 of St. Mark’s Church in Greece, NY. Students of Dr. Beverly Brown at Nazareth College researched appropriate native shrubs and trees to recommend on the panels.

BBBO’s Garden Committee (Kelly Dockery, Virginia Duffy, Chris Gates, Donna Hilborn, and Carol Southby) planted examples of recommended plants in the Memorial Garden and along the Rob van der Stricht trail. Kelly Dockery designed the kiosk’s informational panels. Steve Maley and Ryan Kayhart helped with the installation of the panels.

Funding for the Memorial Kiosk came from the Alfred Friends Meeting, Allegany County Bird Club, Elizabeth Brooks, Jim and Pauletta Copenheaver, Ann and Mark Lewis, Elizabeth Parry, Robert and Ann Pipal and Wesley Bentz of the Alfred University Chemistry Department, Sean Phelan, Lois Smith, and the Faculty and Staff of the Division of Expanded Media and Painting and by graduate students in the Integrated Arts MFA program of Art & Design at Alfred University.

The kiosk is located near the entrance of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and visitors are invited to walk the trail and see the kiosk this spring, especially between April 27 and May 29 when the Observatory is open and bird banding operations are underway.

STUDENTS ANALYZE DATA

Professor and BBBO researcher Mark Deutschlander taught a senior seminar that focused on bird migration during the spring 2009 semester at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. As part of the course, the students were required to conduct their own research projects using data from BBBO. The students presented the results of their projects at an international scientific conference, the joint

meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association for Field Ornithologist in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from April 9-11, 2009.

The students presented four posters that examined hypotheses about the function of fat in migratory birds. Fat stores fuel migration, and some species build fat stores that are up to 50% of their total body weight. Many birds arrive at their breeding grounds with extra fat reserves. Excess fat may function as insurance against unpredictable environmental conditions on the breeding grounds, or it may help migrants cope with the energetic challenges they face during the nesting season. The students examined these hypotheses and tested some of the critical predictions using data collected at BBBO on thrushes, sparrows, and warblers. The student's posters will be on display at the banding station this spring.

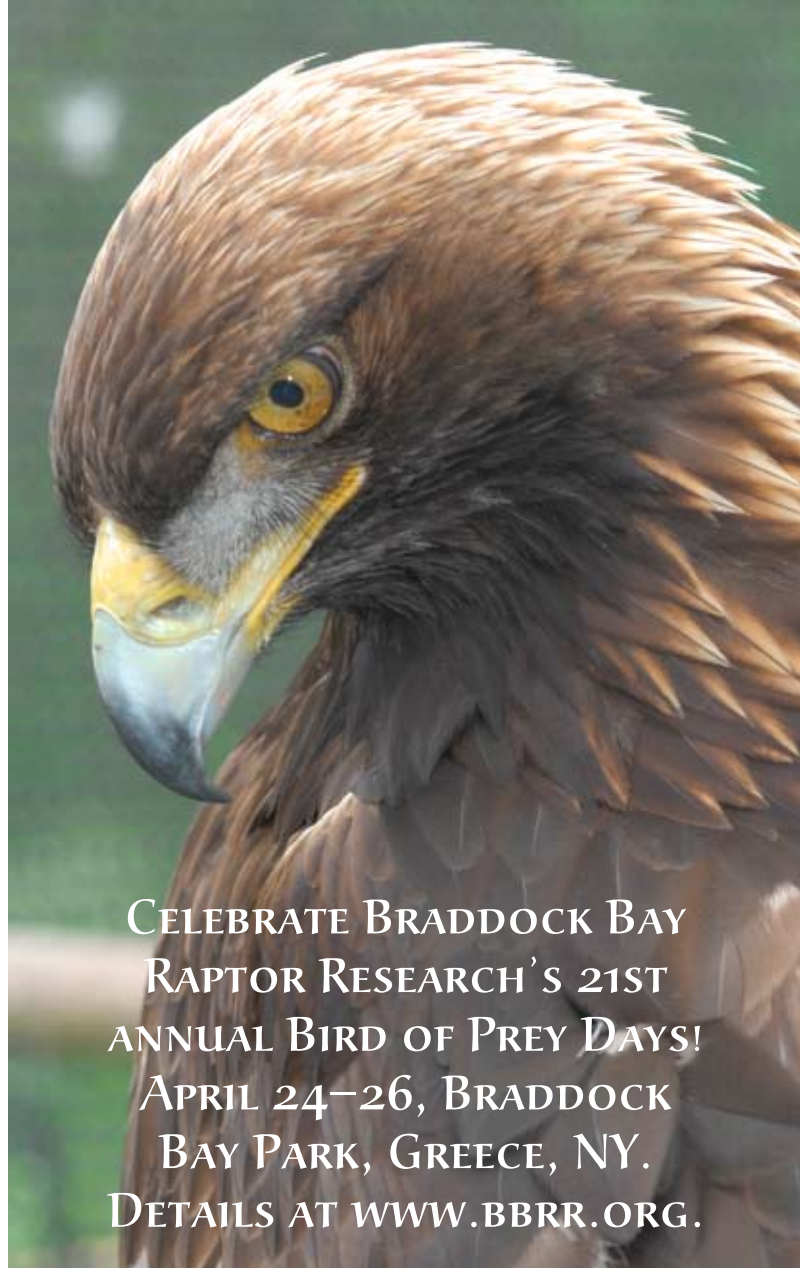
SPRING EVENTS

April 24-26	Bird of Prey Week tours of the BBBO banding station
May 2-3	Tours: Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Spring Field Ornithology class
May 6	BOCES class tour
May 11-22	Bander Training Course
May 17	Genesee Land Trust Open House
May 27	End of season picnic and Memorial Garden Ceremony

Cover photo of Northern Saw-whet Owl by Ryan Kayhart.

Above left: New kiosk is dedicated at BBBO, photo by Robert Pipal.

Golden Eagle photo by Paul Schnell.



CELEBRATE BRADDOCK BAY
RAPTOR RESEARCH'S 21ST
ANNUAL BIRD OF PREY DAYS!
APRIL 24-26, BRADDOCK
BAY PARK, GREECE, NY.
DETAILS AT WWW.BBRR.ORG.

WHICH SPECIES IS IT?
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS
CONFUSING FALL WARBLER
(RIGHT)? THE ANSWER WILL
APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE
OF *THE MARSH WREN*.



THE UNIQUE YELLOW-ORANGE PATTERN ON THE FACE IS A KEY TO IDENTIFYING THIS CAPE MAY WARBLER (LEFT) FROM THE LAST ISSUE OF *THE MARSH WREN*.

Photos by Ryan Kayhart

THE SEASON AT BRADDOCK BAY

AUTUMN BANDING 2008

The 23rd consecutive year of autumn banding at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station began on 11 July and ended on 12 November 2008. We banded **5,144 birds of 89 species** in 73 days of banding (12,861 net hours). The season's overall capture rate was 40 birds/100 net hours (just slightly lower than the 42.2 birds/100 net hours recorded in 2007). The busiest day was 4 November when 307 birds of eight species were banded. Of the 307 birds banded that day, 110 (36%) were Black-capped Chickadees. Other 200+ bird days were 3 October (268) and 5 October (207). The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 September (the same day as in 2007) when 33 species were banded.

We banded record-high numbers of 14 species including Northern Saw-whet Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, House Wren, Gray Catbird, European Starling, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch. On the negative side, Great

Crested Flycatcher was missing after being recorded in 10 of the past 15 years; White-breasted Nuthatch was missing after being banded in 10 of the past 15 years; and Rusty Blackbird was missing after being banded in 14 of the past 15 years.

EDUCATION

Seven students successfully completed our Bander Training Course offered through the Rochester Institute of Technology. They are Marcia Birken, Andrew Garland, Gabriela Guzman, Christina Marie Hoh, Caitlin Kempfski, Jennifer Milillo and Erin Strobl.

BBBO once again hosted a North American Banding Council Evaluation Session last autumn. Mark Deutschlander of Canandaigua, New York, Richard Joos of Toronto, Ontario, Gretchen Putonen of South Dennis, Massachusetts and Karen Velas of Emeryville, California passed the Bander-level evaluation. Deutschlander and Joos also passed at Trainer-level. Participating trainers were Betsy

AN INTERESTING WARBLER

In bird banding it is imperative to correctly identify every bird we band, or we don't band it. On Tuesday, July 29, 2008 Chita and Bob McKinney caught an interesting warbler at our Manitou Beach banding station. It was definitely a Blue-winged/Golden-winged type warbler. These two species frequently interbreed and produce hybrids that are known as Brewster's Warbler or the much less common Lawrence's Warbler. Lawrence's Warblers normally show at least something of the black facial mask and throat patch of the Golden-winged Warbler.

They have yellow underparts, compared to the white underparts of Golden-winged Warblers. The plumage of the Brewster's Warbler can be quite variable with their undersides ranging from all white to mostly yellow, the yellow normally only being on the chest of the bird or slightly further back. Blue-winged Warblers normally have all yellow undersides, with the yellow going all the way back to the white undertail coverts. Blue-winged Warblers that are the offspring of genetically pure parents normally have two white wing bars. Some popular field guides show Blue-winged Warblers with white wing bars or white wing bars tinged with yellow.

The bird we captured appeared to be a Blue-winged Warbler, but it had bright yellow wing bars, an unexpected characteristic that had us baffled. We sent the photos to Dr. Rachel Vallender, an avian geneticist at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology who studies Blue-winged Warbler—Golden-winged Warbler hybrids. Rachel believes that the bird is an introgressed Blue-winged Warbler, that is, a backcross hybrid that is in very large part a Blue-winged Warbler. So the lesson we learned from this is that Blue-winged Warblers with some Golden-winged Warbler ancestry can have yellow wing bars. We thank Bob's daughter, Laurie Clement, for taking the picture (left) that allowed us to learn more about this bird.



TOP 10 SPECIES BANDED DURING AUTUMN 2008

WITH NUMBERS CAPTURED DURING PREVIOUS 10 SPRING SEASONS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
White-throated Sparrow	526	898	1183	1379	867	1569	1146	1516	674	1037	554
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	193	757	492	538	330	221	702	722	619	510	420
Magnolia Warbler	127	276	265	341	214	220	188	170	270	309	350
Blackpoll Warbler	38	268	96	79	53	40	47	78	65	162	343
Golden-crowned Kinglet	294	556	814	358	312	193	473	502	458	295	341
Black-capped Chickadee	290	1082	48	1668	48	68	189	237	96	396	320
American Goldfinch	74	48	33	31	106	30	64	288	245	82	307
Gray Catbird	86	135	83	128	160	163	102	175	138	236	266
Hermit Thrush	96	261	216	178	238	414	307	450	171	200	186
Yellow Warbler	257	56	23	33	25	58	49	123	31	142	180

Brooks, Mary Doscher, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Erin Karnatz, Sara Morris and Hannah Suthers.

We enjoyed a visit from Dr. Kristi Hannam's Animal Behavior Lab students at SUNY Geneseo, and Dr. Sara Morris' Field Biology class from Canisius College. We hosted members of the Colony Garden Club for a tour of the banding station followed by a presentation on migration by Dr. Mark Deutschlander.

EVENTS

On 23 August, BBBO hosted an open house for neighbors to present the initial plans for the renovation of the 'Boat House' banding lab. We welcomed guests for a tour of the banding station as part of Braddock Bay Raptor Research's Red-tailed Hawk Day. BBBO welcomed delegates and members of the New York State Ornithological Association who were attending their annual meeting in Rochester on 20-21 September.

RESEARCH

Dr. Mark Deutschlander of Hobart & William Smith Colleges conducted research on nocturnal migration orientation cues of White-throated Sparrows.

Dr. Susan Smith of Villanova University took blood samples from four species of birds for her research on energetic condition and ecological factors that limit passerines during long-distance migrations.

Cloacal swabs and feather samples were taken from 100 birds this fall as part of the Avian Influenza monitoring program being coordinated by the Landbird Migration

Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMMNA). The samples are being processed at U.C.L.A.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to Tom Muller for mowing paths and to Jim Gillette for mowing the field; and to Chris Gates, Steve Maley, and Doug Smith for their assistance with building and grounds management. Appreciation to the following individuals who helped scribe, tended net lanes, or assisted with other aspects of our educational or banding operation: Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathleen Holt, Joanna Klima, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, Megan Phillips, Debbie Reed, Lynn Runnells, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Tom Verhulst, Glenn Wagner, and Kelly Wicks. A special thanks to Bill Kaiser and The Genesee Land Trust for permission to band on their land.

Our fall Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart; Emily Runnells and Karen Velas were our Field Assistants. Banding was conducted by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Peter Doherty, Jon Dombrowski, David Holmes, Richard Joos, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Keefer, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, David Mathiason, Robert McKinney, Sara Morris, Gretchen Putonen, David Semple, Susan Smith, Hannah Suthers, Karen Velas, and John Waud. Banding assistants were Linda Boutwell, J. Alan Clark, Virginia Duffy, Sue Evans, Brad Mudrzyński, Emily Runnells, Peggy Keller, Tom Klotzbach, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Paul Taillie, Leanna Twohig, and Barb Wagner.

- Compiled by Betsy Brooks and Ryan Kayhart ♦



Birds banded during autumn 2008 included the Brown Thrasher and Wilson's Warbler shown above. Photos by Ryan Kayhart.

*"Traill's" Flycatcher includes both Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher. These species are difficult to distinguish from one another except by their calls.

Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Nashville Warbler	37
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	Northern Parula	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	Yellow Warbler	180
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	Magnolia Warbler	350
Downy Woodpecker	10	Cape May Warbler	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	93
Northern Flicker	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler	72
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	18
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	21	Blackburnian Warbler	7
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Western Palm Warbler	5
"Traill's" Flycatcher*	24	Bay-breasted Warbler	11
Least Flycatcher	39	Blackpoll Warbler	343
Eastern Phoebe	7	Black-and-white Warbler	15
White-eyed Vireo	1	American Redstart	88
Blue-headed Vireo	25	Ovenbird	11
Warbling Vireo	10	Northern Waterthrush	14
Philadelphia Vireo	9	Connecticut Warbler	3
Red-eyed Vireo	87	Mourning Warbler	4
Blue Jay	7	Common Yellowthroat	155
Barn Swallow	1	Hooded Warbler	13
Black-capped Chickadee	320	Wilson's Warbler	72
Tufted Titmouse	9	Canada Warbler	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Scarlet Tanager	1
Brown Creeper	62	Eastern Towhee	1
Carolina Wren	1	American Tree Sparrow	10
House Wren	28	Chipping Sparrow	4
Winter Wren	78	Field Sparrow	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	341	Fox Sparrow	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	420	Song Sparrow	111
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	14
Veery	10	Swamp Sparrow	29
Gray-cheeked Thrush	88	White-throated Sparrow	554
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush	25	White-crowned Sparrow	14
Swainson's Thrush	147	Dark-eyed Junco	77
Hermit Thrush	186	Northern Cardinal	23
Wood Thrush	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
American Robin	21	Indigo Bunting	2
Gray Catbird	266	Baltimore Oriole	5
Brown Thrasher	1	Purple Finch	1
European Starling	22	House Finch	2
Cedar Waxwing	59	Pine Siskin	69
Blue-winged Warbler	18	American Goldfinch	307
Tennessee Warbler	9	House Sparrow	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2		

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ANN ADAMS

Ann has always been interested in birds—especially the tiny ones like hummingbirds and kinglets. When Ann first became involved with BBBO, she lived in Pittsford and worked for Xerox in marketing, product planning, program management and strategy development. She started gardening in Pittsford and when she saw her first hummer, she was ‘hooked’ and built a hummingbird garden. She started reading about hummingbirds and began to focus on learning how to band hummingbirds.

Ann wrote to Bob Sargent (the best-known hummingbird bander in the United States) who told her what it would take to become a bander. One of the things he suggested was to find a banding station where she could volunteer and learn about birds and banding—that’s how Ann came to BBBO. She started as a scribe, then learned to remove birds from the nets, and eventually banded her first bird, a tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet (the nearest size she could get to a hummingbird)!

Ann’s first opportunity to band hummingbirds came in a weekend of intense training with Bob Sargent in Alabama. Bob promised Ann that she would have plenty of practice but she was nearly overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of hummingbirds begging to receive silver bracelets. Ann banded close to 150 birds in a day and a half of work!

Hummingbird banders have to make all their own bands from a 3”x5” aluminum sheet with strips of numbers printed on them. Bob taught Ann to make the bands, wielding a guillotine paper-cutter, trimming the strips to the right size, and polishing the edges with a bit of brown paper bag until they were absolutely smooth.

Not long after learning to band hummingbirds, Ann moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to work for Sandia National Laboratory. She works in business development where she connects technology developers with industry partners who can take their technologies out of the lab and use them in a product

Prior to 2006, an estimated 1,000 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had been captured during spring migration at BBBO and all had to be released without bands because no one had the necessary permits to band them. Ann Adams changed all that and 137 hummingbirds have been banded at BBBO in the past three years.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird photo by Charles Eiseman.



that benefits the end user (usually a soldier on the battlefield). Ann enjoys the challenge of having to speak two languages (engineering and marketing).

Ann has continued banding in New Mexico, where she has worked with Joan Day-Martin. Joan lives in the Gila Mountains in the southern part of the state where there can be as many as 2,000 hummingbirds buzzing (roaring!) around her feeders during fall migration. Ann has banded Broad-tailed, Rufous, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds, and she even banded a hybrid hummingbird that appeared to have Black-chinned and Costa’s Hummingbird ancestry.

With Ann moving to New Mexico, we thought we’d lost her as our first hummingbird bander on staff. But for 10 days in May every spring, Ann flies to Rochester and bands our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds for us! Ann encouraged other BBBO banders to visit Bob Sargent for training and now Erin Karnatz, Linda Boutwell, and Dave Junkin have learned the techniques. In 2010, Mark Deutschlander, Ryan Kayhart, and Karen Velas are signed up to get their “Sargent” training.

Not only does Ann fly to Rochester for 10 days each spring to lead our hummingbird banding efforts, she also applies for and receives an annual Sandia employee grant which she donates to BBBO! Thank you, Ann, for pioneering BBBO’s hummingbird banding program and for your dedication to the organization!

- Betsy Brooks ♦



Has your membership expired?

If so, this may be your last issue of *The Marsh Wren*. Please check your membership status by finding the expiration date printed on the mailing label below. Memberships expire at the end of the year printed. To join BBBO, please mail a check to:

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PO Box 12876
Rochester, NY 14612

Membership categories are: Student \$10, Individual \$20, Family \$25, Contributing \$100, Corporate \$250. Thank you for your support!

BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

A non-profit (501(c)(3)) organization dedicated to ornithological research, education, and conservation. The organization is operated entirely by volunteers, and financially supported by our members.

BBBO Officers and Advisers:

President Mark Deutschlander; *Vice-President* David Bonter; *Treasurer* Robert McKinney; *Secretary* Linda Boutwell; *Directors* Matthew Belanger, Elizabeth Brooks, Cindy Marino, Richard Marx, David Mathiason, and John Waud; *Membership Advisor* Chita McKinney. For a complete list of committees and committee membership, visit our web site: <www.bbbo.org/about/staff>

Front page photo of Marsh Wren © Robert Royse. Northern Flicker (below) by Ryan Kayhart. Newsletter editing and design by David Bonter.

Join us and the birds at Braddock Bay this spring! The banding season runs from late April through May.



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FIND US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BBBO.ORG