



THE MARSH WREN

BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

BOBOLINK HIGHLIGHTS SPRING BANDING

After 20 years, a Bobolink was finally banded at Braddock Bay!



Bobolink photos by Ryan Kayhart.

ROCHESTER BIRDING ASSOCIATION DONATION FUNDS PROTECT HABITAT, BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Rochester Birding Association (RBA) made a major contribution to the recent purchase of five acres of land adjoining Braddock Bay and Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO). This land acquisition was a joint project involving the Genesee Land Trust (GLT) and BBBO, and was made possible by the RBA donation in addition to funds from Allyn's Creek Garden Club, Seneca Meadows, Inc., Genesee Ornithological Society, Burrough's Audubon Nature Club, and numerous supporters of BBBO and GLT.

In late 2004, the RBA board and general membership voted overwhelmingly in favor of approving BBBO's application for funds to acquire the property. Their generous contribution of \$15,000 will be used to improve the habitat for birds by removing non-native species of plants, planting native species, and making the area more accessible to birders by adding trails and a parking area for several vehicles. RBA members are actively involved in the land management planning process. The property will be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of birds and bird-watchers.

This year the RBA is celebrating their 30th anniversary. For these past 30 years, the RBA has been a major force in helping to introduce many Rochesterians to the fascinating world of birds and birdwatching. Every year the RBA holds dozens of field trips to all the area birding hotspots. These trips take place in all seasons and are led by many of Rochester's best birders. RBA Beginning Birder Field trips are especially popular and



Scarlet Tanager banded at Braddock Bay. Photo by Ryan Kayhart.

all field trips are free and open to the public. There are also monthly RBA meetings with informative programs on a wide variety of bird related topics. If you are not a member of RBA and would like to know more about the organization, visit their website at: www.rochesterbirding.com.

The RBA has made many contributions to local bird conservation and habitat preservation efforts and has helped many Rochesterians learn more about the birds of our area. In addition, many members of RBA are also members of BBBO, and approximately a dozen RBA members are also active volunteers at the BBBO banding station. A big "thank you" goes out to RBA members for their support in helping to preserve this important habitat for birds, and congratulations to RBA on celebrating their 30th anniversary!

- Cindy Marino ♦

BBBO IN THE NEWS...

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and its supporters have been featured in the Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle* numerous times in the past several months:

- * December 1, 2004: Congratulations to Robert Walsh of Greece for receiving his Eagle Scout award after building a desk and two bookshelves for the Observatory building, as well as laying stone on the net lanes.
- * December 29, 2004: Congratulations to Ian Fields of Irondequoit for receiving his Eagle Scout award after building two picnic tables with four benches, two tables for banding birds, and an entrance sign for the Observatory.
- * April 4, 2005: Article on John and Doris Waud's work in southern Mexico, where they were conducting bird research and working as biological conservation volunteers. John is

a bander at BBBO and a professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

- * May 3, 2005: Front page article featuring the recent land acquisition and highlighting the work of BBBO.
- * May 9, 2005: Essay in the editorial section by Bob Mauceli of the Rochester Birding Association, outlining the importance of preserving the Braddock Bay watershed.
- * June 22, 2005: Congratulations to Andrew LaVigne of Greece for receiving his Eagle Scout award after cleaning and repainting the interior of the banding station.
- * BBBO was also selected by New York Audubon to host a media event on May 16, 2005 announcing publication of the new book, *Important Bird Areas of New York* (Braddock Bay is featured in the book).

- Linda Boutwell ♦



2

RECENTLY PUBLISHED DATA FROM BRADDOCK BAY:

Smith, Susan and Christopher Norment. 2005. Nocturnal activity and energetic condition of landbird migrants at Braddock Bay, Lake Ontario. *Journal of Field Ornithology*: Vol. 36, pgs. 303-310.

“PARTNERS ACROSS BORDERS”

CELEBRATING U.S. AND CANADIAN BANDING RESEARCH

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory hosted the 2005 annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association held April 15-17 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Rochester, NY. More than 100 banders and ornithologists were in attendance.

Saw-whet Owl banding was the focus of the Friday evening program presented by well-known banders David Brewer and Bruce Fortman. The workshop featured a “hands-on” session held at BBBO’s Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station with owl banders sharing techniques and discussing criteria for ageing and sexing owls. Two Saw-whet Owls were banded that evening, one of which was a “foreign” recapture—a bird previously banded in Pennsylvania.

Saturday workshops focused on the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program and techniques for ageing and sexing passerines.

Seven scientific papers were presented at the Saturday paper session. Local presenters included Tricia Jones of Nazareth College (*Analysis of frugivory of migrating birds at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory*); Mark Deutschlander of BBBO and Hobart and William Smith Colleges (*Behavioral studies reveal information about navigation mechanisms in migratory birds*); and Brendan McCabe of SUNY Brockport (*Lipid stores in plumage morphs and sexes of White-throated Sparrows during migration*).

A number of the 15 posters presented had ties to BBBO. Posters with local origins were presented by Susan B. Smith, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI and Christopher

J. Norment of SUNY Brockport (*Nocturnal activity of migratory songbirds during spring stopover at Braddock Bay, Lake Ontario*); Kristina Hannam and Kana Teratani of SUNY Geneseo (*House Wren begging calls: are individuals or broods distinct?*); and two posters by David Bonter and Elizabeth W. Brooks of BBBO (*Are elevated mist nets required to adequately sample the avian community at Braddock Bay?*, and *Birds on the move: Encounters of birds banded at Braddock Bay*).

At the EBBA annual business meeting, BBBO’s Betsy Brooks was elected President for the coming year.

The banquet speaker was David Bonter, of Cornell’s Laboratory of Ornithology and BBBO, whose presentation was “Bird Studies Across Borders: Thinking Big in Ornithology”.

Field trips included tours of Braddock Bay Raptor Research’s “owl woods,” raptor banding station, and hawk count platform. Tours also visited BBBO’s Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station and local birding hotspots in the Rochester area.

Thanks to all the local people who volunteered to make the meeting a success, including Linda Boutwell, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Jeff Dodge, Virginia Duffy, Cricket Fegan, Kevin Griffith, Marilyn Guenther, Donna Hilborn, Erin Karnatz, Tom Lathrop, Cindy Marino, Chita and Bob McKinney, Sara Morris, Jeanne Skelly, Lois Smith, and Ruth Stork.

- Betsy Brooks ♦



One poster displayed at the Eastern Bird Banding Association meeting featured maps of birds banded at BBBO and recaptured elsewhere across North America. The poster is now on display at the banding station.

CERTIFICATION SESSION TO BE HOSTED BY BBBO

The Eastern Bird Banding Association has scheduled its next North American Banding Council certification session for October 7-9, 2005 at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The session will allow candidates who are seeking or already possessing a U.S. or Canadian bird banding permit to achieve certification at the “Bander” level. Certification at the “Trainer” level, for individuals who have already achieved “Bander” certification, will also be offered.



THE SEASON AT BRADDOCK BAY

SPRING BANDING 2005

The 20th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was conducted for 51 days from April 15 to June 11, 2005. A total of 3,088 birds of 105 species were banded (see page 6). An additional 41 female and 21 male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2005 was below the average (3,354) for the past 20 years. Numbers were down especially during the period from April 23 until May 4, when fewer than 12 birds were captured per day. Winds from the North and very chilly temperatures contributed to the shortage of birds. Dawn temperatures averaged 8.11 °C in spring 2005 compared to 9.94 °C in spring 2004.



*Barn Swallow banded at Braddock Bay, spring 2005.
Photo by Ryan Kayhart.*

A total of 10,477 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 29.5 birds/100 net-hours, one of the lowest capture rates in station history. The most active day was May 10 when 210 birds were banded. There were no other 200+ bird days. The greatest species diversity also occurred on May 10 when 42 species were banded.

The 511 recaptured birds included 25 individuals that were banded in a previous season and returned to Braddock Bay.

Bobolink was a new species for the spring cumulative list, which now stands at 138 species. Hooded Warbler was the only species having a record high count (12) during spring 2005. Cedar Waxwing captures (5) were the lowest since 1992 and Black-throated Blue Warbler captures (53) were the lowest since 1990. Totals for Magnolia Warblers (160) were just about half the 10-year average (315), as they were for Canada Warblers (34; 10-year average 71) and American Redstart (112; average 213).

Research

In addition to our migration research, we collected samples from the preen gland of some thrush species for Dr. Meena Harribal of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who is studying the chemical ecology of preen gland secretions, an understudied area of avian physiology.

Feather samples from American Redstarts were collected for Katie Langin, a student at Queens University who is working in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. Feather samples were also taken from Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers for graduate student Kevin Fraser at Queens University. Both students are studying isotopes in the feathers to help identify the migration patterns of these species.

Dr. Mark Deutschlander of Hobart and William Smith Colleges continued his ongoing research on orientation in thrushes. Mark will be on sabbatic at the Observatory this fall to continue his research.

Education

Jennifer Dawson, Chris Gates, Marina Phillips, Stephanie Sadlon, and Maggi Sliwinski successfully completed our Bander Training Course. Dan Bushey from the Diversified Occupations program at Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT, provided excellent assistance for two weeks.

Informal banding demonstrations were conducted for several hundred visitors to the banding station and for students from the Hannaford Career Center



www.bbbo.org

Detailed weekly summaries from each banding season are available online.

TOP 10 SPECIES BANDED DURING SPRING 2005

WITH NUMBERS CAPTURED DURING PREVIOUS 10 SPRING SEASONS

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	410	192	310	309	433	611	244	417	395	300	409
Yellow Warbler	187	267	285	150	175	258	340	191	143	126	230
Gray Catbird	193	157	257	150	187	221	324	180	154	283	192
Magnolia Warbler	429	211	293	170	323	351	519	249	213	395	160
White-throated Sparrow	153	121	105	88	110	184	153	224	168	210	148
Common Yellowthroat	126	175	184	135	174	212	160	213	178	184	130
American Redstart	191	129	123	167	237	289	334	228	183	254	112
"Traill's" Flycatcher	62	89	99	84	159	203	151	194	136	113	99
Yellow-rumped Warbler	114	101	162	16	35	350	474	194	192	140	96
"Western" Palm Warbler	22	35	39	3	14	142	104	69	68	141	84

who visited from May 18-20. SUNY Brockport students from Dr. Chris Norment's Field Biology course visited the banding station, as did members of the Allyn's Creek Garden Club, Cayuga Bird Club, and the Rochester Retired Teachers Association.

Highlights & Appreciation

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Ann Adams, Nancy Chevalier, Jack and Barb Duval, Cricket Fegan, Marilyn Guenther, Donna Hilborn, Peggy Keller, John Lehr, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Emily and Andrea Patterson, Gretchen Putonen, Jesse Roberts, Ron and Erin Rockwell, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Gale Smith, Lois Smith, Ruth Stork, Rob Van der Stricht, Glenn Wagner, and Scott and Theresa Wolcott.



Licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Mark Deutschlander, Sue Finnegan, Erin Karnatz, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, Rodney Olsen, and Bob Yunick conducted the banding. Banding assistants were Linda Boutwell, Luke Donius, Virginia Duffy, Coby Klein, Pat Lovallo, Patti O'Kane, Chris Villone, and Barb Wagner. Our Field Assistant was Courtney Rawleigh and our Senior Intern was Ryan Kayhart.

We enjoyed visits from bander training course graduates Tom LeBlanc and Jennifer Henley, and from former interns and field assistants Chris Betrus and Charley Eiseman.

Thanks to Bunny Boutwell for the donation of a printer and extra ink cartridges; Mary Beth O'Hara for the case of paper towels; David Boutwell for assessing the electrical system at the boathouse; Cory Ireland for the nice article in the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*; Rob Van der Stricht for applying the deck sealer on the outside tables; Jeanne Skelly for the sand for our walkway; and to Jim Gillette for spreading the gravel in our parking lot.

Special thanks to Jeff and Joan Dodge, Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, Bob and Charlene Reed, David Forsini, Suzanne and John Olson, and Sue and Bob Bayley for providing housing to visiting banders, interns, and students; and to Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

- Betsy Brooks ♦

Students and staff from Diversified Occupations with BBBO banders, spring 2005.



BIRDS BANDED AT BRADDOCK BAY SPRING 2005



Female Orchard Oriole (above) and male Baltimore Oriole (below) banded at Braddock Bay during spring migration, 2005. Photos by Ryan Kayhart.



Sharp-shinned Hawk	20	Tennessee Warbler	6
American Kestrel	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
American Woodcock	1	Nashville Warbler	52
Mourning Dove	1	Northern Parula	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	Yellow Warbler	230
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	44
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Magnolia Warbler	160
Downy Woodpecker	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	53
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	96
Northern Flicker	3	Black-throated Green Warbler	25
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	Blackburnian Warbler	6
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	24	Pine Warbler	2
Acadian Flycatcher	1	"Western" Palm Warbler	84
Alder Flycatcher	3	"Yellow" Palm Warbler	2
Willow Flycatcher	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	8
"Traill's" Flycatcher*	99	Blackpoll Warbler	8
Least Flycatcher	56	Black-and-white Warbler	23
Eastern Phoebe	1	American Redstart	112
Great Crested Flycatcher	6	Ovenbird	26
Blue-headed Vireo	3	Northern Waterthrush	40
Warbling Vireo	6	Mourning Warbler	33
Philadelphia Vireo	4	Common Yellowthroat	130
Red-eyed Vireo	31	Hooded Warbler	12
Blue Jay	74	Wilson's Warbler	81
Tree Swallow	1	Canada Warbler	34
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Bank Swallow	2	Scarlet Tanager	2
Barn Swallow	6	Eastern Towhee	3
Black-capped Chickadee	44	American Tree Sparrow	1
Tufted Titmouse	1	Chipping Sparrow	7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Brown Creeper	22	Field Sparrow	15
Carolina Wren	1	Savannah Sparrow	7
House Wren	29	Fox Sparrow	4
Winter Wren	14	Song Sparrow	53
Golden-crowned Kinglet	34	Lincoln's Sparrow	21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	409	Swamp Sparrow	19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	17	White-throated Sparrow	148
Eastern Bluebird	2	White-crowned Sparrow	16
Veery	21	Dark-eyed Junco	48
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	Northern Cardinal	8
Swainson's Thrush	35	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Hermit Thrush	66	Indigo Bunting	16
Wood Thrush	19	Bobolink	1
American Robin	26	Red-winged Blackbird	14
Gray Catbird	192	Common Grackle	11
Brown Thrasher	3	Brown-headed Cowbird	3
European Starling	6	Orchard Oriole	1
Cedar Waxwing	5	Baltimore Oriole	27
Blue-winged Warbler	10	Purple Finch	3
Golden-winged Warbler	1	House Finch	2
"Brewster's" Warbler	3	American Goldfinch	52

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

ERIN KARNATZ

The summer 2005 *Volunteer Spotlight* shines on Erin Karnatz. You'll recognize Erin as the only member of the BBBO banding staff who can band, age and sex a bird with one child watching from a pack on her back while simultaneously keeping her eye on a second child taking measurements on an imaginary cardinal.

Erin first became interested in birds when she took an ornithology course at Humboldt State University in California. Erin started banding in 1991 at Humboldt, receiving training from Kim Hollinger and C.J. Ralph. She says that training was "nerve-wracking" and involved "a very regimented and precise way of introducing different skills." Erin recalls spending a great deal of time observing and recording data before having the opportunity to hold a bird.

In 1995 Erin moved to Roseburg, Oregon where she and her husband worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a wildlife biologist one of Erin's jobs was to work at the local Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding site. By the end of the six years she worked for the BLM she became responsible for the existing MAPS site and for a new site she had created.

Erin became involved in banding at Braddock Bay when she and her husband moved to Batavia, NY. She says that when she started at BBBO, "the numbers of birds, not to mention the number of species, was a bit overwhelming." Another difference from west coast banding was that she didn't get paid! Erin became a BBBO sub-permitted bander in 2001 and, after passing the exams, became a North American Banding Council (NABC) certified landbird bander in September 2002 and an NABC certified trainer in October 2004. In early 2005, she earned her own master banding permit.

Erin is the mother of Rowan (18 months old) and Delaney (almost 4), and wife of Tracy Ford, a professor



in the Division of Humanities at Genesee Community College. With her busy family, banding twice a week during the migration season, and running MAPS stations at Beaver Meadows Audubon Center and at Braddock Bay, does she have time for anything else? Yes! She is an avid knitter and is part owner in a yarn store. She is also interested in genealogy and has spent many hours researching both her family tree and her husband's. She has grand ideas about going back to school and doing something that combines her passion for both birds and evolutionary biology.

When asked what she'd like to see happen at BBBO in the future, Erin says she "can't wait until we get more space. I see a lot of potential, especially the last couple of years. We have some movers and shakers that I think are pushing us in directions that are beneficial to the organization and individuals. I think more space will allow us to become more organized and give us the chance to offer more opportunities to the community."

Thanks, Erin, for bringing your skills and interest to the BBBO community! And thanks too for sharing Delaney and Rowan with the staff. - Betsy Brooks ♦

"... the numbers of birds, not to mention the number of species [at Braddock Bay], was a bit overwhelming." —Erin Karnatz



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:

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory
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* Elizabeth Brooks, Cindy Marino, Richard Marx, and Rob Van der Stricht; *Newsletter Editor* David Bonter; *Membership Advisor* Chita McKinney; *Education Committee* Liz Britton-Barry, Patricia Lovallo, and Cindy Marino; *Research Committee* David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kristi Hannam, Sara Morris, Chris Norment, and John Waud.

Front page image of Marsh Wren © Robert Royse.

Bank Swallow banded at Braddock Bay. Photo by Ryan Kayhart.



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