



THE MARSH WREN

BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY



BBBO UPDATES



BBBO DATA PRESENTED

Banding records from BBBO were analyzed for two presentations at recent scientific meetings. Former BBBO intern Andrew Vitz, now a Ph.D. working at Powdermill Avian Research Center, analyzed trends in capture rates at Braddock Bay for a presentation at the American Ornithologists' Union conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August. Andrew's presentation was entitled, "Evaluating population trends using banding data." In April, Canisius College undergraduate Jason Jacobs presented his work on Blackpoll Warblers at the joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jason's presentation was entitled, "Seasonal differences in energetic condition of Blackpoll Warblers."

SUMMER BANDING

A continuation of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was made possible this summer by BBBO bander Marian Klik. MAPS is a cooperative effort involving public agencies, private organizations and hundreds of bird banders in the United States, Canada, and

Mexico. The program involves banding at the same location every 10 days during the breeding season. Data collected became part of an international effort to monitor adult survivorship, population size and population growth rates. The MAPS program at Braddock Bay will continue for the next five years. This summer Marian and assistants encountered 63 species in the area, identified by banding, song or flyovers. Approximately 35 of these species were likely breeding in the area. A total of 255 birds were captured including 5 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and 75 previously-banded birds. Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Gray Catbirds, and Cedar Waxwings were the top five species of the 27 species banded. Most unusual was a Cedar Waxwing with a complete white head crest. The effort was a physical challenge due to the high amount of summer rain flooding the area, the occasional bear scare, three foxes, snapping turtles and abundant deer. Marian would like to thank the faithful volunteers, Tom Klotzback, Cindy Marino, Greg Lawrence, Pat Lovallo, Sue Evans, Aggie Windig, Marilyn Guenther, Peggy Keller, and Kelly Dockery whose expertise with birds and net operation was truly invaluable. Special appreciation is extended to the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

STUDENT GOES INTERNATIONAL

BBBO offers a bander training course for students enrolled at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) each fall. I look at the students and wonder which ones will continue with banding and contribute to avian conservation. Sandra Dedrick (Cook) was one of the students who took this course in the fall of 2007. After completing the course, she began to work at the RIT Bird Observatory. It quickly became apparent that Sandra was on her way to becoming an exceptional bander.

In June of this year Sandra asked me to serve as a reference for an internship to which she wanted to apply. I told her that I would be happy to serve as a reference for her and encouraged her to apply, even though the internship was in Bolivia. She recently stopped by to tell me that she was offered the position and had accepted the offer!

Sandra will be working with the Blue-throated Macaw Project in Bolivia. The Blue-throated Macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) is one of the most threatened macaw species in the world. The wild population of this species is estimated to be less than 250 individuals. It is listed as critically endangered by IUCN. The project is sponsored by the World Parrot Trust (www.parrots.org).

In this project Sandra will be living in a remote part of the Llanos de Moxos in Beni Department (state) in Bolivia. This is a grassland area with forested islands and cerrados (savannas). This area has been compared to the Pantanal region in Brazil with respect to the rich wildlife found there. Sandra will be conducting nest searches, guarding active nests from nest predators, conducting daily nest-checks (tree-climbing), performing periodic health checks of nestlings, carrying out territory mapping, banding, performing parrot and macaw point counts, conducting behavioral observations, and entering data. I think Sandra will be very busy with her work on this project.

I am sure that all of you will join me in wishing Sandra well on her great adventure. I can hardly wait to hear about her experiences when she returns. *John Waud* ♦



WHICH SPECIES IS IT?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SPECIES THAT IS RARELY CAPTURED AT BBBO (BELOW)? THE ANSWER WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE MARSH WREN*.



FROM THE LAST ISSUE OF *THE MARSH WREN*: THE LIME-YELLOW CAP AND BACK ON THE FALL-PLUMAGED CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (BELOW) IS KEY TO IDENTIFYING THIS TRULY CONFUSING FALL WARBLER.



Above: Quiz photos by Ryan Kayhart. **Left:** Sandra Dedrick gains experience at BBBO before heading to Bolivia. Photo by David Mathiason. **Below:** Mourning Warbler by Ryan Kayhart. **Cover:** Blackburnian Warbler by Kathy Habgood. **Opposite page:** Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Kathy Habgood.

SAVE THE DATES!
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILSON
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAY 20 -23, 2010

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH
COLLEGES, GENEVA, NY.

CONTACT MARK DEUTSCHLANDER FOR

MORE INFORMATION:

DEUTSCHLANDE@HWS.EDU



THE SEASON AT BRADDOCK BAY

SPRING BANDING 2009

The 24th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was conducted for 47 days beginning 16 April and ending on 8 June 2009. There were 4,305 birds banded of 91 species. This total was above the 23-year average of 3,569 birds, but down from 2007 and 2008 when 5,296 and 4,752 birds were banded in about the same number of net hours.

Thirty-four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 43 male and 31 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. Record-high numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrush (28), Blackpoll Warbler (102), Eastern Towhee (5) and Brown-headed Cowbird (10) were banded. On the negative side, Downy Woodpecker was missing after being banded in 14 of the past 19 years; and American Tree Sparrow was missing after being banded in 12 of the past 19 years. The busiest day was 8 May when 250 birds were banded; 58% of the total that day was made up of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows. Other 200+ days were 27 May (233), 27 April (217), and 16 May (213). The greatest species diversity occurred on 16 May when 40 species were banded. There were 613 recaptures of birds banded at the station. These birds were all measured and weighed again as part of ongoing studies in stopover ecology. Of

these recaptures, 68 were birds that returned from a previous season including six individuals that were at least in their sixth year.

RECOVERIES OF BBBO BIRDS

A Gray Catbird banded at BBBO on 24 May 2007 was found dead by James Hale of Palmyra, New York on 9 June 2009, 4 miles northeast of Manchester, Ontario County, New York. A Common Grackle banded at BBBO on 6 October 2007 was found dead on 5 June 2009 by Douglas Metzger in the town of Clarkson, Monroe County, New York. A Pine Siskin banded at BBBO on 12 November 2008 was killed by a cat 1 mile east of Canterbury Center, New Hampshire on 21 March 2009. This location is 310 miles east of where the bird was banded.

EDUCATION

Martyna Boruta (Geneva, NY), Rachel Bricklin (Armonk, NY), Victoria Cadby (Chestertown, MD), Nate Grosse (Brockport, NY), Peggy Keller (Rochester, NY), Nancy Keppel (Rochester, NY), Jennifer Landry (Rochester, NY), Kelly Wicks (Rochester, NY), and Aggie Windig (Rochester, NY) successfully completed our Bander Training Course.

Below: Mark Deutschlander and Martyna Boruta release a Mourning Warbler. Photo by Kevin Colton.



TOP 10 SPECIES BANDED DURING SPRING 2009

WITH NUMBERS CAPTURED DURING PREVIOUS 10 SPRING SEASONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	433	611	244	417	395	300	409	524	564	367	567
Magnolia Warbler	323	351	519	249	213	395	160	298	453	290	297
American Redstart	237	289	334	228	183	254	112	231	212	159	284
Gray Catbird	187	221	324	180	154	283	192	306	303	225	253
Yellow-rumped Warbler	35	350	471	194	192	140	96	80	152	137	179
White-throated Sparrow	110	184	153	224	168	210	148	151	144	144	172
Common Yellowthroat	174	212	160	213	178	184	130	241	201	165	171
Yellow Warbler	175	258	340	191	143	126	230	261	196	205	166
"Traill's" Flycatcher	159	203	151	194	136	113	97	120	151	133	141
Wilson's Warbler	127	153	179	138	96	131	81	129	112	115	120

We enjoyed visits from the Spring Field Ornithology class from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a class from the Farmington Calvary Christian School, members of the Chili Senior Citizens club, and students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, Vermont. We had visitors from as far away as Montana, and gave informal banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors.

EVENTS

We held an Open House for members of the Genesee Land Trust on 17 May. Dr. Ronald Dilcher, Hedy M. Marcotte, Jennifer D. Mathiason, and Kathy Maley Wirth were remembered at a ceremony in our Memorial Garden on 27 May. We welcomed Shelly Remillard and her students from the Spencerport fifth grade Service Learning Club who donated beautiful nest boxes they had made for BBBO.

RESEARCH

Cloacal swabs and feather samples were taken from 56 birds this spring as part of the Avian Influenza monitoring program being coordinated by the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas (LaMNA). The samples were processed at U.C.L.A.

Dr. Susan Smith of Villanova University took blood samples from Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Hermit Thrushes, Veery, White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows, Blackpoll Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos for her research on energetic condition and ecological factors that limit passerines during long-distance migrations.

Dr. Mark Deutschlander and Martyna Boruta of Hobart and William Smith Colleges took spectroradiometric data as part of his study on bird plumage and coloration. Mark also collected data on wing span and wing area in migrants, which will be used to model potential remaining flight distances for birds of different energetic condition.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Dave Bair, Cathy Belair, Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Amy Finfera, Chris Gates, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Susan Hall, Kathleen Holt, Kyle Horton, Greg Lawrence, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Terry Perry, Sarah Piecuch, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Linda Rossi, Stephanie Saxby, Lee Schofield, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Leslie Stoltz, Ruth Stork, Lona Van Orden, Tom Verhulst, and Ann Yuhas. Special appreciation is extended to Bill Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for use of their land.

Banding was conducted by licensed banders Ann Adams, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Deutschlander, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Marian Klik, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, David Semple, and Susan Smith. Banding assistants were Virginia Duffy, Sue Evans, Ember Jandebour, Peggy Keller, Tom Klotzbach, Pat Lovallo, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, and Barb Wagner. Our Field Assistants was Martyna Boruta, Emily Runnells and Karen Velas; and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

- Compiled by Betsy Brooks and Ryan Kayhart ♦



Emily Runnells and Peggy Keller examine a Black-billed Cuckoo. Photos by Kevin Colton.



*"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	13	Chestnut-sided Warbler	56
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Magnolia Warbler	297
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	34	Cape May Warbler	3
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	87
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	179
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	37	Black-throated Green Warbler	16
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Blackburnian Warbler	10
"Traill's" Flycatcher*	141	Western Palm Warbler	83
Least Flycatcher	97	Bay-breasted Warbler	12
Eastern Phoebe	4	Blackpoll Warbler	102
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	Black-and-white Warbler	43
Blue-headed Vireo	8	American Redstart	284
Warbling Vireo	5	Ovenbird	20
Philadelphia Vireo	8	Northern Waterthrush	56
Red-eyed Vireo	41	Mourning Warbler	41
Blue Jay	54	Common Yellowthroat	171
Barn Swallow	2	Hooded Warbler	4
Black-capped Chickadee	24	Wilson's Warbler	120
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Canada Warbler	95
Brown Creeper	33	Scarlet Tanager	2
Carolina Wren	1	Eastern Towhee	5
House Wren	37	Chipping Sparrow	6
Winter Wren	12	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	45	Field Sparrow	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	567	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	Fox Sparrow	6
Veery	18	Song Sparrow	31
Gray-cheeked Thrush	28	Lincoln's Sparrow	49
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush	5	Swamp Sparrow	19
Swainson's Thrush	113	White-throated Sparrow	172
Hermit Thrush	24	White-crowned Sparrow	27
Wood Thrush	26	Dark-eyed Junco	15
American Robin	34	Northern Cardinal	15
Gray Catbird	253	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4
Brown Thrasher	7	Indigo Bunting	29
European Starling	10	Red-winged Blackbird	10
Cedar Waxwing	82	Rusty Blackbird	1
Blue-winged Warbler	19	Common Grackle	28
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	10
Brewster's Warbler	1	Baltimore Oriole	28
Lawrence's Warbler	1	Purple Finch	4
Tennessee Warbler	22	House Finch	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	Pine Siskin	2
Nashville Warbler	80	American Goldfinch	67
Northern Parula	2	House Sparrow	1
Yellow Warbler	166		

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JOHN LEHR

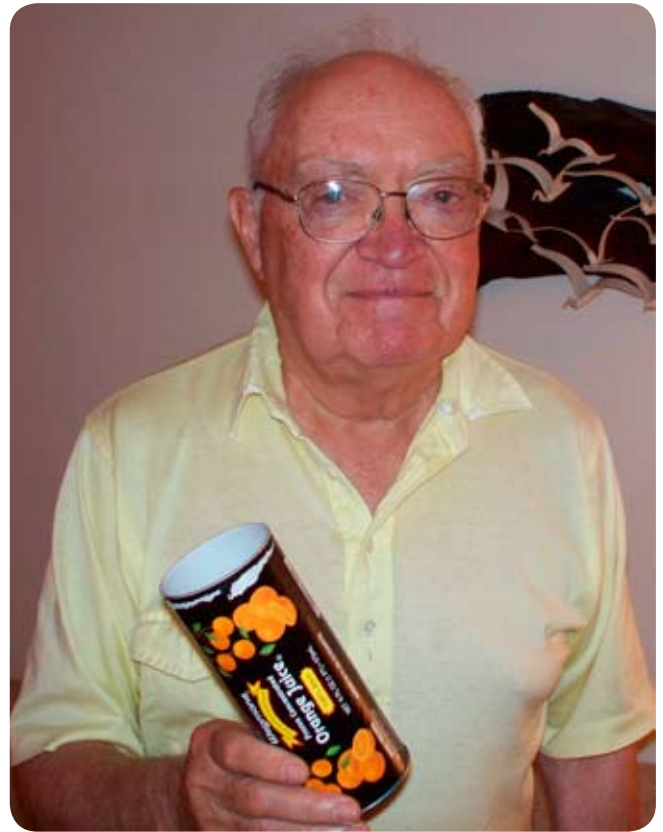
If I get a phone call from someone telling me that he is 'drunk on orange juice,' I don't have to ask who is calling! I know it is John Lehr. We use frozen orange juice containers to weigh our birds, and the cans get dirty fast. John has taken it upon himself to keep us supplied. For this, and many other reasons, the Volunteer Spotlight shines on John Lehr!

Long before signing on to scribe for BBBO's banders, John taught ninth-grade science and biology. When he retired, he decided that he was not going to just watch the dandelions grow in his lawn but find some activities to get him out of the house. He joined the Retired Teachers' Organization of Rochester and Monroe County and participated in a bird watching course under the leadership of Helen Rice. That sparked "a gradual growth of interest to become an obsession," according to John.

On his way home from bird watching one day in October, at least ten years ago, he decided to stop at the banding station. "Betsy and one other person were there and they asked me to help them by scribing since they were overwhelmed by the great number of birds netted. It has been pencils and datasheets for me since that time."

During the many seasons John has been the Friday scribe, he's enjoyed his share of Yellow-breasted Chats, Black-billed Cuckoos, Brown Thrashers, and some *Accipiter* hawks. But he says his favorite bird was a non-descript brownish-yellow warbler captured during fall 2008 that had a lot of the banders puzzled. He finally guessed that it was a female Orange-crowned Warbler which he had never observed before. The banders worked through the identification process and found that John was indeed correct.

When he isn't scribing during spring, John loves birding at Crane Creek, Ohio, which is opposite Point Pelee. He also enjoys birding in central California when he visits his daughter Meg. Meg interned with Braddock Bay Raptor Research one season after she graduated from college and also helped at BBBO on occasion, even



before her father signed on to do a point count and scribe. She later did research on the connection between birds and malaria and now is working at UC Santa Cruz in the Physical and Biological Science Division. During the past three years she has been checking nests for Project NestWatch (Cornell Lab Ornithology) at a site in the Santa Cruz Mountains. So, in this case, you can see that the 'orange has not fallen far from the orange tree!'

When asked what he would most like to see improved at the banding station, John replies that he would like to see "some sort of space separation between the visitors, other volunteers, scribe and bander. Often the noise level of normal talking by a number of people in a relatively small space reaches a point where it is difficult for me to hear what the bander is saying." When our new refurbished banding lab becomes a reality, that problem will be solved.

Thank you, John, for your years of patient scribing, your wonderful sense of humor, and for the clean orange juice cans!

- Betsy Brooks ♦

ADVANCED BANDING WORKSHOP - SPRING 2010

BBBO will host an Advanced Bander Workshop taught by Peter Pyle, author of the *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, from May 24 - 28, 2010. The four-day course is designed for experienced banders who wish to improve their sexing and ageing skills. The class will focus on understanding and identifying the differences between age classes and other advanced skills.

Enrollment is limited to 14 participants. The cost for the workshop will be \$650 (\$550 early registration, payment by April 1, 2010). Breakfast and lunches are included; lodging is not provided. For more information and a registration form please contact Betsy Brooks at brookser@earthlink.net.

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* 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. "Lawrence's" Warbler (below) by Ryan Kayhart. Newsletter editing and design by David Bonter.

Join us and the birds
at Braddock Bay this
autumn! The banding
season runs from late
August through
mid-October.



The Marsh Wren
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