



THE MARSH WREN

BRADDOCK BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY



BBBO UPDATES



ENCOUNTERING OLD FRIENDS

About an hour after sunrise on the morning of 8 September 2006, a Northern Waterthrush was removed from the sixth panel of BBBO's net #60 (an elevated net) by an unknown net-picker (Marilyn Guenther, Pat Lovallo and Cricket Fegan were on the schedule that day). Cindy Marino applied band number 1691-37686 to its right leg. John Lehr recorded that it was hatching year bird (by skull) of unknown sex with a wing chord of 76 mm, tarsus of 21.9 mm, a fat score of '0', and it weighed 17.7 grams. It was released and sent on its way south, headed for its wintering grounds in a unknown mangrove swamp somewhere in Central or South America, in Bermuda or the West Indies (perhaps even in south Florida?).

Four and a half years later, on 30 April 2011, at the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park Banding Station, Key Biscayne, in Miami-Dade County, Michelle Davis was making a net check and began taking a bird out of the net. She reported that she, "knew the bird was going to be a good one when I pulled him out of the net and saw an old looking band with a strange number, but I had no idea he would be that old!" She reported the band number to the Bird Banding Lab (BBL) and we had positive proof that this particular Northern Waterthrush, #1691-37686, was in its sixth year, and had survived five round trips between somewhere north of Braddock Bay and somewhere south of Key Biscayne! The distance from BBBO to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park is 1,223 miles, so

that is a known distance of at least 6,115 miles this bird had travelled!

In addition to the waterthrush encounter, Bob McKinney received a report from the BBL that a Mourning Warbler (band #2320-96093) that he banded 31 May 2006 as a second-year male, flew into an object in Baltimore, MD on 20 May 2011. According to BBL's report, this ties their previous longevity record for Mourning Warbler.

SUMMER BANDING

Two new banding stations are running under the BBBO umbrella as part of the continent-wide Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. MAPS stations operate every 10 days during the summer in an effort to gather information on reproductive success. Birds captured in the program reflect the local breeding bird community and often include many young birds that recently fledged from the area. BBBO bander Tom Klotzbach is operating a station in Kuckville where he banded 155 birds this summer. Species included Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, and Song Sparrow. The High Acres Nature Area MAPS station in Fairport is operated by Samantha DeSando and John Waud. They banded 182 birds and recaptured 43 individuals of 25 total species during the summer. The most common birds were Gray Catbirds and Yellow Warblers. Indigo Bunting, Veery, and Baltimore Oriole were among the highlights of the season.



Left: This unusual Black-capped Chickadee, captured during spring banding 2011, had a completely white tail. The lack of pigment in the feathers is a condition known as "leucism." Photo by Kathy Habgood. Cover photo of Hooded Warbler and Black-billed Cuckoo (above) by Ryan Kayhart.

RENOVATION REPORT:

MAJOR PROGRESS AT BANDING STATION!

Visitors to the banding station this fall will certainly notice a number of major improvements to the facility. Kelly Dockery, BBBO volunteer extraordinaire, has led an incredible effort to renovate the building and improve the space for research and education activities. The overall goal this summer was to focus on operational and structural issues in the primary banding area and create an open multiple-use area in the “boathouse” section of the building.

In the banding area you’ll notice that all of the sliding windows are now operational! In addition to new electrical wiring behind the scenes, new ceiling lights and additional lights on the banding tables will make everything brighter. The ceiling, walls, and floor have all received a fresh coat of paint, too.

From the outside, the most obvious change is the demolition of the sheds leaning on the northwest side of the building. Less visible, but very important, is a new rubber membrane roof. New garage doors will also be installed (hopefully by the end of August).

Many visitors probably have not been in the large room behind the banding area (the boathouse section), but that will soon change. If you have been in this space, you’ll be happy to hear that the loft storage area, workbench, and leftover machinery and duct work are all gone. The ceiling and west wall are being completely refinished with new drywall. New windows, including two large units on the west wall, will add natural lighting. The electric wiring will be completely re-done and new ceiling lights will be installed.

Next steps include removing the dilapidated sliding door entry to the boathouse. In its place, a new main opening into the banding station will be created near the corner where the primary banding area and boathouse come together. This new entrance will face the parking area and will be accessible for people with disabilities.



The lean-to sheds on the outside of the building were in disrepair (above) and needed to go. A volunteer crew made quick work of the project (below, after demolition). New windows will now be installed to allow light to enter the multi-purpose room being created inside the old “boathouse” section of the building. Photos by David Mathiason.



Special thanks to all of the devoted volunteers who have donated countless hours, lots of muscle, materials, and financial support to the renovation project!

Left: New windows, lighting, and fresh paint make for a more efficient research and education space at BBBO. Photo by Carolyn Jacobs.

SPRING BANDING 2011



The 26th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 51 days beginning 17 April and ending on 10 June 2011. There were **4,660 birds banded of 93 species**. Ninety-two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 17 male and 11 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded. A total of 7,897 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 59.0 birds/100 net hours. This capture rate was up from 48.9 birds/100 net hours in spring 2010.

The busiest day was 23 May when 342 birds were banded. On that day, 20% of the total birds banded were Magnolia Warblers, 13% were Traill's Flycatchers, and 12% were American Redstarts. There were eight additional 200+ bird days and twelve 100+ bird days. The greatest species diversity occurred on 13 May when 35 species were banded.

In addition to the "new" birds, we recaptured more than 900 previously banded birds. Of these recaptures, more than 80 were birds that returned from a previous season. The eldest of the returning birds were a Common Yellowthroat in its seventh year, a Gray Catbird in its sixth year, and an American Robin, six Yellow Warblers, and two House Finches, all in their fifth year.

We banded record high numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbird (92), Blue-headed Vireo (13), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (3), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (28), Magnolia Warbler (488) and American Redstart (344). On the negative side, only 4 Cedar Waxwings were banded, the lowest tally in 25 years. Golden-winged Warbler was missing after being captured for 25 consecutive years, Eastern Towhee was missing after being banded in 19 of the past 25 years, and Scarlet Tanager was missing after

being recorded in 19 of the past 25 years. There were no new species added to the cumulative total spring list, which stands at 143 species.

EDUCATION & EVENTS

Jenny Bodwell (Terre Haute, IN), David Greer (Brockport, NY), Alec Humann (Buffalo, NY), Andre Moncrieff (Berrien Springs, MI), Ann Nash (Rochester, NY), Susan Riblett (Rochester, NY), and Monika Wood (Painted Post, NY) successfully completed our Bander Training Class.

Students from the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury, VT visited the station from 10-12 May. Members of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society visited on 23 April, a group from Bridges For Brain Injury visited on 26 April, the Chili Senior Citizens Club toured the station on 11 May, and members of the Brooks Bird Club of West Virginia visited on May 17. We welcomed visitors from BBRR's Bird of Prey Festival for a tour of the banding station on 16 and 17 April, and hosted students from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Spring Field Ornithology class on 30 April and 1 May. We held an Open House in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day on 14 May and an Open House for members of the Genesee Land Trust on 22 May. Informal banding demonstrations were conducted for several hundred visitors.

Jonathan Bower, Ruth Williams Gillette, Thomas McMillan, and William H. Schmidt were remembered at a ceremony in our Memorial Garden on 26 May.

RESEARCH

Dr. Sara Morris, in collaboration with the Powdermill Banding station and the Powdermill Bioacoustics Lab, tested Blackpoll, Magnolia, and Yellow-

TOP 10 SPECIES BANDED DURING SPRING 2011

WITH NUMBERS CAPTURED DURING PREVIOUS 10 SPRING SEASONS

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Black-capped Chickadee | 13 | 573 | 12 | 18 | 44 | 1014 | 17 | 192 | 24 | 49 | 684 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 512 | 249 | 213 | 395 | 160 | 298 | 453 | 290 | 297 | 335 | 488 |
| American Redstart | 334 | 228 | 183 | 254 | 112 | 231 | 212 | 159 | 284 | 244 | 344 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 244 | 417 | 395 | 300 | 409 | 524 | 564 | 367 | 567 | 293 | 253 |
| Yellow Warbler | 340 | 191 | 143 | 126 | 230 | 261 | 196 | 205 | 166 | 321 | 221 |
| “Traill’s” Flycatcher | 151 | 194 | 136 | 113 | 97 | 120 | 151 | 133 | 141 | 155 | 200 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 160 | 213 | 178 | 184 | 130 | 241 | 201 | 165 | 171 | 151 | 193 |
| Gray Catbird | 324 | 180 | 154 | 283 | 192 | 306 | 303 | 225 | 253 | 302 | 190 |
| Wilson’s Warbler | 179 | 138 | 96 | 131 | 81 | 129 | 112 | 115 | 120 | 78 | 177 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 153 | 224 | 168 | 210 | 148 | 151 | 144 | 144 | 172 | 148 | 94 |

rumped Warblers in the Mobile Avian Recording Studio parked at the banding station. Their research examines the calls that birds make during migratory flights.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to all our faithful volunteers: Amanda Burns, Jane Capellupo, Marilyn Guenther, Gary Herbert, Kathy Habgood, Elisabeth Harrod, Jim Heckman, Kathleen Holt, Lyn Jacobs, John Lehr, Rosemary Lillis, Sarah MacLean, Steve Maley, Chita McKinney, Shirley Meston, Allen Nash, Bill, Lisa and Sandy Podulka, Debbie Reed, Jesse Roberts, Linda Rossi, Lee Schofield, Jeanne Skelly, Ruth Stork, Henry Trombley, Alice VanDeMoere, Tom and Jeanne Verhulst, and Kelly Wicks.

Special appreciation is extended to Nancy Britton, 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, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, Robert McKinney, and Rodney Olsen. Banding assistants were Dave Alexander, Virginia Duffy, Charley Eiseman, Laura Evans, Peggy Keller, Jenny Landry, Greg Lawrence, Pat Lovallo, Ann Nash, Andrea and Emily Patterson, Rick Shearman, Doug Smith, Leanna Twohig, Claire Trombley, Barb Wagner, Aggie Windig, and Monika Wood. Our Field Assistants were Cindy Marino and Monika Wood, and our Research Assistant was Ryan Kayhart.

- Compiled by Betsy Brooks and Ryan Kayhart ♦

Blackburnian Warbler (previous page) and Veery (above) by Ryan Kayhart.



Above: A Worm-eating Warbler is always a rare and special catch at Braddock Bay. Below: Lisa Podulka and Betsy Brooks discuss the age of a Canada Warbler. Photos by Ryan Kayhart.





Birds banded during spring 2011 included the Canada Warbler and Bay-breasted 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 | 12 | Northern Parula | 8 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | Yellow Warbler | 221 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | 2 | Chestnut-sided Warbler | 59 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 92 | Magnolia Warbler | 488 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | Cape May Warbler | 2 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 2 | Black-throated Blue Warbler | 55 |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 80 |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 8 | Black-throat Green Warbler | 23 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 50 | Blackburnian Warbler | 9 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 2 | Western Palm Warbler | 68 |
| Traill's Flycatcher* | 200 | Yellow Palm Warbler | 1 |
| Willow Flycatcher | 1 | Bay-breasted Warbler | 4 |
| Least Flycatcher | 75 | Blackpoll Warbler | 89 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 2 | Cerulean Warbler | 1 |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 4 | Black-and-white Warbler | 40 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 1 | American Redstart | 344 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 13 | Worm-eating Warbler | 1 |
| Warbling Vireo | 5 | Ovenbird | 11 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 12 | Northern Waterthrush | 49 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 57 | Mourning Warbler | 34 |
| Blue Jay | 69 | Common Yellowthroat | 193 |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow | 3 | Hooded Warbler | 10 |
| Bank Swallow | 2 | Wilson's Warbler | 177 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 684 | Canada Warbler | 89 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 4 | Yellow-breasted Chat | 1 |
| Brown Creeper | 31 | Chipping Sparrow | 2 |
| House Wren | 14 | Field Sparrow | 9 |
| Winter Wren | 4 | Savannah Sparrow | 1 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 25 | Fox Sparrow | 3 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 253 | Song Sparrow | 9 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 28 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 63 |
| Veery | 14 | Swamp Sparrow | 19 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 11 | White-throated Sparrow | 94 |
| Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush | 10 | White-crowned Sparrow | 10 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 86 | Dark-eyed Junco | 25 |
| Hermit Thrush | 36 | Northern Cardinal | 14 |
| Wood Thrush | 10 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 6 |
| American Robin | 32 | Indigo Bunting | 26 |
| Gray Catbird | 190 | Red-winged Blackbird | 5 |
| Brown Thrasher | 12 | Rusty Blackbird | 3 |
| European Starling | 4 | Common Grackle | 18 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 4 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 4 |
| Blue-winged Warbler | 13 | Baltimore Oriole | 14 |
| Brewster's Warbler | 1 | Purple Finch | 1 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 38 | House Finch | 3 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 6 | American Goldfinch | 56 |
| Nashville Warbler | 93 | | |



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT KELLY DOCKERY

She fended-off the heavy equipment heading right through the orchids on their way to perform the perc test in the field. On days when she was not in charge of the banding operation she sat transfixed at her laptop working with the architectural drawings of the banding station—knocking out walls, trying out new doors, opening windows, keeping the loft, getting rid of the loft. She set-up mock banding areas where banders could test the efficiency of the design. She thought hard about traffic flows and comfort levels. She installed the new escape hatch in the banding lab, staging releases of sparrows to time how fast they found their freedom. She climbed up on the roof with her husband Kevin to tar some leaks just minutes before a severe thunderstorm hit. She removed the build-up of mold where the roof had been leaking down the south wall and laid to rest a mummified family of mice. For months, she researched the lighting options for the banding area, experimenting with every imaginable candle power and wattage, distance and direction. She proclaimed, “DING DONG THE SHED IS DEAD!!!” on the renovation blog. And she even found teal blue paint (Betsy’s favorite color) for the banding station floor! On the occasional day when no one showed up to help her, she worked by herself. When volunteers did show up, she fed them cold drinks, snacks and pizza. Simply put, she’s a remarkable person and a great friend of BBBO.



Photo by Kathy Habgood.

Nobody has ever been the Volunteer Spotlight honoree twice ... but nobody else is as deserving as Kelly Dockery. From all of your friends at BBBO, Thank You, Kelly!

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 \$15, Individual \$25, Family \$30, 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 Matthew Belanger; *Vice-President* David Mathiason; *Treasurer* Robert McKinney; *Secretary* Linda Boutwell; *Directors*, Elizabeth Brooks, David Bonter, Mark Deutschlander, Cindy Marino, Richard Marx, Susan Smith, 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. White-eyed Vireo (below) by Ryan Kayhart. Newsletter editing and design by David Bonter.



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



The Marsh Wren
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