

**Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory**  
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## **SPRING 2004 Atlantic Flyway Review Report**

We had many windy and/or rainy days that greatly curtailed operations. Often it was simply too windy to net safely. Interestingly, our daily point counts didn't point to much of a migration here. All those strong winds from the south must have carried most birds over our station to the shores of Lake Ontario. Of 46 possible days we were only able to open for short times on 19 days. Only three of those allowed us to stay open after noon. The high point was with White-crowned Sparrows that had an extended 30-day stopover here. Our total was stable and the measure of efficiency in terms of birds per one hundred net hours was up due to the large number of American Goldfinch.

We banded 701 individuals of 55 species in 19 days of operation. We also had 81 repeats, a whopping 106 returns and 27 hummingbirds not banded. We also did not band two other birds, a Yellow Warbler and a White-throated Sparrow whose tarsi were greatly enlarged by pox. We had one foreign recovery. That was of an SY female Purple Finch that had been banded north of Albany, NY by Bob Yunick last August. She was an active breeding bird here giving us some idea of the range of dispersal. Thanks to large numbers of goldfinch, our measure of efficiency was 160 birds per 100 net hours for newly banded birds and 185.6 birds/100 NH overall. Our best day was 9 May and our most species diverse day was also 9 May with 19 species banded. Our overall breakdown was 362 SY birds, 222 ASY, one TY and 116 AHY. The overall percent SY was 51.6.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 129 species plus 5 forms. Most neotropicals were present in very small numbers or not present. The only surprise was a single Gray-cheeked Thrush and a single Mourning Warbler, two species we rarely encounter in spring. A Blackpoll female presented with a very vascular brood patch making us wonder if this species was expanding its breeding range. For the first spring ever, we failed to band a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This species is normally present in good numbers. Adding to the concern, point counts have revealed only one pair, which is well below our norm for breeding pairs. We continued our Dragonfly studies and netted 5 in mist nets (*Epithea canis*, *Anax junius*, *Cordulegaster maculata* and *Libellula Lydia*). The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns.

The best return was that of an American Goldfinch that established a new age record for the species at over nine years.

Of our 106 returns, 29 of ten species were over 4 years of age. Four Gray Catbirds were 11, 7, 6 and 4+ years old; Eight American Goldfinch were **9+**, 7, 6+, 5(3), 4+ and 4 years old; a Baltimore Oriole was 7 while two Hairy Woodpeckers checked in at 7 and 4 years of age; two Common Yellowthroats were at 6+ and 5+ years; four Yellow Warblers were at 6,5(2), and 4 years old; a Purple Finch was 5+ years; two American Robins were at 6 and 4+ years old; three Song Sparrows were each 5 years of age and two Black-capped Chickadees were at 5 and 4+ years old.

Abnormalities were few and consisted of advanced cases of avian pox on the tarsi of two individuals (Yellow Warbler and White-throated Sparrow) that we did not band.

**Kestrel Haven Statistical Summaries Spring 2004**

**Table I: Operations**

First Day 25 April: Last 30 May  
 Total Days in Operation 19  
 Range of No. Nets Used 2 to 12  
 Total Net Hours for Season\* 437.5  
 Number of Traps in Use 0 \*\* % of Total caught in traps N/A  
 Largest Daily Catch 137 on 09 May  
 Best Species Diversity: 19 on 09 May  
 Number birds banded 2003: 724; Number birds banded 2004: 701  
 Total Species 2003: 66 Total Species 2004: 55  
 Birds/100 net hours 2003: 68.9 Birds/100 net hours 2004: 160  
 Species above 2 S.D. in 2004: None  
 Species below 2 S.D. in 2004: many/too little data to quantify  
 Weather influence ranking (+ or - or ?)\*\*: -----extremely negative

\* based on 1 4-shelf 12m net x 1 hour of netting = 1 net hour (adjusted accordingly for shorter or longer nets)

\*\* list number and types used

\*\*\* were general weather conditions overall during the season a negative or positive or inconclusive factor in banding results?

**Table II: List of Ten Most Commonly Banded Species Spring 2004**

	Species	Number	%SY	% ASY	%AHY
1.	AMGO	419	62	38	
2.	EWCS	34			100
3.	CEDW	31	64	26	10
4.	PUFI	18	44	39	17
5.	WTSP	18	33	67	
6.	YWAR	18	67	33	
7.	GRCA	16			100
8.	COYE	14			100
9.	RCKI	11	64	36	
10.	SOSP	10			100