

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State Wildlife Grant
ANNUAL INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Grant Number: T-1 **Segment Number:** 6
Project Number: 2
Project Title: Banding Station, Creamer's Field
Project Duration: July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2007
Report Period: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
Report Due Date: September 30, 2005

Objectives

1. To conduct a standardized migration-monitoring station in spring and fall at Creamer's Field Migration Station (CFMS), Fairbanks.
2. To analyze data and examine the population dynamics and timing of life-history events (e.g., migration, reproduction, molt, juvenile dispersal, and seasonal differences in body condition) of migratory passerines.

Summary of Accomplishments (*Describe accomplishments related to the work that was proposed to be done during this same period in the Project Description and work schedule*):

The following accomplishments are related to Objective 1.

Fall Migration 2004

1. 36 standard 12 meter mist nets were operated for 6 hours daily between 16 July – 30 September, weather permitting, for the purpose of capturing, identifying, banding and collecting data on size, health, age, sex, stage of molting, and breeding condition of migratory songbirds. Nets were operated 11,759.5 hours total.
2. 2,601 birds of 31 species were banded. The most abundant species were Yellow-rumped warbler (415), Orange-crowned Warbler (408), Dark-eyed Junco (388), and Lincoln's Sparrow (282). These 4 species comprised 57.4% of all birds banded. Passage of migrants was steady; birds were caught in high numbers from late July through August. Captures in September were very low.
3. Capture rates for all warbler species were higher than the past several years. The population index for Wilson's Warbler was at its highest level since 1995. The population index for American Robin was at an all time high. Hammond's Flycatcher and Swainson's thrush were at near-record highs. Population indices were low for Black-capped Chickadee and at an all-time low for American Tree Sparrow and Fox Sparrow.
4. Notable captures included a hatch-year Townsend's Solitaire, a hatch-year Western Palm Warbler, and 3 Golden-crowned Sparrows.
5. The mortality rate at CFMS was 0.2%, which is lower than average for mist-netting studies, and well below the accepted average of 1 – 2%.
6. 75 volunteers provided 1,508 hours of assistance. Two university students contributed an additional 656 hours.

7. Bird-banding presentations were given to 28 groups (794 individuals) in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Creamer's Nature Program. Informal banding demonstrations were given to an additional 256 independent visitors.

Spring Migration 2005

8. 22 standard 12 meter mist nets were operated for 6 hours daily 25 April – 7 June, weather permitting, for a total effort of 5,889 net hours.
9. The spring 2005 capture rate of 79.0 birds/1000 net hours was above the 13 year average of 67.6 birds/1000 net hours.
10. 280 individuals of 30 species were banded (new captures). A total of 465 new and previously banded birds were handled (total captures). The most abundant species were Dark-eyed Junco (40), Yellow-rumped Warbler (32), and Swainson's Thrush (27). These three species accounted for 21% of all captures. 47 birds banded in prior years were recaptured (10% of all captures), including a Hammond's Flycatcher banded in 1999.
11. 11 Solitary Sandpipers were captured, the highest number in the 13 year history of the Station. 24 Hammond's Flycatchers were captured, the most since 1995. 20 Northern Waterthrushes were captured compared to 6 in 2004; this year's numbers are closer to "normal". Numbers of Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Common Redpoll continued to be lower than most prior years.
12. 22 volunteers contributed 570 hours of assistance.
13. Bird-banding presentations were given to 26 groups (526 students, 90 adults) in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Creamer's Nature Program. Informal banding demonstrations were given to an additional 127 independent visitors.

No analysis the data collected as proposed in Objective 2 has been done or was planned to be done at this time.

Significant Deviations (*if any, and explain the reasons for these*):

None

Actual Costs during this Report Period (*personnel plus all operating expense totals*):

Federal (from ADF&G):	Partner (nonfederal share):
\$10,000	\$3,333

Project Leader (*or Report Contact Person*): Susan Sharbaugh

Additional Information:

Data for Objective 2 will be summarized and presented at the end of the project.

The following publications involve the Creamer's Field Migration Station and the banding data but the writing of them was not funded by this grant:

2004 Publications: DeWitt, N. 2004. Alaska Bird Observatory tackles high water and trail erosion. N. Am. Bird Bander 29:2.

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2005 Publications: Benson, A. and K. Winker. 2005. Fat-deposition strategies among high-latitude passerine migrants. *The Auk* 122(2):544-557.

A poster describing the Migration Station and presenting a few population trends was produced for ABO's annual membership meeting in April and has been on display at ABO's Center for Education and Research.