

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER BANDED AT ROCHESTER- 4 JUN 2003 SECOND NEW YORK STATE RECORD

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On 4 Jun 2003 a MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) was captured and banded at Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station. The Kaiser-Manitou banding station is a migration research facility of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) which is located 14 miles NW of Rochester, on the shore of Lake Ontario. A written report and digital photos have been submitted to NYSARC and if accepted, will be only the second record for NYS. The only previously accepted record of MacGillivray's Warbler in New York was a bird photographed on Staten Island, Richmond Co., on 15 Dec 1999, which lingered until 26 Dec (*The Kingbird* 50:2).

The morning of 4 Jun was cool and cloudy, as had been many days at BBBO this past Spring and we were not banding very many birds. We had decided to keep the station open for one more week after the official close of the Spring banding season, because the poor weather conditions of the previous weeks had delayed migration and we hoped to more fully cover the entire migration. I was assisted that morning by Judy Engermann, scribe, Coby Klein and Laurie Zagmester, who are recent graduates of BBBO's bander training class.

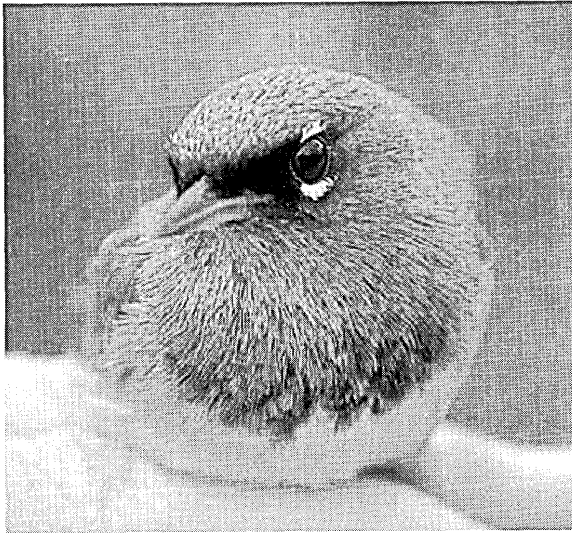
At the second hour after sunrise, I went to do a net check and was feeling a bit discouraged that net after net was empty and I was probably going to come back with empty bird bags. I came to the number 90 aerial net, and in the bottom, just inches off the ground I glimpsed a spot of yellow. "Probably just a leaf", I thought, but better check it out. "All right! A beautiful male Mourning Warbler", was my next thought, but as I carefully untangled and removed the bird from the net, I was thinking, "I don't remember ever seeing such a strange white eye-ring on a Mourning Warbler". I headed back to the boathouse, with the bird securely in the bag, a half-formed thought in the back of my mind. "Hadn't I just recently seen something in the Sibley Guide about a western warbler species that was similar to Mourning Warbler?"

I went into the banding area and said to Laurie, "I think I have an interesting bird here. I need to see the warbler book" referring to the Dunn/Garrett *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. With bird in hand, we opened to page 88. There on the same page as Mourning Warbler was MacGillivray's. The illustration of the spring adult male MacGillivray's looked just like the bird in my hand. My heart was beating faster! Could this really be? The text said "western counterpart of Mourning Warbler", but how far west? Next we went to page 507 to check out the range map, which shows the usual area for this bird to be west of the Rockies! "Okay, I had better call Betsy on this one" I said. Betsy is Elizabeth Brooks, the Master Bander responsible for the BBBO Station Permit. Excitedly, I told Betsy that I thought we had a MacGillivray's. I described this bird's beautiful, thick, split white eye-ring, velvety black lores and dark gray

hood. We discussed other possibilities as to the ID. of this bird, but nothing else came close except that some first Spring female Mourning Warblers sometimes have indistinct, incomplete white eye-rings. This bird's eye-ring was very white, thick and abruptly broken on both sides of the eye, not indistinct at all. I took the usual measurements , wing, tarsus, fat score, and mass which were :

: wing = 60 mm, tarsus = 22.4 mm., fat score =0, mass = 12.1 grams.

The bird was banded (2280-20747) and photographed. By this time we had a backlog of birds to band and I released this wonderful bird, wishing it the best of luck in finding its way "home"! What an amazing morning!



MacGillivray's Warbler - 4 Jun 2003
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