

1999

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 1999

North American Bird Bander

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ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 1999

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We welcome three new additions to the Spring AFR: Crown Point State Historic Site in New York, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's new Yanty Creek Banding Station at Hamlin Beach State Park in New York, and Appledore Island Banding Station on Appledore Island, Maine.

With the exception of Appledore and Greenwell, every station reported that 'La Nina' spring 1999 was better than 'El Nino' 1998, either in totals or birds/100 net hours or both. The total birds banded at all stations was up 15.7% from 1998. "Best day" ranged from as early as 28 March at Hebron to as late as 23 May at Appledore, but 10 of the 16 stations reported their peak day occurring between 5 and 18 May.

There is interesting reading in the station narratives! Crown Point experimented with a green net in a grassy field with good results. This net did not, however, catch the station's Common Yellowthroat that was an apparent "bilateral gynandromorph," with male plumage on its right side, and female on the left! Braddock Bay banding stations are benefiting from nightly NEXRAD radar imagery analysis which allows for much more accurate predictions of the number of birds that might be caught the next morning allowing for better preparation for adequate staff. And Powdermill received word of its second long-distance re-encounter from Cuba!

Table 1. Spring 1999 AFR Banding Summary.

	Crown Point NY	Lewiston NY	Manitou Bch NY	Yanty Creek NY	Ruthven ONT	Appledore ME	Selkirk ONT
Inclusive Dates	5/8 - 5/31	5/10 - 5/27	4/11 - 6/8	4/26 - 5/29	3/29 - 5/28	5/6 - 6/9	3/11 - 6/7
Total Days	24	10	51	33	53	35	87
Nets Used	17.5 to 21	11 to 20	7 to 29	10 to 26	8 to 14	7 to 9	0 to 17
Total Net Hours	6678	844	9411	5126	3841	4103	8607
Number Traps	1	0	0	0	3	0	4
% Caught in Traps	1%	0	0	0	16.80%	0	4.55%
Best Day # (date)	140 (5/9)	31 (5/10,12,16)	276 (5/18)	203 (5/18)	67 (4/29)	229 (5/23)	152 (5/5)
Total Banded 1998	228	181	2523	NA	513	3224	1222
Total Banded 1999	785	254	3453	1736	1407	2636	1998
Total Species 1998	41	38	80	NA	68	72	72
Total Species 1999	60+1 hybrid	44	85	72	79+2 hybrids	74	75
Birds/100 NH 1998	4.5	18.1	37.1	NA	20.5	81.8	16
Birds/100 NH 1999	11.8	33.2	36.69	33.86	41.3	64.3	22.1

Table 1 (cont'd.) Spring 1999 AFR Banding Summary.

Long Point ONT	Kestrel Haven NY	Presque Isle PA	Hebron PA	Powdermill PA	Bedford Valley PA	Island Beach NJ	Calmes Neck VA	Greenwell MD
3/29 - 6/12	4/19 - 5/15	4/3 - 5/29	3/13 - 5/31	4/1 - 5/30	4/19 - 6/5	4/2 - 6/6	4/8 - 5/28	4/3 - 5/31
201*	20	15	25	53	24	27	32	16
0 to 38	1 to 6	1 to 15	1 to 13	2 to 40	4 to 10	4 to 15.5	10 to 17	2 to 4
10,192	453	1312	409	7685	818	1444	5082	94
varied**	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
17.50%	0	0	13.80%	0	0	0	0	0
521 (5/6)	63 (4/25)	173 (5/15)	72 (3/28)	203 (5/9)	16 (4/24)	206 (5/10)	72 (4/22)	21 (5/8)
10,979	219	505	362	1665	128	951	320	152
10,104	596	847	427	2004	150	1365	726	72
110	44	58	39	98	30	63	49	38
116	47	70	43	95	37	65	59	25
74.8	90	53.9	NA	15	23	89.3	5.3	58
81.8	131.5	64.6	90	26	18.3	94.5	14	113

* station days

** 4730 ground trap and J-trap hours, 851 Helligoland trap drives

Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732
 Essex County, New York
John M.C. Peterson

A spring banding station has been in operation at the Crown Point State Historic Site for 24 years. The station was in operation for a record 24 days in 1999, from 8-31 May. The Historic Site occupies 360 acres at the tip of Crown Point peninsula, jutting northward into Lake Champlain and bordered on the west by Bulwagga Bay. Nets are located in thickets west of the British fort. Operated by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., the station was originally in hawthorn groves covering the ruins of an 18th century French village located south of the forts, now a grassy field. A green net was tried here in 1999 and yielded ten species, including Savannah Sparrow and Bobolink, as well as an unexpected Myrtle Warbler.

213 Myrtle Warbler
182 American Goldfinch
50 Gray Catbird
32 Common Yellowthroat
26 Yellow Warbler
23 Cedar Waxwing
19 Black-capped Chickadee
16 American Redstart

16 Baltimore Oriole
14 Blue Jay
14 Song Sparrow

On opening day, a Blue-winged Warbler was banded, only the third in the history of the station. Best day was 9 May, when rains grounded migrants and 140 birds were banded. Variety was good that day too, with ten species of warblers netted, including 102 Myrtle Warblers and our first-ever "Brewster's" Warbler.

But, like the previous year, the rest of May was sunny and warm, with starry nights for migrants to move, and with few fronts to ground them. After the promising start, a huge high pressure system stymied banders with five sunny days, north winds and calm nights. Four more sunny days and clear nights with south winds followed, and even rain on 19 May failed to produce a meaningful fallout. Except for intermittent showers on 25 May, the rest of the month continued sunny and warm. By Memorial Day, with the mercury reaching 90°, only two Gray Catbirds were banded.

Although we finished with the fourth best season for both species and numbers, this was partly a result of our extended stay. Still, 16 of the 60

species were warblers, including a Prairie Warbler on 18 May. A Slate-colored Junco on 23 May brought our all-time list to 91 species.

On the afternoon of 27 May, a Common Yellowthroat was netted. Upon examination, the bird was an apparent bilateral gynandromorph, the male plumage on the right side, female on the left. After it was banded and photographed, the bird was released. The following morning, Peterson observed what was certainly the same bird, singing north of the banding station near the tip of the peninsula. Details will be published elsewhere.

There were 44 returns of eight species banded at Crown Point in past years, with five birds now at least six years, 11 months old including a catbird, two Brown Thrashers, and two American Goldfinches.

Well over 200 visitors signed in, and visiting groups included Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Bolton Central School, Lake Placid Elementary, North Country School, Queensbury Girl Scouts, St. Agnes School, Ticonderoga Developmental Kindergarten, plus many home schoolers.

Banders Gordon Howard and Patricia Taber and subpermittees Selma Isil, Bob Wei, Rich MacDonald, and Nina Schoch assisted with technical chores, while countless volunteers helped check the net lanes. In addition, Gary Lee and John and Patricia Thaxton deserve special thanks for helping transport the station and making/breaking camp. As always, we are most grateful to the NYS OPR&HP, Historic Site Manager William Farrar, and the staff of the Crown Point State Historic Site for their hospitality and many kindnesses.

Lewiston

431-0790

Niagara County, New York

Jerald J. Farrell

The 1999 spring banding started on 10 May. Banding could possibly have started a little earlier, but there did not appear to be many birds in migration before the 10 May date. Foliage was well developed and weather could not have been better.

39 Myrtle Warbler
36 Gray Catbird
20 Magnolia Warbler
19 Tennessee Warbler
12 Bay-breasted Warbler
10 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
9 Wood Thrush
9 Veery
8 Swainson's Thrush
6 Ovenbird

There were a total of 12 local retraps, consisting of seven different species. One Common Yellowthroat was at least five years old.

Again this year many different people showed up to observe songbird banding first-hand. Many of these visitors experienced the handling of birds for the first time. I also gave three talks on bird banding talks to different groups since 1 January this year.

The spring banding for this Lewiston Station can be summed up as below average, but certainly an improvement over the spring of 1998, thank goodness!

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Kaiser-Manitou

Beach Banding Station

431-0774

Monroe County, New York

Elizabeth W. Brooks, compiler

The 14th consecutive year of spring banding began at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station on 11 April and continued until 8 June 1999. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sharon Skelly, and Martha Zettel. There were 3453 birds banded of 85 species.

433 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
323 Magnolia Warbler
237 American Redstart
187 Gray Catbird
175 Yellow Warbler
174 Common Yellowthroat
159 Traill's Flycatcher
127 Wilson's Warbler
110 White-throated Sparrow
107 Black-throated Blue Warbler

Constant-effort banding was done on 51 days during the period using 28 30mm mist nets situated in three distinctive habitats: field/edge, shrubby/early successional, and mature deciduous woods.

Over 600 birds were recaptured and 43 of these were birds banded at the station during a previous season. All recaptured birds were re-measured, aged, sexed, fat-scored, and weighed and those data were used in ongoing stopover ecology research studies.

Of the 43 returns, 20 were in their fourth year or older. Especially interesting returns were a Downy Woodpecker in its fifth year, a robin, catbird, Yellow Warbler, and cardinal—all in their sixth year, and a Common Grackle in its seventh year.

Foreign re-encounters of spring-banded birds include a Sharp-shinned Hawk banded on 5 May 1998 which was trapped and released alive by Sheila Fowler on 10 October 1998 at Hawk Cliff Raptor Station (175 miles WSW [281 km] of the banding site); a chickadee banded on 28 April 1998 that was retrapped and released alive by John Miles on 22 October 1999 at Selkirk Provincial Park, Ontario (123 mi WSW [198 km]); and a House Wren banded on 16 May 1995 that was killed when hit by a car on 13 October 1999 near Fulton, NY (68 mi ESE).

Old injuries and/or deformities were observed on 17 birds: 14 individuals had scaly leg and were released unbanded; ticks were removed from two birds; feather lice noted on two birds; and five kinglets had abnormal crown feather color or number.

Two aerial nets—one in osier and the second in mature deciduous habitat—were used for the full eight-hour protocol on 32 days. These two nets caught 4.52% of the total birds captured on those days. The average capture rate for each of the 28 nets used on fall protocol days was 2.69 birds per day; the average capture rate for each of the two aerial nets was only 1.70 birds per day. However, much more analysis of aerial net data is needed to determine their usefulness and to interpret the data collected.

During spring 1999, four nets were added to the setup used in spring 1998, resulting in total net hours increasing from 6803 to 9411. The 1999 setup produced an efficiency ratio of 36.69 birds/100 net hours.

There were no new species banded in spring 1999; the cumulative spring list stands at 126 species. A total of 40 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were released unbanded.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat were also the top six most common species banded in 1998, in the same order. Ten species were banded in record numbers: Yellow-bellied and Traill's flycatcher, House Wren, Blue-winged, Brewster's, and Blackpoll warbler, American Redstart, Mourning and Wilson's warbler, Savannah and Lincoln's sparrow. Species banded in at least eight of the past ten years, but not banded in 1999, were Cape May and Yellow Palm warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and House Finch.

Between 27 April and 14 May, there were two extended periods of beautiful weather, but the nighttime winds were all from the SE or NE, not good migration winds. Things improved on the evening of 14 May, and during the periods 15-22 May, 28 May - 2 June, we captured 48% of the season's total. The best day was 18 May, when 276 birds were banded. The day with the best species diversity was 22 May, when 222 birds of 36 species were banded. Other 100+ days were 6 May (113), 15 May (108), 16 May (127), 17 May (179), 28 May (139), 29 May (107), 1 June (130), and 2 June (141).

During late May and early June, three Nashville Warblers with either a brood patch or a cloacal protuberance were captured, indicating the strong probability of a local breeding community. A decent flight of Cedar Waxwings never materialized. A Hermit Thrush banded on 1 June was a late date for the lake plains. A very late Western Palm Warbler was banded on 4 June.

We held informal banding demonstrations for several hundred casual visitors during the season as well as an open house for members of the

Eastern Bird Banding Association during their annual meeting held in Rochester in mid-April. We also had an open house to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day.

Two uncommon Silver-haired Bats were caught on two successive mornings. An experiment with evening netting for bats was made even more interesting by a Long-eared Owl vocalizing nearby. We had six Whip-poor-wills calling on the evening of 4 May and five Bald Eagles in the sky at once on 27 May.

Five students participated in our Bander Training Course and individual training was given to two area researchers. Susan Smith, a SUNY Brockport graduate student, participated in stopover ecology research at the station.

For all their assistance during the spring, we thank Seth Ames, Bob and Susan Bayley, Jessie and Liz Barry, Mark Becker, Peg Beckman, Cynthia Brewster, Brad Chaffee, Mark Conti, Dan deRoos, Jon Dombrowski, Luke Donius, Jack Duvall, Jim Goetz, Myrt Harding, Marilyn Kelly, John Lehr, Pat Lovallo, Chita McKinney, Cindy and Katie Marino, Brian Mongi, Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, Ernie Pollman, Beth and Randy Ritter, Jeanne Skelly, Doug Smith, Lois Smith, Carol Southby, Cathy Spalm, Barb Tydings, Mary Jean and Paul Weld,

Thanks to route censusers Bob Dows, John Lehr, John and Suzanne Olson, Eldon Remy, and Bob Spahn. A special vote of thanks goes to Bob and Charlene Reed for providing housing during the spring; to Bill and June Kaiser for their interest and support; and to the Board of Directors of Genesee Land Trust for their cooperation and interest.

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory 431-0775
Yanty Creek Banding Station
Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., New York
David N. Bonter, Compiler

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory operated two concurrent migration monitoring stations along the Lake Ontario shoreline during the spring migration in 1999. In addition to continued research at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, a new research station was opened at Hamlin Beach

State Park. Research at the new station will provide a context for BBBO's long-term migration monitoring research at Braddock Bay, and examine stopover patterns in habitats not sampled at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach station. Research at the new site, located near Yanty Creek marsh at the east end of the park, was conducted daily from 26 April to 29 May. The station was operated by licensed banders including David Bonter, Terri Donovan, Peter Jones, Robert McKinney and David Semple. A total of 1,737 birds of 72 species were captured.

209 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
194 Yellow Warbler
157 Gray Catbird
126 White-throated Sparrow
112 Common Yellowthroat
84 Magnolia Warbler
66 Wilson's Warbler
62 American Redstart
54 Traill's Flycatcher
44 Least Flycatcher
44 American Goldfinch

We operated up to 26 mist nets (12 x 2.1, 30 mm mesh) in four habitat types including a shrubby field, secondary growth deciduous woods, mature beech/maple/hemlock woods, and the marsh. Nets in the field and wooded habitats were opened daily at sunrise and operated for a minimum of six hours, weather permitting. The capture location of each bird was recorded for future analysis of species habitat relationships. A majority of the birds were captured in the shrubby field habitat. The lack of success in the wooded habitat is likely a function of the biases of sampling with nets less than three meters above the ground, and the proximity of the woods to the lake (resulting in cooler temperatures and higher winds).

Noteworthy captures included a female Yellow-breasted Chat on 18 May, our busiest day of the season (a total of 203 birds were captured on that day). Other notables included a male Northern Parula on 11 May, and a Sandhill Crane observed circling the marsh on 9 May.

Two nets were placed in the marsh in mid-season to test the viability of future sampling in that habitat type. Given their high visibility resulting from a lack

of vegetative cover and exposure to wind, these nets were surprisingly productive. The marsh nets captured 11 Marsh Wrens in addition to many Swamp and Song sparrows, and Yellow Warblers.

Nearly 7% of all birds were recaptured at least one day after initial capture (N = 121). Of these, 41 (2.4% of total) were recaptured on more than one occasion. Most multiple recaptures are likely locally breeding individuals. A majority of transients stopping over at Hamlin Beach continued their migration within one to three days, although one male Ruby-crowned Kinglet was captured on two occasions, eight days apart. A previously banded male Ruby-crowned Kinglet was captured on 1 May, over a year after it was first banded on 24 April 1998 at Long Point in Ontario, Canada. None of the birds banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was captured at Hamlin Beach, or visa versa.

Thanks to Hamlin Beach State Park Manager Jim Slusarczyk and the New York State Parks for giving permission to operate our field station on Park property. Thanks to Elizabeth Brooks, Ernie Pollman, and David Semple for their hard work, advice, and assistance. Our interns from SUNY Brockport were Dan deRoos and Amy Kershaw. Thanks to the following volunteers and staff including Jessie and Liz Barry, Chuck Bordonaro, Jon Dombrowski, Melanie Driscoll and the Wood Thrush field crew, Myrt Harding, Cindy Marino, Chita McKinney, Doug Smith, Sue Smith, and Dan Wells.

Dr. Terri Donovan of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse has provided valuable advice and support for this research. Dr. Christopher Norment of the SUNY College at Brockport has also contributed appreciated advice and assistance. Dr. Gary Lackman of SUNY Brockport arranged access to NEXRAD radar imagery, which allowed us to monitor bird migration throughout western New York. Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux, Jr. of Clemson University is providing assistance in interpreting the radar images.

Funding for this research was provided by a grant from the Great Lakes Research Consortium.

Ruthven Park

425-0795

Haldimand County, Ontario, Canada

Rick Ludkin

Compared to past years, we had a phenomenal spring. The number banded represents nearly a 250% increase over our previous best year (576 in 1997). This is surprising when one takes into account the marked decrease in numbers banded in the third and fourth weeks of May when, due to the hot, dry conditions, many migrants overflowed the station enroute to their breeding grounds. After 17 May, daily banding totals never exceeded 27 birds.

180 American Goldfinch
128 White-throated Sparrow
114 Slate-colored Junco
78 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
75 Song Sparrow
61 Yellow Warbler
61 American Tree Sparrow
60 Myrtle Warbler
53 Golden-crowned Kinglet
52 Gray Catbird

It is interesting to note that in 1997, warblers made up almost 36% of the birds banded while they made up only 17% of the 1999 catch (and, if Yellow and Yellow-rumped warblers are eliminated from the mix, only 8%). This happened last year as well; May was hot and dry and we caught very few birds in May.

It is difficult to account for the good numbers we experienced this year. We never had a really "big day"—the most banded were 67 (29 April), certainly less than our spring record of 78 obtained in 1997 and far short of the 100+ days we had in the fall of last year. However, we did catch birds in consistently good number—we averaged 41.3 birds per 100 net hours, which is higher than our previous best year in 1997 and more than double last year's rate.

Noteworthy birds included the banding of two Eastern Tufted Titmice, a Brewster's Warbler, a Lawrence's Warbler, a Carolina Wren, and a White-eyed Vireo.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, Maine

**David Holmes, Mac McKenna, Sara Morris,
John Munier, Mary Wright, Banders**

Andre Breton, Alex Chang, Scott Cronenweth,
Carol Cushing, Dorothy Fitch, Caren Gellin,
Anthony Hill, Rozzie Holt, Clif Horrigan, Joyce
Marshall, Kathie Palfy, Stephanie Parkinson,
Carlene Riccelli, Jonah Shull, Martha Stauffer,
Pauline Theriault, Jo Weldon, Assistants.

**533 Common Yellowthroat
265 Magnolia Warbler
156 Red-eyed Vireo
144 American Redstart
119 Ovenbird
119 Black-and-white Warbler
113 Northern Parula
106 Blackpoll Warbler
103 Gray Catbird
82 White-throated Sparrow**

This was our tenth year of operation for most of the spring migration of Nearctic-Neotropical migrants and was our third highest total catch for spring. Weather was not a significant influence this year as we did not lose any full days due to inclement weather. Although our overall total was over 500 birds lower than last year, the bulk of the difference was due to lower COYE (260 less than 1998) and MAWA (296 less than 1998) captures in 1999. While these numbers appear large, the total captures for COYE were one bird less than our ten-year average and the MAWA captures were only 45 birds off the average. The only species that was outside of the normal range of captures was the BTBW (79 captures), which was much higher than normal (more than 2 standard deviations above average). There were no new species captured at the station, although we captured two species for the first time in spring banding, YBCU and MAWR.

Our most unusual statistic was three foreign recoveries. We captured a BAWW banded one week earlier near New Bern, NC, and a BLPW banded the previous fall near Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland. Our other foreign bird was a COYE. We captured 28 birds (of seven species) that we banded in previous years. The most unusual included a male SOSP first banded in 1994, two male YWAR banded in 1995, and a male GRCA banded in 1995. Another interesting note was the documentation of EAPH breeding on the

island with an active nest found as we were closing the station.

This year marked the beginning of a banding station on Star Island run by Becky Suomala. Star Island is the second largest island in the Isles of Shoals (Appledore is the largest). As Becky's work progresses she will include her information in the AFR as well. As usual, we were available for numerous banding demonstrations for groups visiting the island and for classes at the Shoals Marine Lab. We also were able to host members of the field ornithology class for individual training in banding operations.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Shoals Marine Lab and the Star Island Corporation for support of both stations. Their support not only makes our time on the islands possible, but also very enjoyable.

Selkirk Provincial Park **424-0795**

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario, Canada

John Miles, bander

Jamie and Steve Miles, assistants

The fourth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced 11 March and ended 7 June. The station was manned daily during this time period except for one day, with banding taking place on 80 days. Twenty-four volunteers spent one or more days assisting with the running of the station. The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location in the southwest corner of the park since it was started in 1996. The census route and study area remain the same.

**306 White-throated Sparrow
269 Golden-crowned Kinglet
151 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
124 Slate-colored Junco
103 Hermit Thrush
67 Song Sparrow
61 Magnolia Warbler
56 American Robin
56 Gray Catbird
54 Veery**

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was

manned from one-half hour before sunrise usually for a minimum of six hours.

After a taste of winter as the station was being set up for the spring in early March, April and May were mainly warm and quite dry. Vegetation growth was accelerated by about two weeks for the second spring in a row. On most days little rain occurred during the mornings with little disruption in netting activity. The station did not operate due to weather only on one day, although operations were restricted on a few other days. The warm, dry conditions of the second half of May created the same conditions as in the spring of 1998 with little if any fallout, resulting in a reasonable variety of birds but no numbers.

Banding was carried out using 17 mist nets, three ground traps and a Jay trap. The same net lanes used in the spring of 1996, 1997, and 1998 were used again. The changes in net locations was done late last fall to improve coverage of the birds moving through the area and to create a circular net run. This setup was used this spring, although the long chain net lane was expanded to seven nets to give better coverage at the east end of the chain where many birds pass from the pines across an arm of the marsh to the hardwoods to the north. After five banding seasons of experimenting with net locations it appears we have finally achieved the best setup possible.

After a very quiet March, Golden-crowned Kinglets arrived in mass on 3 April resulting in an extremely busy day with 126 birds banded of which 111 were Golden-crowned Kinglets. This flight continued until the 6th with 257 birds banded during this four-day period. The next small wave occurred on 15 April when 53 birds were banded of a general mixture. There were small waves on 22 and 24 April. The period from 29 April to 7 May was the busiest ever encountered at this station. During this nine-day period, 634 birds were banded. Daily banding totals varied from a low of 34 on 30 April to a high of 152 on 5 May. A second wave in May occurred from 11 - 15, with a high of 70 birds banded 15 May. After the 15th, daily banding totals never exceeded 29 birds.

There were 186 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the period. Noteworthy birds included four sightings of Great Egrets, up to

five Little Gulls together, a Pileated Woodpecker, and White-eyed Vireo. A Yellow-breasted Chat, a Brewster's Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow, all of which were banded, rounded out the noteworthy birds.

During the spring of 1999, 1998 birds of 75 species were banded at Selkirk Provincial Park. In addition, one hybrid, Brewster's Warbler, and one additional race, Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, were also banded. Most numerous birds banded in the spring of 1999 were White-throated Sparrow 306, Golden-crowned Kinglet 269, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 151, Slate-colored Junco 124, and Hermit Thrush 103. Four species were banded for the first time at Selkirk in the spring of 1999. These were Great Crested Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Clay-colored Sparrow. As well, an Alder Flycatcher was separated from the "Traill's" complex.

In the spring of 1999, 191 birds were retrapped one to 90 days after being banded. Some of these birds were regularly retrapped—some as many as 30 to 40 times. Sixty-eight birds were trapped in the spring of 1999 which were returns. While most of these are resident or nesting birds in the area, the recapture of four State-colored Juncos, an American Tree Sparrow, and a Willow Flycatcher are noteworthy.

This spring a Gray Catbird banded at Long Point's Old Cut field station on 23 September 1998 as a hatching year was retrapped on 29 May at Selkirk.

Sixty-two visitor days were recorded at the banding site in the spring of 1999. The Norfolk Field Naturalists, members of the Dunnville Public School Green Club, and a Brownie Pack from Simcoe were given banding demonstrations.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Parks Ontario, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, and the Park Contractor, Hans Lutzi, for permission to band in the park. This project was supported financially by the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Birds Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon, the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, the South Peel Field Naturalists, the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program and the Haldimand Bird

Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These included bird bags, three-ring loose leaf binders, timbits and timely cash donations. Goods and services were also provided by Craddock's Garage, Capital Equipment Rental, and Selkirk Provincial Park. A special thanks to John Whitford for arranging the acquisition of a travel trailer. John, along with Heather Witford, spent hours making the necessary alterations to convert the trailer into a banding lab and then managed the slow, rough trip to put the trailer on site for the fall migration.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: 1-2 weeks—Chris, Sue and Mike Kimber, Jim Smith, Dave Woodward; 4-6 days—Tom Ford; 1-3 days—Tom Crooks, Floyd Deiter, Dave Don, Valda Hicks, Brian Housen, Norm Jackson, Ann Miles, Jamie Miles, Loretta Mousseau, George Pond, Fred Shantz, Matt Sliverthorne, Alex Smith, Gerta Smith, Heather Whitford, John Whitford, and Justin Wornick.

Long Point Bird Observatory **423-0800**
Haldimand-Norfolk R.M., **423-0801**
Ontario, Canada **423-0802**
Jul Wojnowski,
Christine Jamieson

The spring of 1999 was quite warm from the get go. Our first big push of migrants was on 3 April, when an incoming storm front enshrouded Long Point in a thick fog. Several hundred Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets were moving through the woodlot of the Old Cut Field Station at a frenzied pace. There were many volunteers on hand as the remote stations were not yet opened, so we were banding at a feverish pace just to keep up with the hoards of birds being brought to the banding lab. By about 9:30 a.m., the fog had burned off and then juncos started to arrive in waves. By the end of the day, 408 birds were banded, including 285 Golden-crowned Kinglets, making it the busiest day at one station in over a decade.

920 White-throated Sparrow
858 Golden-crowned Kinglet
458 Magnolia Warbler
442 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

391 Slate-colored Junco
381 Red-winged Blackbird
367 Brown Creeper
351 Yellow Warbler
351 Myrtle Warbler
310 Common Grackle

We were finally able to open the Breakwater on 6 April and the Tip on the 8th. During the second week of April, numbers of flickers and creepers started to increase, and first arrivals included Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Strong easterly winds and cooler temperatures were not conducive to migration and things slowed down for a few days. On 15 April, another good wave of migrants hit Long Point. Especially active was Breakwater, where thousands of kinglets and hundreds of juncos and creepers moved west towards Old Cut, where 162 birds were banded.

On 26 April we experienced the first small wave of Neotropical migrants with first arrivals of Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white warblers along with Least Flycatchers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, but this was to be just a tease as northerly winds blew for the next few days, holding migrants back. Migration floodgates opened at the Tip in early May with each day becoming more active than the previous. On 4 May, a Blue Jay banded the previous spring at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, on eastern Lake Ontario, was encountered and caught in a J-trap! Over the next three days, 602 birds were banded at the Tip, where hundreds of thrushes, warblers, orioles, and grosbeaks were moving through daily. Late migrants such as Canada and Mourning warblers were also making first appearances. The bulk of songbird migration, especially for Neotrops, took place in the first two weeks of May, which is about a week earlier than normal. By late May, things had definitely slowed down and the late peaks of Red-eyed Vireos and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers took place. Migration had virtually ceased by June with a few Blackpoll Warblers, flycatchers and other late stragglers coming through.

The mild temperatures experienced throughout most of the spring seemed to hasten the overall pace of migration, but also brought higher-than-average numbers of overshoots. The numbers of

banded chats (6), White-eyed Vireos (8), Worm-eating Warblers (4), and Orchard Orioles (11) were all considerably higher than normal.

I would like to thank the Tip Warden, Christine Jamieson, and of course, all of the 64 volunteers who donated their time, energy, and enthusiasm to help run LPBO programs this spring. Volunteers included Clem Dabrowski, Elaine Franklin, Chantal Gagnon, Max Gotz, Sue Gustafson, Ziaul Islam, Simon Johnson, Anastasia Kuzyk, Hugh McArthur, Yoko Miyamoto, Michelle Morrow, Ian Richards, Dana Ripper, Chris Robinson, Scott Rush, Becky Stewart, Hilbran Verstraete, Paolo Viola, Stephen Yzerinac, Heather Ducharme, Bev McBride, David Ross, Pat Sliwkoski, Holly Britton, Stephanie Grossman, Carol Hall, Jeremy Hussell, Linda McLaren, Levi Moore, Steve Ogle, John & Lois Todd, Gina Turone, I-Ping Wong, Martha Allen, Charles Francis & family, David Geale, Audrey Heagy, Mike Henry, Lyndon Kivi, Tanya McGregor, Ben Porchuck, Paul Prior, Bob Whittam, Becky Whittam.

**Kestrel Haven Avian
Farm Migration Observatory 422-0764**
Burdett, Schuyler County, New York
John and Sue Gregoire

We opened toward the end of sparrow migration with nice banding weather and a superb flow of birds. As the Neotropicals began to arrive in early May, unfavorable weather predominated. Several large high pressure areas lingered over our area and winds were unsafe for netting from 15 May onward. We perhaps missed little as our daily point counts revealed few Neotropical stopovers and a quite sudden influx of nesting species.

273 American Goldfinch
49 White-throated Sparrows
35 Slate-colored Junco
28 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
20 Black-capped Chickadee
18 Song Sparrow
17 Chipping Sparrow
16 Swamp Sparrow
14 Red-winged Blackbird
14 White-crowned Sparrow
11 Common Yellowthroat

We banded 596 individuals of 47 species during 20 days of operation. We also had 70 repeats, 99 returns, and 17 birds not banded, for a total of 782 birds netted. Our measure of efficiency was our highest for spring at 131.5 banded per hundred net hours, and 174/100nh overall. Species not banded were EUST, HOSP, and RTHU. We also had our first COGR return, a third-year female.

Returns were of 23 species with 31 individuals over five years of age. The eldest were an 8Y-F HAWO, a 7Y-M GRCA, and 6Y BCCHs, AMGOs, COYEs and GRCA's. HAWO, AMRO, BCCH, YWAR, COYE, CHSP, SOSP, RBGR, BAOR and AMGO were all represented in the five-year-old group.

Last fall we banded an unusually high number of AMGO (525). They passed through this spring in similarly high numbers (273 banded/ 21 returns). A fall-banded AMGO was captured this May in Rochester, NY, by Bob McKinney.

A RWBL presented with foot pox while a SOSP we banded three years ago returned with a greatly increased foot pox. This poor bird looked as if it were wearing snowshoes! Perhaps the most interesting abnormality was exhibited by a male and female HAWO who were almost devoid of white. Instead, the normally white areas were a rich brown. Later observations indicate these are a mated pair leading to the conjecture that their cavity was secreting a tannin, which dyed the feathers. The pair had two young, a male and female; both appeared with normal plumage.

Presque Isle 420-0800
Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania
Ronald F. Leberman

This spring marked the second official AFR report from Presque Isle. April and May for the most part were warm and dry. From one to 15 mist nets were in use on the 15 days of operation from 3 April to 29 May.

107 Yellow Warbler
88 Magnolia Warbler
59 White-throated Sparrow
59 Gray Catbird
48 Black-thr Blue Warbler
41 Common Yellowthroat

29 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
28 Ovenbird
24 American Redstart
23 Golden-crowned Kinglet

A total of 847 birds were banded (505 last spring) of 70 species (58 last year) in 1312 net hours (937 last spring).

An electric company did cut some brush near the banding station some time in March, but it did not hinder operations or affect banding results.

No new species were added to the overall list for the station. However, several seldom-encountered birds were netted including two White-eyed Vireos, a Kentucky Warbler, and a Connecticut Warbler. In addition to the 70 species banded, we did net and release four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and we captured two cardinals and five Downy Woodpeckers that had been banded last fall.

Visitors to the station this spring totaled about 120 with some coming from as far away as Canada, Indiana, and California. I would like to thank all those that helped this spring especially Thelma Patton, Harley and Karen Winkleblack, Roger Donn, Susan Smith, Larry Massey, Janet Price, Jean Stull Cunningham, Evelyn Anderson, and all of the Park staff.

Hebron **415-0780**
Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania
David W. Hauber, Bander
Gary Witmer and family, Assistants

Weather was again a factor in spring 1999. Conditions and movement were good in the early part of the season, but then bad weather seemed to slow migration.

We banded only eight individuals of seven species of warblers.

We had a return of a Tree Sparrow banded here in November 1989 and two Chestnut-sided Warblers banded here in 1995 were recaptured in May 1999.

136 American Goldfinch
43 Slate-colored Junco

39 Chipping Sparrow
37 White-throated Sparrow
34 Red-winged Blackbird
25 Song Sparrow
11 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
7 American Tree Sparrow
7 Common Grackle
7 Purple Finch

Powdermill Nature Reserve **400-0791**
Rector, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill

A total of 2004 birds (95 species) was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve in the spring of 1999; an average season. Of 50 species analyzed, just three (Eastern Phoebe, Slate-colored Junco, and Brown-headed Cowbird) were banded in numbers below the ten-year average. Seven (Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Lincoln's Sparrow) were captured in above-average numbers. The banding highlight of the season was a Least Bittern on 19 May, our third ever at Powdermill. The bittern, a Green Heron, and 12 Solitary Sandpipers were captured in a single net set on a dike between two small ponds.

211 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
191 Magnolia Warbler
102 Gray Catbird
99 Ruby-thr Hummingbird
89 Slate-colored Junco
85 American Goldfinch
80 Chipping Sparrow
79 Common Yellowthroat
61 Cedar Waxwing
58 White-throated Sparrow

Our second-ever recovery of a bird from Cuba was reported to us this spring—in this case, an American Redstart banded and color-banded in winter by an ornithologist on Cayo Coco, off the north coast of Cuba, was recaptured by us at Powdermill in 1997, and just reported to us earlier this year. (Our first Cuban recovery was of a Common Yellowthroat banded by us in October 1972 and recovered the following January in Vereda Nueva.)

This spring, in addition to about 300 casual contacts, we provided formal banding demonstrations to 75 students in seven university classes, 40 students from St. Edmund's Academy in Pittsburgh, 29 students from a local home schooling cooperative, 15 retirees from Longwood Gardens, and a group of 12 attending an outing of the Westmoreland County Bird Club. The banding program benefited greatly from the volunteer assistance by Don Koch, Mary Helen Chiodo, Jim Gruber, Carroll Labarthe, Bonnie Mulvihill, Carole Shanahan, and Bob Shaw.

Bedford Valley **395-0783**
Bedford, Bedford County, Pennsylvania
Janet Shaffer

From four to 10 nets were in use between the hours of 6 a.m. and 12 Noon for a total of 24 days. There were 150 new birds banded, and 47 repeats.

23 Gray Catbird
17 Chipping Sparrow
15 White-throated Sparrow
10 Eastern Towhee

Weather was not usually a problem, although it was noted that on 15 of the 24 days, wind was blowing the nets quite a bit. Most frequently banded were: GRCA, CHSP, WTSP and EATO. Warbler species banded in single numbers usually were: CSWA, MAWA, AMRE, MOWA, HOWA, OVEN, COYE, KEWA, and MYWA. Since the higher number of birds were netted in April, it may be worthwhile to start banding a week or two earlier in the future.

Timber cutting was going on within a quarter to a half-mile from the banding site almost the entire banding season.

Island Beach State Park **395-0740**
Seaside Park, Ocean County, New Jersey
Glenn R. Mahler, compiler

During the spring 1999 banding season, six banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island Beach State Park, between 2 April and 6 June. One or more of those stations was in operation during that 66-day period: there were five banding days in April, 20 in May, and two

in June. There were seven days (all between 10-17 May) on which two of the stations were in operation simultaneously; on all remaining banding days, only a single station was active.

362 Gray Catbird
301 Common Yellowthroat
67 Magnolia Warbler
66 Northern Parula
66 Northern Waterthrush
60 Black-and-white Warbler
38 Yellow Warbler
38 Blackpoll Warbler
36 Black-thr Blue Warbler
35 Ovenbird

There were no outstanding flight days reported this season. Peak flights occurred on 10 May (two stations operating) with 206 birds banded (230/100 net hours) and 13 May (two stations) with 237 birds banded (170/100 net hours).

Banders participating this season were Mary Doscher, Eileen and Glenn Mahler, John Miller, and Robert Yunick; helpers at the stations were Bob Pantle, Sam Orr, and Doris McGovern.

Results for the season were better than last year's horrible showing, but still significantly below average. The 1365 birds banded this season was 73% of the average of 1873 bandings for recent years (1987-98), and on a per net-hour basis, was 75% of average.

No "highlight" birds of the season were caught by any of the banders and no species showed significant trends up or down from previous years. All in all, it was not an exciting year and our sixth consecutive poor spring migration. It is beginning to look like we may be starting to see an ominous trend.

Calmes Neck **390-0775**
Boyce, Clarke County, Virginia
J. William Oberman

197 American Goldfinch
129 Myrtle Warbler
80 White-throated Sparrow
32 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
16 Red-eyed Vireo

15 Slate-colored Junco
15 Eastern Tufted Titmouse
15 Black-thr Blue Warbler
12 Wood Thrush

This was a more typical spring. The yield fell off dramatically after the first week in May, with less than 10 birds per day thereafter.

The station conducted a working session on banding for four Maryland/Virginia park naturalists.

Greenwell Field Station **362-0763**
Hollywood, St. Mary's County, Maryland
Ronald R. Runkles, Bander
Tim Fabian and Martin Cribb, Chief Assistants

The spring 1999 banding season was only the second consecutive year of spring banding at Greenwell State Park, Hollywood, St. Mary's County, MD. The weather seemed to be the major contributing factor to a numerically disappointing banding season. The only number that increased significantly from the previous year was that of birds per one hundred net hours.

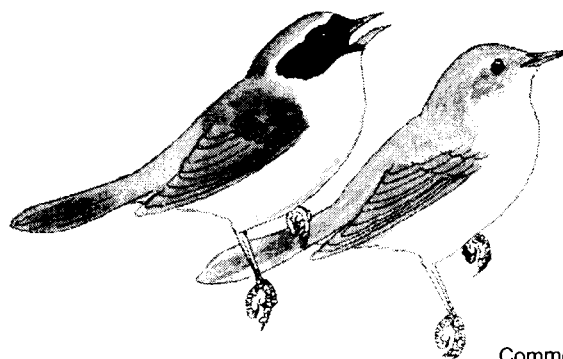
14 Common Yellowthroat
9 Field Sparrow
7 Indigo Bunting
7 Gray Catbird
4 Swamp Sparrow
4 Northern Cardinal

Weekends, when we do most of our banding, were characterized by cold temperatures, high winds, and drought. The temperature is read every morning, after setting the nets, between 0630 and 0700 hrs, and the mean temperature for the spring

of 1999 was 53.4°F (n=16, s =7.2°F) as compared to 64.4°F for the spring of 1998 (n = 14, s = 8.6°F). Typically, by 0830 hours, wind gusts increased to more than 20 mph from the NE creating unsafe banding conditions for the birds. During the roughly two months of banding, only about two inches of rain fell in the vicinity of the field station and that occurred in the first two weeks of operation.

Unlike the previous spring, the deplorable weather conditions seemed to scatter and fragment northward migration in southern Maryland. There were no passing waves of sparrows, thrushes, or warblers. Also unlike the spring of 1998, northward migrating accipiters, when spotted, were high in the sky passing over, not down under the forest canopy chasing sparrows and thrushes. We captured only three birds that neither breed nor winter in our area: a Swainson's Thrush, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, and a Northern Waterthrush. We did capture the first Savannah Sparrow for Greenwell Field Station and observed our first possible pair of Henslow's Sparrows on 28 April near one of the nets—in fact, one of these sparrows perched on the top trammel of the net.

Even though migration was disappointing, the local breeding birds established the normal number of territories at the field station. These included Field Sparrows, Prairie Warblers, Brown Thrashers, White-eyed Vireos, Common Yellowthroats, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and Red-eyed Vireos. For the first time in the three springs we have been monitoring the area, a pair of Eastern Meadowlarks and a pair or Northern Bobwhites nested in the field near one of the nets.



Common Yellowthroat by George West