

2000

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2000

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (2000) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2000," *North American Bird Bander*.  
Vol. 25 : Iss. 4 , Article 9.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol25/iss4/9>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

Pine Siskins (57) showed up this fall, the first since 1993, and we also banded a few Black-capped Chickadees. Only one Wood Thrush and no Veery banded in the continuing thrush shortage. Hermit Thrushes remain stable, however, with 23 banded.

I banded one N. Saw-whet Owl, a rare occurrence, but there were no other owls or hawks banded this season.

Among 46 returns was a seven-year-old junco and a six-year-old Indigo Bunting. My thanks to Christian Brown who assisted me this year.

## ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2000

**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator**  
**1435 Waterwells Road**  
**Alfred Station, NY 14803**  
 brookser@infoblvd.net

This is the third year for the AFR spring report. Don Runkles reported that the weather was terrible at Greenwell on the weekends—either rain, wind, or cold—and so he did not do much banding. The weather was a problem at several stations. Staff at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station at Braddock Bay slogged through net lanes covered with up to 10" of mud and water throughout the entirety of spring 2000 but were rewarded with their highest totals ever. And the good news there was that "only" 555 Black-capped Chickadees were banded, compared to 1082 the previous fall!

The results over the whole region were mixed, with Crown Point, Lewiston, Ruthven, Appledore, Bedford Valley, and Calmes Neck reporting totals down from spring '99 and the rest of the stations reporting better numbers. Overall, 30,556 birds were banded compared to 27,343 the previous spring. The 'best day' ranged from as early as 20 April at Powdermill to as late as 25 May at Appledore, with the majority of stations' best day falling between 11-20 May.

As banders become more comfortable using the new Pyle ageing protocols, we ought to be able to provide as much reliable %SY data in the spring as we do %HY data in the fall. Less than half the reporting stations reported %SY figures this spring; but of the stations who did report these data, an interesting observation can be made. It is well known that HY birds tend to migrate along the coast in fall while AHY birds tend to move inland. But not as much is known about spring movement.

Of three species with enough sample size, it appears that SY birds also tend to take a coastal route in spring, while ASY birds are more apt to take an inland route (Fig. 1).

**Fig. 1. Percent SY birds vs % ASY birds of three species captured at inland vs coastal banding stations.**

Species	Station	Location	Number Banded	% SY
WTSP	Long Pt Bird Obs	Inland	1010	23.3
	Yanty Creek	Inland	92	18.5
	Appledore	Coastal	244	82.3
RCKI	Calmes Neck	Coastal	62	80
	Long Pt Bird Obs	Inland	690	17.5
	Appledore	Coastal	75	65.9
MAWA	Calmes Neck	Coastal	15	67
	Long Pt Bird Obs	Inland	448	51.3
	Yanty Creek	Inland	177	36
	Appledore	Coastal	271	70.3

From reading the narratives below, you can see that a key to the success of the operations is the work of volunteers. There were over 150 volunteers individually cited in the reports and they all deserve much credit for the success of our research efforts.

We are still seeking new stations to contribute their records to the spring AFR report. Please contact me for a reporting form for the spring 2001 banding season.

**Table 1. Spring 2000 AFR Banding Summary.**

	<b>Crown Point NY</b>	<b>Lewiston NY</b>	<b>Manitou Beach NY</b>	<b>Yanty Creek NY</b>	<b>Ruthven Ont</b>	<b>Appledore ME</b>
Inclusive Dates	5/12 - 5/29	5/5 - 5/21	4/22 - 6/4	4/26 - 5/31	3/18 - 5/30	5/3 - 6/9
Total Days	18	7	47	35	58	38
Nets Used	15.5 to 18.5	15	6 to 35	22 to 31	8 to 15	7 to 9
Total Net Hours	4177	397.5	9873.9	5123.5	4220.5	4092.5
Number Traps	1	0	0	0	4	0
% Caught in Traps	2%	0	0	0	7.40%	0
Best Day # (date)	38 on 5/15	38 on 5/11	365 on 5/1	213 on 5/13	52 on 5/20	292 on 5/25
Best Diversity (date)	-	21 on 5/11	49 on 5/8	38 on 5/13	28 on 5/5	-
Total Banded 1999	785	254	3453	1737	1407	2636
Total Banded 2000	486	177	5647	2638	1156	2533
Total Species 1999	60 + 1 hybrid	44	85	72	81	74
Total Species 2000	55	40	94	79 + 1 hybrid	81	82
Birds/100 NH 1999	11.8	33.2	36.7	33.9	41.3	64.25
Birds/100 NH 2000	10.3	44.5	57.2	56.1	25.3	61.89

**Table 1 (cont'd.). Spring 2000 AFR Banding Summary.**

	<b>Selkirk ONT</b>	<b>Long Point ONT</b>	<b>Presque Isle PA</b>	<b>Powdermill PA</b>	<b>Bedford Valley PA</b>	<b>Island Beach NJ</b>	<b>Calmes Neck VA</b>
Inclusive Dates	2/22 - 6/6	3/27 - 6/8	4/1 - 5/29	3/1 - 5/31	4/17 - 5/17	4/2 - 6/4	4/3 - 5/27
Total Days	100	74	14	81	14	22	31
Nets Used	up to 18	0 to 38	5 to 20	2 to 40	3 to 10	4 to 31	13 to 17
Total Net Hours	10,147	9744	-	7995	510.5	1845.59	5285
Number Traps	4	16	0	0	0	0	0
% Caught in Traps	4.95%	-	0	0	0	0	0
Best Day # (date)	176 on 5/3	426 on 5/4	159 on 5/20	95 on 4/20	18 on 4/24	332 on 5/17	48 on 5/2
Best Diversity (date)	27 on 5/3	-	35 on 5/21	-	-	42 on 5/6	18 on 5/2
Total Banded 1999	1998	9983	845	2004	150	1365	726
Total Banded 2000	2506	10,125	792	2099	95	1823	479
Total Species 1999	75	114	70	95	37	65	59
Total Species 2000	81	119	71	101	28	72	50
Birds/100 NH 1999	22.1	81.8	-	26	18	94.5	14
Birds/100 NH 2000	23.47	104	-	26.2	18	98.9	9

## **Crown Point State Historic Site 440-0732**

Essex County, NY

**John M.C. Peterson**, Bander

Gordon E. Howard, Chief Assistant

This marked the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of operation of the spring banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site. Located in hawthorn thickets near the tip of Crown Point peninsula, a natural migrant trap that juts northward into Lake Champlain, the station was open from 12-29 May. Operated by High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., the station is situated west of the ruins of French and British forts on the 360-acre grounds of the historic site.

**46 Gray Catbird**  
**33 Blue Jay**  
**31 Common Yellowthroat**  
**26 American Goldfinch**  
**21 Traill's Flycatcher**  
**20 Yellow Warbler**  
**20 Myrtle Warbler**  
**17 Black-capped Chickadee**  
**15 Least Flycatcher**  
**13 American Redstart**

In contrast to the sunny spring of '99, this was the second wettest May on record. The month saw 13 days with rain, which helped ground a good variety of species, but no major waves of migrants. May precipitation totaled a soggy 6.13", some 3.01" above normal, or nearly double the amount expected in a normally rainy month. Although individual numbers were low, with 402 birds banded, the rains managed to ground a fair variety of 55 species. Most numerous was Gray Catbird, and a heavy return flight produced a record 33 Blue Jays.

Warbler variety was good, with 15 species netted, including Golden-winged Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler on 22 May. The greatest warbler variety came on 25 May when eight species were banded. There were 33 returns of 15 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest—an American Goldfinch now seven years, 11 months old. A green net in a grassy field yielded two Barn Swallows, European Starling, Savannah Sparrow, plus a Ruby-throated Hummingbird

released unbanded. The totals also include five Eastern Bluebird nestlings from a nest box and five House Finch nestlings from a nest behind the interpretive sign on a 19<sup>th</sup> Century lime kiln on the grounds of the Historic Site.

There were well over 200 visitors, including groups from Adirondack Wilderness Challenge, Elizabethtown-Lewis Elementary, Lake Placid Elementary, Queensbury & Saratoga Springs Girl Scouts, St. Agnes School, Ticonderoga Developmental Kindergarten, and seniors, as well as Atlas observers from the Adirondack-Champlain Region.

Banders and visitors assisted Susan Peterson with early Atlas coverage of Block 6287A, in which the only land in NYS is, conveniently, the State Historic Site and neighboring DEC campground. A total of 81 breeding species was recorded during May, including a new colony of Double-crested Cormorants. Other noteworthy Atlas birds included American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Whip-poor-will, and Orchard Oriole. Banders helped confirm Warbling Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, and Common Grackle using the CO-FE code (female with egg in the oviduct).

Banders Gordon Howard and Patricia Taber and subpermittees Selma Isil, Rich MacDonald, Nina Schoch, and Bob Wei assisted with technical chores, while countless volunteers helped check the net lanes. Gary Lee also deserves special mention for helping to transport the station and staying for a week. We're most grateful to the NYS OPR&HP for their hospitality, especially Historic Site Manager Bill Farrar and the staff of the Crown Point State Historic Site. After 25 years, a total of 9579 birds of 91 species have been banded on Crown Point peninsula during May, and we look forward to our next quarter-century.

**Braddock Bay Bird Obs. 431-0774**  
**Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station**  
Monroe County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks**, Compiler

The 15th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station began on 22 Apr and continued until 4 Jun

2000. Banding was done by licensed banders David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Dan deRoos, Robert McKinney, David Semple, Sue Smith, and Martha Zettel. There were 5644 birds banded of 94 forms.

**611 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**555 Black-capped Chickadee**  
**351 Magnolia Warbler**  
**350 Myrtle Warbler**  
**289 American Redstart**  
**258 Yellow Warbler**  
**221 Gray Catbird**  
**212 Common Yellowthroat**  
**203 Traill's Flycatcher**  
**188 Blue Jay**

An additional 140 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

Constant-effort mist netting was done on 47 days between 17 Apr and 4 Jun using from one to 35 30mm-mesh mist nets situated in three distinct habitats: field/edge, shrubby/early successional, and mature deciduous woods. Included in the 35-net total were six aerial net assemblies. Total net hours were 9873.9; the efficiency ratio was 57.2 birds/100 net hours. The best day was 1 May when 365 birds of 30 species were banded. Other 200+ days were 281 on 4 May, 347 on 8 May, 328 on 13 May, and 202 on 22 May. The day with the best species diversity was 8 May when 49 species were banded. Of the 47 days when banding was carried out, 28 had more than 100 birds banded.

The total number of birds banded during spring 2000 (5644) was the highest ever (average=3027). Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a new species, bringing the cumulative number captured in spring to 127 forms.

Birds banded in record high numbers were Downy Woodpecker, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Fox Sparrow, White-throated

Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole.

Bay-breasted Warbler was banded in record low numbers. Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, and Cape May Warbler were missing after having been captured in nine of the last 14 years.

During spring 2000, we collected one tail feather from most of the Yellow Warblers we handled. These were sent to Marylene Boulet, a graduate student at McMaster University, for genetic and isotope analysis.

SUNY Brockport graduate student Susan Smith continued her stopover ecology research on migratory restlessness of a sampling of lean vs. fat White-throated Sparrows and Swainson's Thrushes captured at the banding station. David Bonter, a doctoral candidate at the University of Vermont, continued his research using data collected at the banding station as well as his work correlating NEXRAD imagery and migration staging and stopover.

We gave banding demonstrations to several hundred visitors to the banding stations and to a group of girl scouts from Irondequoit and a group attending Braddock Bay Raptor Research Bird of Prey Week.

Our spring intern assistants were Chris Betrus, Dan deRoos, and Reneé Mensing. Katherine Clemens, Cindy Marino, and Patricia O'Kane successfully completed a bander training class.

Assistants at Manitou Beach included Liz Barry, Mark Becker, Brad and Pat Chaffee, Jack Duvall, Tom Greg, Myrt Harding, Betty Hooker, Joanna Klima, Pat Lovallo, Katie Marino, Chita McKinney, Bill O'Neill, Debbie Reed, Chris Roberts, Jeanne Skelly, Greta Stephany, Doug Smith, Lois Smith, Donal Solick, and Chris Villone,

Special appreciation to Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, to Bob and Charlene Reed for providing housing for banders and interns, and to Bill and June Kaiser and the Board of the Genesee Land Trust for the use of the land.

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

It was an amazing season for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with 284 captured. This is an increase of 241 over last spring. Other notable totals were tallied for American Redstarts (an increase of 100 over last spring), Magnolia Warblers (with captures up by 93 individuals), and flycatchers and thrushes in general. Once again we captured very few Black-capped Chickadees (12) despite a high number of captures (555) at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, which is located only 10 miles to the east. Notable individuals were two White-eyed Vireos and a Black-billed Cuckoo, both species were firsts for the station.

**228 Yellow Warbler**  
**204 Gray Catbird**  
**198 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**177 Magnolia Warbler**  
**162 American Redstart**  
**143 Common Yellowthroat**  
**117 Traill's Flycatcher**  
**107 Least Flycatcher**  
**100 Wilson's Warbler**  
**90 Swainson's Thrush**

The major disappointment of the season was caused by unusually high amounts of rain, which almost eliminated our sampling efforts in the marsh habitat due to high water levels. We hope to return to this interesting habitat this fall. Despite completing only two seasons of banding at this station (spring and fall 1999), we recorded 66 returns of 12 species this spring. A large portion of the locally breeding Yellow Warbler population returned, as we captured 18 previously banded individuals this spring. The sex ratios of returning species were fairly even, with the exception of the Song Sparrows. In this species we recorded eight returning males and no returning females.

**Ruthven Park** 425-0795  
Haldimand County, Ontario  
**Rick Ludkin**, Bander  
Loretta Mousseau, Maureen Moore, Jim Smith,  
Chief Assistants

This was the fifth spring operation for the Ruthven Park field station of Haldimand Bird Observatory (HBO).

The second half of March saw cold nights and seasonably warm days which proved to be good for maple syrup but not so great for banding. April was generally cold and very wet. There was frost on the nets on many mornings when we were trying to open. Further, we either did not open or were forced to close early on a number of occasions due to rain. These conditions resulted in a shortage of insects for potential migrants. May brought warmer temperatures although fairly unsettled at times with storms and a fair amount of rain.

**134 American Goldfinch**  
**85 Golden-crowned Kinglet**  
**75 Yellow Warbler**  
**65 Chipping Sparrow**  
**62 Song Sparrow**  
**57 Magnolia Warbler**  
**47 Gray Catbird**  
**41 Slate-colored Junco**  
**37 Cedar Waxwing**  
**36 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

The field station has operated in the same location since 1996, and the net lanes have been in the same locations since 1996 although we had to move one from last year.

Banding and sight recording started on 18 Mar and was fairly continuous (58 days) until 30 May. Nets were usually opened before sunrise and closed around 11:30. We aimed for six hours of coverage but this would vary with weather and work demands.

After last spring's banner results (1407 banded), this year's catch of 1156 birds was somewhat disappointing (although considerably higher than all other years). The frustration was exacerbated greatly by that great modern communication tool – the internet. We were bombarded by reports from



The 82 species captured represents the largest number of species ever captured in the spring; however, the season was average for the overall number of birds captured in the spring (spring 2000 = 2,533; ten-year average = 2,548). Weather was likely to have had a significant influence this year because, although we did not lose any full days due to inclement weather, we lost part of 14 days due to wind and rain. Several of these were early mornings and coincided with traditional peak migratory periods, resulting in a lower-than-average capture rate (spring 2000: 61.9 birds/100 net-hours; ten-year average: 68.6 birds/100 net-hours). Although we banded 292 birds on our "big day" for the season, our second highest day was 173, the only other day that we banded more than 150 birds this season. This lack of "big days" contrasts sharply with seven days on which we banded more than 150 birds last year and nine "big days" in 1998 (including five days with over 200 birds). Interestingly, our effort, as measured in net hours, was almost identical 1999 and 2000, with a difference of only 10 net-hours between the two years.

There were no new species captured at the station this spring. Our most frequently captured species were those expected, and the only species that was in the top ten last year but not this year was the Northern Parula (#7 in 1999, #15 in 2000). This year's addition was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The three species that we captured in numbers outside the normal range of spring captures were the Blue Jay (36 captures), Scarlet Tanager (22), and Indigo Bunting (5), each of which was much higher than normal (more than 2 standard deviations above average). One of the most dramatic changes, although within the normal range of variation, was the low number of Common Yellowthroats captured this spring (250 fewer than average). We also passed a few milestones this spring including our 1500<sup>th</sup> Ovenbird, our 2000<sup>th</sup> Gray Catbird, our 4500<sup>th</sup> Magnolia Warbler, our 5000<sup>th</sup> American Redstart, and our 8500<sup>th</sup> Common Yellowthroat.

Our returns of breeding birds included Common Yellowthroats that were fourth-year, fifth-year, and sixth-year birds; Gray Catbirds, which included several fourth-year and an after-sixth-year bird; a third-year Black-capped Chickadee; and second-

year Song Sparrows and a Yellow Warbler. All of our returns were of species that breed on the island. We did not recover any birds banded elsewhere this spring. A Common Yellowthroat we banded in the spring of 1998 was reported dead in Kittery, Maine, in June of this year. We captured several birds that had been banded on Star Island, another island in the Isles of Shoals where an additional banding station is being run for the second year, but more birds banded on Appledore were captured on Star. One of our returning catbirds was originally banded on Star Island last year.

Because the Shoals Marine Lab sponsors many credit and non-credit classes, as well as a variety of visiting groups, we gave numerous banding demonstrations for groups visiting the island. We also hosted members of the field ornithology class during the early morning hours, giving them individual training in banding operations as well as having their support as recorders and assistants.

The station could not have run this spring without the able assistance of our band-aides: Jean Andrew, Katie Battaglia, Alex Chang, Scott Cronenweth, Carol Cushing, Dorothy Fitch, Rozzie Holt, Clif Horrigan, Susan Isabel, Kathie Palfy, Stephanie Parkinson, and Martha Stauffer. The Shoals Marine Lab staff has been very supportive with logistics, housing, and great understanding and patience for the schedules we keep. A number of our assistants have made donations to the station. I am also very grateful to Canisius College for the funding of many of the station supplies as well as funding student's involvement in the Appledore station, both by funding student travel and by funding students who are analyzing the data.

#### **Selkirk Provincial Park**

**424-0795**

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, Ontario, Canada

**John Miles**, Bander

Chris, Mike and Sue Kimber, Jim Smith, Chief Assistants

The fifth year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory commenced 22 Feb and ended 6 Jun. The station was manned almost daily during this time period with the banding effort



taking place on 100 days. Twenty-three volunteers spent one or more days assisting with the running of the station.

**389 Golden-crowned Kinglet**  
**301 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**291 White-throated Sparrow**  
**158 Slate-colored Junco**  
**150 Hermit Thrush**  
**83 Magnolia Warbler**  
**72 American Tree Sparrow**  
**69 Song Sparrow**  
**64 Myrtle Warbler**  
**59 Gray Catbird**

Except for days of extreme adverse weather when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from ½ hour before sunrise, usually for a minimum of six hours.

March weather arrived near the end of February prompting the station being set up for the spring in late February, most of March seemed like April and April was warm and dry. April weather returned in May resulting in record amounts of rain which continued well into June. Vegetation growth was accelerated by about two weeks for the third spring in a row.

The wet conditions of the second half of May created extremely muddy conditions in the banding area. Numerous drainage ditches were dug to drain off the excess water as some of the trails around the netting area had ankle deep mud that progressively got worst as the rains continued to fall.

The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location since it was started in 1996: in the south-west corner of the park. The census route and study area remains the same.

Banding was carried out using 18 mist nets, three ground traps, and a Jay trap. The same net lanes used in the previous springs were used again. Changes in net locations done last fall to improve coverage of the birds moving through the area and to create a circular net run were continued. After six banding seasons of experimenting with net locations it appears we have finally achieved the best setup possible.

With the mild weather at the end of February, juncos and American Tree Sparrows were detected as being on the go the last week of February. Using only ground traps from 22 to 24 Feb and starting to erect nets on 27 Feb resulted in 46 birds being banded during the six days the station was in operation in February. This is only one bird shy of the 47 birds banded during 21 banding days in all of March 1999.

During the previous four springs, the best March day had been 20 birds banded. This total went out the window on 28 Mar when 72 birds were banded, including 61 Golden-crowned Kinglets—a really good banding day any time of the year at Selkirk. All told, 251 birds were banded this March, compared to 47 in 1999.

April was steady with peaks and valleys until 14 Apr when 86 birds were banded. Again, Golden-crowned Kinglets led the way with 51 banded. The next big wave occurred 20 Apr with 127 birds banded of which 57 were Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 33 Hermit Thrushes. Seventy-two birds banded 27 Apr and 60 on 28 Apr were just a warm-up for April's big day on 29 Apr when 166 birds were banded—47 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 58 White-throated Sparrows led the way. April closed out with 64 birds banded on the 30<sup>th</sup> on what seemed like a slow day after the day before. All told, a record April with 1105 birds banded.

May started out strong with 47 birds banded on the 1<sup>st</sup>, but the lull came to a screeching halt 3 May when 176 birds were banded with 53 White-throated Sparrows, 30 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and 24 Hermit Thrushes leading the way of the 27 species banded that day. The 4<sup>th</sup> of May was an echo day with 104 birds banded, led by 42 White-throated Sparrows. The next three days saw the totals drop off to 70, 60, and then 40 odd birds banded. The next good wave of birds arrived on 12 May with 82 birds banded. The next minor wave occurred 22-24 May when a total of 113 birds were banded over the three-day period; and after that, there was only a trickle until the station closed down 6 Jun. The combined May and June total was 1104 birds banded—one less than the exceptional April banding total of 1105.

There were 184 species of birds recorded in or from the study area during the study period. Noteworthy birds included a Great Egret that was present for five days, a Snowy Egret in the Spring Creek Marsh, up to four Little Gulls together, and a Pileated Woodpecker. Three Yellow-breasted Chats, an Acadian Flycatcher, and a Hooded Warbler, all of which were banded, rounded out the noteworthy birds.

There were 2506 birds of 81 species banded at Selkirk Provincial Park in the spring of 2000. In addition, one intergrade, a Red- xYellow-Shafted Flicker was also banded. Two species were banded for the first time at Selkirk in the spring of 2000: a Northern Parula and White-winged Crossbill.

In the spring of 2000, 351 birds were retrapped one or more days after being banded. Some of these birds were retrapped regularly, some as many as 30 to 40 times.

There were 113 birds retrapped in the spring of 2000 that were returns. While most of these were resident nesting birds in the area, the recapture of 15 Slate-colored Juncos and five American Tree Sparrows are noteworthy.

At time of writing, no birds banded at Selkirk have been reported recovered this year at other locations.

There were 78 visitor days recorded at the banding site in the spring of 2000. The Norfolk Field Naturalists and the Selkirk Boy Scouts 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 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, 3-ring loose leaf binders, Timbits and timely cash donations.

A special thanks to John Whitford, who arranged to plow the snow so that an early start could take place.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: 1-2 weeks: Chris, Sue and Mike Kimber; 4-6 days: Brian Benvenuti, Dave Donn, Tom Ford, Ann Miles, Jim Smith; 1-3 days: Tina Cole, Tom Crooks, Floyd Deiter, Blake Edwards, Sarah Jones, Wolfgang Luft, Amy McArthur, Gerald McNaughton, Steve Miles, Dave Miller, George Pond, Adam Timpf, Matt Timpf, Heather Whitford, John Whitford.

<b>Long Point Bird Observatory</b>	<b>423-0800</b>
Haldimand-Norfolk R.M.,	<b>423-0801</b>
Ontario, Canada	
<b>Kathryn Warner,</b>	<b>423-0802</b>
<b>Michael Enright,</b> Banders	
Paul Prior, Jeremy Barker, Miguel Demelemeeste,	
Chief Assistants	

Although the season started out slow, this spring turned out to be great for banding totals and uncommon migrants. Migration monitoring at the Old Cut Station began on a very wet, cool morning on 27 Mar. Many resident species were still around and the migrants were just starting to move. At this time, most movement was from Slate-colored Juncos, Brown Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Migrant numbers picked up the last days of March with the arrival of Northern Flickers, Fox Sparrows, and tens of thousands of Common Grackles, European Starlings, and Red-winged Blackbirds. We had an unexpected Louisiana Waterthrush on the 28<sup>th</sup> that could not stay out of our nets! The Tree Swallows officially arrived on 24 Mar, and a Barn Swallow made an early appearance on 30 Mar.

**1010 White-throated Sparrow**  
**837 Blue Jay**  
**690 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**501 Slate-colored Junco**  
**448 Magnolia Warbler**  
**427 Brown Creeper**  
**334 American Goldfinch**  
**328 Brown-headed Cowbird**  
**274 Hermit Thrush**

April was a very busy month and was ushered in with the first big push of migrants. Two hundred and sixty-one birds were banded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Old Cut alone. The forest was littered with the Golden-crowned Kinglets and the volunteers could not keep them out of the nets. That week we also welcomed the arrival of Eastern Phoebes, Hermit Thrush, Field and Chipping sparrows, another Louisiana Waterthrush, and the continual onslaught of *Icterids*. It seemed that migration was well on its way, so we decided to open the Tip and Breakwater as soon as there was a break in the weather (2 and 4 Apr respectively).

Banding out on the point had a slow start due to rain and high winds, but it did not take long for things to pick up. Early migrants such as Slate-colored Juncos, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and flickers could not stay away. After the first two weeks in April were finished, approximately 1800 birds were banded. Unfortunately, cold weather and strong winds slowed the banding a little for the next 10 days, but Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers remained the main banding staple at all three stations.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> the first warblers arrived. Myrtle and Pine warblers were sighted and banded at the Tip and Old Cut. It was a great year for Pine Warblers with a total of 30 seen this spring among the three stations, with at least one seen daily from 14-30 Apr. Numbers of Vesper, Savannah, Field and Chipping sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos peaked around 24 Apr. The month closed with the arrival of Ovenbirds, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Western Palm warblers and huge numbers of White-throated Sparrows. Breakwater also had a Hairy Woodpecker turn up on 29 Apr—that is an unusual species for the point.

May began with high winds, cool temperatures, fog and rain but that did not stop the birds from coming. On 3 and 4 May, the Tip had a mass movement of Blue Jays, banding 225 individuals and estimating approximately 1800 moving over the Tip. It seems that the J-trap was effective with 75% of all birds banded being Blue Jays on those two days. By 5 May, several species of Neotropical migrants, such as Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and all the common wood warblers made their first

appearance. For the first week the weather remained relatively nice and the three stations were banding around a hundred birds a day with a total of 2457 birds banded for the week. By the second week, a cold front stalled bringing rain and high winds, making banding difficult and very wet. The exception was 12 May when 351 birds were banded at the three stations.

The first two weeks of May were interesting because it also managed to bring a high number of uncommon species to Long Point. A SY male (yellow and red splotched) Summer Tanager made an appearance at the Tip on 6 May and Old Cut managed to find one on 7 May. This male was seen every day either at Old Cut or Long Point Provincial Park until 13 May. Seven Golden-winged Warblers were seen among the three stations between 10 and 21 May. Northern Parulas were in high numbers this season with eight seen at Old Cut and five at the Tip. The ever-elusive Orange-crowned Warbler could not escape the nets or the keen eyes of volunteers having banded three and spotting two. Lastly, this was also another good year for Orchard Orioles and Yellow-breasted Chats with approximately 15 of both species seen among the three sites.

By the end of the second week in May, movement began to slow. Although the number of birds banded decreased, the species diversity still remained high. The warblers and flycatchers were still arriving and the last sparrows and kinglets were moving through. There was also a very confused and late moving Northern Shrike seen at the Tip on 14 May along with the newly arriving end-of-season migrants such as Canada, Mourning, Wilson's and Blackpoll warblers.

A small front passed on Victoria Day Weekend bringing a new batch of migrants for all the holiday visitors. Old Cut was kept busy banding Magnolia Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes, Wilson's Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats. The number of Magnolia Warblers in these two days was astonishing. An estimated 300 Magnolia Warblers were in the area and the crew banded over a 100 individuals in those two days. The Tip and Breakwater had their hands full with American Goldfinches, banding over 110 individuals and 300

passing through on 21 May. Breakwater also counted the season high of 103 different species in their census area on 22 May. The highlight of the season at Old Cut was a male Lawrence's Warbler seen and banded on 21 May. The Lawrence's Warbler is the less common hybrid between a Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler. This bird is very uncommon and is rarely seen never mind banded!

Notable sightings during spring 2000 were two American White Pelicans on 8 Jun, a Cattle Egret on 6 Apr, a Eurasian Wigeon present from 27 Mar to 9 Apr, a Yellow Rail on 17 May, a Black Vulture on 19 Jun, a Swallow-tailed Kite on 10 Jun, a Mississippi Kite on 17 May, a Wilson's Phalarope on 17 May, a Parasitic Jaeger on 6 Jun, a sub-adult Laughing Gull on 25-26 May, a singing male Acadian Flycatcher banded on 2 Jun, several Yellow-throated Vireos on various dates, a Mountain Bluebird on 27 Mar, a Yellow Palm Warbler banded on 24 Apr, a singing male Cerulean Warbler on 21 May, two Worm-eating Warblers during the first two weeks of May and a territorial male between 11 May and 17 Jun, 12 Yellow-breasted Chats, many Orchard Orioles, two SY male Summer Tanagers in early May, a LeConte's Sparrow on 20 May, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird on 26 May, a Brewer's Blackbird on 5 May, and a nesting pair of Pine Siskins.

#### **Presque Isle**

**420-0800**

Erie, Eric County, PA

**Ronald F. Leberman**, Bander

Barb Mitchell, Assistant

Banding operations began on 1 Apr 2000 for our 40<sup>th</sup> year of bird banding at this location. Some years, banding had been possible in March, but not this year as all weekends were unfavorable—too wet, windy or cold. Despite the late start, we ended up banding about the same number of birds as last spring. A total of 792 birds (845 in '99) in 1146 net hours (1312 in '99) and 71 species (70 in '99).

**92 Magnolia Warbler**

**66 Gray Catbird**

**58 Yellow Warbler**

**52 Red-eyed Vireo**

**41 American Redstart**

**31 Canada Warbler**

**29 Myrtle Warbler**

**29 Swainson's Thrush**

#### **25 Common Yellowthroat**

#### **25 Wilson's Warbler**

On 6 May, just as I was thinking it was time to close up the nets, I looked up to the first visible net and saw two Wood Ducks struggling to get out of the net. I made a mad dash and was able to get the female out but the male got away. This was a new species for this station.

April was rather dry and warm, while May was wet and windy. The level of Lake Erie and the bay was about five feet below normal so all net lanes were usable. No special species were banded, but several good ones were a White-eyed Vireo, two Golden-winged Warblers, two Orange-crowned Warblers, three Yellow-breasted Chats and better-than-usual numbers of flycatchers.

Two Yellow Warblers banded in July 1989 as HY birds were netted in May this spring making them at least 10 years old—very good for such a small bird.

Sam Stull's sharp eyes detected the only tick of the season near the bill of a Red-eyed Vireo, and the tick was removed.

I want to thank the many people who visited the station and helped out in so many ways, especially Barb Mitchell, Susan Smith, Cathy Smith, Janet Price, Pat Wishart, Karen and Harley Winkleblack, Pat and Donna Peters, Thelma Patton, Sam Stull, Toby and Jean Stull Cunningham, Mike and Michelle Snyder and all the staff and park officials.

#### **Powdermill Nature Reserve**

**400-0791**

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Robert C. Leberman and Robert S. Mulvihill**,  
Banders

Although our banding totals for spring 2000 are not strictly comparable with previous spring seasons because we have, for the first time, included the month of March in our report, it was an average migration at Powdermill. A total of 2099 birds (101 species) was banded. Many of the normally early migrants like Eastern Phoebe and Fox Sparrow returned even earlier than usual this season; but by late March, first arrivals dates were back to near normal. Vireos, flycatchers, and warblers peaked in early May, and by the second half of the month

relatively few migrants were captured, although the local breeding bird population seemed normal for most species.

**286 American Goldfinch**  
**216 Slate-colored Junco**  
**189 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**99 Magnolia Warbler**  
**83 Song Sparrow**  
**73 Black-capped Chickadee**  
**71 Gray Catbird**  
**71 Fox Sparrow**  
**67 Cedar Waxwing**  
**54 Chipping Sparrow**

A net stretched along a dike between two small ponds produced a few waterbirds not commonly banded at Powdermill, including Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, two Green Herons, an American Woodcock, and Solitary Sandpiper. Following a good flight of Black-capped Chickadees through southwestern Pennsylvania last fall, there was a fairly heavy return migration at the Reserve this spring, with a total of 73 banded. A Carolina Chickadee, netted on 23 Mar, was our first since 1995. Fox Sparrows were in the best numbers in the 39-year history of the Powdermill program, with 71 banded.

Banding demonstrations were provided to about 250 casual visitors and to approximately 150 people in university classes or other organized groups. Our work was aided greatly by the following volunteers: Mary Helen Chiodo, Jim Gruber, Darlene Madarich, Carroll Labarth, Carole Shannahan, Robert E. Shaw, and Mike and Evaleen Watko.

**Bedford Valley** **395-0783**  
Bedford County, PA  
**Janet Shaffer**, Bander

This weather was pretty typical with the usual rain and humid conditions. The number of banding days, 14, was similar to 1998, but fewer birds were netted. Actually, the bird/100 net hours was the same, 18 as in 1999, although the station was open 10 more days in 1999.

**15 Chipping Sparrow**  
**12 White-throated Sparrow**  
**11 Gray Catbird**  
**10 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**6 Slate-colored Junco**  
**6 Eastern Towhee**

It looks like my station catches the winter birds like White-throated Sparrows, and juncos, but not much in the way of warblers. This season I had just Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, and Nashville Warbler. For the three years of spring migration banding, Chipping Sparrow, Gray Catbird and White-throated Sparrow have been on the list of most frequently banded. No surprises there, but this year Ruby-crowned Kinglet was among the top six. I banded a total of 95 new birds, but handled 45 repeats, which has been a pretty consistent number over the past three years. Also, the date when the largest number of birds was netted has fallen on 24 or 25 Apr in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

**Island Beach State Park** **395-0740**  
Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ  
**Glenn R. Mahler**, Compiler

**455 Gray Catbird**  
**410 Common Yellowthroat**  
**160 Magnolia Warbler**  
**60 Canada Warbler**  
**58 Black-throated Blue Warbler**  
**55 American Redstart**  
**50 Black-and-white Warbler**  
**43 White-throated Sparrow**  
**40 Northern Parula**  
**39 Yellow Warbler**

During the spring 2000 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 2 Apr and 4 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 22 days during that 64-day period; there were three banding days in April, 17 in May and two in June. There was one day (16 May) on which four of the stations were in operation simultaneously, four days with three stations in operation, and seven days with two stations in operation; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active. Banders participating this season were Mary Doscher, Ray and Marlene Miller (John

Miller's subpermittees), Bob Pantle, Larry Pharo, Gale Smith and Robert Yunick.

Total bandings for the season were the highest in the last four years and close to the long-term average. On a per net-hour basis, however, the results were only 77% of the long-term average, reflecting a consistent steady decline. Looking at the major migrant species groups, only one—flycatchers—was above average on a per-net-hour basis (130% of average). The other four groups of species—thrushes (45% of average), vireos (80%), warblers (79%), and sparrows (63%)—were well below average. There were no outstanding flight days reported this season. Peak flights occurred as follows:

Date	# Stations Operating	# Birds	# Species	# Birds per nh
May 6	2	302	42	2.02
May 7	1	104	21	1.65
May 17	3	332	31	1.32

Species banded in numbers above 2 SD included Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (9), Lincoln's Sparrow (5) Carolina Wren (5), Philadelphia Vireo (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (58), and Carolina Chickadee (6). Eastern Towhee (5) was the only species banded in numbers below 2 SD. Highlights of the season included Sharp-shinned Hawk,

American Woodcock, Chuck-will's-widow, White-crowned Sparrow, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the rather late date of 13 May.

**Calmes Neck**

**390-0775**

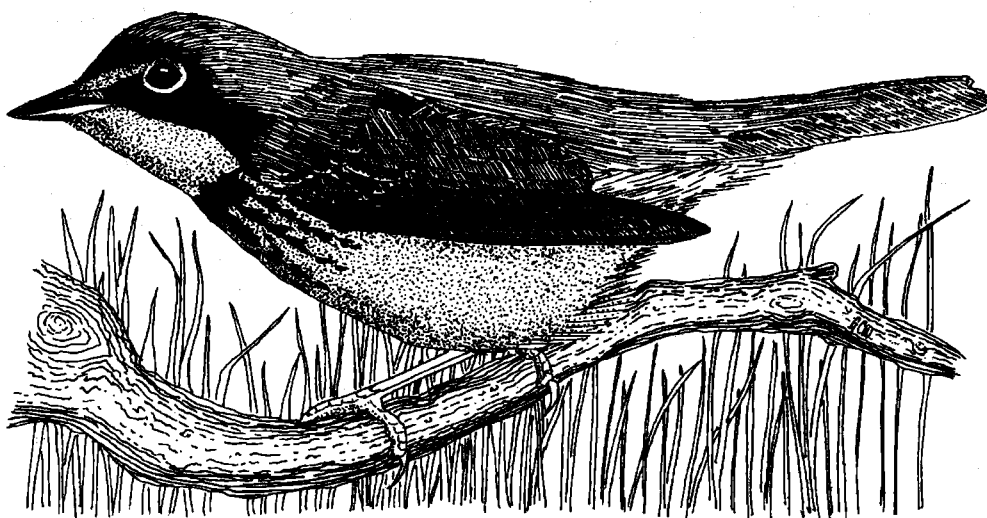
Boyce, Clarke County, VA

**J. William Oberman, Bander**

The over-riding factor of the yield, in my opinion, was that migration was early here (1-3 May), and compressed and compounded by extended periods of rain and (separately) very hot weather. After the first weekend, May was a very dull month indeed with many days yielding eight birds or fewer.

**144 American Goldfinch**  
**62 White-throated Sparrow**  
**33 Myrtle Warbler**  
**22 Red-eyed Vireo**  
**15 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**  
**15 Wood Thrush**  
**14 Ovenbird**  
**14 Eastern Tufted Titmouse**  
**13 Purple Finch**  
**13 Slate-colored Junco**

With approximately the same number of net hours compared with spring 1999, yield was 34% less.



Canada Warbler by George West