

2006

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2005 Long Point Bird Observatory

Stuart A. Mackenzie

Christian A. Friis

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Mackenzie, Stuart A. and Friis, Christian A. (2006) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2005 Long Point Bird Observatory," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 4 , Article 17.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol31/iss4/17>

This Eastern News 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).

September. This problem hampered the mobility of the bander-in-charge up to closedown but the condition was improving steadily as the season progressed.

During the period, the station operated 109 days. July was pretty good considering the time of year but August and September were so-so. October started off slowly. But tropical depressions coming up the Atlantic seaboard spilled back into southern Ontario backing up the migrants. These conditions persisted for almost two weeks. Long time birders could not remember seeing so many migrants in their favorite spots at one time.

The three Haldimand Bird Observatory stations rarely band more than 100 birds per day at the best of times. Two to three such days make a good banding season and 150 birds is a really good day. You can count on the fingers of one hand the number of 200+ days that have occurred at any of the stations since they started. On 8 Oct the roof fell in at Selkirk and by day's end 323 birds had been banded, and the following day another 299. Things slowed down the day after, a quiet day with 164 birds banded. While numbers did decline over the next few days there still were some exceptional days, 135 on the 13th, 184 on the 16th, 204 on the 17th. The day's catch returned to more normal levels on 20 Oct. All told 2242 birds were banded in October, 2140 of them on and after the 8th.

Low numbers of Veerys, Magnolia Warblers and Wilson's Warblers were banded this fall and this is attributed to the station not operating late in August and early September when the peak numbers of these species go through.

Two foreign retrap Northern Saw-whet Owls were caught this fall. One was banded 14 Oct 2005 at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory and retrapped 8 Nov. Another Northern Saw-whet Owl was banded 21 Oct 2003 near Pt. Rowan, LPBO and retrapped 20 Oct 2005 at Selkirk.

There was one foreign recovery: a HY-F Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at Selkirk on 26 Oct 2004 was recovered near Sudbury, MA on 30 Oct 2006.

**Long Point Bird Observatory** 423-0800  
Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801  
**Stuart A. Mackenzie** 423-0802  
**Christian A. Friis, Banders**  
**lpbo@bsc~eoc.org**

Mike Boyd, Benoit Gendreau, High McArthur,  
Fergus Nicoll, Chief Assistants

The fall season officially started on 15 Aug at the Old Cut field station and the Tip with Breakwater opening on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The first big push hit Breakwater on 23 Aug, where the crew banded 106 birds, including a hatch-year male Kentucky Warbler—suggesting that the species bred in Ontario! Hurricane Katrina roared up on 31 Aug. By 0700, Long-tailed and Parasitic jaegers were identified far offshore and at 0730 a Sooty Tern (a first record for Long Point) flew past about 500 m offshore.

On 14 Sep, a hatch-year male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Breakwater. September was also particularly good for some of the not-so-common migrants, such as Yellow-throated Vireo (two banded, 10 observed), Connecticut Warbler (14 banded, nine individuals observed) and Prairie Warbler (two banded, six individuals observed). On 18 Sep, a spectacle of migration began on Long Point. At the Tip, 23 warbler species (dominated by Blackpoll, Myrtle, Magnolia and Nashville) contributed heavily to the 323 birds banded of 44 species. The 19<sup>th</sup> was also busy at the Tip, banding 196 birds. The 20<sup>th</sup> started off mediocre but at about 0730, small flocks of warblers, mostly Blackpoll and Yellow-rumped, started streaming on to the Tip heading west. On the morning census, between 0815 and 0930, 460 Blackpoll Warblers were counted, along with 340 Yellow-rumped Warblers and a flurry of other activity, including one Le Conte's Sparrow. The Tip banded 197 Blackpolls, released 275 unbanded and estimated 1158 for the day. Old Cut was slow and steady that morning until about 1100, when they got hit with a similar mixed-warbler flock dominated by Blackpoll, Cape May and Yellow-rumped. There were 313 birds banded at the Tip and 226 at Old Cut, while Breakwater missed the flight completely, banding only 12, and had very few on census. In the days prior to the big Blackpoll push, adult birds made up between 5-30% of the catch. On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>, the ratio was almost equal, with

100 hatch-year and 97 after-hatch-year birds banded. By the end of the fall, LPBO had banded 900 Blackpoll Warblers, the highest total ever.

To put October in perspective, LPBO banded an average of 300 birds a day! These high banding totals can be attributed partially to Myrtle Warblers, which pushed through in large numbers after the Blackpolls. Of the 443 birds banded at Old Cut, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 306 were Myrtle Warblers. Large flocks of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Brown Creepers and White-throated Sparrows made up the bulk of the rest of October. Normally, movements between the kinglet species are segregated at least by a few days but not this fall. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, 565 Golden-crowned Kinglets were estimated at Old Cut, compared to 800 Ruby-crowned. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, 968 Golden-crowned were estimated, compared to 373 Ruby-crowned. A few Gray-cheeked Thrushes lingered through October and even into November, with a record late bird observed on 13 Nov. Two of these thrushes nearly doubled their weight in a two-week stay in the Long Point area. When one was banded around the end of September, it weighed 26.4 g. It was re-trapped 15 days later and weighed 51.4g! By 20 Oct we thought we had seen the bulk of the migration, but the Black-capped Chickadees had other plans; 182 of 348 birds banded at the Tip on the 20<sup>th</sup> were chickadees and the 21<sup>st</sup> was even more impressive, with 348 of 368 birds banded being chickadees. And then they were done.

LPBO had some good luck with raptors as well this fall, with 27 Sharp-shinned Hawks, six Cooper's Hawks and two Merlins banded. The highlight was LPBO's sixth Peregrine Falcon, a hatch-year female banded on 15 Oct. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring began at Old Cut and the Tip on 25 Sep and 1 Oct, respectively, and ending on 1 and 15 Nov. There were 31 nights of coverage at Old Cut and 12 at the Tip. An average number of 457 N. Saw-whet Owls were banded, slightly less than the 583 banded in 2004. We did, however, band 11 Long-eared Owls—surpassing a previous LPBO record of nine set in 1965.

The season ended like most other years, with as many as two million blackbirds flying over Old Cut to roost in the Long Point marshes. Fifty-five Cave

Swallows were recorded in the Long Point area this fall, as part of a major northeast irruption. Individuals were seen at Old Cut on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

In fall 2005, LPBO's 34 volunteer field biologists logged over 5000 field hours collecting migration data on 269 species and banding 16,798 birds of 115 species and forms. This compares to 9787 birds banded of 117 species in 2004. LPBO had 109 days of coverage, yielding 12,328 net hours with a catch rate of 123.0 b/100nh (slightly above 114.4 in 2004). Twenty volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to service over 1000 visitors and students of all ages, who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the fall migration through the Old Cut field station. A heart felt thank you goes out to all the volunteers and supporters who made the fall season at LPBO so successful.

**Presque Isle**

**420-0800**

Erie, PA

**Ronald F. Leberman, Bander**

The weather this fall was very placid, much warmer, and drier than the last several. However, there were several days too windy to use nets and other days that were almost birdless in the area. Our best day was 14 Oct with a total of 214 birds, most of them kinglets. I was alone that day and had put up the usual 10 nets; by 10 o'clock, I had to close all the nets to catch up on the banding process. In mid-afternoon, I reopened five of the nets and banded until 5 PM. Had I had help and left up all the nets, I most likely would have had 300 or more birds on that day.

Overall, 869 birds of 55 species were banded in 1,1888 net hours. Notable highlights were two Orange-crowned Warblers, three Blue-headed Vireos, and our first fall Scarlet Tanager in several years. No new species were banded for the station this fall; as usual, about 10 hummingbirds were netted and released unbanded. While we had no birds with deer ticks, we did band a Wilson's Warbler with a crossed bill that seemed perfectly healthy.

We had about 200 visitors at the station, and Stacy Small and Kim Van Fleet (of Pennsylvania Audubon) volunteered to help us for three days in