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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Appledore Island Migration Station

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The station could not run effectively without the considerable efforts of a number of hard-working people. Thanks to you all! **5-6 weeks:** Brian Pomfret; **4-5 weeks:** Rick Ludkin; **2-3 weeks:** Loretta Mousseau, Jim Biggar; **1-2 weeks:** Peter Thoem; **4-6 days:** Mitch Beck, Liz Sukkau; **1-3 days:** Leanne Jennings, Elaine Serena, Shirley Klement, Louise Unitt, Anne Billings, Jeff MacLeod, Scott MacLeod, Daphne Payne, and Kristen Niwranski.

There was also a lot of work done "behind the scenes," i.e., work that contributed greatly to the effectiveness of the station but not directly to the banding program. Jeff MacLeod developed and is running an excellent blog for Haldimand Bird Observatory that features daily commentary and pictures from Ruthven Park. The URL is : <http://birdbanding.blogspot.com>

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust and especially the staff of Ruthven Park for their wonderful support. This project was supported financially by the Land Trust and by Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

Appledore Island Migration Sta. 425-0703
Appledore Island, York County, ME

Sara Morris, Compiler

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Banders: Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright

Chief Assistants: Kevin Bronson, Peggy Buckley, Katie Chmelowiec, Carol Cushing, Kristen Covino, Judy Fahnestock, Rose Graves, Maura Hanna, Lindsay Herlihy, Mike Hurban, Liam Knott, LizLewis, Martha Stauffer, Amanda Stockwell, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh

Spring 2006 will be remembered for a long time, not for the birds that we handled, but rather for the awful weather and the low number of birds. Our total of 1,722 was the second lowest spring total since the station expanded spring banding in 1990. The only season with a lower total was 1990, which is particularly notable since that banding season was only 22 days while the station was in operation 35 days this spring. Of those 35 days, the station was closed for six entire days and a large part of six additional days.

Our net hours were much lower than normal (2006: 2802, ten-year average: 3863 ± 512 net-hours). Although the number of net hours was slightly higher than in 2005, this was due primarily to the low number of days with large numbers of birds (when some of the nets have had to be closed). The station generally handles more than 200 birds on several days each spring, but the highest daily total this spring was 183 and totals on only three other days were higher than 100 (120, 133, 180). The number of birds captured per net-hour (61.5) was well below the 2005 level (114.0) and was below the average of 71.4.

| | <u>%SY</u> | <u>%ASY</u> | <u>%AHY</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 394 Com. Yellowthr. | 63.7 | 23.9 | 12.4 |
| 192 Magnolia Warbler | 75.0 | 19.3 | 5.7 |
| 172 Red-eyed Vireo | 38.4 | 33.7 | 27.9 |
| 78 Amer. Redstart | 83.3 | 14.1 | 2.6 |
| 71 Gray Catbird | 49.3 | 10.8 | 9.9 |
| 70 Wh-thr. Sparrow | 32.9 | 5.7 | 61.4 |
| 42 Bl-and-Wh Warb. | 52.4 | 35.7 | 11.9 |
| 42 Blackpoll Warb. | 73.8 | 21.4 | 4.8 |
| 40 Bl-thr. Blue Warb. | 72.5 | 25.0 | 2.5 |
| 40 No. Waterthrush | 55.0 | 30.0 | 15.0 |

Despite the low number of total birds, no species totals were significantly different from normal levels (more than two standard deviations from their averages). Nonetheless, many common bird species totals were lower than average. For example, our total of 394 Common Yellowthroats, the most common species over the last 17 years, was well below our average of $535 (\pm 176)$. Our second most common bird, the Magnolia Warbler, was similarly low. We captured 196 in 2006, although the spring average is 302 ± 86 . The one common species that was captured in higher-than-normal numbers was the Red-eyed Vireo, which totaled 172 this spring compared to the average of 125 ± 60 . The unusual captures for the season included the station's third Hairy Woodpecker, fifth Orange-crowned Warbler, and two White-breasted Nuthatches.

The station participated in the avian influenza monitoring program coordinated by LaMMNA. We gave banding demonstrations to credit classes, non-credit groups, and other visitors at

the Shoals Marine Lab. We are very grateful to the Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and our volunteers for supporting our research in many ways. We also congratulate Anthony Hill, one of the station banders, who was certified as a North American Banding Council Trainer last fall.

Selkirk Provincial Park 424-0795

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, ON

Bander: John Miles

(deceased)

Chief Assistants: Dave Jolly, Mike Furber

The eleventh year of operating in the spring at the Selkirk Provincial Park field station of the Haldimand Bird Observatory officially commenced 22 Feb and finished 11 Jun. The station was manned daily once it opened, except for days of inclement weather or personal commitments, with banding taking place 99 days. In addition to the bander-in-charge, 26 volunteers spent one or more days assisting with running the station.

| | <u>%SY</u> | <u>%ASY</u> | <u>%AHY</u> | <u>%HY</u> |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 394 Wh-thr. Sparrow | 1.0 | | 99.0 | |
| 244 Ruby-cr. Kinglet | | | 100.0 | |
| 242 Gol.-cr. Kinglet | | | 100.0 | |
| 141 Amer. Goldfinch | 51.8 | 10.6 | 37.6 | |
| 134 Hermit Thrush | 73.1 | | 26.9 | |
| 121 Sl-col. Junco | 84.3 | 14.9 | 0.8 | |
| 104 Song Sparrow | | | 97.1 | 2.9 |
| 82 Magnolia Warb. | 40.2 | 52.4 | 7.4 | |
| 75 Amer. Tree Spar. | | | 100.0 | |
| 72 Gray Catbird | 87.5 | 6.9 | 5.6 | |

Except for days of extreme adverse weather, when banding was not carried out, the station was manned from ½ hr before sunrise for a minimum of six hours for the passerine banding. On a couple of mornings, banding commenced after the morning rain had ceased.

Early March was a little warmer than in 2005 with the first nets opened on 5 Mar. Full coverage did not commence until 15 Mar. The first real warm spell started 30 Mar as did the first bird waves. April was fairly dry with only 50 mm of rain recorded for the month. The netting lanes dried up fairly well. May was much wetter with over 61 mm of rain recorded.

The Selkirk field station has operated in the same location in the southwest part of the park since it was started in 1996. Passerine banding was carried out using 20 mist nets, four ground traps, and a Jay trap. No changes in the net placements were made for the passerine operation and the setup appears to be the most efficient for the area.

The first noticeable influx of migrants occurred 27 Mar when the Song Sparrows started to arrive. The 31st saw the vanguard of Golden-crowned Kinglets appear, along with other migrants.

April had a good flight arrive on the 6th when 55 birds of eight species were banded. The 10th saw an influx of Slate-colored Juncos, with 46 out of the 86 birds of 15 species banded that day. The last third of the month was quiet but there was below-normal temperatures which slowed migration.

May saw a good influx of birds on 5 and 6 May when a small drop took place resulting in a good variety of birds in the banding area. The 9th through the 11th were big days as noticeable drops occurred on the 9th and the 11th. This was repeated on the 18th and the 21st. The 27th saw the last drop of the spring. Over 100 birds were banded on seven days this month; two to three days is more normal for Selkirk.

Over 1,750 were banded in May for the most productive May during the 10 years the station has operated. There were no waves encountered in June up to shutdown on the 12th.

There were 2,630 birds of 80 species plus one form banded at Selkirk in the spring of 2006, which is the best spring at Selkirk. Most numerous birds banded in the spring of 2006 were 225 White-throated Sparrows and 173 Slate-colored Juncos. No new species were added to the station's list of birds banded.

In spring 2006, 92 (same season) retrapped birds were processed. Some of these birds were retrapped many times.

There were 140 birds retrapped in the spring of 2006 which were returns, some several times. While most of these are residents or nesting birds in the area, the recapture of a Common Yellowthroat and a Baltimore Oriole banded in 1998 is noteworthy.