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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Selkirk Provincial Park

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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.

There was one foreign retrap handled this spring: a Gray Catbird banded on 29 Oct 2005 at Kiptopeke Banding Station at Powhatan, VA, was retrapped 14 May 2006.

The Haldimand Bird Observatory operates three field stations separated by several miles. Occasionally there are interstation recoveries, such as a House Finch banded at Ruthven on 23 Oct 2005 and retrapped at Selkirk on 22 Mar 2006.

There were two interesting foreign recoveries: a Blue Jay banded here on 10 May 2005 was recovered 23 Sep 2005 in Amherst, NY; and a Northern Saw-whet Owl banded here on 21 Oct 2002 was recovered near Duluth, MN.

There were 89 visitor days recorded this spring at the banding site.

I 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. Hans has been very supportive in many ways. This project was supported financially by the Ministry of Natural Resources CWIP program, the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Ontario Power Generation, and George Pond. Also, to the Observatory's friends and members whose individual donations were greatly appreciated. These donations included bird bags, three-ring, loose-leaf binders, file cabinets, materials for boardwalks, other items and timely cash donations.

Goods and services were also provided by Selkirk Provincial Park.

Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **2-4 weeks:** John Dickie, Brandon Logan, Stacey Logan; **1-2 weeks:** Renia Boyko, Al Thrower, Linda Thrower; **4-6 days:** Cheryl Boyd, Ric Boyd, Simone Immler, Terry Schuler; **1-3 days:** Halley Boyko, Gwen Clark, Ed Couture, Nancy Furber, Mike Kimber, Garry Logan, Steven Miles, Larrissa O'Neil, Heather Peddie, Kati Peddie, George Pond, Sadie Rissemer, Chelsey Stephen, Kevin Stephan, John Woodcock, and Maureen Woodcock.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801
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**Banders: Stuart A. Mackenzie
and Mike D. Boyd**

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Chief Assistants: Yousif Attia, John Brett, Fergus Nicoll, Henri Robert

The Long Point Bird Observatory opened its nets at the Old Cut field station on 1 Apr, kicking off its 47th spring of migration monitoring at Long Point, ON. The Tip and Breakwater stations were opened on 15 and 24 Apr respectively. Spring came early to the Long Point area allowing many early temperate migrants to glide through during the mild days of March. April was otherwise typical. Pine Warblers had already returned by the time we got started, and we were also visited by a few Brewer's Blackbirds. On 6 Apr, an American Kestrel was banded—a first for the Old Cut field station. April was made up of a few small waves and one big push around the 19th to the 24th when 1,803 birds were banded. The highest daily banding total for the season was on the 21st, when 604 birds were banded of 30 species—409 of them at the Tip station alone. This push was dominated by Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Slate-colored Juncos, White-throated and Chipping sparrows.

	<u>%SY</u>	<u>%ASY</u>	<u>%AHY</u>
1796 Wh-thr. Sparrow	54.2	19.9	25.9
638 Red-wg. Blackbd.	50.8	45.5	3.9
606 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	55.6	28.2	16.2
585 Yellow Warbler	56.4	30.4	13.2
564 E Wh-cr Sparrow	52.5	12.9	34.8
533 Magnolia Warbler	53.5	36.6	9.9
466 Com. Grackle	24.2	1.5	74.2
459 Chipping Spar.	59.9	21.1	19.0
430 Sl-col Junco	70.2	22.8	7.0
414 Blue Jay	69.8	21.3	8.9

Population indices calculated for Chipping Sparrows using estimated total data have shown an annual increase of 4.8% (spring) and 3.6% in the fall. Banding totals are reflecting this trend, with 459 banded this spring getting its way on our spring top ten list for the first time ever. Strong westerly gales in the last half of April blew in a few great birds. A Lark Sparrow was banded at the Tip on the 26th. On the 28th, a Say's Phoebe was found and stayed until the 29th. There was a fairly