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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Kestrel Haven

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substantial movement of thrushes through the area at the end of April and beginning of May. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, 81 Hermit and over a dozen Wood Thrushes were present in just the small Old Cut woodlot. A trickle of warblers began in the last week of April and we had tallied 11 species before 1 May, 23 species before 3 May!

May started off with a bang. In the first ten days alone, 3,725 birds of 91 species were banded! White-throated and Eastern White-crowned sparrows pushed through en masse with a good movement of Myrtle Warblers, and the first shower of Neotropical migrants. The first and only Worm-eating Warbler of the season was banded at the Tip on 1 May. Also on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a Sora was banded at Old Cut, another first for the station. An amazing spectacle occurred on the morning of 11 May when over 2500 Northern Orioles and over 800 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks passed through the Tip. On 12 and 13 May, the Tip enjoyed a White-winged Dove, which was banded later that day.

All four variations of the Blue-winged/Golden-winged complex were banded this spring, including 19 Blue-winged and two Golden-winged warblers. A Brewster's Warbler was banded at Old Cut on 8 May and a Lawrence's Warbler (backcross with GWWA) at the Tip on 18 May. Also on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Long Point's third ever Arctic Tern was found at the Tip. The next day the only Cerulean Warbler of the season, an after-second-year female, was banded. Five Louisiana Waterthrushes were recorded in migration this year! On 15 May, a male Prothonotary Warbler was seen flying off the Tip on the morning census. Strong southwest and strong west winds prevailed at Long Point from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, bringing in the rarity of the year: a Black Swift, which appeared briefly at the Tip on 21 May. If accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee, it will be the first record for Ontario and possibly eastern North America. The first Summer Tanager, a second-year male, was banded at the Tip on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> a Eurasian Collared-Dove was observed flying around the lighthouse. The only Acadian Flycatcher of the spring was banded at Old Cut on 29 May.

As June rolled around, things did not slow down a bit. LPBO's first ever Townsend's Solitaire, a second-year male, was banded at the Tip on 6 Jun, completing the Rocky Mountain trio for the year. That same morning, an after-second-year

male Summer Tanager was banded. Two days later, an after-second-year female Prothonotary Warbler was banded.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the 24 volunteer field biologists who logged over 3500 hours collecting migration data on 245 species and banding 12,468 birds of 131 species and forms. Twenty-one "Friends of LPBO" helped to service around 2500 visitors to the Old Cut field station, including students from pre-school to graduate level. We also thank Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their support.

**Kestrel Haven**  
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This was the best spring in recent history! With the exception of a few weeks of bad weather, we were able to start early and have a record season in many respects. We closed on 31 May to remain within our constant-effort protocol. Daily point counts added several additional species.

	<u>%SY</u>	<u>%ASY</u>	<u>%AHY</u>
385 Amer. Goldfinch	68	32	
91 Sl-col Junco	64	36	
80 Wh-thr. Sparrow	55	45	
53 Ruby-cr Kinglet	74	26	
42 Red-wg Blackbd	60	39	01
34 Song Sparrow			100
31 Cedar Waxwing	74	26	
28 Chipping Spar.	46	54	
23 Bl-cap Chickadee	30	60	10
21 Yellow Warbler	62	38	

We banded a record 1,043 individuals of a record 65 species in 36 days of operation. We also had 165 repeats, a fantastic 138 returns, and 21 hummingbirds not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 130.7 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 171.3 b/100nh overall. Our best day was 3 May with 79 banded (71% goldfinch), and our most species diverse days were 18 Apr and 27 May with 19 species banded.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 130 species plus five forms; point count cumulative is 218 species seen at Kestrel Haven as point counts added a Virginia Rail. There were also a large number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos present on point counts, portending a bad spiny caterpillar year, as the species is quite uncommon here in normal years. We continued our dragonfly studies and netted an early *Cordulegaster obliqua* as well as a *Libellula lydia*. We documented a mass emergence of *Celethemis elisa* from a single pond, with numbers exceeding 10,000 as of this writing.

Brown Thrashers made their first nesting appearance here last spring and we garnered several returns this spring. They are actively nesting again. We received reports of three encounters. A Cedar Waxwing was recovered near Syracuse, NY, at 3+ years; a third-year House Finch was found in nearby Ithaca, and a third-year Purple Finch was found near Roanoke, Va.

While we banded many nifty species, the real pleasure was in our returns. We enjoyed 138 returning individuals and had only two banding days without a return. Of that number, 45 were at least four years of age or older. The eldest return was an 11-year-old Black-capped Chickadee that we had not seen in a few years! We also duplicated or exceeded the published age records of Chipping Sparrow and Hairy Woodpecker. The elders were:

- Hairy Woodpecker at 9 years old
- Downy Woodpecker at 5 years old
- Eastern Kingbird at 8+ years old
- Blue Jay at 5 years old
- Black-capped Chickadees (4) at 4, 4+, 7 and 11 years old
- White-breasted Nuthatch at 5 years old
- American Robins (3) at 4(2) and 6 years old
- Gray Catbirds (2) at 4+ and 6 years old
- Yellow Warblers (6) at 3+, 4+, 5, 5+, 6 and 6+ years old
- Northern Cardinals (2) at 3+ and 4 years old
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 3+ years old
- Chipping Sparrow (4) at 3+ (2), 7 and 10+ years old
- Song Sparrows (3) at 4 (2) and 6 years old
- Red-winged Blackbirds (2) at 3+ and 4+ years old
- Purple Finches (2) at 6 and 7+ years old
- American Goldfinches (11) at 3+ (2), 4 (5), 4+, 5 (2), and 5+ years old.

Injuries and abnormalities were few and unremarkable. We participated in a cooperative study taking DNA samples and cloacal swabs for virus study on 101 birds. These were sent to UCLA and Los Alamos for further study,

We thank Bob and Judy Cosgriff, David Guaspari, Barlow Rhodes, Jay Schissel, Belle Cullings, Doris and Don Cohrs, A.L. Donahue, Ruth Young and Betsy Galbraith for their support, as well as Stillman's Greenhouse and Pine Tree Farms for their advice, assistance, and generous support.

**Presque Isle**

**420-0800**

Erie, Eric County, PA

**Bander: Ronald F. Leberman**

It is with regret that this will be my final report and the time has come for me to step down as a bird bander. After 49 years, I find that I am not as spry as I once was and I am now working five days a week; the cost of gas, banding nets, permits, etc. all add up.

I give a special thanks to all the volunteers who helped in many ways over the years; without their help many fewer birds would have been banded.

**65 Magnolia Warbler**

**65 Yellow Warbler**

**49 White-throated Sparrow**

**39 Gray Catbird**

**31 Myrtle Warbler**

**30 American Redstart**

**25 Common Yellowthroat**

**24 Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

**23 Wilson's Warbler**

**22 Black-throated Blue Warbler**

This spring, a total of 650 birds of 55 species were netted and banded in a period of 10 days, with 648 net hours. About 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were netted and released unbanded, as in the past. This year's totals were fairly close to last year's, even with a total of 11 fewer days of operation. No new species were added to the overall list. Twenty birds were recaptured that had been banded here a year or more previously. Our best days were 27 May (148 birds) and 28 May (119). Migration, as a whole, was about one week later than usual.