

2007

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Presque Isle

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Recommended Citation

Leberman, Ronald F. (2007) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Presque Isle," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 32 : Iss. 1 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol32/iss1/16>

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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, Erie 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.