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Addendum to Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2005 Long Point Bird Observatory

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Addendum to AFR: Spring 2005

Unfortunately, Long Point Bird Observatory's spring 2005 narrative for their report, which appeared in NABB 31(1), was omitted. Our apologies to Stu Mackenzie. His report follows:

Long Point Bird Observatory opened its nets at the Old Cut Field Station on 1 Apr to kick off the 46th season of migration monitoring at Long Point, Ontario. The Tip and Breakwater stations were opened on 8 and 13 Apr, respectively. A cold winter and late spring kept the inner bay of Long Point frozen well into March, with most inner channels and marshes not freeing up until the first week of April. Lucky for us, this cool start kept ravenous flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglets (GCKI) and creepers south of us until the first week of April. Our first day of banding yielded 134 birds, another 184 on the 6th, 344 on the 7th, and 148 on the 8th at Old Cut alone. The rest of April was relatively slow with only a mediocre mix of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (RCKI), sparrows and blackbirds moving through. A record early Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at Old Cut on 7 Apr; and another record early bird, a Yellow-throated Vireo, was banded on the 18th.

LPBO 2005 TOP TEN LIST

	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1512 WTSP	51.4	30.4	18.2
969 RWBL	44.2	50.9	4.9
699 BLJA	68.1	26.6	5.3
567 EWCS	58.0	21.0	21.0
524 COGR	48.1	2.3	49.6
518 SCJU	66.2	27.0	6.8
501 RCKI	56.5	32.3	11.2
490 MAWA	55.3	22.0	22.7
423 GCKI	60.5	22.0	17.5
407 YWAR	56.3	36.6	7.1

The majority of temperate migrants—Hermit Thrushes, Myrtle Warblers, White-throated and Chipping sparrows—did not push through until the first week of May. This wave coincided with the first push of Neotropical migrants dominated by mixes of warblers, thrushes, catbirds, grosbeaks, and orioles, creating a large concentration on the point, which was not short of surprises and interesting movements. For the most part, Breakwater was the place to be this spring. A White-winged Dove flew passed on 2 May and a singing male Spotted Towhee was observed on the 5th. On 9 May, the

second Long Point and seventh Ontario record Swainson's Warbler was banded, while the season's first Summer Tanager was waiting to be processed. Eleven Summer Tanagers in all ages and sexes were observed at LPBO this spring, but only two were banded. Two days later, on the 9th, a Yellow-throated Warbler was singing in the census area and the season's only Prothonotary Warbler was banded.

The first week of May was spectacular everywhere on Long Point. Between 4 and 11 May, LPBO banded one quarter of its entire spring total, 4,228. There were 889 birds of 70 species banded on the 10th and 783 birds of 71 species were banded on the 11th. The Tip witnessed a spectacular movement of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the 10th with 203 on the one-hour morning census, and sore-fingered volunteers banded 37. A number of Kentucky Warblers frequented Old Cut from the 6th to 12th. The first of three Worm-eating Warblers was observed at Old Cut on the 14th, the second was banded at Breakwater on the 29th, and the third banded at the Tip on 3 Jun. These occurrences allowed LPBO to record 37 species of warbler this spring. That is all of the species which routinely occur in eastern North America with the exception of Kirtland's.

The rest of May was fairly slow as the remaining warblers and thrushes slowly trickled through making room for most of the flycatchers which did not peak until the first week of June. Stormy and wet conditions from 22 to 24 May caused many swallows to forage low around the Breakwater. During this time, 253 Bank, 77 Tree, 60 Barn, two Northern Rough-winged, and two Cliff swallows were banded. Long Point had two new birds to add to the checklist this spring, starting on 14 May when an adult male Western Tanager was found in a local woodlot. On 8 Jun, just as we thought all the excitement was over, a second-year female Lazuli Bunting was banded at Old Cut, two days before shut down.

LPBO's 39 volunteer field biologists logged over 3500 hours collecting migration data on 268 species and banding 12,920 birds of 129 species. Twenty-one volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to service over 2000 visitors and students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the spring migration through the Old Cut Field Station. A heart felt thank-you goes out to all the volunteers and supporters who made this and all the seasons at LPBO so successful.