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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2009 Appledore Island Migration Station

Sara Morris

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Some returns of note were: two Blue Jays banded in 2000 and obviously still around this year, a Red-winged Blackbird first banded in 2001, Northern Cardinal and Blue Jay banded in 2002, and Gray Catbird banded in 2003. We had 309 recaptures with 121 from 2008 and 131 from 2009. We allow a day for banded birds to clear the area before re-processing. The numbers would seem to indicate that Rock Point is not being used for any long-term stops but is being used by returning breeding birds as indicated by 2008 totals.

Foreign recaptures were an American Goldfinch recaptured 11 Apr and first banded 23 Nov 2007 by Martin Wernaart, St. Williams, ON; and a Herring Gull found on the beach by Roswitha Matuschek on 10 Sep 2008 that had been banded on 8 Jun 2004 on Little Cass Island near DeTour Village, MI.

Recoveries of Rock Point birds were a Gray Catbird banded here 8 Oct 2004 and found dead 21 Jul 2008 near the Rock Point Park, and a Gray Catbird banded here 2 Oct 2005 and found dead 14 Oct 2005 in Pensacola, FL.

The only other scientific work we participated in was the color marking of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds for the Ontario Humming Bird Project. We applied pink acrylic paint to the two outer tail feathers. Other colors are being used by other Ontario banding stations. Cindy Cartwright came and taught us how to color mark the hummingbirds.

Visitors are still welcome at Rock Point and we were fortunate in having Ken Perry with us again this year for a week in May. Ken brought fellow bird bander and trainer John Clarke and, although the earlier date meant fewer species, they enjoyed themselves. Ken and John are from Ireland and hosted Gerda and myself for an unforgettable week in Ireland last October. We had double the visitors from last year and conducted a successful Migration Day on 23 May.

A grant last year from Ontario Trillium Foundation coupled with a \$1,000 from Niagara Trailer enabled us to purchase our trailer for visiting long-term volunteers.

Thanks to: Ontario Parks for continued permission to conduct scientific research in the park and for the use of washroom facilities all year; Bird Studies Canada for scientific expertise and analytical analysis; Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, T.D. Friends of the Environment, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and all the volunteers (16) who make it possible to continue at Rock Point.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Sara Morris, Compiler

David Bonter, Kristen Covino, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright, Banders

morriss@canisius.edu

Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Amber Bratcher, Liz Burton, Bill Clark, Carol Cushing, Lindsay Herlihy, Tracy Holmes, Jason Jacobs, Karen Mitchell, Ren Monte, David Nally, Anna Marie Parise, Kipp Quinby, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Bethany Stephan, Amanda Stockwell, Andy Theide, Stella Walsh, Chief Assistants.

Weather was not a major factor during spring 2009. We were able to open the nets every day. Although we had to close nets for part of 10 days due to rain, heavy fog, or wind, we were able to operate for more than 500 net-hours more than during any of the last five years. Despite being able to run nets more than many recent springs, the number of birds, number of species, and number of birds per 100 net-hours were all only slightly above our spring averages.

Most species captured were within the normal range of average spring captures. The few species that were outside the range were all higher than normal: Tennessee Warbler (2009: 9; average: 2.5 ± 1.3), Black-and-white Warbler (2009: 164; average: 81.6 ± 30.7), and Scarlet Tanager (2009: 20; average 9.5 ± 4.3). Among our top 10 species, most were the same as last year, although in 2008 the Blackpoll Warbler and Northern Waterthrush were among the top ten, while in 2009, those species were replaced by the Ovenbird and Black-

throated Blue Warbler. Unusual birds for the station included a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a White-eyed Vireo, an Orange-crowned Warbler, two Prairie Warblers (unusual in the spring), a Worm-eating Warbler, and an Orchard Oriole. We did not catch any Wood Thrushes during spring 2009 (we average 6.4).

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
573	Common Yellowthroat	52	22	25
395	Magnolia Warbler	71	20	9
232	American Redstart	66	20	14
164	Black-and-white Warbler	64	33	3
159	Red-eyed Vireo	8	23	69
129	White-throated Sparrow	54	28	18
90	Ovenbird	36	44	20
89	Gray Catbird	53	30	17
78	Black-throated Blue Warbler	81	15	4
76	Northern Parula	72	26	1

The most exciting event during spring 2009 was the banding of the 100,000th bird at AIMS, a Gray Catbird banded on 19 May by Kristen Covino. The station received daily updates as we counted down to that bird, a particularly appropriate species for Appledore. Our other exciting bird was a foreign recovery of a Magnolia Warbler that was captured on 2 Jun. It had been banded on 30 May at Seaside Park, New Jersey.

We continue to provide opportunities for many people to see birds up close, especially the students taking early season classes at the Shoals Marine Lab. We are pleased that the students in field ornithology are able to learn from the station each spring. We continue to benefit from many dedicated volunteers who generously donate time and energy helping run the station. The Shoals Marine Lab and Canisius College continue to provide both financial and logistical support for the station. We also want to thank a very generous benefactor who covered the room and board charges for the station volunteers this year.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801
423-0802

Yousif S. Attia and Ross Wood, Banders
Hugh McArthur, Jody Allair, Chief Assistants

lpbo@birdscanada.org

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1944	White-throated Sparrow	54.4	11.8	33.8
1206	Brown-headed Cowbird	62.9	6.1	30.9
1075	Red-winged Blackbird	8.8	58	33.2
836	American Goldfinch	59.1	34	6.9
786	Slate-colored Junco	48.5	34.2	17.3
645	Yellow Warbler	65	27.3	7.8
643	Common Grackle	25.2	0.6	74.2
539	Blue Jay	69	23.6	7.4
520	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	34.4	33.8	31.7
493	Magnolia Warbler	64.1	28	7.9

The spring 2009 season of migration monitoring was full of surprises. Though somewhat short-lived, the passage of thousands of Tundra Swans through the Long Point area promised spring would arrive. Long Point Bird Observatory's 49th consecutive spring season commenced on 1 Apr at the Old Cut base station. Warm temperatures in March and open waters permitted an early Tip station opening on 2 Apr. Though it was still too cold for nets, the ground and J-traps provided a seemingly endless supply of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, American Tree Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

Breakwater was armed and ready by 12 Apr. The slow but steady migration in April was punctuated by an influx of temperate migrants and Neotropical overshoots on the 27th. A warm southern front assisted many of these that would have typically stopped well south of Lake Erie. On that day, the three stations shared a total of eight White-eyed Vireos and five Summer Tanagers. Other new arrivals from warmer climes included many of the season's first warblers, including an astoundingly