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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2009 Presque Isle State Park Erie Bluffs State Park

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Presque Isle State Park 421-0734
Erie Bluffs State Park 421-0735
 Erie County, PA

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This spring, banding was conducted at three locations within the greater Erie area—two sites at Presque Isle State Park (PISP; Niagara boat launch and Fry's Landing), and one at Erie Bluffs State Park. In total, 1175 birds, representative of 78 different species, were processed over the course of 33 netting days (53.3 b/100nh). Of these birds, 945 were new captures and 230 were recaptures. The most numerous bird captured this season was the Yellow Warbler, known to breed here at Presque

Isle. No.	Species	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
305	Yellow Warbler	46	44	11
173	Gray Catbird	10	18	72
56	Blackpoll Warbler	27	50	23
45	White-throated Sparrow	64	2	33
35	American Redstart	31	46	23
33	American Robin	3	30	67
30	Song Sparrow	10	7	83
28	Magnolia Warbler	68	29	4
24	Western Palm Warbler	4	13	83
23	Swainson's Thrush	4	74	22

Fry's Landing proved to be the most successful banding location. The largest daily catch of birds was seen at this location on 15 May with 113 birds of 26 different species. Species diversity was also greatest at this site overall.

The original banding site for Erie Bluffs State Park was at the western end of the park. On 4 May, however, the banding site was relocated to an agricultural/edge habitat closer to the actual bluffs to promote greater captures. The Erie Bluffs State

Park banding site was the only banding location where Indigo Buntings were captured and processed this season.

Banding at Niagara Boat Launch at PISP, the long-term banding site used since the 1960s, started off slow, but finished strong with large capture numbers. Noteworthy bandings included a Grasshopper Sparrow on 2 May, and a Yellow-breasted Chat banded on 9 May. Despite the short season, this banding site drew in 25 volunteers and 127 visitors.

An active effort was made to check birds for ticks this banding season. In connection with an ongoing Yale University study, 191 ticks were collected off of the 484 birds checked (16% of bird population examined).

A special thanks goes out to the 234 visitors and 28 volunteers who assisted us in the field this banding season!

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May was mostly a wash for our ninth spring season as rain prevailed the first two weeks of May and a bout with the flu during the last week prevented any banding. Nets were opened for the first time on 5 Mar and our season ended on 15 Jun, for a total of 26 days of operation. A range of two-32 nets were used. Net hours totaled 2298 (netted birds) for a capture rate of 26 b/100nh. In total 360 birds of 42 species were banded and 226 were recaptured. Of those recaptured, 46% were returns from previous years. Older birds of interest included a Black-capped Chickadee and Gray Catbirds at least nine years old; a Common Yellowthroat at least eight years old; two Common Yellowthroats, two catbirds, and a Black-capped Chickadee seven years old; and two Common Yellowthroats, a goldfinch, Gray Catbird, and Song Sparrow at least six years old. We recaptured a chickadee, with an