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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Appledore Island Migration Station

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In general, we had 11 species that were represented by one to three individuals. An interesting day was had on 28 May when we banded 34 American Redstarts with 79% all being second-year birds and 59% were females. The next day we banded one and had only one re-trapped bird. Previously, we had never banded that many American Redstarts in one day.

Net locations and equipment used were consistent, although an aerial net was used for a short period of time but needed design modifications and was taken down. We have a great crew of local volunteers, many having been with me for a number of years. In addition to the main helpers, we have: Rick Young, Dora Young, Rob Kuret, Lorraine Feenstra, Fraser, Owen, and Preston Darling. Distance volunteers this year were all Canadian. Julien St. Amand from Quebec; Chris Davidson from Sarnia, Ontario; Charlene Edward from Dunnville; and Laura Brodey from Thornhill, Ontario. Great young people all eager and full of energy and each did an excellent job learning and helping with the whole banding experience.

The following birds were foreign retraps:

American Goldfinch (2530-42117) caught on 4 Apr. No information at this time.

White-throated Sparrow (1901-60356) caught on 12 May. Banded in Georgia, U.S.A.

We had a few recoveries: A European Starling banded at Rock Point on 7 Mar 2007 was recovered dead in Canfield, Ontario, on 4 Apr 2009 by Michael Pittaway, South Cayuga. A Common Grackle banded at Rock Point on 17 Apr 2009 was recovered dead near Dunnville on 7 Jul 2009 by Kyle Pinnegar. A Swainson's Thrush banded at Rock Point on 1 Oct, 2010 was recovered dead in Greenville County, South Carolina, on 10 Oct 2010 (1032 km in 10 days).

The unknown birds are bands that do not show up in my inventory. It is interesting to see the White-throated Sparrow from 2005, since these birds do not breed in the area and this bird is passing through just as it did back in 2005. This seldom happens for migrants but is not unusual for birds which breed in the area.

Again, we thank Ontario Parks for allowing us to continue our scientific research within Rock Point Provincial Park. A grant from T.D. Friends of the Environment in the amount of \$1,500 will enable us to purchase nets. Individual donations and the Baillie Birdathon, where 75% of the money collected is returned to us, helps to support us.

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
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Spring 2011 was better than 2010, but still relatively slow. Our 20-year average is 2,511 birds per season, so the 2,152 birds this season was 15% less than normal. Likewise, our 67.1 birds/100 net-hour is nine lower than our 20-year average of 76.1. In the last few years, logistical realities have meant that the station opens slightly later than normal, resulting in fewer of the early migrants (like Yellow-rumped Warblers, kinglets, and White-throated Sparrows), which seems to be reflected in these numbers. Additionally, weather did seem to be part of the reason for our statistics, because we lost several mornings to bad weather, especially early in the season.

We had 283 recaptures with the following table showing the breakdown by year.

2000-04	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Unknown
1 Black-capped Chickadee	Gray Catbird x2	10	16	43	105	88	8
	White-throated Sparrow						

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	Common Yellowthroat	458	62.7	27.7	9.6
2.	Magnolia Warbler	218	79.4	17.4	3.2
3.	Red-eyed Vireo	151	9.3	4	86.8
4.	Northern Parula	150	53.3	32.7	14
5.	American Redstart	135	65.2	24.4	10.4
6.	Black-and-white Warbler	107	72.9	22.4	4.7
7.	Ovenbird	82	56.1	13.4	30.5
8.	Gray Catbird	68	37.6	26.5	5.9
9.	Black-throated Blue Warbler	64	76.6	17.2	6.3
10.	White-throated Sparrow	55	49.1	3.6	47.3

Although we did not capture any new species at the station, we had several unusual species in the nets including three Bobolinks, a Painted Bunting, and two White-breasted Nuthatches. Several species were outside their normal ranges, but these were generally species captured in relatively low numbers. All were above normal, including Carolina Wren (2011:6; average: 0.5 ± 1), Northern Parula (2011: 150; average: 61 ± 26), Common Grackle (2011: 10; average: 2 ± 2), and American Goldfinch (2011:29; average 9 ± 7). Because we have been in operation for more than 20 years, annual variation may be substantial. Although not outside their normal ranges, several species were well below average, including Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2011: 15; average: 38 ± 30), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (2011: 17; average: 39 ± 53), Wilson's Warbler (2011: 7; average 18 ± 8), and White-throated Sparrow (2011: 54; average: 139 ± 87).

Kristen Covino has begun her PhD program at the University of Southern Mississippi and is using the Appledore Island Migration Station as one of her field sites. Becky Suomala had two papers comparing bird migration on Appledore and Star Islands from her MS published in the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*.

The station continues to provide formal and informal educational programs to visitors to the Shoals Marine Lab. We are grateful to the SML staff for all of their assistance. The station could not run without our generous volunteers who provide time, energy and financial support. We are particularly grateful to an anonymous donor who has generously funded most of the activities of the station.

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The Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO) 52nd spring migration monitoring season started at Old Cut on 1 Apr. The Tip and Breakwater were opened on 14 and 24 Apr, respectively. Forty-four volunteers, representing four countries, logged over 2,566 hours collecting migration data on over 250 species, and banding 15,830 birds of 134 species. Twenty-three volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to service over 3,000 visitors and students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the spring migration through the Old Cut Research Station.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	2,074	72.2	9.4	18.4
2.	American Goldfinch	1,254	69.9	26.3	3.7
3.	Red-winged Blackbird	756	56.6	37.8	5.6
4.	Gray Catbird	681	74.6	20.2	4.8
5.	Myrtle Warbler	571	78.8	18.6	2.6
6.	Brown-headed Cowbird	537	30.2	1.7	68.3
7.	E. White-crowned Sparrow	524	73.7	15.1	11.3
8.	Yellow Warbler	519	68.6	29.9	2.9
9.	Slate-colored Junco	459	78.6	13.1	8.3
10.	Common Yellowthroat	426	73.9	18.1	8.2