

2012

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park

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Cool conditions early in April kept the channels frozen and migrants at bay until mid-month, when a backlog of migrants flooded Long Point. An early push of Neotropical migrants arrived in the last week of April kick-starting a fantastic and record-breaking May, at least for the Tip. Highlights of the spring include Long Point's first ever banded Bell's Vireo captured at Breakwater on 26 May. Summary statistics and population trends for over 200 species are available from Nature Counts – [www.naturecounts.ca](http://www.naturecounts.ca) For more information visit [www.birdscanada.org/lpbo](http://www.birdscanada.org/lpbo)

**Kestrel Haven** **422-0764**  
**Avian Migration Observatory**  
 Burdett, Schuyler County, NY  
**John and Sue Gregoire, Banders**  
[khmo@att.net](mailto:khmo@att.net)

The spring banding season was “BLAH”! Although we had nets in place on 14 Apr, we were not able to band until the 24th. Then, winds and rain continued off and on, mostly on, through the 20th of May when we noted no less than a dozen species nesting in the vicinity of the nets. Not wanting to harass nesters, we quit with only some banding on 11 days. Three of those were super mornings and the rest were very short. While banding was mostly off, daily point counts revealed a rich and rapid migration.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>
1. American Goldfinch	216
2. White-throated Sparrow	34
3. E. White-crowned Sparrow	23
4. Slate-colored Junco	20
5. Gray Catbird	11
6. Common Yellowthroat	10

We banded 392 individuals of 39 species in 11 days of operation. We also had 30 repeats, 55 returns, and two hummingbirds not banded. Our measure of efficiency was 177 birds/100nh for newly banded birds and 217 birds/100nh overall, a very deceiving

figure. The station total remains at 132 species and 6 forms banded and the cumulative point count at 220 species seen at Kestrel Haven.

The only item worth reporting is our returns. Twenty-three of the 55 returns that were over four years of age were:

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at 6;
- An American Robin at 4;
- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 6;
- Two Baltimore Orioles at 4 and 4+;
- Three Yellow Warblers at 4, 4+ and 5;
- One Common Yellowthroat at 4;
- One Song Sparrow at 5+;
- One Purple Finch at 4, and
- Twelve American Goldfinch at 4(10) and 5(2).

We thank Bob and Judy Cosgriff, A.L. Donahue, David Guaspari, Kazu and Tomoku Ito, Susan Argetsinger, Bill Opfer, Bill and Ann Lynn Martin, Bob and Sandy Jodoin and several who donated in the memory of our Aunt Philomene (Phyllis) Gregoire Jodoin who passed away this spring, just a month short of her 100th birthday (she was a great observer and lover of birds). Thanks also to Stillman's Greenhouse, Rick Smith and ATC-NY for their advice, assistance and support. A special thank you to Vicky Kelly for her great work on our website; you will see many additions, especially with the photos and our bouncing hummer!

**Presque Isle State Park** **420-0800**  
**(2 banding stations)**  
**Erie Bluffs State Park** **429-0805**  
**(2 banding stations)**  
 Erie, PA  
**Sarah Sargent, Bander**  
[ssargent@audubon.org](mailto:ssargent@audubon.org)  
 Chief Assistants: Anne Balogh Amy Gondran,  
 Lauren Smith

This spring, banding was conducted at three locations within the greater Erie area: two sites at Presque Isle State Park (Niagara boat launch and Frye's Landing) and Erie Bluffs State Park. It was an extremely wet spring, with many netting days

either cancelled or ended early. In spite of that, we captured the highest number of birds of the last four spring seasons. In total, 1,542 birds, of 80 different species, were processed over the course of 27 netting days. Of these birds, 1,394 were new captures and 148 were recaptures. Five of our recaptures were foreign re-encounters. Frye's Landing proved to be the most successful banding location, with the largest net numbers (583) and species diversity (64). Niagara Boat Launch, the original banding site, had strong net numbers (553) and species diversity (54). Erie Bluffs State Park also had good net captures (406) and species diversity (47) and has slightly different habitat (edge), and thus species composition, from the other two.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	231	39	19	42
2.	Yellow Warbler	178	42	55	3
3.	Gray Catbird	175	24	41	35
4.	Magnolia Warbler	63	49	46	5
5.	Blue Jay	55	94	2	4
6.	Common Yellowthroat	54	20	39	41
7.	Blackpoll Warbler	51	51	27	22
8.	Myrtle Warbler	43	70	21	9
9.	American Redstart	37	38	49	13
10.	Black-throated Blue Warbler	35	60	40	0

An active effort was made to check birds for ticks in connection with an ongoing Yale University study. We also observed two notable, unique injuries. One Wood Thrush was captured with its upper mandible forced down through its lower mandible and protruding from its chin. It was unable to feed and was emaciated and died two days later. We also recaptured a Gray Catbird that had a large (1.5") thorn thrust thru its band, resulting in a crushed leg and swollen foot. We removed the thorn and the bird flew away strong. We did not remove the band, as it was providing support for the injured leg.

Despite the short season, this banding site drew in 47 volunteers and 162 visitors. We presented a number of educational programs to elementary school groups, college groups and bird watching groups. In addition, we were featured on the local news after a television news team visited the banding station.

#### **Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700**

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

**Susan Finnegan, Compiler**

suefinnegan@comcast.net

**Gretchen Putonen, Bander**

Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, and others who helped for a day, Assistants

Weather was poor this spring with our usual wind and rain, certainly not like the very unusual and gorgeous spring we had last year.

Banding began on 21 Apr and ended on 16 Jun, for a total of 20 days of operation. Nets used ranged from 17-32. Net hours totaled 2,092 for a capture rate of 24 b/100nh (netted birds). In total, 265 birds of 37 species were banded and 242 were recaptured. Forty-nine of those were returns from spring-banded birds. We had two 9-year olds, an American Robin and a Blue Jay; three 8-year olds, two Blue Jays and an Eastern Towhee; four 7-year olds; a Blue Jay, a Northern Cardinal, and two Song Sparrows; three 5-year olds, all Song Sparrows; seven 4-year olds; nine 3-year olds; and the rest were younger.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY	%HY
1.	Gray Catbird	59	66	32	2	
2.	Black-capped Chickadee	48	77	19	4	
3.	American Goldfinch	37	81	19		
4.	Common Yellowthroat	27	74	26		
5.	Song Sparrow	18	50	6	38	6
6.	Prarie Warbler	13	54	31		15
7.	Yellow Warbler	10	90	10		
8.	American Robin	6	83	17		
9.	Tufted Titmouse	4	100			
10.	Northern Cardinal	4	25		75	