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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park

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paper in the *Journal of Field Ornithology* on mass changes by migrants during stopover using data from the Appledore Island station.

AIMS regularly contributes to the educational programming at the Shoals Marine Lab, hosting students from credit-courses (including Field Ornithology), non-credit courses, and groups visiting the islands. The staff of the Shoals Lab is absolutely fantastic in providing support for the station, including transportation, meals (even when the birds arrive at meal-time), and lots of logistical assistance. The station has a fantastic group of volunteers who provide both their time and their financial support to the station. I want to particularly thank an anonymous donor who has generously funded the bulk of the costs incurred at the station.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Norfolk County, Ontario 423-0802
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lpbo@birdscanada.org
Chief Assistants: Hugh McArthur

The Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO) 53rd spring migration monitoring season started at the Old Cut Research Station on 27 Mar. The Tip and Breakwater Research Stations were opened on 12 and 21 Apr, respectively.

Forty-six volunteers, representing four countries, logged over 2,928 hours collecting migration data on over 250 species, and banding 13,150 birds of 127 species. LPBO had 75 days of coverage, yielding 11,909 net hours with a catch rate of 110 birds/100 net hours. Twelve ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 10% of the catch, with the balance captured in mist nets. 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 Long Point.

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
White-throated Sparrow	1697	70.3	14.1	15.6
Red-winged Blackbird	778	59	38	3
Yellow Warbler	677	78.1	19.9	2
Myrtle Warbler	594	62.4	35.6	2
Magnolia Warbler	564	65.7	31.3	3
Gray Catbird	525	64.9	31.0	4.1
E. White-crowned Sparrow	424	66.2	23.3	10.5
Hermit Thrush	423	74.9	19.8	5.3
American Goldfinch	412	52.6	43.6	3.8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	403	63.5	27	9.5

Despite the mild winter and 'early' spring, migration appeared to be fairly normal overall at Long Point, just a smidgen early in some respects. Significant waves of temperate migrants arrived in the first week of April. Migration was slow throughout the rest of April, but by mid-month Neotropical migrants began coming out of the woodwork. May was impressive to say the least: 3 May was the biggest banding day with 1,008 birds of 56 species banded; 108 species were observed at the Tip alone on 2 and 3 May. Long Point's warbler diversity quickly rose to 28 species by 4 May. The rest of May kept pace with good diversity and numbers of Neotropical migrants until the first week of June. Long Point's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrnannus savanna savanna*) was observed and banded on 18 Apr. It turns out that this was the first Fork-tailed Flycatcher ever banded in North America!

More information about the Long Point Bird Observatory can be found at:

www.birdscanada.org/lpbo

Presque Isle State Park (2 stations) 420-0800
Erie Bluffs State Park (1 station) 429-0805
Erie, Erie County, Erie, PA
Bander: Sarah Sargent
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Chief Assistant: Walter Wehtje

We banded at three locations within the greater Erie area—two sites at Presque Isle State Park (Niagara boat launch and Fry's Landing) and one at Erie Bluffs State Park. In contrast to 2011, it was a fairly dry spring. We canceled only five days due to weather, but did close early on at least three occasions due to rain or high winds. Bird numbers were lower than in 2011. We processed 1,005 birds of 67 different species over the course of 35 netting days. Of these birds, 923 were new captures and 82 were recaptures from previous years. We did not encounter any foreign recaptures, but a Swainson's Thrush banded at Erie Bluffs S.P. in 2009 was recaptured in Veracruz, Mexico, on 21 Apr 2012. We caught the largest number of birds (461) at Niagara Boat Launch, followed by Fry's Landing (345) and Erie Bluffs S.P. (308). The latter totals include birds banded in 2012 and subsequently recaptured.

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
Gray Catbird	161	46	39	15
Yellow Warbler	122	64	32	4
White-throated Sparrow	82	57	9	34
Blackpoll Warbler	41	51	46	3
Western Palm Warbler	39	20	3	77
Magnolia Warbler	36	50	47	3
Myrtle Warbler	31	87	13	0
American Redstart	29	48	45	7
Blue Jay	25	12	24	64
Common Yellowthroat	23	69	22	9

Bird numbers were down significantly when compared to 2011, but comparable to 2009 (945) and 2010 (915). The extremely warm weather in late March may have been responsible for the lower numbers of early migrants caught in 2012 compared to 2011, as many of them may have already departed before banding commenced; e.g., 82 White-throated Sparrows were caught in 2012 compared to 231 in 2011). The windy and dry conditions in April and May probably allowed

many migrants to cross Lake Erie during the early morning hours rather than stop over on its south shore.

We were helped greatly by 55 volunteers who contributed 244 hours assisting at the sites. We had at least 200 visitors, including close to 100 people during the Presque Isle Festival of Birds during 12-13 May. We provided banding demonstrations to elementary school groups, college groups, park visitors and several birding groups. In addition, we were featured on local TV and in the newspaper.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

Susan Finnegan, Compiler

Gretchen Putonen, Bander

suefinnegan@comcast.net

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

The spring season this year was a rather dismal one for migrants, but not the worst we have had. Wind and rain prevented us from opening or closing early many days. Banding began on 13 Apr and ended on 16 Jun, for a total of 24 days of operation. A range of 15-35 nets were used. Net hours totaled 2301 for a capture rate of 24 b/100 nh. A total of 260 birds of 44 species were banded and 267 were recaptured. We had 27 returns of spring-banded birds including an eight-year-old Common Yellowthroat; a seven-year-old American Goldfinch; two five-year old Song Sparrows and American Goldfinch; two four-year-old Common Yellowthroats and American Goldfinch; seven three-year-olds, 13 two-year-olds, and a Carolina Wren banded the previous late spring as HY.

Our best day proved to be 14 May with 57 birds of 18 species captured. We saw lower numbers of American Goldfinch (28), compared to our average of 52 ± 18.35 ; Black-capped Chickadees (5) with an average of 23 ± 16.01 ; Blue Jay (1) with an average of 4 ± 2.22 and Song Sparrows (7) with average of 18 ± 5.31 . Higher-than-average captures include Brown Thrasher (2) with 0 average ± 0.58 ; Hermit Thrush (5) with 1 average ± 2.83 ; Swamp Sparrow (9) with an average of 3 ± 3.11 and Yellow Palm Warblers (6) with an average of 1 ± 1.72 .