

2015

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013- Long Point Bird Observatory

Stuart A. Mackenzie

Ross W. Wood

Jesse J. Pakkala

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

Mackenzie, Stuart A.; Wood, Ross W.; and Pakkala, Jesse J. (2015) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013- Long Point Bird Observatory," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 40 : Iss. 1 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol40/iss1/13>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

**Chief Banders:** Liz Burton, Kristen Covino, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Sara Morris, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright

Address: Sara Morris (coordinator), Department of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208

**Chief Assistant(s):** Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Kristin Cantele, Bill Clark, Jill Fleming, Lindsay Herlihy, Tracy Holmes, Jason Jacobs, Karen Mitchell, Darlene Moore, William Nichols, Jeff Ott, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kathy Whittier, Zooey Zullo.

The spring 2013 season was a welcome change to recent years. The 3324 birds banded was our highest spring banding total since 1995 and well above our 2456 average spring banding total. This is particularly notable because our 3217 total net-hours was below our average of 3334. Consequently, our 103 b/100nh was well above our average of 75.9 b/100 nh. We banded birds of 79 different species, which is slightly higher than normal (average 71.7) but still within our normal range.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Common Yellowthroat	726	57.3	20.7	22.0
2.	Magnolia Warbler	323	66.0	27.6	6.4
3.	Red-eyed Vireo	207	1.4	5.3	93.2
4.	American Redstart	197	53.4	18.2	23.4
5.	Black-and-white Warbler	164	62.8	34.2	3.0
6.	White-throated Sparrow	152	26.3	32.2	39.5
7.	Traill's Flycatcher	141	0.7	-	99.3
8.	Northern Parula	110	44.5	51.8	3.7
9.	Gray Catbird	106	64.1	25.5	10.4
10.	Ovenbird	95	45.3	38.9	15.8

During this season, we recorded our highest spring total bandings for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (53), Traill's Flycatcher (141), Red-eyed Vireo (207), Black-and-white Warbler (207), Mourning Warbler (46), and Savannah Sparrow (11). We also banded our first ever Semipalmated Plover and our first spring Clay-colored Sparrow. We continue to see some birds that are more typical further south, like two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a Kentucky Warbler, a Hooded Warbler, and a Summer Tanager. Other birds of note included a Bicknell's Thrush, a Hairy Woodpecker, and a Merlin. No birds were below normal numbers.

We hosted several research projects at the station. Kristen Covino is working on her PhD thesis and we serve as her northern field site in her study of testosterone in migration. The Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology brought one of its Mobile Avian Recording Studios to the island this spring to work on flight calling behavior during migration. It was quite a production to bring the trailer on to the island, but fun to ride on the boat with it and watch the engineers puzzling through the logistics.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of the Shoals Marine Lab, who are very generous with their support of the banding station – arranging boat schedules, planning logistics runs, and even keeping meals warm when the birds prevented us from getting to meals on time. The lab also provides financial support to the station. We could not run without the generosity of our many volunteers, who donate their time each year to keeping this project going. Additionally, we have financial support from several anonymous donors and from the Canisius College Department of Biology.

#### **Long Point Bird Observatory**

**423-0800, 423-0801, 423-0802**

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON

lpbo@bsc-eoc.org

**Banders:** Stuart A. Mackenzie, Ross W. Wood, Jesse J. Pakkala

lpbo@birdscanada.org

**Chief Assistant:** Hugh McArthur

The Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO) 54<sup>th</sup> spring migration monitoring season started at Old Cut on 27 Mar and the Tip and Breakwater were opened on 9 Apr and 21, respectively. Forty-eight volunteers, representing three countries, logged over 8,930 hours collecting migration data on over 250 species, and banding 16,348 of 138 species. LPBO had 73 days of coverage, yielding 9,173 net hours with a catch rate of 178 b/100nh. Twelve ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 21% of the catch, with the balance captured in mist nets. Twenty-four volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to service over 1,300 visitors alongside an additional 1,500 students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the spring migration at Long Point.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	2,374	34	15	21
2.	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	2,188	15	8	12
3.	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1,733	4	2	15
4.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1,576	12	8	14
5.	Slate-colored Junco	1,445	17	9	16
6.	Chipping Sparrow	840	54	29	14
7.	American Goldfinch	759	52	32	6
8.	Brown Creeper	690	1	0	24
9.	Blue Jay	655	79	14	3
10.	Yellow Warbler	642	53	31	6

The 2013 spring season will forever be known as the 'Red Season'. We had an astounding abundance of Red-bellied and Red-headed woodpeckers, as well as Northern Cardinals. These three red species topped previous yearly records in one season. A total of 155 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were banded, nearly four times the next highest yearly total of 42 in 2007. Similarly, 43 Red-headed Woodpeckers were banded, making 2013 the first spring since 1982 with more than 40 banded at LPBO. A surge of Northern Cardinals was first

observed around the station's feeders, but the spike of 31 banded at the Tip on 17 Apr raised some eyebrows. More surges came and went with 40, 35 and 50 banded on 2, 8 and 12 May, respectively. The spring season wrapped up with a grand total of 558 Northern Cardinals banded – 387 at the Tip, 120 at Breakwater and 41 at Old Cut.

Other notable highlights of the spring season include a Bewick's Wren banded at the Tip on 25 Apr, the first record since 1 May 1997. The season's best day was on 1 May with 799 birds banded of 56 species. The following morning, although not as busy, was just as exciting when LPBO's third ever Swainson's Warbler was banded at the Tip. Swainson's Warblers have now been banded at all stations with first being banded at Old Cut in 1991 and the second at Breakwater in 2005. A Least Tern was observed flying along the beach at the 'new' Provincial Park on 14 May, resulting in Long Point Birding Area's 395<sup>th</sup> species. The season wrapped up with Long Point's second Ash-throated Flycatcher, which was found on Lighthouse Crescent mid-morning on 29 May.

---

**Wing Island Banding Station**      **414-0700**  
 Brewster, Barnstable County, MA  
**Susan Finnegan, Compiler**  
**Gretchen Putonen, Bander**  
 suefinnegan@comcast.net

This is our 13<sup>th</sup> spring season banding on Wing Island. We had a slow start, but ended up with a higher number of birds than average as birds picked up midseason. Weather cooperated this year so we were able to have our nets open for five more days than last year.

Banding began on 14 Apr and ended on 13 Jun for a total of 29 days of operation. A range of 17-32 nets were used. With good weather and more help this season, we were able to keep nets open more hours for a total of 3380 net hours with a capture rate of 23 b/100nh (netted birds). Fifty species of 433 birds were banded and 330 were recaptured. We had 42 returns of spring-banded birds including a Common Yellowthroat in his tenth year, a six-yr-old Eastern Towhee, four 5-yr-old Gray Catbird and