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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013- Wing Island Banding Station

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The Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO) 54th 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 395th species. The season wrapped up with Long Point's second Ash-throated Flycatcher, which was found on Lighthouse Crescent mid-morning on 29 May.

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This is our 13th 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

three Common Yellowthroats, six 4-yr-olds, and three American Goldfinches, with the rest being three years and younger.

	Species	# Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
1.	Gray Catbird	124	89	35	0
2.	American Goldfinch	57	47	9	1
3.	Common Yellowthroat	52	24	26	2
4.	Black-capped Chickadee	30	19	8	3
5.	Yellow Warbler	19	15	4	0
6.	Northern Cardinal	15	7	0	8
7.	Prairie Warbler	10	4	6	0
8.	Song Sparrow	9	2	2	5
9.	Magnolia Warbler	8	6	2	0
10.	American Redstart	7	6	1	0

Our best day was 21 May with 61 birds of 17 species captured. Song Sparrow numbers (9) dropped compared to previous years, with an average of 17±5.6. Higher-than-average captures included American Redstart (7) with average 2.14±2.27; Baltimore Oriole (5) 2.2±1.64; Black-and-white Warbler (4) 2.1±1.76; Common Yellowthroat (52) 30.38±15.18; Magnolia Warbler (8) 4.09±2.95, and Yellow Warbler (19) 9.42±4.7.

A banding demonstration was held on 11 May, for students taking a Field Ornithology class with Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and on 19 May.

The winter of crossbills on Cape Cod was 2012 to 2013. On 20 May we were fortunate to band two White-winged Crossbills (an ASY female and SY male) for the first time. Our first and only ASY male Red Crossbill was banded on 27 May. We had our first ever Chestnut-sided Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo for spring this year; we normally only capture them in fall. Our first and only spring-banded Canada Warbler was in 2003 and this spring season we banded four! Field Sparrow is another species we normally band only in fall, but in the past two

years, we have banded them in spring too. Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Veery were other species we have captured only once before in spring but captured again this year.

In April we received a report from the Banding Lab that a Gray Catbird, originally banded by us on 7 Oct 2012, was found dead by striking a window on 1 Apr 2013 in a nearby town. An Eastern Phoebe we banded as a HY on 24 Sep 2012 was also killed by a window strike on 3 Jun 2013 in Brewster. Another Gray Catbird banded on 14 Jul 2012 as a HY was found injured in Brewster on 25 May 2013 and brought into a wildlife rehab facility. An Eastern Towhee first banded as a HY on 1 Sep 2011 was found dead in Delaware on 2 May 2013.

Many thanks to Jo-Anna Ghadband, Ron Kielb, Keenan Yakola, Gretchen Putonen, Alex Mueller, Carolyn Kennedy, Corey Accardo, and others who helped for a morning with the banding this spring !

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This spring we encountered a record early arrival of a Northern Waterthrush caught on 16 Apr, the earliest (by three days) of this species ever caught in the 52-year history of Powdermill's banding program. Other individuals that tied for earliest arrivals were an American Redstart (20 Apr in 2012 and 2013) and a Hooded Warbler (17 Apr in 2002 and 2013).

Species captured in numbers above 2 SD included Blue-headed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Swamp Sparrow.

Interesting captures included a Common Redpoll banded on 15 Mar, the first of this species banded here since 1996, and a recapture of a 14-year-old Blue Jay banded at Powdermill as an after-hatch-