

stration. In addition, station volunteers conducted a nature walk for the park campers.

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Finally, the volunteers without whose assistance the station's operation would have been very difficult: **1-2 weeks:** Dave Jolly, Mike Furber, **4-6 days:** James Furber, Nancy Furber, **1-3 days:** Tom Ford, Allison Furber, Mathew Furber, Timothy Furber, Cathy Jolliffe, Janice Jolly, Mike Kimber, Kellie Libera, Joe Libera, Steven Miles, George Pond.

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	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
686 White-thr. Sparrow	37.6	16.6	45.8
427 Magnolia Warbler	30.0	45.0	25.0
365 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	27.1	25.5	47.4
361 Common Grackle	43.2	1.7	55.1
268 Red-wing Blackbird	47.0	47.0	6.0
248 E. White-cr. Sparrow	19.8	9.2	71.0
224 Yellow Warbler	22.3	51.3	26.4
172 American Goldfinch	30.0	64.0	6.0
172 Gray Catbird	40.1	25.0	34.9
127 Common Yellowthroat	11.8	22.0	66.2

Arriving in an ice storm in early April, I had a sense that the spring banding season would not start on schedule. The official season kicked off on 7 Apr

and ran until 10 Jun, with Old Cut Field Station being the first and last station open. Breakwater closed early on 26 May due to much needed renovations, lowering the total net hours and catch as compared to previous years. Cooler weather kept the ice in at the Tip for longer than anticipated, causing a later opening date on 23 Apr. After the lethargic start to the season, the weather cooperated for the remainder of the season.

The season started off with the observatory's second-ever banded Common Loon. The poor bird had landed on a road after the ice storm and was brought to Old Cut for release; LPBO's first Common Loon was banded in 1976. Other banding highlights from Old Cut include the first female Kentucky Warbler since 1995, a second-year Yellow-throated Vireo, and two Hooded Warblers.

The Tip's first banded bird was an American Kestrel, and the excitement did not end until 7 Jun, when a young male Yellow-headed Blackbird was trapped and banded—LPBO's eighth and the first in five years. Amid these two highlights, migration brought two young male Summer Tanagers, bringing the total to eight captured at LPBO. Their capture marks the second spring in a row that a young male Summer Tanager has been banded here at Long Point.

A couple of Chuck-will's-widows were seen at the Tip and caused increased blood pressure for the crew. The first bird bounced off of the Heligoland trap, not once, not twice, but three times before escaping. The second encounter caught us off guard as the bird flushed from a thicket and flew directly into one of the mist nets that had been set minutes before. The bird bounced around the panel and out before anyone could get his or her act together. Certainly a frustrating experience as no Chuck-will's-widows have been banded in Canada. Next season.

Breakwater was not without some excitement, despite the short season (7 to 26 May). Highlights include the first Cerulean Warbler since 1999, Golden-winged and Hooded warblers. Certainly the most exciting capture was LPBO's second Painted Bunting. This young male showed up at Breakwater, was banded and disappeared. Perhaps equally exciting and simultaneously frustrating was

Enigma

a Kirtland's Warbler that bounced out of the net, much to the dismay of the crew. This bird also disappeared despite a concerted effort by all three field stations to hunt it down.

Some interesting trends come to light after the spring season. Golden-winged Warblers continue their decline, with only one banded this spring, the lowest catch since 1975. Conversely, Blue-winged Warblers have continued to increase with nine banded this spring. Cape May Warblers are also in low representation with only one captured, which is consistent with the declining trend in recent spring seasons. Yellow-breasted Chats are also showing up in lower numbers, with four banded this spring. The lowest capture occurred in 1973-1974 when, over the two years, only three chats were captured.

A special thank-you to all the volunteers and staff that made this spring very enjoyable. Without them the excitement of banding at Long Point would not occur.

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	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
303 Amer. Goldfinch(3)	58	41	1
35 Chipping Sparrow	63	29	8
34 Wh.-thr. Spar. (1)	70	30	0
33 E. Wh.-cr. Spar.(4)	9	10	90
30 Com. Yellowthroat	3	6	91
26 Cedar Waxwing	62	31	7
22 Yellow Warb.(9)	64	36	0
21 Gray Catbird (10)	0	0	100
18 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	67	28	5
14 Rose-br. Grosbeak	43	43	14

For the first time since we began formally reporting spring AFR banding, the weather was very cooperative and helped set station spring records in all categories! We had many gray, windless days and a few obliging blocking fronts that caused stopover at our station. Our elation was short-lived as the over 50 birds per day average from late April

into May dissipated on 18 May and banding became slow through month's end.

We banded 724 individuals of 66 species in 26 days of operation. We also had 101 repeats, a whopping 136 returns and 31 hummingbirds not banded. The fine weather caused us to stay open longer than usual each day – we just could not believe it! - lowering our measure of efficiency to 68.9 b/100nh for newly banded birds and 91.5 b/100nh overall. Our best day was 7 May and our most species diverse day was 15 May with 22 species banded. Once again, American Goldfinches were our bread and butter with 303 banded and 44 returning.

No new species were added to the cumulative station list of 124 species plus 5 forms, although a Ring-necked Duck raised our point count cumulative to 215 species seen at Kestrel Haven. Most Neotropicals were present in very small numbers, although we managed to band at least one of every expected species. We continued our dragonfly studies and netted two in mist nets, a *Gomphus exilis* and an *Anax junius*. The cool, wet weather and lack of sun has kept odonate emergence down and downright late this year. The real pleasure of this spring was in our returns.

We received reports of three encounters, two of which were long distance records. An American Goldfinch was recovered south of Orlando, FL (900 miles), and an American Robin was recovered in Louisiana between New Orleans and the Texas Border (1200 miles). The third bird was a Slate-colored Junco, which was recovered 38 miles east of Durham, NC. These birds must have had advance knowledge of the harsh winter we experienced!

We enjoyed 136 returning individuals of 19 species of which 49 were over four years of age. Neotropical migrants accounted for 23% of the over-four-years group! The eldest return was an eight-year-old Yellow Warbler followed by a seven-plus-year-old Chipping Sparrow. A Baltimore Oriole that has been trapped every year since banding returned again at seven years of age.

Others over four were as follows: eight American Robins at 4, 4+ (4), 5, 5+ and 6+; five Song