

## Long Point Bird Observatory Fall Report 2003

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The fall banding season got off to a great start with the weeklong Young Ornithologists' Workshop. The group of keen birders and aspiring banders were a treat to instruct and a pleasure to get to know. The most common species banded during the workshop included Yellow Warbler and Gray Catbird. The week's highlight was a trip out to the Tip field station for a day, with a stop along Bluff Bar for some birding and an excellent game of ultimate frisbee.

The official season began 2 August and continued until 15 November for a total of 106 days of coverage during fall migration. During this period, 238 species were observed or captured and of these, 107 species were banded (Table 1). A total of 10, 812 individuals were trapped—551 recaptures and 10, 261 newly banded individuals. Of the recaptures, 18 were foreign-banded birds and 37 were returning individuals or local breeders (Table 2). The species with the highest banding total this fall was Myrtle Warbler, with 1587 banded (Table 3).

Fall weather was wonderful at Long Point this year; but winds plagued the Tip station's mist-netting efforts for much of the season. Hurricane Isabel passed through the Long Point area in September, which brought high winds and some crazy storms for a brief period. Overall, the weather was cooperative and allowed for 100% coverage until season's end.



Photo: Tip of the Point in fall-Brian Pruksa



Photo: Old Cut Channel-Henri Robert

This fall brought a number of highlights, not the least of which was a much-needed renovation to the Breakwater field station. This opened Breakwater a little later than usual, lowering both catch and net hours at LPBO as a whole.



Photo: Old Breakwater Cabin-Henri Robert



Photo: Old Breakwater banding lab- Brendan Donaghey

Highlight banded birds from the three stations included Northern Goshawk, Snow Bunting, Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, a very late Black-throated Green Warbler banded on 7 November, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Eastern Tufted Titmouse. Perhaps the best day this fall occurred on 1 November when 432 birds were banded. Of the species banded that day, Myrtle Warbler was the most common, with 69 individuals; and American Goldfinch was a close second, with 59 birds banded. As well, 11 sparrow species were trapped, including 48 Slate-colored Juncos and 43 White-throated Sparrows. September 6<sup>th</sup> brought the highest species diversity to the banding lab, with 36, including Connecticut Warbler and Northern Parula, for a total of 19 warbler species for the day.



**Photos: Tufted Titmouse, Northern Parula, Jessie with Northern Goshawk-Tessa Smith**

Snow Buntings have been caught every fall since 1998; similarly, Eastern Tufted Titmouse has been banded every fall since 1999. LPBO posted its second highest banding totals for both Northern Saw-whet Owls and Myrtle Warblers this fall, the records being 811 set in 1999 and 1596 set in 1993, respectively. New record banding totals for the fall were reached for a few species, including Chipping Sparrow (114), Slate-colored Junco (683) and Common Grackle (115). Other noteworthy events include the highest banding totals for: Blue Jay, since 1980; Lincoln's Sparrow, since 1985; and Eastern Towhee, since 1990. The lowest banding totals were recorded for: Canada Warbler, since 1974; Philadelphia Vireo and American Redstart, since 1990; Eastern Phoebe, since 1991; and Hermit Thrush, since 1994. The first fall-banded Blue-winged Warbler and Eastern Bluebird in three seasons were captured this fall, as was Louisiana Waterthrush, which was last trapped in fall 1997.

Fall migration is magnificent and Long Point is the staging ground for spectacular movements of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Every year thousands of swans, ducks and geese congregate along the shores of Long Point Bay. By 24 August, ducks had begun to show up at the Tip and by October the majority of Long Point's waterfowl species were present; the social whooping of the Tundra Swans can still be heard from Old Cut as the snow falls this December.



**Photo: Dunlin-Brendan Donaghey**



**Photo: Sandhill Crane-Brendan Donaghey**

Species highlights include Parasitic Jaeger, an early Iceland Gull on 9 September, a Wilson's Storm-petrel seen after Hurricane Isabel blew through, a Common Eider that hung around for a month off the Tip of the Point, Brant, American Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Western Kingbird, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Cave Swallows, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and last but certainly not least a Yellowhammer. This bird was seen during a "fall out" of migrants on 27 October and was likely an escapee. September 29<sup>th</sup> brought the greatest observed diversity of migrants to Long Point, with 153 species. Included in this total were 13 Common Loons seen flying over Old Cut and the Tip; 14 species of waterfowl, including 240 Green-winged Teal on the ponds at the Tip, and more than 70 Red-breasted Mergansers off of the Point, as well as 2 Northern Shovelers seen flying

over Old Cut. Finally, large flocks of blackbirds were observed at Old Cut on this big day, numbering more than 300, 000 for Common Grackles and 20, 000 Red-winged Blackbirds. Certainly, with numbers and species such as these mentioned, one can imagine the impressive nature of migration at Long Point.

Thirteen recoveries or resightings of LPBO banded birds were reported this year (Table 4). Perhaps the most intriguing of the reports was a Bald Eagle that was banded as a nestling in 1996, and recovered nearly seven years later in Fremont, Ohio. Another noteworthy recovery includes a Tundra Swan that was reported in Quebec one spring and Wisconsin the next.

A special thank you goes out to all of the staff and volunteers who made this season one to remember!

**Staff**

Christian Friis, Stu Mackenzie, Matt Timpf

**Volunteers**

**More than 4 months: Roz Ford**

**1 month or more:** Christian Artuso, Graham Barker, Anne Condon, Andrea Flowers, Benoit Gangloff, Jane Hayden, Tedd Maddeford, Stu Mackenzie, Hugh McAurhor, Fergus Nicoll, Jessie Pakkala, Kevin Picard, Genevieve Purugganan, Henri Robert, Tessa Smith, Rachel Taylor, Felix Weiss

**2 to 4 weeks:** Paul French, Dave Jolly, Alison Myatt Enrico Sorato

**2 weeks or less:** Rhonda Donely, Stephanie Melles, Taeko Knockaert, Crissy Ranellucci, Diane Salter, Anna Kendrick, Sam Kendrick

**Table 1-Species recorded at Long Point Bird Observatory in fall 2003; ‘B’ indicates banded in 2003.**

Species	Species	Species	Species
Red-necked Grebe	Gadwall	Great Egret	Ruddy Turnstone
Horned Grebe	American Wigeon	Green Heron	Mourning Dove <b>B</b>
Pied-billed Grebe	Green-winged Teal	Black-crowned Night Heron	Turkey Vulture
Common Loon <b>B</b>	Blue-winged Teal	Sandhill Crane	Northern Harrier
Ring-necked Pheasant	Northern Shoveler	Sora	Sharp-shinned Hawk <b>B</b>
Parasitic Jaeger	Northern Pintail	American Avocet	Cooper’s Hawk
Unidentified Jaeger	Wood Duck	American Woodcock <b>B</b>	Northern Goshawk <b>B</b>
Glaucous Gull	Redhead	Wilson’s (Common) Snipe	Red-tailed Hawk
Iceland Gull	Canvasback	Short-billed Dowitcher	Red-shouldered Hawk
Great Black-backed Gull	Greater Scaup	Long-billed Dowitcher	Broad-winged Hawk
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Lesser Scaup	Stilt Sandpiper	Rough-legged Hawk
Herring Gull <b>B</b>	Unidentified Scaup	White-rumped Sandpiper	Bald Eagle
Ring-billed Gull	Ring-necked Duck	Baird’s Sandpiper	Peregrine Falcon
Bonaparte’s Gull	Common Goldeneye	Least Sandpiper	Merlin
Little Gull	Bufflehead	Dunlin	American Kestrel <b>B</b>
Caspian Tern	Long-tailed Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Osprey
Forester’s Tern	Common Eider	Sanderling <b>B</b>	Long-eared Owl
Common Tern	Black Scoter	Greater Yellowlegs	Short-eared Owl
Black Tern	White-winged Scoter	Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Saw-whet Owl <b>B</b>
Wilson’s Storm-petrel	Surf Scoter	Unidentified Yellowlegs	Eastern Screech Owl <b>B</b>
Double-crested Cormorant	Ruddy Duck	Solitary Sandpiper	Great Horned Owl
Common Merganser	Lesser Snow Goose	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Yellow-billed Cuckoo <b>B</b>
Red-breasted Merganser	Canada Goose	Spotted Sandpiper <b>B</b>	Black-billed Cuckoo <b>B</b>
Unidentified Merganser	Brant	Whimbrel	Belted Kingfisher
Hooded Merganser	Mute Swan	Black-bellied Plover	Hairy Woodpecker <b>B</b>
Unidentified Dowitcher	Tundra Swan	American Golden Plover	Downy Woodpecker <b>B</b>
Mallard	American Bittern	Killdeer <b>B</b>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <b>B</b>
American Black Duck	Great Blue Heron	Semipalmated Plover	Red-headed Woodpecker <b>B</b>

Species
Red-bellied Woodpecker <b>B</b>
Yellow-shafted Flicker <b>B</b>
Whip-poor-will
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Eastern Kingbird <b>B</b>
Western Kingbird
Great-crested Flycatcher <b>B</b>
Eastern Phoebe <b>B</b>
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pewee <b>B</b>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher <b>B</b>
Willow Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Traill's Flycatcher <b>B</b>
Least Flycatcher <b>B</b>
Horned Lark
Blue Jay <b>B</b>
American Crow
European Starling <b>B</b>
Bobolink
Brown-headed Cowbird <b>B</b>
Red-winged Blackbird <b>B</b>
Eastern Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole <b>B</b>
Rusty Blackbird <b>B</b>
Common Grackle <b>B</b>
Purple Finch <b>B</b>
House Finch <b>B</b>
American Goldfinch <b>B</b>
Pine Siskin <b>B</b>

Species
Lapland Longspur
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow <b>B</b>
LeConte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow <b>B</b>
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow <b>B</b>
White-throated Sparrow <b>B</b>
American Tree Sparrow <b>B</b>
Chipping Sparrow <b>B</b>
Clay-colored Sparrow <b>B</b>
Field Sparrow <b>B</b>
Slate-colored Junco <b>B</b>
Song Sparrow <b>B</b>
Lincoln's Sparrow <b>B</b>
Swamp Sparrow <b>B</b>
Fox Sparrow <b>B</b>
Eastern Towhee <b>B</b>
Northern Cardinal <b>B</b>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <b>B</b>
Indigo Bunting <b>B</b>
Scarlet Tanager <b>B</b>
Purple Martin <b>B</b>
Cliff Swallow
Cave Swallow
Barn Swallow <b>B</b>
Tree Swallow <b>B</b>
Bank Swallow <b>B</b>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow <b>B</b>
Cedar Waxwing <b>B</b>

Species
Red-eyed Vireo <b>B</b>
Philadelphia Vireo <b>B</b>
Warbling Vireo <b>B</b>
Yellow-throated Vireo <b>B</b>
Blue-headed Vireo <b>B</b>
Black and White Warbler <b>B</b>
Blue-winged Warbler <b>B</b>
Golden-winged Warbler <b>B</b>
Nashville Warbler <b>B</b>
Orange-crowned Warbler <b>B</b>
Tennessee Warbler <b>B</b>
Northern Parula <b>B</b>
Cape May Warbler <b>B</b>
Yellow Warbler <b>B</b>
Black-throated Blue Warbler <b>B</b>
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler <b>B</b>
Magnolia Warbler <b>B</b>
Chestnut-sided Warbler <b>B</b>
Bay-breasted Warbler <b>B</b>
Blackpoll Warbler <b>B</b>
Blackburnian Warbler <b>B</b>
Yellow-throated Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler <b>B</b>
Pine Warbler <b>B</b>
Western Palm Warbler <b>B</b>
Prairie Warbler
Ovenbird <b>B</b>
Northern Waterthrush <b>B</b>
Louisiana Waterthrush <b>B</b>
Connecticut Warbler <b>B</b>

Species
Common Yellowthroat <b>B</b>
Yellow-breasted Chat <b>B</b>
Hooded Warbler <b>B</b>
Wilson's Warbler <b>B</b>
Canada Warbler <b>B</b>
American Redstart <b>B</b>
House Sparrow <b>B</b>
American Pipit
Northern Mockingbird <b>B</b>
Gray Catbird <b>B</b>
Brown Thrasher <b>B</b>
Carolina Wren <b>B</b>
House Wren <b>B</b>
Winter Wren <b>B</b>
Marsh Wren <b>B</b>
Brown Creeper
White-breasted Nuthatch <b>B</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch <b>B</b>
Eastern Tufted Titmouse <b>B</b>
Black-capped Chickadee <b>B</b>
Golden-crowned Kinglet <b>B</b>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <b>B</b>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher <b>B</b>
Wood Thrush <b>B</b>
Veery <b>B</b>
Grey-cheeked Thrush <b>B</b>
Swainson's Thrush <b>B</b>
Hermit Thrush <b>B</b>
American Robin <b>B</b>
Eastern Bluebird <b>B</b>
Yellowhammer

Photos: Eastern Kingbird-Brendan Donaghey; Golden-winged Warbler-Henri Robert; Great Crested Flycatcher-Tessa Smith



**Table 2—Recaptured individuals showing recapture status (foreign or return/local breeding).**

Species	Foreign Banded	Return
Northern Saw-whet Owl	13	
Downy Woodpecker		1
American Goldfinch	1	1
Song Sparrow		4
Fox Sparrow	1	
Northern Cardinal		6
Barn Swallow		1
Yellow Warbler		5
Myrtle Warbler	1	
House Sparrow		3
Gray Catbird	1	4
Carolina Wren		3
House Wren		3
Black-capped Chickadee		5
Swainson's Thrush		1
American Robin		1



Photo: Northern Saw-whet Owl-Henri Robert

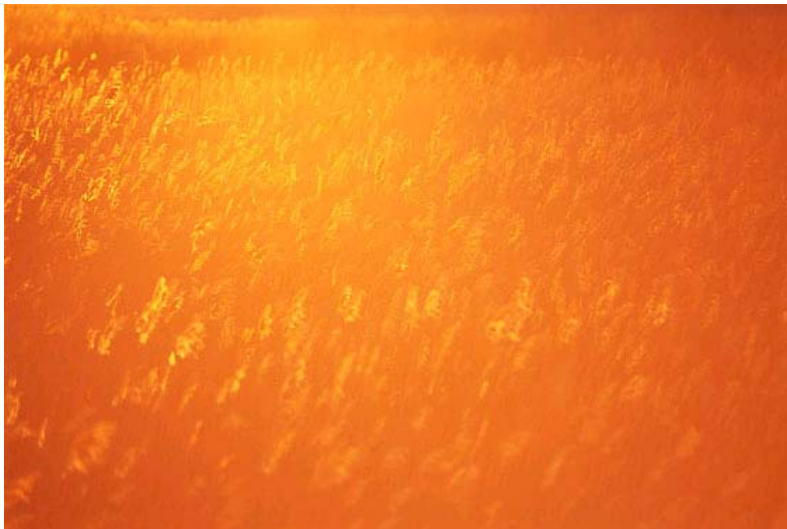
**Table 3—List of top ten most commonly banded species during the fall 2003 season. The total number of individuals and the percentage of those individuals that were born this year are shown. \***

	Species	Number	% Hatch Year
1	Myrtle Warbler	1587	91.4
2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	731	56.5
3	Slate-colored Junco	683	74.1
4	White-throated Sparrow	661	76.2
5	Northern Saw-whet Owl	488	65.2
6	Golden-crowned Kinglet	413	73.6
7	American Goldfinch	392	77.8
8	Brown Creeper	365	59.7
9	Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	329	70.2
10	Swainson's Thrush	294	69.7



\* Percentage based upon all captures within a species, including unknown-aged individuals

Photos: (above) Fall at the Tip-Brian Pruksa  
(Below) Sunset at Breakwater-Brendan Donaghey



**Table 4 – Reported LPBO band recoveries 2003**

Species	Band Number	Date Banded	Date Recovered	Days Between Captures	Location Recovered	Lat	Long	Distance (km)
Tundra Swan	0519-77643	27-Mar-99	30-Jan-03	1383	Middle Creek WMA PA	401	761	434
Tundra Swan	0519-77902	29-Mar-99	15-Apr-02	1096	Big Creek Marsh PQ	453	732	652
Tundra Swan	0519-77902	29-Mar-99	28-Mar-03	1439	Shiocton WI	442	883	691
Bald Eagle	0629-25228	10-Jun-96	28-Feb-03	2418	Fremont, OH	412	830	124
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0764-32288	10-Nov-99	19-Feb-03	1179	Carp ON	452	760	469
Red-winged Blackbird	1142-50830	31-Mar-00	1-Jan-03	991	Finley WA	460	1190	3077
Red-winged Blackbird	1162-91033	4-Jul-01	4-Dec-03	870	Rockwood, ON	433	800	115
Common Grackle	1513-18900	5-Dec-01	6-Mar-03	451	Selkirk Prov Park ON	424	795	23
Common Grackle	1173-37500	4-Jul-00	8-Jun-03	1054	Austintown, OH	410	804	176
Yellow Warbler	2220-39384	19-May-01	8-Apr-03	679	Rock Point Prov. Park ON	425	793	78
Tree Swallow	1671-49251	28-Jun-00	3-Nov-02	845	Ruthven Park ON	425	795	55

