

# IPBO

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1, November 1998

### 1998 Spring Migration Monitoring Program

The second year of the Spring Migration Monitoring Program differed from 1997 in several ways. There was fuller coverage of the count period, there was less rain and wind, migration got off to a better start, and several species were much more common than the year before. But in the end, the overall results were disappointingly similar.

Indeed, in some ways the results for 1998 were even more sobering than those from Year One. Despite 8 additional days of coverage and much less time lost to bad weather (see Table 1), the total banded increased by only 1 per cent, from 1,052 to 1,063. There were 17 days with banding totals under 20. Even the usually busy period in the middle of May failed to produce the expected migrants. Particularly indicative is the fact that the busiest banding day (49 banded) occurred as early as May 4!

IPBO was prepared for better results this Spring. Rinchen Boardman agreed to direct the field staff again this year, and he had a more experienced crew of volunteers to lead. Bill Fyfe was a stalwart volunteer once again, and Mike Shaw joined him to provide a solid core of support to Rinchen on most weekdays during the program. A good corps of other volunteers returned to help provide a total of 165 volunteer-days (see Table 2).



### Black-capped Chickadee Irruption

The most notable aspect of the season was the Black-capped Chickadee irruption. The chickadee flight was already well underway when the SMMP began on April 24. On the mornings of April 11, 13 and 18, there were respectively 125, 150 and 160 chickadees moving through, and 193 of these were netted for banding. The movement continued into the start of the SMMP. Indeed, it seemed through the first two weeks that chickadees were practically the only migrants. Except for Day 2, which featured snow flurries and strong northwest winds, chickadees formed 60%-100% of individuals

banded each day during the first week, and 30%-80% of those banded on 6 of the next 7 days. Numbers during the early SMMP period were modest in comparison to previous weeks (e.g., the one-day high was 75 individuals observed on May 4, compared to 100 banded and 160 observed on April 18). The movement was also less impressive than Fall migrations of the species at Innis Point. (From mid-September to mid-October 1988, for example, there were 1,169 chickadees banded during 11 days of coverage, and 1,133 banded over a similar period in 1990.) But whether the flight was a flood or a trickle, there remained the puzzling question as to why the chickadees appeared to be moving *south*, not north.

In both Spring and Fall, it seems that the local geography at Innis Point confuses irrupting chickadees, and their apparent southward movement this Spring may be part of that phenomenon. Flocks have been observed to reverse direction at the Point; nevertheless, observers had a strong impression that most chickadees were moving southward. On April 18, for example, the birds were moving with a noticeable haste *against* strong southerly winds, for which they compensated

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## Directors and Projects

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<i>Breeding Status List</i> .....	Peter Browne
<i>Breeding Bird Census</i> .....	Bill Murphy
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Innis Point Bird Observatory wishes to thank the Department of National Defence for their cooperation and continued permission to operate on departmental land at the Connaught Range and Primary Training Centre. Special thanks to Lt.-Col. B. Johnson, Capt. T. Clarke and MWO C.P. Courtemanche for their assistance.

**Table 1. Selected SMMP Summary Statistics from 1997 and 1998**

<i>Coverage</i>	1997	1998
Days during target 45-day period with:		
Coverage	37	45
Census and EDTs	36	45
Mist-netting entirely rained out	3	0
At least some netting coverage lost due to bad weather	23	16
Portion of netting coverage lost due to bad weather	21%	8%
Number of volunteers	23	19
Total volunteer-days	146	165

<i>Results</i>	1997	1998
Species observed	156	158
Species banded	75	68
Total individuals banded	1,052	1,063

somewhat by taking a more inland route than usual. Certainly, returns of birds banded from *Fall* irruptions have shown a movement eastward down the Ottawa River, with same-day recoveries in the City of Ottawa, and more recoveries 2-3 weeks later in and around Montreal. But there is no solid evidence that the birds are in fact “migrating” (i.e., that they reverse the direction of movement between Spring and Fall), hence the term “irrupting”. If we are fortunate, one of our Spring irruptives may be recovered elsewhere, because much remains to be learned about the intriguing Black-capped Chickadee movements at Innis Point.

### *Ups and Downs*

While Black-capped Chickadees banded jumped from 10 last year to 282 this year, all but one of last year’s top ten species declined in 1998 (see Table 3). By species, declines led advances by 49 to 28. Chickadees, at the start of the program, and Cedar Waxwings, at the end, were the most frequently banded. The waxwing numbers were at the “normal” levels we expected, with the 1997 total of 12 banded the aberration.

A few species were relatively more common than expected. There were 25-30 Chipping Sparrows on May 5 and 7, and 10-12 Savannah Sparrows on those same days. American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Northern Waterthrush numbers were up in an otherwise dismal Spring for warblers. When the exact dates covered in 1997 are compared between the two years, the total banded is down by 17 per cent. Warblers banded over these same 37 days dropped by an astonishing 66 per cent.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration was virtually non-existent this year. Only 14 individuals were detected over 8 days, compared to 76 (itself a modest figure) over 18 days in 1997.

The low numbers of migrants probably reflect both the poor breeding season last year, and the excellent weather this Spring (Table 1) — excellent for the birds flying overhead, but not for the human observers on the ground! On the plus side, the slow pace left lots of time for us to familiarize ourselves with the new Pyle identification guide, and we spent much time checking for moult limits and puzzling over primary covert shapes. Our staff also put a lot of effort

**Table 2. SMMP Volunteers for 1998**

<i>Days</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>
25-30	Bill Fyfe and Mike Shaw.
15-24	Bill Petrie and Rick Ticknor.
7-14	Paul Davidson, Bill Murphy, Jack Romanow and Eve Ticknor.
4-6	Martha Caskey, Erica Dunn, Judith Kennedy, Christine Marleau and Bev McBride.
1-3	Tom Bearss, Peter Browne, Connie Downes, Paul Gully, David Hussell and Jean McGugan.

into General Observations, and were able to increase the number of species observed from last year's 156 to 158 in spite of the thin migration and a drop in the number of species banded. We thank Rinchen for his leadership again this year. Whether training and encouraging volunteers, identifying those distant shorebirds or helping us to fine-tune the protocol, his experience and advice were invaluable.

Last year's top single-day species was Brant, with 2,200 individuals observed on May 19. This year, only 29 Brant passed through Innis Point, over 2 days. This year's one-day leader was their far more common relative, the Canada Goose. There was a steady flow of high-flying flocks of 50 to 100 Canadas on the last day of April, totalling 1,600 birds. In both years, there appeared to be two migratory periods for Canada Geese, the first ending in early May, and a second running from late May to early June. This year, there were 5 days with 400 or more from the start of SMMP up to May 7. The later migration consisted of 4 days of 200 or more migrants from May 25 to June 2, with a peak of 530 on May 28.

Our general impression of the migration is that the low numbers banded accurately reflected the low number of birds moving through the count area in both years. However, a comparison of banding and EDT figures reveals significant differences for some species. Myrtle Warblers banded dropped by almost 90 per cent (202 to 27), but the total number of Myrtles observed fell by "only" 69 per cent (723 to 230). The difference is even

more marked for Blue Jays. Blue Jay captures fell by 77 per cent (26 to 6), yet Estimated Daily Totals during their main migratory period each year (May 11-28) actually *increased* by 126% (from 199 to 451). At least part of the explanation seems to be that both species were "grounded" by the more persistent bad weather in 1997, so that a much larger percentage was captured in the mist nets. The markedly different capture ratios in the two years (from 28% to 12% for "Myrtles", and 13% to 1% for jays) underline the wisdom of using several

different indicators (banding, standard census, EDTs) to track migration.

Species infrequently banded at Innis Point included a Cooper's Hawk from Inner Point (2<sup>nd</sup> ever), a Pileated Woodpecker from Swamp (4<sup>th</sup>), a Clay-colored Sparrow from Inner Point (5<sup>th</sup>) and American Woodcocks from Swamp and Parallel Road (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>).

**Notable Sightings**

Among the unusual sightings this Spring:

- A Great Egret over the river on May 5. The species is very rare at any time of year, and accidental in early May in this region (OFNC Checklist, 1993).
- A Caspian Tern on May 29 (very rare to accidental in the Ottawa area).
- There were 32 Arctic Terns on May 26, with 2 to 5 observed on 3 other dates up to June 5.

**Table 3. Top Ten Species Banded, 1998 SMMP, with Comparison to 1997**

<i>1998 Rank</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total Banded</i>		<i>1997 Rank</i>
		<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	
1	Black-capped Chickadee	282	10	-
2	Cedar Waxwing	98	12	-
3	Yellow Warbler	80	111	2
4	Red-winged Blackbird	55	77	3
5	Tree Swallow	39	34	7
6	American Redstart	32	22	-
7	American Goldfinch	30	53	4
8	Baltimore Oriole	29	33	8
9	"Myrtle" Warbler	27	202	1
10-11	American Robin	25	45	6
10-11	Chipping Sparrow	25	6	-
-	Common Yellowthroat	23	47	5
-	Song Sparrow	23	30	9
-	Gray Catbird	16	28	10
<i>Totals</i>		<i>1,063</i>	<i>1,052</i>	

- A Red-bellied Woodpecker was discovered on the census on May 8. The OFNC checklist does not report any occurrences of the species in May. It is very rare in winter and there are only a handful of records during the summer months (including one banded at Innis Point on June 6, 1983).
- A Yellow-throated Vireo at Swamp East on June 6.

In the near-miss category, a White-winged Crossbill was detected over the MAPS plot on the last day of the SMMP, and was heading towards the SMMP area, but it was not noted in the count area itself.

A Great Crested Flycatcher banded at OB on May 12, 1987 was recaptured at Parallel Road on May 17 this year. The individual, probably male, was at least 11 years, 11 months old. It had been recorded on one other occasion (July 4, 1992, at Road South), suggesting that it has probably bred in the area. The longevity record for this species is 13 years and 11 months.

An American Redstart provided a tangle link between Innis Point and its nearest migration monitoring neighbour, the bird observatory at Prince Edward Point on Lake Ontario. The second-year male redstart was banded at Prince Edward Point on May 18, and recaptured at the Swamp East net line five days later. It had lost 1 gram (12% of its total body weight) during its five-day, 180 kilometre trip, and had no visible fat reserves remaining. It was also missing 5 of its 12 tail feathers.

A review of Innis Point data from 1982 to 1996 suggests that at least 1,500 birds should be banded in an "average" SMMP year. Perhaps Spring 1999 will be more "average".



## 1997 in Review

### *Snow Buntings*

A single Snow Bunting provided an auspicious beginning to 1997 at Innis Point when it was captured on January 1. From a high of 242 banded in 1991, the annual number of Snow Buntings had declined to only 71 in 1995, and, incredibly, not a single bunting was banded during all of 1996. After the Snow Buntings successfully shunned us for twelve months, the capture of even one bird on the first day of the new year signalled some hope for a return to better times.

The paucity of Snow Bunting captures was partly explained by competition for seed from mammals. The Snow Buntings at Innis Point are attracted to ground traps baited with cracked corn, and their capture depends on several conditions. First, they largely ignore the corn until there is a complete mantle of snow in winter, and whenever a few square meters of bare ground appear in the vicinity they abandon the corn again. Second, anything which reduces the corn available to them, such as squirrels and deer, will cause them to abandon the area. Further, mammals which scatter the seed cause the birds to spread out to forage, resulting in few if any captures. Finally, the birds are easily disturbed by any human activity in an area as they are very watchful and take flight at the slightest distraction. The occasional snowmobile on the river, or vehicle on

the road, can undermine a morning's capture rate significantly.

An additional 10 Snow Buntings were captured on two other days in January, but competition from mammals kept the numbers down to a single bird in February. At this point, in hopes of cutting out the competition, the ground trap was elevated several metres to the roof of one of the buildings, becoming the first Innis Point "Roof Trap". The effect on captures was almost immediate: 2 buntings on March 1, 15 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 18 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a final 15 on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Although squirrels eventually discovered the new location, the deer have remained terrestrial — with no reported visits so far from Santa's reindeer! Banding totals, though still well below those from earlier in the decade, recovered to 79 for the year.

Perhaps the only thing more surprising than not capturing any Snow Buntings in mid-winter would be to record a female bunting at that time. Correct sexing of this species has until recent years been frustrated by misleading information published in the standard Pyle guide to ageing and sexing passerines — information which has unfortunately not been corrected in the new edition of the guide. But since we have straightened out our sexing of Snow Buntings at Innis Point, we find that only the males frequent our area in winter. Unless the females are uniformly smarter than the males and so avoid capture, it must be that females

Table 4. Snow Bunting Captures by Sex, 1995 and 1997

Year	Male	Female	Total <sup>a</sup>
1995	75	5	80
1997	79	7	86
Total	154	12	166

a. All captures, including returns.

**Table 5. All Snow Bunting Returns, by Numbers of Winters Returning, to end of 1997**

	<i>Not Returning</i>	<i>1 Winter</i>	<i>2 Winters</i>	<i>3 Winters</i>	<i>4 Winters</i>	<i>Total<sup>a</sup></i>
<i>Number</i>	1,621	54	15	4	1	1,715
<i>Percentage</i>	94.5	3.1	0.9	0.2	.06	100

a. Excludes individuals banded in Fall 1997, which have not yet had an opportunity to return.

winter south of our region. That the sexes have different wintering grounds (as is seen, for example, in Dark-eyed Juncos) is supported by the fact that the female Snow Buntings that we do see at Innis Point appear there only in Spring migration, i.e., mid- and late March.

Ninety-three per cent of Snow Buntings captured at Innis Point in the past three years have been males (see Table 4). As is typical, all 7 of the females recorded in 1997 came late in the winter: all were banded on March 31. The capture of as many as 15 birds that late in the winter was directly attributable to a fresh cover of 5 centimetres of snow.

Late Fall captures of Snow Buntings are also highly dependent on the arrival of a solid snow cover. The total of 16 banded last Fall was typical of recent years, but a far cry from the 108 banded in 1987. Along with them, however, was our 100<sup>th</sup> return for the species. Seventy-four individuals have returned for at least one subsequent winter (see Table 5), for a return rate of 4.3 per cent. Twenty birds have returned for more than one winter.

**Busy Spring**

April 1997 saw less coverage than normal as we made final preparations for the migration monitoring program, which provided significantly enhanced coverage throughout May. The new centrepiece of our monitoring activities, the Spring Migration Monitoring Program (SMMP), was reviewed in Vol. 12 No. 1. As the SMMP wound down, the studies of breeding birds started up, with plenty of activity during the one week when they overlap. During the first weekend in June, IPBO volunteers ran 2 days of Spring Migration Monitoring in the "Point" area, one day of migration monitoring in the "Field" area, and the first

day of each of the Breeding Bird Census, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) and Birds in Forested Landscapes (BFL) programs for the year. Whew!

**Fall**

Fall invasions of Black-capped Chickadees are legendary at Innis Point, and the 162 banded on September 27 last year were reminiscent of the invasion years of 1988 and 1990. As usual in such irruptions, the birds were noisy (calling repeatedly), fast-moving (at least by chickadee standards) and hugged the shoreline. Thus, while Swamp East captured 56 individuals, only 16 were netted at Swamp, which is only slightly further away from the river. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient coverage to properly document the extent and duration of the irruption. The weekend preceding the invasion day was rained out; and only 35

new chickadees moved through seven days later. However, this irruption, together with a poor Fall migration of Yellow-rumped Warblers, was enough to ensure that the Black-capped Chickadee topped the yearly banding totals for the 7<sup>th</sup> time in the past 10 years (see Table 6).

Red-winged Blackbirds are common transients in Fall at Innis Point, but, in marked contrast to Spring, overfly the site rather than land there. Until 1997, the only captures in Fall were 10 on September 14, 1982. Last October, however, 4 were captured on October 18, and 3 more on October 25. Even more notable was the early appearance of Common Redpolls. The first one banded, on October 11, was captured at Road South before any others had been detected in the area. Road South is clearly our early-warning site for redpoll invasions, as the first redpoll detected in the 1986-87 flight year also showed up there (on October 18). 11 of 81 redpolls observed on October 18, 1997 were banded, and flocks of 50 (Nov. 1) and 116 (Dec. 6) continued to appear throughout the late Fall, presaging a busy winter.

All told, with 92 days of coverage, there were 3,248 birds of 96 species banded at

**Table 6. Occurrences of Each Species Among Annual Top 3 Species, 1982-1997**

<i>Species</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Top 3</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	10.5	1.5	2	14
Yellow Warbler	1.5	6.5	1	9
Tree Swallow	2	2	4	8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	2	1	4
Pine Siskin	1	1	1	3
Dark-eyed Junco		1	1	2
Common Redpoll		1	1	2
American Goldfinch			2	2
Purple Martin		1		1
Evening Grosbeak			1	1
Snow Bunting			1	1
Purple Finch			1	1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>48</i>

**Table 7. Total Banded by Species, Innis Point, 1997**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Common Yellowthroat	58
Killdeer	2	Swainson's Thrush	7	Wilson's Warbler	13
Spotted Sandpiper	13	Hermit Thrush	15	Canada Warbler	6
Least Sandpiper	1	Wood Thrush	8	Scarlet Tanager	7
Mourning Dove	2	American Robin	92	Northern Cardinal	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Gray Catbird	51	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	16
Downy Woodpecker	16	Brown Thrasher	22	American Tree Sparrow	56
Hairy Woodpecker	14	Cedar Waxwing	36	Chipping Sparrow	12
Yellow-shafted Flicker	3	European Starling	6	Clay-colored Sparrow	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	Blue-headed Vireo	6	Field Sparrow	11
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	Warbling Vireo	13	Vesper Sparrow	1
Traill's Flycatcher	13	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Savannah Sparrow	3
Least Flycatcher	26	Red-eyed Vireo	33	Fox Sparrow	5
Eastern Phoebe	16	Tennessee Warbler	5	Song Sparrow	88
Great Crested Flycatcher	13	Orange-crowned Warbler	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Eastern Kingbird	3	Nashville Warbler	37	Swamp Sparrow	11
Purple Martin	128	Yellow Warbler	158	White-throated Sparrow	140
Tree Swallow	96	Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	White-crowned Sparrow	9
N. Rough-winged Swallow	1	Magnolia Warbler	45	Dark-eyed Junco	96
Bank Swallow	2	Cape May Warbler	3	Snow Bunting	79
Barn Swallow	5	Black-throated Blue Warbler	13	Bobolink	1
Blue Jay	48	Yellow-rumped Warbler	234	Red-winged Blackbird	110
Black-capped Chickadee	403	Black-throated Green Warbler	4	Common Grackle	25
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Blackburnian Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	Western Palm Warbler	25	Baltimore Oriole	45
Brown Creeper	9	<i>Yellow Palm Warbler</i>	1	Purple Finch	108
Carolina Wren	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	4	Common Redpoll	34
House Wren	7	Blackpoll Warbler	10	Pine Siskin	63
Winter Wren	2	Black-and-white Warbler	64	American Goldfinch	203
Golden-crowned Kinglet	33	American Redstart	49	Evening Grosbeak	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	84	Ovenbird	24	House Sparrow	4
Eastern Bluebird	22	Northern Waterthrush	9		
Veery	19	Mourning Warbler	5		
				<i>Total</i>	3,248

Innis Point in 1997 (see Table 7). This marked the return to more normal levels of coverage and birds after a poor Fall 1996 and a record-low total of 1,824 of 82 species banded that year. In 1997, record highs were noted for 5 species (see Table 8), and there was one new species (Carolina Wren — see *Newsletter* Vol 12. No. 1).

**Returns**

The 230 returns of 34 species (see Table 9) were at typical levels for Innis Point. As usual, Black-capped Chicka-

dees were the most numerous returns, with Yellow Warbler, Blue Jay, Purple Martin and Song Sparrow far behind. Among the returns of interest:

- A female Hairy Woodpecker banded by Chris Ellingwood at the Ottawa Duck Club's Fourth Line feeder in February 1987, recaptured there in March 1988 and not seen again until November 29, 1997 at BF, was at least 11½ years old. This bird has established the IPBO record for the longest

period between captures for an individual (9 years, 8 months).

- An American Tree Sparrow recorded on each of the 8 winters since 1990. In most years, it has been captured only once.
- A second tree sparrow recorded on 6 of the 7 winters since 1991. It was nearly missed during the winter of 1995-96, when it was netted on May 4, presumably just before heading north to breed.

- A Black-capped Chickadee which grew a largely white set of replacement tail feathers during one Fall, and normal grey-and-white feathers the next summer.
- Chickadees which breed on the MAPS plot but visit the Bird Feeder each winter (1 kilometre away); hatch-year chickadees first captured in the Point area which move to the Field area (2 kilometres), or vice versa; and others which are recorded at the feeder each winter but are not observed the rest of the year.
- A male Canada Goose, banded as a gosling by Pierre Mineau at Bell Northern on Carling Avenue in 1991, returned to Innis Point for the fourth time in the past 6 years, to form part of the only local nesting pair.
- A Brown Creeper banded at Point on October 6, 1996 was recaptured at Oak Ridge on October 18 the next year.
- Among the 16 Purple Martins recaptured during 1997, 13 were initially banded as nestlings. This species appears to consider House 1 at Innis Point more desirable real estate than House 2, which is slightly further from the river. Is House 1 in fact more productive? Well, the sample is small, but 9 of the 13 nestlings returning were born in House 1, compared to 4 in House 2. So perhaps House 1 is indeed a better place to raise a martin family.

**Table 8. Species Banded in Record High Numbers, 1997**

<i>Species</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>Previous High and Year</i>
Blue Jay	48	45 (1984)
Western Palm Warbler	25	18 (1983)
Brown Thrasher	22	21 (1983)
Northern Cardinal	5	4 (1994)
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	1 (1988)
Carolina Wren	1	-

- A male Ovenbird banded as a hatch-year in 1992, and which now nests on the MAPS plot, apparently shows buff feather edging as an adult. It has repeatedly confounded banders, who have erroneously judged it a second-year bird for three years in a row.
- A male Yellow Warbler recorded during 5 summers since 1990 has consistently had heavy reddish streaking on the head and back when in alternate (Spring) plumage.

**Station Management**

Several aspects of the bird observatory were better organized in 1997. Years of gradual improvements culminated when we finally got our net inventory fully organized last Spring. Hugh Groleau provided a convenient net-holding rack, Rick Ticknor supplemented Claude St.-Louis' original series of net tags, and Martha Caskey designed the final form of our net inventory sheet. To complete the inventory, we also showed that it is possible, if not ideal, to assess the quality

of a 12-metre net in a building that is less than 10 metres on the diagonal!

We also bade farewell to the original Ottawa Banding Group trailer in 1997. The trailer was a major improvement in shelter when it was brought on the site in 1983. In recent years, however, an assortment of mammals and snakes had come to frequent it much more than IPBO staff, who had moved into the then-NRC-owned buildings around 1986. However, the trailer served us well by making our work much more effective during the crucial early years of the observatory.

**Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Taking Shape**

The creation of a formal Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) has moved one step closer to reality following a meeting of migration monitoring stations at Long Point, Ontario in March.

**A Red-eyed Vireo of Record Longevity**

A female Red-eyed Vireo (2051-94746) banded in the Field on June 1, 1988 by Tracey Dean, was recaptured there in 1991. It has since been recorded nesting on the MAPS plot in 1996 and 1997, most recently on July 5, 1997. At a minimum age of 10 years, 1 month and 4 days, it is 1 month and 4 days older than the oldest Red-eyed Vireo previously known in North America, according to the latest information from the Bird Banding Laboratory. The previous record was established in Pennsylvania in 1972.



**Table 9. Returns to Innis Point, by Species, 1997**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Returns</i>
Canada Goose	1
Spotted Sandpiper	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Downy Woodpecker	6
Hairy Woodpecker	8
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1
Purple Martin	15
Tree Swallow	2
Blue Jay	15
Black-capped Chickadee	62
White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Brown Creeper	1
Veery	6
American Robin	6
Gray Catbird	7
Warbling Vireo	1
Red-eyed Vireo	3
Nashville Warbler	2
Yellow Warbler	17
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Black-and-white Warbler	6
Ovenbird	3
Common Yellowthroat	1
American Tree Sparrow	3
Chipping Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	13
Swamp Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	6
Snow Bunting	6
Red-winged Blackbird	8
Common Grackle	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Baltimore Oriole	8
Purple Finch	9
Total, 34 species	230

The workshop, organized by Bird Studies Canada (BSC), brought together 15 migration monitoring stations from seven provinces and the state of Michigan for four days of intensive discussions on what the network should look like. It also dealt with a wide range of related issues of interest to monitoring stations.

The purpose of the workshop (as summarized in the Minutes) was to:

- exchange ideas, information and experiences;
- build mutual trust and encourage the development of collaborative programs;
- identify mutually agreed-upon short- and long-term goals;
- promote operational standardization and information-sharing;
- forge formal bonds and alliances between individual stations in accordance with their local, regional or national priorities and interests;
- strengthen the Network's capacity to produce regional and national population trend information for migratory landbirds;
- develop criteria for Network membership;
- identify information gaps and weaknesses, as well as critical limiting factors; and
- address technical, scientific and ethical issues.

IPBO Chair Bill Petrie and Bill Murphy participated on behalf of IPBO. Through slide presentations made by each station, roundtable discussions, BSC presentations on assorted monitoring topics, and informal discussions of migration monitoring issues late into the evenings, delegates developed a much better idea of who and what the emerging network is all about. They also learned more about the innovations and the challenges which

vary across the country, and those which are common to most or all stations.

Later this Spring, IPBO directors voted to start the process of applying for formal membership in the new CMMN. We will update members on future developments in subsequent newsletters.

The second meeting of monitoring stations is scheduled for Delta, Manitoba in the Fall of 1999. In the interim, an informal e-mail discussion forum is being coordinated by Charles Francis of BSC (cfrancis@nornet.on.ca).

### **Trills and Chatter**

#### *People*

For the third newsletter in a row, we find ourselves marking the departure of key Innis Point personnel. Indeed, this time we bemoan the loss of two staffers. We see a pattern here that we don't like. If we thought for a moment that the prospect of a glowing testimonial from this quarter was a factor in these departures, we'd change our tone and concentrate instead on denouncing those who were abandoning their friends and colleagues. Or maybe try to slow the haemorrhaging by producing newsletters even more slowly than at present.

Instead we'll simply express both our regrets that Hugh Groleau and Nathalie Bouthillette have left us for British Columbia, and our thanks for their help while they were with us. Hugh found his way to us first, and his list of contributions and innovations is long. As our resident handyman, Hugh built bird-release hatches and multi-purpose message boards, directed the roof-re-shingling crew and introduced an easier way to deploy mist nets in winter. He was working away at several other inventions right up until his departure. He became very proficient at extractions from mist nets, and his birding skills improved rapidly while with IPBO. Equally important, he brought Nathalie along to the station, impressing her with a Belted Kingfisher extraction on their very first net round. Soon Nathalie became another helpful

regular, frequently acting as scribe. Then one Spring they were united in their nuptial plumages.

We still hope that when Nathalie and Hugh get tired of all those exotic B.C. birds they'll find their way back to us.

#### ***Social Events***

Our traditional January "Christmas" party at Santé Restaurant went ahead on schedule. Unfortunately, since the date fell towards the end of the Great Ice Storm, the turnout was below average. But the conversation and food were good even if, for some reason, the ice-storm victims who managed to attend found the candlelight atmosphere a bit less romantic than usual...

Thanks to Bill Fyfe for hosting the IPBO Fall Barbecue at the Lac Deschênes Sailing Club in September. The weather, attendance and food were good, the only ice was in the drinks, and there were enough interesting birds around to distract us from time to time. Members had a chance to see for themselves what Bill is up to during those months when he deserts us for his other obsession. Perhaps one year he might combine those interests and arrange a pelagic trip for members.

#### **Announcements**

##### ***Christmas Party***

The annual post-Christmas Christmas Party will be held on Friday, 22 January, 1999 at Santé Restaurant, 45 Rideau St. at Sussex, second floor, at 7:00 PM. Come join us for a pleasant social evening!

##### ***Annual General Meeting***

The next AGM will be on Saturday, 27 February, 1999 at 108 Mohill Crescent, Dunrobin Heights, starting at 11 AM. All are invited to attend. Contact IPBO (see page 2) for further information.




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*and support volunteers working to better understand what's happening to bird populations*

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Please complete this form and return to:

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Donations to IPBO, as well as a portion of membership fees, are tax-creditable. Receipts will be issued.

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