

IPBO

NEWSLETTER

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Review of 1999 Spring Migration Monitoring Program

Spring was unusually warm and dry in 1999, and the migration had something of a southern flavour this year. Five of the ten species observed for the first time in the three years of the program had strayed beyond their usual northern limits, and both species banded for the first time ever at Innis Point were also southern species. This was a pleasant diversion because, if 1998 was full of hot, clear days that encouraged birds to fly over, this Spring was just like last year, except more so! And the total number of individuals banded (1,050) was remarkably close to the figures for each of the past two years (1,052 and 1,063).

With Dan Derbyshire heading up a solid crew of volunteers (Table 1), the full 45 days of coverage was completed again in 1999 (Table 2). Dan, who had run migration monitoring programs at Thunder Cape, Ont., and Rocky Point, B.C., likely found Innis Point warmer than those "northerly" stations. There were record high temperatures set on 4 different days during the first week of May, and for the whole period the average temperature was 3.1°C above normal (Table 3). By the final week, it was sometimes even necessary to close nets before the end of the morning due to the heat.

Encouraged by the warm temperatures, many of the more common landbird species appeared earlier than usual this Spring, with American Redstart, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee and Mourning warblers and Least and Alder flycatchers at

Figure 1. Yellow-billed Cuckoo



least a week earlier than normal. Yellow, Canada and Blackpoll warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Veery were about 4-5 days earlier than expected. The trickle of unusual southerly species began with two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on May 9 (with a third recorded on May 17) and the very early appearance of a Black-billed Cuckoo the same day.

Cuckoos are very rare before mid-May, and not normally present until the start of June. There is something decidedly odd about a Spring in which cuckoos and gnatcatchers show up one day before Nashville Warblers and 6 days before Common Yellowthroats, two of the very few species which were later than normal this year.

The parade of southern specialties resumed with both Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler on May 18, the first Innis Point record of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on May 24, and Willow Flycatchers singing on May 29 (one) and June 3 (two).

With a light movement of Yellow-rumped Warblers and no Black-capped Chickadee irruption this year, Yellow Warblers moved up to lead in individuals banded with 125 (Table 4). Each of the top ten species banded this year had appeared in that list in either or both of 1997 and 1998. The most notable increase was in Baltimore Orioles, which were about double the number of the past two years, while chickadees collapsed from 282 last year to 13.

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Table 1. SMMP Volunteers for 1999

Days	Volunteers
16 - 28	Bill Petrie, Mike Shaw and Rick Ticknor.
10 - 15	Lisa Benedetti, Peter Browne, Bill Fyfe, Bill Murphy and Jack Romanow.
4 - 7	Paul Davidson, Judith Kennedy and Eve Ticknor.
1 - 3	Dave Britton, Martha Caskey, Angela Clark, Erica Dunn, Paul Gully, David Hussell, Jeremy Hussell, Christine Marleau, Bev McBride, Lucie Métras and Jackie Oblak.

As mentioned, two species were banded for the first time at Innis Point. The first was a Northern Mockingbird, which was caught in the Shore net on May 5. One or two mockingbirds were seen in each of 1997 and 1998, and two different individuals were observed again this year. The second new species banded was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Fig. 1) on June 4. This bird was netted at Swamp 11 days after the first sighting, raising the possibility that two individuals might have been present. The cuckoo banding raised the 18-year Innis Point total to 141 species. For the Spring, there were 78 species banded, raising the three-year total to 94 species banded (Table 5).

The Ottawa River was even lower than in 1998, but only 3 per cent more shorebirds were seen to take advantage of it this Spring. However, the number of shorebird species was up to 15, and we were finally able to add Lesser Yellowlegs to the list of those observed. A single Red Knot on June 3 was an uncommon sighting.

In addition to the sightings mentioned above, the following were of note:

- 4 American Woodcocks (an adult female and 3 hatch-years) were banded from Oak Ridge on May 24.
- 4-10 Arctic Terns were observed on an exposed spit in the direction of Shirley's Bay during May 25 to 27.
- 1 Caspian Tern was observed on each of May 18, 19 and June 6.
- 2 Northern Parula were seen near Oak Ridge on May 16.

All told, there were 163 species observed in the count zone this year, up by five from last year, and a total of 168 species were detected at Innis Point during the monitoring period (Table 6). Among the new species added this year were Black-crowned Night-heron, Gadwall, Broad-winged Hawk (overdue) and Red-breasted Nuthatch, which is regularly found outside the count zone. After three

Table 2. Selected SMMP Summary Statistics from 1997 - 1999

Coverage	1997	1998	1999
Days during target 45-day period with:			
Coverage	37	45	45
Census and EDTs	36	45	45
Mist-netting entirely rained out	3	0	0
At least some netting coverage lost due to bad weather	23	16	15
Portion of netting coverage lost due to bad weather	21%	8%	9%
Number of volunteers	23	19	22
Total volunteer-days	146	165	174
Person-hours of general observations (excluding census)	653	993	979

Table 3. Average Temperatures and Total Precipitation During SMMP, 1997-1999

	1997	1998	1999	Long-run Average
Average Temperature (°C)	11.4	15.4	15.9	12.8
Difference from normal (°C)	-1.4	+2.6	+3.1	-
Precipitation (mm.)	94.1	51.4	67.2	101.7
Percentage of normal	93%	51%	66%	-

years, 186 species have been observed inside the count area during SMMP hours, and a further 6 have been located at Innis Point during count days.

Among the northern not-so-specialties, the most noticeable migration was the movement of Canada Geese. Daily totals reached 1,400 on April 28, and on the 30th jumped to 3,500, which was more than double the one-day high of 1,569 established exactly one year earlier. After dipping to 1,400 on May 1, there was a heavy movement in clear and calm conditions on the 2nd. In the first 25 minutes after dawn, 1,200 geese moved up the river, with another 1,525 passing by in the next 8 minutes. A further 780 went by in the next 9 minutes, and yet another 1,245 in the following 10 minutes. Long skeins moved along both sides of the river throughout the morning, but had declined to only 57 birds during the last (seventh) hour of the count period. In all, 9,858 individuals were recorded. For the season as a whole, there were 20,095 Canada Geese counted, a sharp increase over a mere 1,730 detected in 1997, and 5,814 in 1998.

During the past summer, we completed the computerization of all migration monitoring data for the 3 years to date, allowing us to make additional comparisons between years. This year, the number of birds observed (excluding known stopovers and residents) was up by 92% over last year, to 38,390. However, when the geese are excluded, the increase is only 28%. Part of the difference is due to increases in transients such as Common Grackle. Another species that was up was Barn Swallow, but it may not be possible to use observations on swallows for true migration monitoring because it is

difficult to tell to what extent particular flocks are milling around rather than migrating through Innis Point. Since our observers count all species detected in the count zone, we collect information on “non-target” species as well as neotropical migrants. Hidden among the data on transient species is the curious fact of a surprising decline in Ring-billed Gulls, which dropped from 1,894 last year to only 626. Perhaps the explanation lies in a change in their roosting or breeding sites in 1999.

Among songbird (and near-songbird) migrants showing significant variation

among the three years (Table 7), this was a relatively good year for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Traill’s Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler and Baltimore Oriole.

There were no foreign recoveries captured at Innis Point this Spring. However, a second-year female Black-and-white Warbler banded from Road South on May 24, 1997 was reported recovered at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, near Oak Harbour, Ohio, on May 16, 1998. Fittingly, the site, which is roughly 50 kilometres southwest of Pelee Island in Lake Erie, is part of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you to Dan and to each of the 22 migration monitoring volunteers, who contributed over 800 person-hours of observations, and whose efforts remain essential to the success of the program.

Table 4. Top Ten Species Banded, 1999 SMMP, with Comparison to Species in Top Ten in 1997 or 1998

1999 Rank	Species	Total Banded			Previous rankings (1997, 1998)
		1999	1998	1997	
1	Yellow Warbler	125	80	111	2 nd and 3 rd
2	"Myrtle" Warbler	62	27	202	1 st and 9 th
3	Baltimore Oriole	59	29	33	8 th in both years
4	Cedar Waxwing	55	98	12	2 nd in 1998
5-6	Red-winged Blackbird	54	55	77	3 rd and 4 th
5-6	Tree Swallow	54	39	34	7 th and 5 th
7	American Goldfinch	51	30	53	4 th and 7 th
8	American Robin	39	25	45	6 th and 10 th (tie)
9	Gray Catbird	39	16	28	10 th in 1997
10	Song Sparrow	35	23	30	9 th in 1997
	Common Yellowthroat	22	23	47	5 th in 1997
	American Redstart	20	32	22	6 th in 1998
	Chipping Sparrow	16	25	6	10 th (tie) in 1998
	Black-capped Chickadee	13	282	10	1 st in 1998

Table 5. Species Banded, SMMP, 1997-99

<i>Species Banded</i>	1997	1998	1999	Total
Individuals Banded	1,052	1,063	1,050	3,165
Species Banded	75	68	78	94

Table 6. Species Observed, SMMP, 1997-99

<i>Species Observed</i>	1997	1998	1999	Total
Inside count zone, during count hours	149 ^a	158	163	186
Additional species inside zone, outside count hours	5	2	1	2
Additional species at Innis Point during SMMP period	4	4	4	4
Total	158	164	168	192

a. Correction to a figure published previously.

Table 7. Selected Landbird Species Showing Significant Variation Between Years

<i>Species</i>	1997	1998	1999
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	77	14	234
Traill's Flycatcher	9	5	22
Least Flycatcher	23	7	29
Blue Jay	307	706	480
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	61	21	25
Gray Catbird	65	58	130
Brown Thrasher	54	42	101
Cedar Waxwing	352	668	408
Warbling Vireo	30	52	64
Red-eyed Vireo	17	47	45
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15	33	45
Myrtle Warbler	750	230	265
Blackpoll Warbler	15	10	44
American Redstart	46	117	68
Northern Waterthrush	11	16	7
Common Yellowthroat	97	91	59
Chipping Sparrow	50	129	135
Savannah Sparrow	12	41	41
White-crowned Sparrow	13	31	26
Bobolink	47	18	9
Baltimore Oriole	182	163	315

Highlights of 1998

A succession of busy and slow periods characterized bird monitoring in 1998. It began with a busy mid-winter with a good variety of finches; but an early Spring sent them north earlier than usual. Spring migration of neotropical songbirds was poor (see *Newsletter* Vol. 13, No. 1). On the other hand, the breeding season was productive, and followed by a warm Fall that stretched well into December. During 112 days of coverage, there were 184 species observed, and 3,708 birds banded of 95 species (Table 8).

Redpoll Varieties

Common Redpolls (Fig. 2), which were prominent Fall migrants in 1997, showed every sign of a heavy invasion of Innis Point last winter when their numbers built up in January and early February. During a "normal" irruption, only one-quarter of the season's redpolls have usually been banded by the end of February, the peak invasion occurring during the last half of March.

For this reason, the buildup of redpolls throughout February 1998 seem to presage a very busy March, particularly since banding totals to that point would have been even higher had enough staff been available. However, with the onset of an early Spring the numbers of red-

polls dropped off rapidly, and there were only 72 banded in what is normally the busiest month during an irruption (Fig. 3). The total banded levelled off to finish at 404, which was still the highest total for the species since the 779 of 1988.

Redpoll invasions are much more interesting than irruptions of siskins or Purple Finches because of the variety of forms that can occur. Although sexing young Purple Finches is often impossible, the species is readily separable from similar species in our area, and there are no races to puzzle over. Pine Siskins reportedly show some geographic variation, but the differences are subtle and in any event only one race is usually found in our area. Redpolls are more variable and therefore, depending on the bander's temperament at the moment, either more delightful or more frustrating.

There are four possible forms of redpoll that come south into our area. Among the flocks of Common Redpolls are often one or two birds with a "frostier" look, less streaking and a shorter, stouter bill. Some of these may be Hoary Redpolls. However, some of the more streaked individuals should not be passed over because they might be female Hoary Redpolls. The most common races of

Figure 2. Common Redpoll



each of these northern species are essentially the same size, but each has its own big-brother race from the far north. These rarer visitors are, fortunately, a little more distinctive, with the *rostrata* race of the Common Redpoll darker and duskier, and the *hornemanni* race of the Hoary even paler than the common race of Hoary. The upshot is that the variations within a species often seem more distinctive, even in the hand, than the distinctions between species. Not surprisingly, some observers have suggested that they should all be considered one species. However, a careful study of plumage variability in redpolls breeding in northern Manitoba provided strong

evidence of two distinct redpoll forms (presumably *flammea* and *exilipes*).

IPBO's first copies of the second, expanded *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, which arrived in January 1998, helped us to sort out the redpoll invaders with more confidence. This essential guide for banders has expanded from 278 to 732 pages since the first edition in 1987, and provides a detailed description of the four redpoll species/subspecies. (It also describes the various races of many other songbirds present throughout North America. Although variety always makes things interesting, we were not unhappy to learn that only one of the 29 recognized races of Song Sparrow apparently visits Innis Point!)

Last winter's invasion produced 3 of the 4 Common-Hoary races: of the 404 birds banded, the vast majority (370) were Common Redpolls of the *flammea* race, while there were 19 birds of the big *rostrata* race of Common Redpoll, and 15 Hoaries, all of the *exilipes* race. To add interest, a handful of individual Common Redpolls had traded in the deep-red headgear mandated by the family name in favour of an orange cap. Some others showed orangish-yellowish, yellowish or slightly greenish tinges to the crown. The significance of this variation (which was

Figure 3. Percentage of New Common Redpolls by Two-Week Period, Winter of 1997-98 and Average Winter

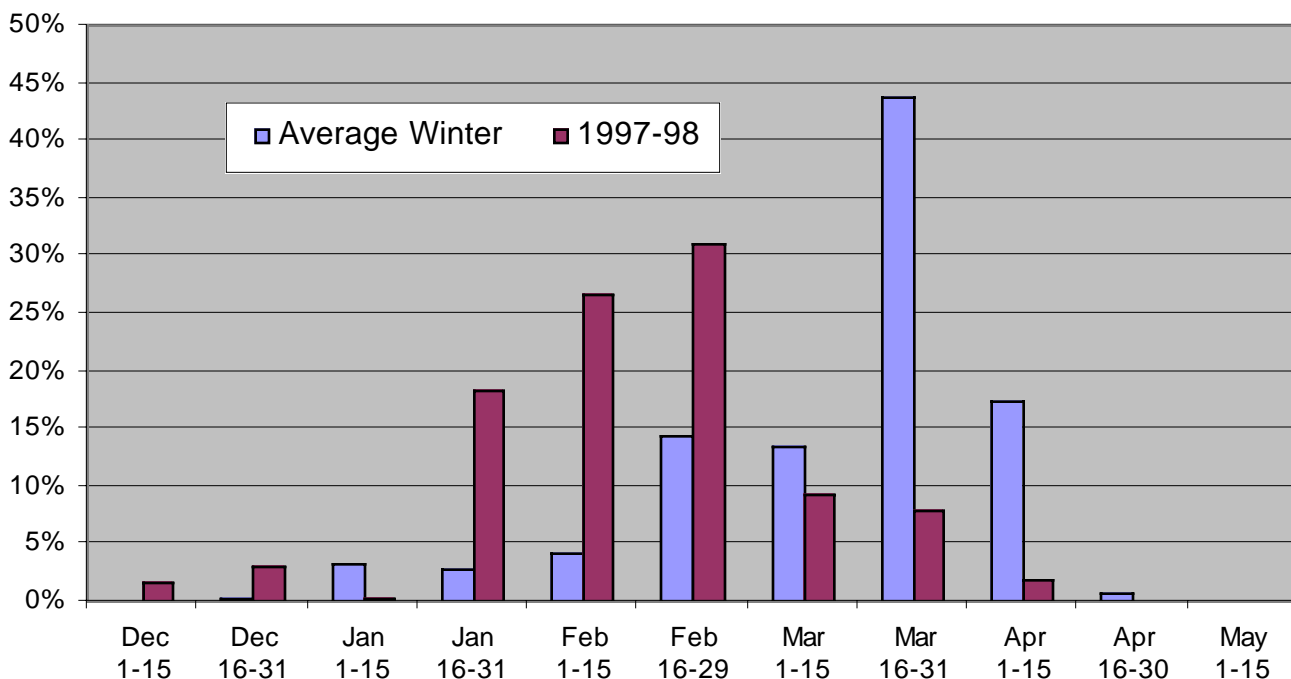


Table 8. Total Banded by Species, Innis Point, 1998

<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Eastern Bluebird	45	Common Yellowthroat	38
Cooper's Hawk	1	Veery	23	Wilson's Warbler	11
Killdeer	4	Swainson's Thrush	4	Canada Warbler	4
Spotted Sandpiper	12	Hermit Thrush	44	Scarlet Tanager	3
American Woodcock	2	Wood Thrush	5	Northern Cardinal	5
Mourning Dove	6	American Robin	98	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	22
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Gray Catbird	36	American Tree Sparrow	62
Downy Woodpecker	26	Brown Thrasher	17	Chipping Sparrow	29
Hairy Woodpecker	12	Cedar Waxwing	137	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
"Yellow-shafted" Flicker	10	Blue-headed Vireo	7	Field Sparrow	5
Pileated Woodpecker	1	Warbling Vireo	22	Vesper Sparrow	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7	Philadelphia Vireo	9	Savannah Sparrow	13
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	5	Red-eyed Vireo	53	Fox Sparrow	2
Traill's Flycatcher	10	Tennessee Warbler	3	Song Sparrow	89
Least Flycatcher	21	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Eastern Phoebe	15	Nashville Warbler	40	Swamp Sparrow	9
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	Northern Parula	3	White-throated Sparrow	101
Eastern Kingbird	7	Yellow Warbler	164	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Purple Martin	101	Chestnut-sided Warbler	21	Dark-eyed Junco	132
Tree Swallow	139	Magnolia Warbler	38	Snow Bunting	28
Bank Swallow	3	Cape May Warbler	1	Red-winged Blackbird	88
Cliff Swallow	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	17	Common Grackle	26
Barn Swallow	5	"Myrtle" Warbler	63	Brown-headed Cowbird	9
Blue Jay	32	Black-throated Green Warbler	5	Baltimore Oriole	56
Black-capped Chickadee	795	Western Palm Warbler	5	Pine Grosbeak	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	2	Purple Finch	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	21	Blackpoll Warbler	6	Common Redpoll	404
Brown Creeper	7	Black-and-white Warbler	34	Hoary Redpoll	15
House Wren	14	American Redstart	48	American Goldfinch	105
Winter Wren	4	Ovenbird	28	Evening Grosbeak	19
Golden-crowned Kinglet	51	Northern Waterthrush	16	House Sparrow	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	70	Mourning Warbler	1		
				<i>Total</i>	3,708

also noted in *rostrata*) is not known, though it might be related to diet.

The 15 Hoaries detected among the redpoll hordes, beginning with 4 studied on February 7, represent the 139th species banded at Innis Point. In fact, a few individuals of this species were likely overlooked in earlier redpoll invasions in which banders were overcautious in seeking a perfectly frosty Hoary. On the other hand, the *rostrata* race of Common Redpoll has been found at Innis Point during many different invasions. Twenty-nine of the individuals in the 1987 invasion (8%) were determined to

be *rostrata*, and there have been 1 to 6 *rostrata* in each of the succeeding invasions up to last year.

MAPS or ChiPS?

On the strength of their Spring irruption (see *Newsletter* Vol. 13, No. 1), Black-capped Chickadees (Fig. 4) led all species for the year with 795 banded, raising their 17-year total to 9,067. This marked the 7th time in the last 9 years that chickadees have ranked first. As well as an irruptive, they are by far the most abundant breeder captured during the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program. During the first 6

years, 21% of the birds banded have been chickadees, compared to 6% for White-throated Sparrow, the next most common species. But that was nothing compared to 1998, when fully 56 of the 111 individuals banded (50.5%) were chickadees. Chickadees also made up 30% of birds returning from other years. As a result, it has been suggested that our MAPS program be renamed CHIPS (CHickadee Productivity and Survivorship). So prolific is this species that when the CHIPS are down we'll begin to suspect that something is indeed wrong with the environment.

Figure 4. Black-capped Chickadee



Among the 83 non-chickadee species detected on the MAPS plot between June and early August 1998, Peter Browne tracked down 37 which showed strong evidence of breeding. In addition, a Cape May Warbler and a Tennessee Warbler were each singing there for several weeks, and White-winged Crossbills were detected over four weeks (once singing). However, none of these individuals met the fairly stringent MAPS standards for treatment as breeding species. Incidentally, most of the 46 non-breeding species observed were probably breeding somewhere on land adjacent to the MAPS plot, although a handful were clearly late Spring or early Fall migrants or vagrants.

The Spring chickadee irruption, together with the excellent MAPS breeding season, fed speculation that Fall 1998 might bring another irruption of the species. However, IPBO decided that a more careful evaluation of the Field area as a potential site for standardized Fall migration monitoring was a higher priority than chickadee monitoring, and staff concentrated coverage more often in the Field last Fall. As a result, the Fall movement of chickadees through the Lower area was largely unmonitored this year. Nevertheless, there was enough coverage and incidental observation to make it clear that there was no major Fall chickadee irruption in 1998.

Warbler Moulting Study

During the summer and early Fall, several staff members began a careful examination of flight feather moult in warblers as part of a pilot project launched by David Hussell. The purpose of the study is to relate the timing and rate of moult in warblers to the timing of their Fall migration. Recording detailed information on the extent of moult will help to test the hypothesis that early migrants moult faster and/or earlier than late migrants. A significant number of warbler species either breed somewhere at Innis Point or arrive in post-breeding dispersal before their flight-feather moult is complete. Others may visit the site in order to moult. At least 18 warbler species have been recorded with flight feather moult at Innis Point during the past decade, starting as early as June 22 (American Redstart) and ending as late as October 14 ("Myrtle" Warbler). In addition to IPBO, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory also recorded detailed moult records for this pilot study in 1998.

Odds and Ends

Any retrospective of 1998 events in eastern Ontario that failed to mention the great January ice storm would be immediately suspect. Although damage was much less severe at Innis Point than in many other areas, the impact remains visible today in the many broken branches and permanently bent and disfigured trees. The birches appear to have been particularly hard hit, and some sections of the Breeding Bird Census plot that are like thickets in good years were made even more impassable.

For the first time in over a decade, Pine Grosbeaks remained at Innis Point throughout mid-winter, frequently in the vicinity of the feeder. Eighteen were

banded from January 31 to the end of February, with 8 of these recaptured on subsequent days. Only 3 had been previously banded at Innis Point, all in December 1985.

In addition to Pine Grosbeak and Hoary Redpoll, species banded in record high numbers for the year included Hermit Thrush and Mourning Dove (Table 9), with Northern Cardinal matching the peak (5) established in 1997. Both cardinals and doves are becoming increasingly common in the area over the past 15 years, particularly in the last 5. In contrast, House Finches remain suburban birds. They were first banded at Innis Point in 1988, peaked at 6 in 1990, and have only been captured on 6 other occasions in the 8 years since. Although the 95 species banded was down by one from the previous year, no complaints were heard about the European Starling missing from the list for only the second time in the past decade. Among other species of equivocal reputation, Brown-headed Cowbirds remained rather low with only 9 banded, and only a single House Sparrow was captured.

Our oldest current returning bird, a female Hairy Woodpecker (852-03682), re-appeared at Bird Feeder on December 12, extending her longevity by a further year to a minimum of 12 years and 6 months. In addition to the 11-year old Great Crested Flycatcher reported in *Newsletter* Vol. 13 No.1, a Red-winged Blackbird banded by Janette Dean in May 1988 was also recorded in 1998 as over ten years of age.

Table 9. Species Banded in Record High Numbers, 1998

Species	1998	Previous High and Year
Hermit Thrush	44	42 (1989)
Pine Grosbeak	18	3 (1985)
Hoary Redpoll	15	---
Mourning Dove	6	4 (1988, 1992)

Innis Point Bird Observatory Joins the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network

IPBO's application for full membership in the emerging Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) was formally accepted on February 25, 1999. As reported in our previous newsletter, the Network has been formed primarily to support and co-ordinate the collection and analysis of population data on Canadian-breeding landbirds during migration. The network is intended to close an important gap in our present knowledge of migratory birds by monitoring populations that are not currently adequately surveyed by other programs, such as the Breeding Bird Survey.

The network, which formally took shape in 1998, now has 14 full members (Table 10) across Canada. In addition, monitoring work is currently underway at several other stations (e.g., Tadoussac, Quebec and Gros Morne, Nfld.) which may eventually join the network.

Among other things, IPBO's formal agreement with Bird Studies Canada commits IPBO to run a migration monitoring program for a minimum of five years in accordance with its written monitoring protocol. IPBO will provide detailed data in computerized format to BSC, which will in turn provide trend analyses of IPBO data after five years or more of data have been collected. BSC, which is based in Port Rowan, Ontario, also provides technical advice on migration monitoring issues. BSC and network members have also agreed to cooperate in raising funds for the work of the network.

The second general meeting of the CMMN was held at Delta Marsh, Manitoba on September 23-26, 1999. Participating in the meeting were staff of Bird Studies Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), ten of the member stations and representatives of several other interested stations.

Among the many issues discussed at Delta:

- how migration monitoring fits into the bigger picture of bird monitoring in North America, including Partners in Flight, the Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative;
- review of a draft document showing the extent to which the network and each member station has the potential to effectively monitor target species, based on initial data from most stations;
- practical matters in running migration monitoring programs, including the relative merits of specific monitoring techniques, the compilation of estimated daily totals, habitat management, etc.
- specific research projects currently underway at certain stations; and
- additional network-wide projects that the CMMN might take on in the next few years.

A more extensive summary of the proceedings at the Delta meeting, and a descriptive summary of each member

station, are available to anyone interested (see page 2 on contacting IPBO).

Trills and Chatter

For the second year in a row, Bill Fyfe hosted the IPBO Fall Barbecue at the Lac Deschênes Sailing Club, in early October. Thanks to Bill and to Eve Ticknor for organizing the event, which was a chance for everyone to discuss birds and other important matters (and eat!) without rushing off to do net rounds or a census. The event was well attended but we can't say more than that because, consistent with the relaxed setting, no estimated daily totals or log sheets were filled out at the end of the day.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Party

The annual post-Christmas Christmas party will be held on Friday, January 21, 2000 at the Rose Bowl restaurant, 1717 Carling Avenue near Maitland, at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for another pleasant social evening.

Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, February 19, 2000 at 158 Willand Lane, Woodlawn, Ontario, starting at 11:00 a.m. All members and other interested individuals are invited to attend. Contact IPBO (see page 2) for further information.

Table 10. Full Member Stations of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (as of September 1999)

Rocky Point Migration Monitoring Station, B.C.	Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Ont.
Mackenzie Nature Observatory, B.C.	Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Michigan
Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, Alta.	Long Point Bird Observatory, Ont.
Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Alta.	Haldimand Bird Observatory, Selkirk, Ont.
Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, Alta.	Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, Ont.
Last Mountain Bird Observatory, Sask.	Innis Point Bird Observatory, Ont.
Delta Marsh Bird Observatory, Man.	Atlantic Bird Observatory, N.S.

Ontario Bird Banding Association

The Ontario Bird Banding Association (**OBBA**), founded in 1956, is a member-directed voluntary organization with over 100 household and institutional members in Canada, the United States and Europe. The objectives of the Association are the study of ornithology, especially by means of banding and other marking techniques; the promotion of ornithological investigations and the publication of scientific and educational papers pertaining to these subjects, particularly within the province of Ontario; and cooperation with organizations with similar objectives.

Over the years, the **OBBA** has undertaken a wide variety of successful projects. In 1960, the Association founded the Long Point Bird Observatory which went on to become the largest independent, non-profit research organization undertaking volunteer-based bird studies in Canada. The **OBBA** has helped in the establishment of, and retains close ties with, several other bird observatories in Ontario, the most recent being the Cabot Head Bird Observatory on the Bruce Peninsula.

The annual journal, *Ontario Bird Banding*, and the *Newsletter*, published three times a year, are cited publications containing much of scientific and general interest and our members consistently give positive feedback on the quality of the speakers at our Annual Meetings.

You are invited to join the **OBBA** and find out what the banding community in Ontario is doing. The annual Household membership is twenty dollars; for students it is only ten dollars. Send your cheque or money order to the Membership Secretary, Ernie Rogers, at 1320 Mississauga Valley Boulevard, Suite 804, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3S9.

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