

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Innis Point Bird Observatory

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Introduction

The Innis Point Bird Observatory (IPBO) is a not-for profit organization dedicated to the study of birds and natural history. IPBO evolved out of the Ottawa Banding Group which was formed in 1982 to undertake bird banding activities in the Ottawa area.

IPBO is located on the Ottawa River approximately 16 kilometres west of Parliament Hill on the Department of Defence's Connaught Rifle Range property. The lack of development and limited access to the site, along with the diversity of habitats makes this area an excellent one for monitoring both bird migration and breeding.

Since banding operations began at IPBO in 1982, a total of 245 species of birds have been recorded. Of these species 143 have been banded, see Appendix I for banding totals for the years 1982-2003. Most of the Ottawa area's regularly occurring migrant and breeding species have been recorded at IPBO, but interesting rarities such as Tricolored Heron, Great Egret, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Gyrfalcon, Arctic Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Orchard Oriole have also occurred. For a complete checklist of bird species observed at IPBO, please see Appendix II

Location

IPBO is located on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River, in the City of Ottawa, approximately 16 kilometres west of Parliament Hill.

The land is owned by the federal government and is operated by the Department of National Defence (DND) as the Connaught Ranges Primary Training Centre (CRPTC). Connaught has been the site of military training and research for over 75 years. The DND property covers 2,600 acres (1,058 hectares) with a waterfront of approximately 5 kilometres on the Ottawa River. It has been a crown game sanctuary since 1929. As a result, the Range property remains in a relatively natural state even though it is located adjacent to substantial suburban development in north Kanata. Lists of amphibian and reptile, mammal and plant species recorded at IPBO can be found in Appendices IV through VI.

The CRPTC is not accessible to the general public and is secured by a fenced perimeter and locked gates. Bird banding operations are conducted here under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between DND and IPBO. IPBO is one of a number of local community groups active on the CRPTC.

IPBO's study area is located in the north-eastern corner of the CRPTC property approximately 2 kilometres away from the Range itself, in an area accessed via a gate located at the corner of Riddell Drive and the Sixth Line of Kanata.

The Field

Located immediately inside the Riddell Drive gate, the access road leading from Riddell Drive to the Ottawa River passes through an area of old farm fields that have been allowed to regenerate naturally with copses of small trees and shrubs. There is also some human development including several small buildings and some communications antennae. Bordering this area on the north and south are mixed forests of Red Maple, Sugar Maple, White Birch, White Pine and Hemlock. A substantial amount of banding has taken place in this area, which is generically referred to as “the Field”.

Seven sets of mist nets have been used in this area, two located in the field habitat (Centre and Radar) and five in the forest habitat adjacent to the field (Mosquito, Wheelbarrow, Lilac, Garden, Jungle).

IPBO also maintains a Bluebird Trail and a number of Tree Swallow boxes in the Field area.

Because of the differences in habitat preferences for migrating and breeding birds, a number of species occur more frequently in and around the Field than elsewhere in the IPBO study area. These include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Phoebe, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, House and Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, and brown thrushes.

The MAPS Plot

Approximately one kilometre east of the Riddell Road gate, after crossing the Field, the access road passes through an area of mixed forest grading into more open thickets and clearings. The forest here has more of a coniferous element than the woods bordering the Field and includes White Spruce and Eastern White Cedar. This attracts breeding birds with a more northern flavour, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and Purple Finch in most years. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cape May Warbler and White-winged Crossbill have been also been recorded during the breeding season in some years.

This area is referred to as the MAPS Plot, because this is the area where IPBO collects data for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program (MAPS) during the breeding season. The MAPS Program is coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California and monitors population dynamics of North American breeding landbirds using data collected at over five hundred MAPS stations across the continent. The methodology includes both banding and observation of birds throughout the breeding season. The MAPS plot also includes a large beaver pond called Egret Pond located about 100 m south of the road.

The Point

About two kilometres east of the Riddell Road Gate, the road ends in a cul-de-sac on a point of land in the Ottawa River, at the north end of Lac Deschenes. This area, which is generically (and somewhat confusingly!) referred to as “the Point” is where the majority of banding activities at IPBO take place.

The shore at the Point is low, open limestone pavement, which is seasonally flooded in the spring. The Point is bordered on the south by a shallow bay which frequently harbours waterfowl. Further south, across this bay are Haycock and Chartrand Islands, which are joined to the mainland by the Shirley’s Bay dyke, another local birding hotspot.

The habitat at the Point includes a “developed” area around the turnaround comprising a grassy lawn, several buildings, one of which is used as the banding lab, and a flat gravel area on the shore which was once the site of the National Research Council Ottawa River Solar Observatory. The remainder of the Point area is made up of a combination of regenerating clearings grading into mixed forest.

There is also a small wetland dominated by cutgrass, willow and dogwood, which is referred to as “the Swamp”. North and west of the Swamp, along the shore of the Ottawa River outside the IPBO study area, is a provincially significant shrub prairie which includes a number of regionally and provincially significant plant species.

Since 1997, the Point area has been the site of IPBO’s Spring Migration Monitoring Program (SMMP), and benefited from intensive banding and observer effort throughout late April, May and early June.

Located in this area are a total of nine sets of mist nets (Shore, Outer Point, Inner Point, Flicker, Parallel Road, Road South, Oak Ridge, Swamp, Middle Swamp and Swamp East), each consisting of between one and five individual mist nets. These nets are used from early April until early November. They are used for Spring Migration Monitoring, as well as the regular Saturday morning banding operations.

Also located in this area, approximately 300 m west of the cul-de-sac, just outside the SMMP Count Area, is a Birdfeeder complex that is maintained throughout the winter months. Winter banding takes place here using a triangular set of mist nets that enclose the feeding station. In addition, a ground trap is operated on the roof of the building beside the banding lab during the winter, primarily to catch Snow Buntings.

Fourth Line

Occasionally, over the years, winter banding activities have taken place during the winter at the birdfeeder station that is maintained by the Ottawa Duck Club in the western edge of the CRPTC property, near the corner of the March Valley Road (formerly the Fourth Line of Kanata) and Riddell Drive.

Terminology

Terminology used to describe the frequency of bird sightings tends to be subjective and its use in this checklist is intended only to convey a general sense of a species frequency of occurrence at IPBO. For the species listed below, the following terminology is used:

- **Common** – seen every year, regularly, and in substantial numbers during the described period.
- **Uncommon** – seen every year in most cases, but occurs in small numbers or during a restricted window of time during the described period.
- **Rare** – occurs in small numbers, infrequently, or during a restricted window of time, in most cases not observed every year.
- **Very Rare** – less than ten records since banding operations began at IPBO in 1982.
- **Irruptive** – describes a species whose abundance in a given season is highly variable from year to year (e.g. winter finches).

Histograms depicting the frequency of banding on a seasonal basis can be found in Appendix III for all species which have been banded ten times, or more, at IPBO.

Additional terminology is used when describing the status of breeding birds on the MAPS plot.

- **Regular** – has bred every year MAPS data has been collected
- **Usual** – breeds in more than half the years MAPS data has been collected
- **Occasional** – breeds in less than half the years MAPS data has been collected

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Innis Point Bird Observatory

Order Anseriformes

Family Anatidae: Geese, Swans and Ducks

Snow Goose (Chen caerulescens)

Very rare migrant at IPBO, with only six observations since 1982. Four of the records were in the spring, all from the Point area, including 48 individuals flying upriver over Swamp on April 9, 1984, seven individuals on April 28, 2000, one individual on April 27, 2000 and one individual seen with a flock of Canada Geese on May 12, 2002.

There are also two records from the fall: one bird in a flock of Canada Geese flying over the Garden netline in the Field on September 19, 1999 and seven individuals flying over the Field on October 2, 1999.

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)

CAGO

Common migrant and summer resident at IPBO. The earliest spring record is April 5th (1997). Numbers of spring migrants tend to peak first in mid-April to early May, with a

second smaller peak at the end of May. At these times, hundreds, or even thousands of individuals can be seen each day. During the Spring Migration Monitoring Program in 1999, an estimated total of 20,095 Canada Geese were observed. In fall, migration tends to peak in November. The latest fall record on December 21st (1996).

Canada Goose has bred several times at the Point, with adults with goslings observed in late May and June. Canada Goose is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. The Ottawa Duck Club also maintains several floating nest structures in the Ottawa River near Shirley's Bay which are used by Canada Geese.

From 1987 to 1991, IPBO undertook a project in partnership with Canadian Wildlife Service staff to band Canada Geese breeding at then Bell Northern Research Campus (now Nortel) at the corner of Carling Avenue and Moodie Drive. Banding took place before hatch year birds had fledged in late June and early July. During this five-year project, a total of 168 geese were banded.

Brant (*Branta bernicula*)

A rare migrant, although it has been observed during every year from 1998 to 2004 during the Spring Migration Monitoring period. The earliest record is April 29th (1999) and the latest record is May 28th (1997). The peak of migration is during the last two weeks of May. Observations are mostly of flocks flying up the Ottawa River, occasionally in very large numbers. On May 19, 1997 five flocks of Brant were observed flying over the Ottawa River containing an estimated total of 2,200 individuals, one of the highest one-day totals for any species at IPBO.

There is only one fall record of Brant from IPBO, of three birds seen on the water in the bay south of the Point on October 13, 2001.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Very rare. There is only one record of Tundra Swan from IPBO, of two birds observed flying low over the Ottawa River past the Point on May 20, 2004. This species is a very rare migrant in the Ottawa area.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

A common migrant and breeder. The earliest spring date for this species is April 4th (1998). The latest date in fall that Wood Duck has been recorded is October 19, 1996. At IPBO, Wood Ducks are most often observed in the shallow water at the back of the South Bay, and occasionally in the Swamp. Wood Duck is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot, and on June 15, 1983 a female with 10 ducklings was observed on Egret Pond.

The Ottawa Duck Club maintains approximately 180 Wood Duck nest boxes in the wooded areas of the Connaught Rifle Range property. Based on data available on the Duck Club's website, an average of 734 eggs hatched per year over the period of 1997-2001. IPBO maintains two nest boxes in the woods near the Flicker netline, close to the shore of the south bay. They were used for the first time in 2003.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Very rare migrant. There are only seven records from IPBO, all of either one or two individuals, and all during spring between April 28th (2000) and June 4th (1999). The lack of records is somewhat surprising as this species is an uncommon but regular migrant in both spring and fall in the Ottawa area.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

Very rare migrant, there are only seven records from IPBO. In spring there are three records from April 15, 2000, April 18, 1998 and May 6, 1998. The last record was of a flock of 26 individuals. In the fall, the records are from September 9, 16 and 23, 1995 and a later record of a single bird from November 15, 1997. The lack of records is somewhat surprising as this species is a common migrant in both spring and fall in the Ottawa area, and is regularly seen at Shirley's Bay, especially in fall.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

Uncommon migrant and breeder. In spring, American Black Duck has been seen as early as March 29th (1997), and in fall, as late as November 30th (2002). The bulk of the records are from April, May, September and October during migration. There are sporadic records throughout the summer, and an adult with ducklings was observed on May 19, 1983. American Black Duck is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Common migrant and breeder. Mallards are the most common duck species at IPBO. The earliest spring record is March 25th (1995) and the latest fall record is December 12th (1998). Mallards are present during summer in most years and have nested on the shoreline areas near the Shore and Point netlines. Mallard is also an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

BWTE

Uncommon migrant and breeder. The earliest spring record for Blue-winged Teal at IPBO is April 8th (1995) and the latest fall record is November 7th (1998). Blue-winged Teal has been recorded nesting on the shoreline areas in several years, including 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1991. Nesting birds have been banded on two occasions: June 24, 1984 and August 8, 1991.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Very rare migrant. There are only two records: two individuals seen on May 2, 1997, and three individuals seen on November 2, 2002 in the bay south of the Point. This species is not uncommon in the Ottawa area during migration, particularly at local sewage lagoons. It also occurs regularly in fall nearby, inside the lagoon at Shirley's Bay, so the small number of sightings at IPBO is somewhat surprising.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Rare migrant. There are eleven records from spring migration, between April 13th (1984) and June 4th (1998), involving up to ten individuals. There are also two fall records from November 8 and 14, 1998. On the latter date, 40 individuals were observed.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Rare migrant. There are ten records from spring migration, between April 25th (1991) and June 1st (2000). There are also two fall records from August 31, and September 21, 1996. Records are of between one and seven individuals. This species is common inside the dyke at Shirley's Bay in the fall.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)

Very rare migrant. There is only a single record of Canvasback, of six birds on the Ottawa River off of the Shore netline on April 1, 2000. This species is a rare migrant in the Ottawa region.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*)

Very rare migrant. There are two records of Redhead at IPBO. Two individuals were observed on April 27, 1998 and four individuals observed on November 8, 1998. Redhead is rare in the Ottawa region, although it does occur more frequently than Canvasback and may now be breeding in eastern Ontario, with summer records at the Alfred Lagoon and Burnside Pit.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

Uncommon migrant. In spring, this species has been observed between March 30th (2002) and May 11th (1997). In fall migration, it has been observed October 4th (1997) and November 2nd (2002). Records are generally of flocks of ten to twenty birds, but on April 16, 2000 a total of 75 individuals were observed.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO, occurring less frequently than Lesser Scaup. In spring migration, it has been observed between April 17th (1995) and May 22nd (2002). The largest number observed in one day was 34 individuals on May 3, 2002.

There is a single fall record of an injured bird found on the road between the Field and the Lower area on November 3, 1990. It was taken to the Wild Bird Centre, but, unfortunately it did not survive.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

A common migrant at IPBO. In spring migration, it has been observed between April 4th (1998) and May 24nd (2002). In fall migration, Lesser Scaup has been observed between October 7th (2000) and December 12th (1998). The largest number observed in one day was 147 individuals on May 2, 1998.

NOTE: Due to light conditions and distance, many of the scaup seen at IPBO can not be identified confidently to species, and are recorded as "scaup species".

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

A very rare migrant. There is only a single record of Surf Scoter at IPBO. One individual was seen on May 7, 2002. This species is probably the least common of the three scoter species in the Ottawa area. It is rare in spring migration, but can be found most years in fall migration on the Ottawa River at Andrew Haydon Park (Ottawa Beach).

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fuscus*)

A rare migrant, but the most frequently recorded species of scoter at IPBO and the most common scoter in the Ottawa area. It has been seen in spring from May 4th (2000) to May 25th (1997). In the fall it has been observed between September 23rd (1995) and November 14th (1995). Most sightings are of flocks on the Ottawa River, often quite far from shore. The largest number observed at once was a flock of approximately 600 birds on May 24, 1997. Another notable flock of at least 350 was seen on May 21, 2004.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

A very rare migrant. There is only one record of Black Scoter at IPBO. A flock of 12 birds was seen on November 28, 1998. This species is not as common as White-winged Scoter in the Ottawa area, but it does occur regularly in fall migration, particularly in the Ottawa River at Andrew Haydon Park (Ottawa Beach).

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

A rare migrant. There are seven records from spring migration, between April 5th (1997) and May 18th (1984). There five fall records from November 14th (1998) to December 12th (1998). The largest number recorded in one day was 20 individuals on May 6, 1997.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. Bufflehead has been observed in spring migration between March 30th (2002) and May 15th (1997) with peak numbers in late April and early May. In the fall this species has been observed between October 14th (2000) and December 12th (1998) with most records coming from the month of November. Most observations are of flocks of ten or fewer.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

A common migrant along the Ottawa River at IPBO. Common Goldeneye has been observed during spring migration between March 30th (1996, 2002) and May 31st (1999) with peak numbers between mid-April and mid-May. In the fall, Common Goldeneye has been observed between October 18th (1997) and December 21st (1996). Numbers are generally greatest in the month of November, but this species is usually present at IPBO until the river freezes in late December. The greatest number recorded in one day was a total of 300 individuals seen on November 4, 2000.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

An uncommon migrant and breeder. Hooded Merganser has been observed between March 30th (1996) and November 22nd (1998). The peak of migration occurs in mid- to

late-April, and this species is seen only sporadically from mid-May until fall. In fall migration, most of the sightings are from November.

This species uses the nest boxes maintained by the Ottawa Duck Club on the Connaught Rifle Range property, although during the breeding season they are rarely seen in the IPBO study area. Based on data available on the Duck Club's website, an average of 122 Hooded Merganser eggs hatched per year over the period of 1997-2001 on the Connaught Range property.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

A common migrant at IPBO. During spring migration, this species has been observed between March 28th (1998) and June 5th (1999) with a peak from mid-April to mid-May. In fall migration, Common Merganser has been observed between September 30th (1995) and November 30th (2002) with most of the sightings coming in the month of November. Two individuals observed on July 31, 1999 was an unusual summer record for this species. Most sightings are of less than ten birds, but flocks of up to thirty have been observed on several occasions during late April and early May.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. During the spring migration, Red-breasted Merganser has been observed between March 30th (2002) and May 31st (1997), with the peak in the last week of April and the first week of May. As with many of the waterbird species, there are far fewer records from the fall, likely due to a lack of observer effort in this season, but it has been observed between September 24th (1995) and October 7th (2000). Most of the records are of eight or fewer birds, but one flock of 20 individuals was observed on April 16, 2000.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Very rare migrant. There is a single record of one individual seen during the SMMP census on May 16, 2002. This species has become increasingly common as a breeding bird at sewage lagoons in eastern Ontario over the past decade. It sometimes occurs in Shirley's Bay during fall migration.

Order Galliformes

Family Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse and Turkey

Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

Very rare. There are six records of Gray Partridge at IPBO. Four of them are from the winter of 1983-84 when there were as many as four birds present in the Point area for several weeks. Sightings from this period were on December 17 and 30, 1983 and January 1 and 18, 1984. There is also a record of a single bird from June 15, 1996.

This species, which favours overgrown fields, is believed to be declining in the Ottawa area. However, there have been sightings of Gray Partridge as close to IPBO as Klondike

Road (January 2002), in recent years, and after not being recorded at IPBO for eight years, a Gray Partridge was observed by the road through the Field on May 21, 2004.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Ring-necked Pheasant has been recorded only three times at IPBO. In the winter of 1985, there were two sightings of female bird at the Birdfeeders, likely the same individual, on February 17th and March 14th. The other record was of a single bird near the Riddell Drive gate on March 18, 1995.

Reproducing wild populations of this species are now believed to be extirpated in the Ottawa area. Although there are occasional sightings, these are believed to be escapees from local bird breeding operations.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)

An uncommon year-round resident and breeder at IPBO. It is recorded most often during the spring when males can be heard drumming. Occasionally individuals are also seen on the road, or flushed in wooded areas.

Ruffed Grouse is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. An adult with chicks was observed near the Point netline on July 2, 1990.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

Rare year-round resident. Recent introductions of this species into the Ottawa area in the last five to six years appear to have been successful, and sightings have grown more frequent in the last several years, including relatively regular sightings along March Valley Road, near IPBO.

On May 21, 2000 one male Wild Turkey was heard at the Riddell Dr. gate just before dawn. Several Wild Turkeys were seen around the Point netline on December 5, 2002. Their tracks were also noted around the banding shed on December 7, 2002. More recently a pair of Wild Turkeys were observed on the shore of the Ottawa River at the end of the Swamp netline on April 17, 2004 and another was recorded during Spring Migration Monitoring Program on May 27, 2004.

Order Gaviiformes

Family Gaviidae: Loons

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

Very rare migrant. There is only one known record from IPBO, from May 24, 1997, during the Spring Migration Monitoring Program. In the Ottawa area, Red-throated Loon is a very rare migrant in late May and early June and a rare migrant in October and November along the Ottawa River. More systematic scanning of the Ottawa River during its fall migration period could yield more records of this species.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

A common migrant along the Ottawa River during the spring and fall. The earliest spring sighting date is April 15th (2000). Common Loons are recorded regularly throughout April and May, with sporadic sightings in June and July, although there is no evidence that these are breeding birds.

This species seems to be observed somewhat less often in the fall, although this may be due to lack of systematic searching of the river at this time of the year and because the birds do not draw attention to themselves by calling as they do in the spring. The latest fall record is December 4th (2001).

Order Podicipediformes

Family Podicipedidae: Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Uncommon summer migrant and breeder. The earliest record is April 15th (2000) and the latest is November 7th (1983). Most often detected by voice during May and early June, it likely breeds in the marshy bays to the south of the Point. Pied-billed Grebe is also an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot on Egret Pond. Almost all the records are of single birds.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

An uncommon migrant on the Ottawa River in the spring from mid-April to mid-May. The earliest record is April 15th (2000) and the latest record is May 15th (1997). This species is seen less frequently and in smaller numbers than Red-necked Grebes. The largest number seen in one day was 16 individuals on May 1, 2004.

Horned Grebe has been recorded only once in the fall on November 23, 1996. This lack of records is most likely a result of less intensive observation than in the spring migration period. They are seen most often in the open Ottawa River or in the bays to the south of the Point looking towards Shirley's Bay.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Uncommon migrant on the Ottawa River. In the spring it occurs from mid-April, occasionally lingering until late May. The earliest spring record is April 15th (2000) and the latest record is May 28th (1997). The largest number seen in one day was 35 individuals on May 1, 2004.

Red-necked Grebe has been recorded several times in the fall between October 5th (1996) and November 28th (1998) but it probably occurs more regularly than the relatively small number of records suggests. This species is seen most often in the open river or in the bays to the south of the Point.

Order Pelicaniformes

Family Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO, this species has grown more common in the Ottawa area in the last decade, as it has elsewhere in Ontario. In spring migration, Double-crested Cormorants have been observed between April 15th (2000) and June 21st (1997). They are usually absent between mid-June and mid-July.

Double-crested Cormorants are observed more frequently at IPBO in the late summer and fall than in the spring. The earliest “fall” record is July 13 (1996) with numbers building up in the bay south of the Point through late August and September. On September 23, 1995, approximately 150 individuals were seen there. The latest fall sighting of this species is October 24th (1998).

Order Ciconiiformes

Family Ardeidae: Herons and Bitterns

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

An uncommon migrant and breeder. The majority of the records are of birds heard calling from the marshy bays south of the Point where this species probably breeds. American Bittern is also an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. The earliest record is April 27th (2000), but most of the records are from mid-May to early June. There are also two records from early July and a single record from August 11, 1999.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

Very rare migrant. Least Bittern has been recorded only once at IPBO, during spring migration on May 29, 1999. This species is a rare breeder in marshes in the Ottawa area. It has historically bred in the marsh inside the dyke at Shirley’s Bay, just to the south of IPBO, and may still do so.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

A common migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring record of this species is March 29th (1997), although they are often not seen until mid-April. The latest fall record is October 19th (1996, 1997). This species breeds occasionally, in small numbers, at Egret Pond on the MAPS plot.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Very rare. There are four records from IPBO on May 5, 1998, April 24, 2000, April 30, 2004 and May 12, 2004. All were records of single birds flying over the river. In a 1979, a Great Egret was known to have spent several months in Egret Pond (hence the name...). This species breeds in southern Ontario but a few birds wander north to Ottawa most years, with Shirley’s Bay being a repeat location for sightings. The nearest breeding

colony is on Drummond Island in the St. Lawrence River approximately 100 kilometres southeast of Ottawa.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

Very rare. On May 11, 2001, a Tricolored Heron was discovered in the shoreline vegetation in the bay just to the north of the banding shed. It was subsequently seen the next day in the same location. This was the first record of this species in the Ottawa area, although it has been recorded as a vagrant elsewhere in southern Ontario. The Tricolored Heron is a wide ranging species breeding throughout Central and northern South America. In North America it breeds along the Gulf Coast and as far up the Atlantic seaboard as southern New England.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

A rare migrant at IPBO. There have been nine records in the spring between May 17th (1998) and June 6th (1999). There are also four records from the fall, between August 2nd (1983) and September 23rd (1995). This species is a rare breeder in the Ottawa area.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

A very rare migrant at IPBO, with only six records, all of single birds, often flying overhead. There are three spring records from May 17, 1999, June 7, 2004, and June 12, 1982, and three fall migration records, from August 2, 1983, August 6, 1984, and August 22, 1998. Black-crowned Night-Heron is an uncommon migrant in the Ottawa area and is most often seen near the river, particularly at Britannia and Shirley's Bay.

Family Threskiornithidae: Ibises

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Very rare. There is only one record for Glossy Ibis at IPBO, from August 20, 1982. The nearest breeding populations are in coastal New England, but it occurs annually as a vagrant in southern Ontario and there are a number of records from the Ottawa area, mostly from the month of May.

Family Cathartidae: New World Vultures

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Very rare. A Black Vulture was observed from the Point soaring some distance to the west on April 28, 2001. This was only the second record of this species for Ottawa, with the first record coming from the corner of March Valley and Herzberg roads on March 25, 2001. The fact that this is less than 5 km from the location of the IPBO sighting suggests that it could have been the same bird. This species occurs as far north as Ohio and Massachusetts, however it has been expanding its range north in recent years and is being observed as a vagrant in southern Ontario with increasing frequency.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Uncommon migrant at IPBO, Turkey Vulture has been seen between March 27th (1999) and October 12th (2002). Records are mostly of birds soaring overhead. Although it

doubtless breeds in the surrounding area, there has been no evidence of it doing so in the IPBO study area.

Order Falconiformes

Family Accipitridae: Osprey, Hawks and Eagles

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

An uncommon migrant and breeder. The earliest spring record of Osprey is April 15th (2000) and the latest fall record is October 18th (1998) and this species has been observed in every month in between. Most sightings involve one or two birds, but 5 were seen on August 19, 2000. Breeding has taken place in the past at Egret Pond in 1988 and 1990. Ospreys have yet to use the platform near the banding lab at the Point for nesting, although they have occasionally used it as a perch.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

A rare migrant. Bald Eagles have been observed between March 30th (1996) and October 29th (1994), with sightings in every month in between. April and May are the months with the most records, but this may be due to greater observer effort during Spring Migration Monitoring. All sightings have been of one or two birds.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

NOHA

An uncommon migrant. In spring migration, Northern Harrier has been observed between March 31st (1997) and June 5th (1999) with peak numbers between mid-April and early May. In the fall migration this species has been observed between August 1st (1988) and October 25th (1997, 1998).

Since banding at IPBO began in 1982, four Northern Harriers have been banded. Two were caught during spring migration: one on April 29, 1995 from Point and one on May 13, 1990. The other two were caught during fall migration: a hatch year bird from the Middle netline on August 27, 1984, and a hatch year female from the Swamp netline on September 6, 1985. Northern Harrier is the largest species of bird banded from mist nets at IPBO.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

SSHA

An uncommon migrant and breeder. Sharp-shinned Hawk has been observed between March 2nd (2002) and November 26th (1988). It has been observed every month throughout this period, and has occasionally bred on the MAPS plot. The peaks of migration are the last week of April and first week of May in the spring and the last week of August and first two weeks of September in the fall.

Sharp-shinned Hawk is the most frequently banded raptor at IPBO, with 32 individuals banded between 1982 and 2003.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*)

COHA

Rare migrant. There have been fourteen records of this species between March 30th (1996) and June 5th (1999), with the bulk of the records in May. There are only seven records from fall migration: six from the month of August and one from late October.

Cooper's Hawk has been banded twice at IPBO: a hatch year female from the Garden netline on August 31, 1985, and a bird banded from the Inner Point netline on May 13, 1998.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

A rare migrant at IPBO, and the least frequently observed accipiter. There about a dozen records of this species from IPBO, from March, April, May, July, August and September and November, with five records from May. All these records have been of single birds. This species is a rare breeder in the Ottawa area, although there is no evidence of it having done so at IPBO.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

A rare migrant. There are only five records of this species from IPBO, all from spring migration from between March 30th (2002) and April 23rd (2000). All were of single birds soaring overhead.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

BWHA

A rare migrant. There are five records of Broad-winged Hawk from spring migration, between April 25th (1999) and May 13th (1983). In fall migration, this species has been observed ten times between August 17th (1985) and October 7th (2000). Several of the fall records have involved groups of up to ten birds soaring above the Field.

Broad-winged Hawk has been banded once at IPBO, on August 23, 1988.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

RTHA

A common year round resident and migrant, this is the most common buteo at IPBO. It has been recorded in every month of the year, with peaks in numbers observed March through May in spring migration and August through October in fall migration. Although it has been observed year round there is no evidence of this species having bred at IPBO.

Red-tailed Hawk has been banded once at IPBO, on June 7, 1986.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

Very rare migrant. There are only four records of this species at IPBO, all from the fall: September 28, 1995, October 23, 1982, October 29, 1988 and October 30, 1999.

Although its abundance varies from year to year, this species is a yearly winter visitor to the agricultural areas around Ottawa.

Family Falconidae: Falcons

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

AMKE

An uncommon migrant. In spring migration, American Kestrel has been observed between March 28th (1998) and May 26th (1990), with the bulk of the records coming between mid-April and mid-May. In fall migration, it has been observed between August 9th (1998) and October 30th (1999). A significant number of the observations come from the Field area.

American Kestrel has been banded seven times at IPBO, once in 1987, on May 14, 1988, an after hatch year male banded from the Birdfeeder netline on April 11, 1993 as well as four in 1998.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. During the spring migration, this species has been observed between March 22nd (1997) and June 6th (1999). During the fall migration, Merlins have been observed between July 22nd (2000) and November 16th (1991). All of the records are of single birds.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolis*)

Very rare. Gyrfalcon has been recorded at IPBO three times: on January 5, 1991, March 29, 1991 and again on November 16, 1991. All three records are from the Point area. In addition, a white phase bird was seen nearby on March Valley Road (formerly Fourth Line) on April 1, 1991. This species is a casual winter visitor to the Ottawa area.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

A rare migrant at IPBO. In spring it has been observed between April 19th (1997) and June 6th (1997) and in the fall between August 31st (1988) and September 22nd (2001). There are a total of 11 records, eight of them occurring from 1997 to present. Peregrine Falcons are often observed pursuing other birds, such as Purple Martins, Blue Jays or gulls. This rare species has increased in numbers in the last two decades and a pair has bred in downtown Ottawa for several years.

Order Gruiformes

Family Cracidae: Rails, Gallinule and Coot

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)

A very rare migrant and breeder at IPBO. The first record of this species was from August 19, 2000. During the spring of 2003, a Virginia Rail was observed building a nest amongst the Red Osier Dogwood in the Swamp. A single bird was observed in the same location on June 12, 2004 doing a distraction display.

This species is an uncommon breeder in wetlands in the Ottawa area. It may occur more frequently at IPBO than the number of records suggest, but has not been detected because of its nocturnal habits.

Sora (Porzana carolina)

A very rare migrant. Sora has been recorded twice at IPBO, both during spring migration, on May 18, 1993, and on May 14, 2000 when one was heard calling in the Swamp.

This species is an uncommon breeder in wetlands in the Ottawa area. Like Virginia Rail, it may occur more frequently at IPBO than the number of records suggest, but has not been detected because of its nocturnal habits.

Order Charadriiformes

Family Charadriidae: Plovers

Black-bellied Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)

Rare migrant. Black-bellied Plover has been recorded during spring migration between May 21st (1999) and June 5th (1998). The largest number recorded is a flock of 40 birds seen on May 29, 1998.

In the fall it has been observed between September 6th (1997) and September 21st (1996).

Semipalmated Plover (Charadrius semipalmatus)

Rare migrant. This species has been observed several times in the spring between May 17th (1999) and May 30th (1998). The largest number recorded is six individuals on May 30, 1998. Semipalmated Plovers have also been observed during the fall migration on two occasions: August 12 and September 9, 1995.

Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus)

KILL

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record of Killdeer is March 27th (1999) and the latest fall record is October 1st (1995).

A total of 33 Killdeers were banded at IPBO between 1982 and 2003, with two thirds of the records occurring since 1997 when this species began breeding on the gravel area left near the Shore netline after the National Research Council's Solar Observatory was demolished. Killdeer is also an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot.

Family Scolopacidae: Sandpipers

Greater Yellowlegs (Tringa melanoleuca)

An uncommon migrant. Greater Yellowlegs has been observed in spring between April 27th (1984) and June 2nd (1998), with a peak in sightings around the second week in May. In the fall migration, this species has been observed between August 15th (1998) and

November 14th (1998), which is the latest fall shorebird record at IPBO. Typically less than five birds are observed, but a flock of 22 was seen on October 17, 1998.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

A rare migrant at IPBO, observed less frequently than Greater Yellowlegs. In the spring, this species has been observed only twice, on May 23 and 26, 1998. In the fall migration it has been observed between June 29th (1983) and August 24th (2002). It is quite common at Shirley's Bay during the fall migration, so the lack of records at IPBO is somewhat surprising.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Very rare migrant. There are eight records of this species, all from during the Spring Migration Monitoring period between May 1st (1998) and May 30th (1997). All are of single birds, with the exception of the May 1st, 1998 record, when two birds were seen.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)

SPSA

A common migrant and breeder. Spotted Sandpiper has been recorded in the spring as early as May 1st (1999) and as late as October 17, 1998. This species has nested several times on the rocky shores near the Shore and Point netlines.

Spotted Sandpiper is the most frequently banded shorebird species at IPBO – 252 were banded between 1982 and 2003, accounting for 77% of the banded shorebirds. The highest one-year banding total was 43 in 1983.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

UPSA

Very rare. One Upland Sandpiper was observed in the Field on May 25, 1988. In addition, three hatch year birds were banded on June 22, 1987. The timing of this record suggests that this species may have bred in the Field in that year.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

A very rare migrant, Ruddy Turnstone has been observed on nine occasions during spring migration in a narrow period between May 26th (1997) and June 4th (1999). Observations have ranged from one individual to a flock of 35.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Very rare migrant at IPBO. There are three records of this species: May 25, 1999 (25 individuals), June 3, 1995 (3 individuals) and June 3, 1999 (1 individual).

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)

SESA

Rare migrant. There are seven records of Semipalmated Sandpiper. Six of the records are from the spring between May 24th (1998) and June 7th (1983). There is also one record from the fall migration, from August 23, 1997. All of the records are of five or fewer birds, with the exception of one record from May 29, 1998 of a flock of about 50 birds.

Semipalmated Sandpipers have been banded on three occasions at IPBO: on June 4, 1999 and June 7, 1983 and September 5, 1987.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

LESA

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. This majority of the records of this species have come during spring migration, between May 13th (1999) and June 7th (1998) with peak numbers during the last week of May. During the fall migration, Least Sandpiper has been observed between July 26th (1988) and August 9th (1982, 1990). Most sightings are of less than 10 birds, but flocks of up to 50 have been observed.

Least Sandpiper has been banded eleven times between 1982 and 2003, with 8 records in spring migration and 3 records in fall.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

Very rare migrant. There are two records of Pectoral Sandpiper: May 6, 1998 and May 23, 2002. Both records are of single individuals.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

A rare migrant at IPBO. All the records come from spring migration between May 18th (1998) and June 4th (2002), with the vast majority from the last week of May. Dunlin occasionally occur in large numbers and several of the records are of flocks of over 100 birds.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

Very rare migrant. There are five records of Short-billed Dowitcher from IPBO, all from spring migration, between May 14th (1999) and June 3rd (1998). Sightings have ranged from one individual to 17 individuals.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*)

WISN

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. Wilson's Snipe has been observed between April 4th (1998) and October 25th (1997). It is most frequently heard winnowing overhead both in the Field (especially at the Gate) and at the Point just before dawn. There are several observations from late June and early July over the years and this species breeds on the MAPS plot in most years.

Wilson's Snipe has been banded four times: on May 2, 1982, May 24 and 25, 1985 and April 27, 2001.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)

AMWO

A common migrant and breeding species. American Woodcock has been observed at IPBO between April 4th (1998) and October 23rd (1982). It is most frequently heard in flight in the Field area (especially near the gate), but is also heard at the lower area. A nest with eggs was found on May 9, 1982, and an adult with a single chick was observed on May 27, 1998. American Woodcock also breeds occasionally on the MAPS plot.

American Woodcock was banded 20 times between 1982 and 2003, with most of the banding records coming from the months of April and May.

Family Laridae: Jaegers, Gulls and Terns

Jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.)

There is a single record of an unidentified jaeger flying over the Ottawa River on October 13, 2000. While Parasitic Jaeger is the most frequently observed species on the Ottawa River (and even it is rare), it is most often seen in September. In mid-October, the even rarer Pomarine Jaeger is more likely.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. Bonaparte's Gull has been observed in the spring between May 3rd (1997) and June 7th (1998). During the fall migration, there are far fewer observations, between August 10th (1996) and August 26th (1995). There are also two summer records, of 2 birds on June 19, 1984 and 2 birds on July 19, 1982. These probably represent non-breeding birds, or very late/early migrants. Most sightings are of less than 10 birds, but on May 3, 1997 a total of 75 were observed.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)

A common migrant and summer resident. The earliest spring record is March 23rd (1996), and Ring-billed Gulls are usually common by the time the ice is off the river. The latest fall record is November 29th (1998). Numbers of up to 100 birds are commonly observed throughout this period. During the summer there is a large breeding colony of Ring-billed Gulls at the Deschenes Rapids, about 8 kilometres downstream from IPBO.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

A common migrant at IPBO. The earliest "spring" record is February 15th (1998), although they are not commonly seen until the ice comes off the river, usually in early April. The bulk of the records are from early May to early June in spring and late August to late November in fall. There only a handful of records through the summer, most likely of non-breeding birds or early/late migrants. Numbers of individuals are typically much lower than Ring-billed Gulls during spring, but flocks of up to several hundred are seen in fall. The latest fall record is December 19th (1998). This species is present all winter in Ottawa, but is usually absent from IPBO once the river freezes.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)

Very rare migrant. There is only one record of Iceland Gull from IPBO, of a single bird soaring above the Point area with several Herring Gulls on April 18, 2000.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Very rare migrant. There are three records of Glaucous Gull from spring migration at IPBO: April 11, 1984, April 19, 1997 and April 23, 1983. All these records are of single birds.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. Great Black-backed Gull has been observed in every month of the year but is most common during spring migration in April and early May and in fall migration in October and November. Records during the summer months, or while there is ice cover on the river, are rare. Most sightings are of less than five birds, but totals of up to 20 have been observed during peak migration periods.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)

Very rare. There are six records of Caspian Tern from IPBO, all from spring migration between May 13th (1995) and June 6th (1999). All of the records are of single birds. This species breeds as close to Ottawa as the Rideau Lakes, and one or two birds are found straying north to this area in most years.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

A common migrant and summer resident. In the spring it has been observed as early as April 29th (1995), and in the fall, as late as September 9th (1995). They are most frequently seen flying over the bays to the south of the banding station, or resting on the rocks. The largest one day total observed was 45 on June 1, 1999. This species most likely breeds in Shirley's Bay.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

A rare spring migrant. The earliest record is May 22nd (2002) and the latest record is June 3rd (1998). The bulk of the records are from the last week of May. Most sightings are of less than 10 birds, but 32 were observed on May 26, 1998. Arctic Terns are most frequently seen flying up the river, but have also been seen resting on the rocks in the bay to the south of the banding station. Ottawa is the most reliable location in southern Ontario to see this species in spring migration.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

A rare migrant. The earliest spring record of Black Tern is from May 6th (1997). Most of the records are from the last two weeks of May and the first week of June. There is also one record from late June. During fall migration, there are far fewer records, but it has been recorded between July 13th (1999) and September 9th (1995). The vast majority of the records are of between one and five birds, but 20 individuals were observed on July 19, 1982.

Order Columbiformes

Family Columbidae: Doves and Pigeons

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Uncommon. While very common in the urban areas of the City of Ottawa, and in rural areas around farms, this species occurs infrequently at IPBO. It has been observed between March 28th (1992) and October 2nd (1999). The majority of the sightings are of fewer than 5 individuals, but flocks of up to 100 have been observed on occasion.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

MODO

A common year-round resident. Mourning Doves have been recorded in every month at IPBO, but tend to be observed most frequently between mid-March and May when they are calling. They are observed least frequently in the winter months, but can sometimes be found roosting in the cedars around the Birdfeeder at this time of year.

Although common, Mourning Doves are banded infrequently, as their size often enables them to escape from the mist nets when they are caught. Nevertheless, 59 were banded at IPBO between 1982 and 2003. Mourning Dove is a usual breeder on the MAPS plot.

Order Cuculiformes

Family Cuculidae: Cuckoos

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*)

BBCU

Rare migrant and breeder. The earliest record of Black-billed Cuckoo in spring migration is May 9th (1999), however this is an unusually early record during an exceptionally warm spring, and this species is not recorded until late May or early June in most years. This species is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot, and probably also breeds at the Point and in the woods around the Field in some years. The latest fall record is September 16th (1982), although records in August and September are rare. Black-billed Cuckoos were banded 12 out of the 22 years between 1982 and 2003, with a total of 44 individuals for this period. A record high number of 12 were banded in 1982.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

YBCU

Very rare migrant. There are four records of Yellow-billed Cuckoo at IPBO, all from spring migration in late May and June. The first record is of a bird observed on June 16, 1984, rather late for migration, but there was no breeding evidence so it may have been a late migrant or non-breeding transient. Another individual bird was observed on May 24, 1999 and, eleven days later, on June 4th, IPBO's first (and so far only) Yellow-billed Cuckoo was banded from the Swamp netline. Another Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed during the Spring Migration Monitoring Program the following year, on June 5, 2000.

Ottawa is at the very northern edge of this species' breeding range, where it is very rare. In the first three years of the 2001-2005 Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas there was evidence of possible breeding in only 2 of the 86 10 km² squares in the Ottawa Region. In the first atlas (1981-1985), breeding evidence was found in 6 of the 86 squares. This species is a regular breeder in the Chaffey's Lock area, about 120 km southwest of Ottawa.

Order Strigiformes

Family Strigidae: Owls

Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*)

Very rare. There is only one record of Eastern Screech-Owl at IPBO, during spring migration on May 15, 1994. Lack of records may be due, in part, to lack of observers during the night during the spring when calling takes place. This species is uncommon in the Ottawa area, but has bred at least once in recent years in one of the Duck Club's nest boxes elsewhere on the Connaught Range property.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

GHOW

The most common owl at IPBO, a year-round resident and breeder, although apparently less common in recent years. Great Horned Owl has been detected in every month, but the bulk of records are between March and May in the spring and August and October in the fall. The majority of the records are of single birds, but on rare occasions two birds have been observed together. The majority of the records are of birds in the woods bordering the field. One was observed on nest here on March 25, 1982.

Three Great Horned Owls were banded in the nest in May of 1998, two on May 9th and one on May 14th.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaca*)

Very rare. There are six records of this species from IPBO: Nov 30, 1991, December 1, 3 and 5, 1992 and April 18, 1993. All are from the Point area, and several were of individuals perched on the Solar Observatory building that was formerly located near the current location of the Shore netline. Two of these sightings involved two birds, the rest were of single individuals. Snowy Owl is a rare, but regular, winter visitor to the Ottawa area.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

Very rare. Northern Hawk Owl has been observed three times near the Fourth Line banding area: November 12, 1988, January 21 and February 22, 1992. Northern Hawk Owl is a casual winter visitor to the Ottawa area.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

Very rare. There are two records of Great Gray Owl at IPBO: one was observed near the banding shed flying overhead while being pursued by American Crows on February 22, 1992, another individual was observed on March 30, 1996. This species is a casual winter visitor to the Ottawa area.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

LEOW

A very rare migrant. There is a single record of Long-eared Owl from IPBO. An individual was banded on October 19, 2001 during Saw-whet Owl banding operations. It is likely that this species occurs more frequently than this, and searches of the many

stands of cedars on the MAPS plot and at the Point could discover more individuals during their migration period in mid-April and October.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

NSWO

An uncommon migrant. Nighttime banding operations were undertaken using taped calls to band Northern Saw-whet Owls in the in the falls of 2000 to 2004 as well as in the spring of 2002.

Fall banding has taken place in October and November in 2000 (15 owls banded), 2001 (45 owls banded), 2002 (48 owls banded), 2003 (125 owls banded) and 2004 (56 owls banded). Results so far suggest that migration peaks in early to mid-October, but continues into November and is highly dependent on weather, with clear skies and light northwest winds favoring migration. Spring banding was attempted in late March of 2002 but resulted in only 3 owls captured despite several nights of banding.

Prior to these recent efforts, there were only three records of Northern Saw-whet Owls at IPBO: one caught and released on October 12, 1985, one banded at night on October 15, 1983 and one very thin individual predating birds in the Birdfeeder net on February 25, 1992.

Order Caprimulgiformes

Family Caprimulgidae: Nightjars

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

A rare migrant. In the spring, there are five records, all of single birds, between May 22nd (1998) and June 10th (2000). During the fall migration, there is one record of a single bird from August 24, 1983, and one record of 10 birds hawking insects over the Field during the afternoon on September 5, 1992. This species is uncommon and declining in the Ottawa area, but it may occur more frequently than these records suggest, as its nocturnal habits make it more difficult to detect.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*)

WPWI

An uncommon migrant and possible breeder. In the spring this species has been detected as early as May 7th (1997, 2002), and in the fall, the latest record is on September 16th, 1992. Virtually all of the records are of birds calling in the woods adjacent to the Field, or in the wooded areas to the east of Radar Road. There are a number of records of calling birds in June and July suggesting that this species may breed at IPBO, at least in some years.

Whip-poor-will has been banded three times at IPBO: on August 28, 1982 and on July 15 and 28, 1983.

Order Apodiformes

Family Apodidae: Swifts

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

An uncommon migrant. During spring migration it has been observed as early as May 6th (1997). It has been observed throughout May and into late June. The June sightings probably represent individuals breeding in adjacent areas and foraging over the river. There is no evidence of this species having bred at IPBO. The latest fall record is from September 14, 1983, but records after late August are unusual. Most of the records are of five or fewer birds.

Family Trochilidae: Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus coluber*)

RTHU

A common migrant and breeder. The earliest record is from May 5th (2000), but many years they are not detected until mid-May and peak migration usually occurs in the last two weeks of May. The largest number of individuals detected in one day was 70 on May 20, 1999. They are present throughout the summer months, and are an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. The latest fall record is September 9th (2000).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are frequently caught in the nets, but because the bands require special preparation, they have been banded irregularly, and none have been banded since 1995.

Order Coraciiformes

Family Alcedinidae: Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)

BEKI

A common summer resident. Belted Kingfisher has been observed as early in the spring as April 4th (1998) and as late in the fall as October 18th (1997) and every month in between. In May and June of 2004 two Belted Kingfishers were observed using a burrow in a sandy area of the Field, suggesting they may have been nesting there. Most sightings are of one or two birds flying overhead, or perched in a dead tree, often on the South Bay, but up to four have been observed in a single day.

Belted Kingfishers have been banded 9 times between 1982 and 2003.

Order Piciformes

Family Picidae: Woodpeckers

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

RHWO

Very rare migrant. There are three records of Red-headed Woodpecker at IPBO, all from the month of May: one individual was banded on May 19, 1982, another was seen flying overhead on May 13, 1985, and another individual was observed near the Shore netline on May 31, 1997.

This species is a very rare breeder in the Ottawa area, which is at the northeastern edge of its range. During the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, breeding evidence has been recorded for this species in 5 of the 86 10 km² squares in the Ottawa Region. Red-headed Woodpecker bred successfully in the summers of 2002, 2003 and 2004 at Constance Bay, approximately 20 kilometers northwest of IPBO.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*)

RBWO

Very rare. There are two records of this species from IPBO: a female was banded at the Point netline on June 6, 1983, and one individual was observed on May 8, 1998, during the SMMP.

This species breeds as close to Ottawa as the Kingston area. It is casual in Ottawa, but most records are from the winter, when these birds are attracted to feeders.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)

YBSA

An uncommon migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring record of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is April 15th (2000). During migration in April and May they are found both in the Lower area and in the Field, but during breeding season most records are from the wooded areas around the Field, where this species most likely breeds. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is an occasional breeder on the MAPS Plot. The latest fall record is October 4th (1992).

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)

DOWO

Common year round resident. Found during the winter around the Birdfeeders and throughout the Field and Lower areas at other times of the year. Downy Woodpeckers breed on the MAPS plot in most years. This species was banded more than three times more often than Hairy Woodpecker between 1982 and 2003.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)

HAWO

Uncommon year round resident. Found during the winter around the Birdfeeders and throughout the Field and Lower areas at other times of the year although not banded as frequently as Downy Woodpecker. Hairy Woodpecker breeds on the MAPS plot in most years.

A Hairy Woodpecker banded as hatch year in 1986 was last captured 20 February 1999, making it at least 12 years, 8 months and 19 days old. According to the Bird Banding Laboratory website, the longevity record for Hairy Woodpecker is 15 years 10 months.

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

Very rare. There is only a single record of a Three-toed Woodpecker at IPBO. One bird was seen along the road near the MAPS area on March 27, 1993. This species is a rare winter visitor to the Ottawa area. This species has occurred several times in recent years in the coniferous woods between Riddell Drive and Kerwin Road, just 3 km west of IPBO.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

Very rare. There are three records of this species at IPBO. One individual was seen flying over the banding table on October 14, 1984. One individual was seen in the Garden area of the field on October 23, 1992, and another was seen in the trees on the south side of the Field on October 29, 1995. This species is an uncommon winter visitor to areas of coniferous forest in the Ottawa area, including the woods between Riddell Drive and Kerwin Road, just 3 km west of IPBO.

Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*)

YSFL

Common migrant and breeding species. The earliest record of Yellow-shafted Flicker is April 4th (1988), but in most years they are not detected until mid-April. Yellow-shafted Flickers are observed regularly through the summer months and breed every year on the MAPS plot. The latest fall record of this species is October 23rd (1999). This is the second most frequently banded woodpecker species, after Downy Woodpecker.

Flicker Intergrade (*Colaptes auratus luteus x collaris*)

FLIN

On May 28, 1983, a Flicker was captured that was an intergrade between the common eastern subspecies, the Yellow-shafted Flicker and the western Red-shafted Flicker. Intergrades show both red and yellow shafted feathers in their wings and tails. These two forms interbreed freely in a stable hybrid zone on the eastern side of the Rockies and intergrades will occasionally stray to the east.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

PIWO

Rare year round resident. Pileated Woodpecker has been observed in every month, but less frequently than the other four regularly occurring woodpecker species. It has also been banded four times, May 6, 1998 from the Swamp netline, May 24, 1992 from the Field, June 7, 1983 from the Mosquito and once in 1987. The bird banded in 1983 was a female with a brood patch. She was recaptured less than a week later near Egret Pond. Pileated Woodpecker breeds occasionally on the MAPS plot.

Order Passeriformes

Family Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)

A very rare migrant and possible breeder. Olive-sided Flycatcher has been observed on six occasions during spring migration. The earliest date this species has been recorded is May 15 (1998), although most of the records are from the last week of May and the first week of June. On June 10, 1990, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was calling on the Census Plot (near the MAPS plot), suggesting that it may have been on territory. It was also recorded on the MAPS plot during the breeding season in 1997.

This species is a rare breeder in the Ottawa area, which is at the southern edge of its summer range. During the first three years of the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2003), breeding evidence of this species was collected in 8 of the 86 10 km² squares in the Ottawa Region. It also breeds in Gatineau Park and some of the more coniferous areas on the Canadian Shield on the Quebec side of the river.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

EAWP

An uncommon migrant and breeder at IPBO. In the spring migration, it has occurred as early as May 9th (1991), although its migration seems to peak in the last week of May and first week of June. Eastern Wood-Pewee is present at IPBO all summer and breeds every year on the MAPS plot. During fall migration, numbers peak between mid-August and early September, but it has been banded as late as September 26th (1982, 1989).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

YBFL

An uncommon migrant at IPBO, recorded much more frequently in the fall, with over three quarters of the records coming from this season. In spring, it has been banded between May 20th (1992) and June 11th (1998). In fall migration it has been banded between July 24th (1984) and October 6th (1985), with the peak of migration in the last two weeks of August and the first week of September. There are relatively few records after the first week in September.

This species was banded in every year between 1982 and 2003 with the exception of 1995. Nevertheless, it occurs in small numbers, with an average of only 4 banded per year. The largest number of individuals captured in one day is 3, a total achieved on several occasions in both spring and fall.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)

ACFL

Very rare. There are two records of this southern species from IPBO. The first one was banded during fall migration on August 16, 1997, the second was banded during spring migration on May 24, 2002. Identification was based on wing morphology, bill measurements and plumage.

This species is widespread in the eastern United States, but in Canada breeds regularly only along the north shore of Lake Erie, particularly around Long Point.

Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax sp.*)

TRFL

Because the closely related Alder and Willow flycatchers are so morphologically similar, these two species can usually not be separated accurately, even in the hand while banding. As a result members of these two species that are banded are recorded under the generic name "Traill's Flycatcher". Alder and Willow flycatchers can be reliably distinguished in the field by their distinct songs and call notes.

In the Ottawa area, the Alder Flycatcher is much more common than the Willow Flycatcher, which approaches the northern edge of its range here. Thus the majority of birds banded as "Traill's Flycatcher" at IPBO are probably Alders.

The earliest record for Traill's Flycatcher is May 7th (2002), although this is exceptionally early, with only a few other records before the peak of migration which occurs in the last week of May and first week of June. This species has been banded sporadically over June and July. In fall migration numbers peak in mid- to late August. The latest record of Traill's Flycatcher at IPBO is September 10th (1982).

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*)

As noted above, most records of Traill's Flycatcher are most likely of this species. Alder Flycatcher, identified by voice, have been observed during spring migration, most often in the last week of May and first week of June. This species is a usual breeder on the MAPS Plot at Egret Pond.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli*)

Willow Flycatcher, identified by voice, has been recorded four times at IPBO, all during spring migration. One on June 5, 1984, one on May 25, 1999, one on May 29, 1999 and two on June 3, 1999.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*)

LEFL

A common migrant and breeder, and the most frequently observed *Empidonax* flycatcher at IPBO. The earliest record is May 1st (2004), although numbers do not usually pick up until the third week of May. This species is present all summer and breeds in the mature woodlands around the Field, as well as occasionally on the MAPS plot. The latest record of Least Flycatcher is September 27th (1983), although records after August are comparatively rare.

Least Flycatcher is the most frequently banded flycatcher at IPBO, accounting for 33% of the flycatcher bandings. The largest number banded in a single day is 11 individuals on August 14, 1993.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)

EAPH

A common migrant and breeder at IPBO. The earliest record is March 26th (1989), although in some years they are not seen until mid-April. This species is present all

summer and breeds, often in the Field area. The latest record of Eastern Phoebe is October 16th (1999). The largest number banded in a single day is 7 individuals on April 19 and 20, 1992 and April 15, 2000.

Great-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)

GCFL

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest record is May 1st (2004), but most years they do not arrive until the second week of May. This cavity nesting species is present all summer and has occasionally used Tree Swallow boxes to nest in. It also breeds every year on the MAPS plot. The latest fall record is September 9th (1982), but records after the last week of August are uncommon.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

EAKI

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record is April 29th (1984), and in most years they have returned by the end of the first week of May. This species is a usual breeder on the MAPS plot. The latest record from the fall is August 27th (2000).

An Eastern Kingbird banded as hatch year in 1989 was last captured 7 May 2000, making it at least 10 years, 11 months and 6 days old. This is the North American longevity record for this species.

Family Laniidae: Shrikes

Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)

NSHR

A rare visitor to IPBO in late fall, winter and early spring. The earliest fall observation is October 6th (1984) and the latest spring observation is April 16th (1988). Out of a total of 19 observations, five were from the Field area, and the remainder were around the Birdfeeder, where the shrikes are drawn by smaller birds using the feeder and are occasionally caught.

Between 1982 and 2003 a total of 14 Northern Shrikes were banded at IPBO. All the records are of single birds, with the exception of one interesting sighting involving 2 Northern Shrikes pursuing Eastern Bluebirds in the trees on the north side of the Field near the Garden netline on October 16, 1999.

Family Vireonidae: Vireos

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)

YTVI

Very rare. There are only three records of this species from IPBO. Two observations are from the Spring Migration Monitoring period, one on June 6, 1988 near the Swamp East netline and one on May 23, 2002, near the Swamp netline. On August 10, 2002, the first Yellow-throated Vireo was banded at IPBO, a hatch-year bird caught in the Flicker netline.

This species is a rare migrant and breeder in the Ottawa area where it is at the northern edge of its range. It is common at Chaffey's Lock, about 120 km southwest of Ottawa.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)

BHVI

An uncommon migrant at IPBO, recorded much more frequently in the fall, with over 88% of the records coming from this season. In spring, it has been banded between April 25th (1985) and May 21st (2000) with a peak around the second week of May. In fall migration it has been banded between August 5th (1984) and October 20th (1990), with the peak of migration later than the other vireo species, in the last two weeks of September and the first week of October. The largest number captured in one day is 7 individuals, a total achieved twice, on September 26 and 29, 1982.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)

WAVI

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest record for this species in spring is May 2nd (2000), but many years they do not returned until the second week of May. The latest fall record is September 13th (1997), but many years, it is not observed after the end of August. The largest number banded in one day is 5 individuals, a total reached on several occasions.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)

PHVI

An uncommon migrant at IPBO, recorded much more frequently in the fall, with over 86% of the records coming from this season. In spring, it has been banded between May 13th (1985) and May 31st (1983). In fall migration it has been banded between August 6th (1985, 1988) and October 12th (1996), with the peak numbers detected in the last week of August and the first week of September. The largest number of individuals banded in one day was 5 individuals, on September 26, 1983.

Interestingly, there are 10 records of this species from late June and July, in 1983, 1984 and 1985, including a female with a brood patch banded on June 28, 1983. This suggests that species may have bred in the area during this period.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

REVI

A common migrant and breeding species, this is the most frequently observed and banded vireo species at IPBO. The earliest spring date for this species is May 14th (1998, 1999, 2000), although many years they are not observed until the third week of May. They are present all summer and most likely breed in the mature woodlands surrounding the Field. Red-eyed Vireo is a regular breeder on the MAPS plot.

In fall migration, peak numbers are usually seen in the last two weeks of August and first two weeks of September. The largest number of individuals banded in one day was 11, on September 4, 1993. Most years they are not observed after the end of September, although there are four records from the month of October, with the latest date being October 20th (1989).

A Red-eyed Vireo banded as hatch year in 1987 was last captured 5 July 1997, making it at least 10 years, 1 months and 4 days old. This is the North American longevity record for this species.

Family Corvidae: Jays, Crow and Raven

Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*)

GRJA

Very rare. There is only one record of this species at IPBO, of an individual banded on October 21, 1983. This northern species is casual in winter in the Ottawa area.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)

BLJA

A common year-round resident. Blue Jays can be seen at any time of year at IPBO and they breed every year on the MAPS plot. During spring migration, their peak migration seems to occur between May 11th and 28th. They are banded on a regular basis, but most frequently from the Birdfeeder net during the late fall, winter and early spring where they are drawn by the feeders.

A Blue Jay first banded as a hatch year in 1988 was last captured 8 November 2003, making it at least 15 years, 5 months and 7 days old. This is the longest-lived individual bird banded at IPBO to date. According to the Bird Banding Laboratory website, the longevity record for Blue Jay is 17 years 5 months.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

AMCR

A common year-round resident, although generally observed less frequently in the winter months. This species is a usual breeder on the MAPS plot. American Crow has been banded once on May 20, 1992.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

An uncommon year-round resident, but has grown significantly more common over the last decade. Birds seen at IPBO are most likely breeding on the Eardley Escarpment on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

Family Alaudidae: Larks

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)

HOLA

A rare migrant at IPBO, Horned Larks have been observed both in the Field and at the Point, most often on the road. There are five records from the spring, between March 5th (1988) and May 5th (2000). There are also five records from the Fall, between September 18th (1990) and November 13th (1999). Horned Lark has been banded once, on September 18, 1990.

Family Hirundinidae: Swallows

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

PUMA

A common breeding species at IPBO. The earliest return date for Purple Martin in the spring is April 15th (2000). There are three Purple Martin houses located outside the banding shed, which are used by these birds, with between 70 to 100 birds in the colony in a good year. The latest date for Purple Martin in the fall at IPBO is September 2nd (1995), although many years they are not seen after mid-August.

The cold spring of 2002 was hard on the Purple Martins at IPBO, as it was all over North America, with a number of birds found dead in mid-May.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

TRES

A common breeding species. Tree Swallows are the most frequently observed swallow species at IPBO. The earliest spring date for Tree Swallow at IPBO is March 26th (1989) and most years they are back in good numbers by mid-April. Tree Swallows utilize nest boxes set up in both in the Field and at the Point area. The latest date for Tree Swallow in the fall is September 16th (1995), although records after the end of August are relatively rare. Tree Swallow is the third most frequently banded species at IPBO, with 3,817 individuals banded between 1982 and 2003.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

NRWS

A rare migrant. At IPBO this is the least frequently observed of the six swallow species. The earliest sighting of this species is April 27th (1984, 1996), but the vast majority of the records come from between the second week of May and the first week of June. Most of the records involve sightings of fewer than 5 individuals, but a flock of 20 were observed on May 11, 1999. There are a few scattered records throughout the months of July and June, and only a single August record, from August 23, 1997.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

BANS

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. The earliest spring date for Bank Swallow is April 30th (1988) and they have been observed during migration throughout May and early June. There are sporadic observations from June and early July, likely transients from nearby breeding colonies, but numbers of observations pick up in late July and August as the southward migration begins. The latest record of Bank Swallow from IPBO is August 30th (1988).

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

CLSW

A rare migrant and breeding species. The earliest date for this species is May 5th (2000) and they are observed throughout May. In 2000, 2001 and 2002 a pair of Cliff Swallows attempted to nest in an abandoned Barn Swallow nest under the peak of the banding shed's roof. Unfortunately there was no evidence that eggs were produced. The latest Cliff Swallow record in fall is August 26th (1995).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

BARS

A common migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring date for Barn Swallow at IPBO is April 18th (2000). They are present throughout the summer and most likely breed locally. The latest record of Barn Swallow in the fall is September 7th (1996).

Family Paridae: Chickadees and Titmice

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*)

BCCH

Common year-round resident. During the winter, a resident population is always present around the Birdfeeder. Black-capped Chickadee breeds every year on the MAPS plot.

In both spring and fall, irruptions of Black-capped Chickadees have occurred on a number of occasions. During these invasions, large numbers of chickadees move rapidly along the shore of the river, calling frequently. Interestingly, in spring irruptions, the chickadees often seem to be moving in a southerly direction, perhaps confused by the local geography of the Point.

During irruptions, the daily banding totals of Black-capped Chickadee can be well over one hundred. Irruptions have occurred during the spring from mid-April to early May (in 1990, 1998, 2000 and 2002) as well as during the fall from mid-September to mid-October (in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1997). Generally numbers of chickadees present in these irruptions have been larger in the fall than in the spring. The one-day record for numbers of Black-capped Chickadees banded is 272 on October 15, 1988.

Black-capped Chickadee is the most frequently banded species at IPBO, with 10,817 individuals banded between 1982 and 2003.

Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonica*)

BOCH

A rare migrant at IPBO. Interestingly, while this species is known best in Ottawa as a rare winter visitor, most of the records from IPBO are from in the spring migration period between late April and early June.

Between 1982 and 2001, Boreal Chickadees were observed on seven occasions, with three records from early May (1982, 1984), one record from early June (1994) and three records from mid-October (1983, 1989). During this period a total of seven individuals were banded.

The spring migration of 2002 was very unusual for this species. Boreal Chickadees were observed on ten separate days between April 20th and June 6th. During this period nine Boreal Chickadees were banded, more than had been banded in the previous twenty years of banding activity at IPBO.

Family Sittidae: Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*)

RBNU

An uncommon migrant and breeder, irruptive. This species is less common at IPBO than the White-breasted Nuthatch, being banded only about a third as often. Its abundance is variable from year to year, and it has been observed in every month. In some years it has been present in the Field area during the summer months (1995, 1996, 2000), suggesting that it may breed there. This species is a regular breeder on the MAPS plot.

In other years individuals have overwintered at the birdfeeders (1992, 1997, 1999). Generally it is observed most frequently during migration which seems to peak in spring between mid-April and mid-May, and in the fall between mid-August and mid-October.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)

WBNU

A common year-round resident at IPBO. This species is banded most frequently during the winter, when they are drawn to the birdfeeders. Although they are banded less frequently during other times of the year, they are usually detected without difficulty, as they call enthusiastically. White-breasted Nuthatch is a usual breeder on the MAPS plot.

Family Certhiidae: Creepers

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)

BRCR

An uncommon migrant and breeding species at IPBO. While this species is an uncommon year round resident in coniferous woods in the Ottawa area, the only winter record at IPBO is of a bird retrapped at Birdfeeder on February 15, 1998. There are also two observations of Brown Creeper from the Fourth Line banding area from March 8, 1998 and March 27, 1999. In most years, they are first detected in early April, and their migration seems to peak in the last two weeks of this month, although they have occasionally been recorded during SMMP at the Point area into late May.

Brown Creeper is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot, and a nest was found in the Field near the Mosquito netline in the Field on June 4, 1985.

Fall migration for Brown Creepers seems to pick up in September and peak in the last week of September and first two weeks of October before tailing off. Migrants seem to be more frequently detected in the Field area than at the Point. The latest record for this species at IPBO is November 11th (1989).

Generally, Brown Creepers are found in small numbers, although 10 were banded on September 23, 1982.

Family Troglodytidae: Wrens

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)

CARW

Very rare. There is one record of Carolina Wren at IPBO, of a hatch year bird banded on June 28, 1997 from the Shore netline.

This species is a rare winter visitor in the Ottawa area, mostly at birdfeeders. It is observed much less frequently in the summer months. During the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1985) there was one "possible" breeding record near Carleton Place. Since then it appears to have grown slightly more common. During the first three years of the second Atlas, there was breeding evidence collected from 2 squares in the Ottawa region. This species is a regular breeder in the Kingston area.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

HOWR

An uncommon migrant and breeding species. The average return date for House Wren in the spring is May 8th but it has occurred as early as April 21st (1996), although this is unusually early, and most years it is not observed before the first week in May. House

Wren breeds at IPBO in the Field area, and has occasionally used the nest boxes set up for Eastern Bluebirds there. In 1993 there were 10 House Wren nests in IPBO's Tree Swallow boxes. In June of 1985, a House Wren nest was found near the swampy area at the end of the Mosquito net line in the Field. It is also an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot.

In the fall, House Wren has been recorded as late as October 9th (1982, 1994), but there are only a handful of October records. The largest number of House Wrens banded in a single day at IPBO is 22 individuals on July 30, 1992.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

WIWR

An uncommon migrant and breeding species. Although it has been occasionally detected at the Point, the majority of the records are from the Field area, where it also breeds. Winter Wren is the earliest wren species to return to the Ottawa area in spring and the last to leave. The earliest record at IPBO is from April 4th (1998), but the average spring return date is April 16th. Winter Wren probably breeds most years at IPBO in the wooded areas around the Field area, particularly along the road between the east edge of the Field and the MAPS plot, and around the swamp at the end of the Mosquito netline.

The latest record in the fall is October 21st (1984). The greatest number of individuals banded in one day is two, a total attained on a number of occasions throughout the year.

Family Regulidae: Kinglets

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*)

GCKI

An uncommon migrant during spring, and a common migrant in fall. The earliest record from IPBO is March 27th (1988). Migration continues through April, peaking in the second and third week and tailing off quickly in the first week of May. There are sporadic records of Golden-crowned Kinglets in late May, June and August, and Golden-crowned Kinglet has occasionally bred on the MAPS plot.

Fall migration begins in earnest in mid-September and continues until early November, with peak numbers of migrants occurring in the last week of September and the first week of October. This species seems to move through the Field area in larger numbers than at the Point. The largest number of Golden-crowned Kinglets banded in a single day is 32 individuals on September 25th (1999) in the Field, and totals in the twenties have been recorded on a number of occasions during the peak fall migration period in the Field. The latest record of this species at IPBO is November 11th (1989).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)

RCKI

An uncommon migrant during spring and a common migrant in fall, more common at the Point than Golden-crowned Kinglet in both seasons. In spring, its migration begins and ends later than Golden-crowned Kinglet. In addition, Ruby-crowned tends to be more numerous than Golden-crowned in the spring, with banding totals in the twenties having been recorded in this season. The earliest spring record is on April 15th (1989, 2000) and the average return date is April 20th. The peak of migration seems to fall during the last

week of April and the first two weeks of May. After this numbers tail off, but Ruby-crowned Kinglet has been observed in spring migration as late as May 24th (2002).

Fall migration begins in early September, and like Golden-crowned Kinglet, peaks in the last week of September and the first week of October. The largest single day total of this species is 41 individuals, on September 28, 1991. In most years Ruby-crowned is banded in larger numbers than Golden-crowned Kinglet. Numbers fall off in the latter half of October. The latest record for this species is November 22nd (1998), but this is an unusually late record – the next latest record is in late October.

Family Sylviidae: Old World Warblers

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*)

BGGN

A rare migrant. There were a total of fifteen observations of Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers at IPBO between 1982 and 2004 including six birds banded. In spring it has been observed between May 1st (2004) and June 3rd (1983). In fall migration it has been observed between July 24th (1993) and August 12th (2000).

This species has bred in the past in the Ottawa area, but it was not recorded here during the first three years of the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. It breeds regularly in the Chaffey's Lock area about 120 km southwest of Ottawa.

Family Turdidae: Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

EABL

An uncommon migrant and breeding species. Eastern Bluebirds are early spring migrants occurring as early as April 1st (1989, 1991). While occasionally occurring during migration at the Point area, the vast majority of the records are from the Field, where they breed in nest boxes, fledging their first brood in early June and their second brood in late July. Because of the banding of chicks in the boxes, Eastern Bluebird is the second most-frequently banded thrush at IPBO, after American Robin. Between 1982 and 2003 the average number of individuals banded per year is 27.

They can usually be found in the Field area until October, with the latest fall record being October 24th (1999).

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*)

VEER

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring return for Veery is May 8th (1993), with an average return date of May 14th. This species breeds regularly in the woodlands at IPBO and is considered a yearly breeder on the MAPS plot. In fall, Veery is one of the earliest thrushes to migrate, with the latest fall record of this species at IPBO being on September 14th (2002).

Veery is the most frequently banded of the *Catharus* thrushes at IPBO. The largest number of Veeries banded in a single day is 6 individuals on August 31, 1997.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)

GCTH

A rare spring and fall migrant. Gray-cheeked Thrush has been recorded in spring between May 18th (1991) and June 2nd (1990), with the majority of the records coming from the last week of May.

In fall it has been recorded between September 9th (1992) and October 5th (1997) with about half of these records coming from the last two weeks of September.

Gray-cheeked Thrush has been banded in 15 out of the 22 years between 1982 and 2003, with a total of 27 individuals banded.

Bicknell's Thrush/Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus sp.*)

GCBT

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) has only been recognized as a distinct species from the Gray-cheeked Thrush since 1995. Bicknell's Thrush does breed in mountainous areas of Quebec, within two hundred kilometres of Ottawa, and tower-killed migrant birds have been recovered from the Kingston area, suggesting that Bicknell's Thrush could potentially migrate through the Ottawa area.

On September 30, 2000 a small *Catharus* thrush was captured at IPBO which showed wing morphology and plumage characteristics intermediate between Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bicknell's Thrush. Although identification of this individual was not conclusive, Bicknell's Thrush may well be captured in the future at IPBO.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)

SWTH

An uncommon migrant in spring and fall. Swainson's Thrush has been recorded during spring migration as early as May 11th (2000), with an average return date of May 20th. The majority of the spring records are from the last week of May, and migration appears to tail off during the first week of June. Swainson's Thrush occurs less frequently in spring migration than in fall, in some years it is not recorded until fall.

Swainson's Thrush has been recorded as a transient on the MAPS plot during the breeding season, and has been banded four times in late June and early July, including a recaptured bird on June 30, 1983. However, Ottawa is at the southern edge of this species' breeding range, and there is, as yet, no conclusive evidence that this species breeds at IPBO.

Numbers of records pick up in late July and continue through August, but fall migration does not begin in earnest for this species until September, with good numbers through out the month. Migration begins to taper off in October, with the latest record being October 21st (1989).

The largest number of Swainson's Thrushes banded in a single day is 13 individuals on September 12, 1983.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)

HETH

Hermit Thrush is an uncommon migrant and breeder at IPBO. This is the first of the brown thrushes to arrive in the spring and the last to leave in fall. During the winter of 2000-2001, a Hermit Thrush overwintered at the feeders at Fourth Line Road. The earliest spring record of Hermit Thrush is April 15th (1995) with spring migration peaking in the last week of April and first week of May. During spring migration monitoring, Hermit Thrushes have been occasionally banded as late as the third week of May at the Point area.

This species is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot and there are a few banding records from June and July. The number of records begins to pick up through August and September, with a peak of migration in the first two weeks of October. After this the numbers taper off, with the latest fall record being October 22nd (1994)

The largest one-day banding total of Hermit Thrushes at Innis Pont is 19 individuals in the Field on September 30, 1989.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)

WOTH

An uncommon breeding species and migrant. The earliest spring return date for Wood Thrush is May 5th (2000), but this is unusually early and the average return date is May 15th, with most of the spring records falling in the last two weeks of May.

Wood Thrush breeds in the woodlands around IPBO and is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. Unlike the other brown thrushes, it is banded less frequently during fall migration than during spring, with only a few banding records for the months of August and September. The latest record of Wood Thrush at IPBO is October 2, 1999, although this is an unusually late date for this species – the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club’s 1993 Birder’s Checklist indicates that it is very rare after mid-September.

Although they are detected every year, this species does not seem to occur in large numbers at IPBO. The most Wood Thrushes banded in a single day is only 3 individuals, a total achieved several times in June and July of 1993.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

AMRO

A common migrant and breeding species. One of the first harbingers of spring, American Robins generally begin arriving back at IPBO as early as the first week in March, although this is highly dependent on weather conditions and snow cover, and some years they are not been recorded until early April. Occasionally, this species will be present during the winter months around the Birdfeeder, especially if there is a good crop of buckthorn berries, as was the case in the winters of 1992-93, 1998-99 and 2002-03, but most years they are absent.

This species is a regular breeder on the MAPS plot, as well as in the Point and Field areas. During the fall, flocks are often seen passing through from mid-September to the end of October. American Robins are usually present at IPBO until mid-November, but occasionally linger into December.

The largest one-day banding total for American Robins at IPBO is 16 individuals banded on October 18, 1997.

Family Mimidae: Mimics

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

GRCA

Common migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring return date for Gray Catbird is May 6th (2000), with an average return date of May 12th. This species usually breeds on the MAPS plot, and probably breeds regularly around the Swamp at the Point. In fall they linger through September, and have been banded several times in October up to the middle of the month. The latest date for Gray Catbird at IPBO is of one observed on November 14, 1999, although this is quite late.

The most Gray Catbirds banded in a single day at IPBO is 12 birds, on August 7, 1993.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottis*)

NOMO

Rare migrant. Northern Mockingbird has been recorded eleven times since banding activities began at IPBO in 1982. All of the records, except one, have been from the month of May. The earliest spring record is May 4th (1997) and the latest is May 30th (2002). There is also a single fall migration record of a single Northern Mockingbird observed near the Point netline on August 6, 1988.

Northern Mockingbird has been banded twice at IPBO. The first bird was caught in the Shore netline on May 5, 1999, and a second-year female bird was caught in the Outer Point netline on May 30, 2002.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)

BRTH

Common migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring return date for Brown Thrasher is April 23rd (2002), with an average return date of April 30th. This species occasionally breeds on the MAPS plot, but is probably a more common breeder in the more open habitats at the Point and Field. There are fewer fall records of this species than there are spring, and there are relatively few records after the first two weeks of September, with the latest record being September 30th (1984).

The most Brown Thrashers banded in a single day at IPBO is 5 birds, a total achieved on June 6, 1990 and June 6, 1993.

Family Sturnidae: Starlings and Mynas

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

EUST

A common breeder. European Starlings are year round residents in the Ottawa area, and have been recorded at IPBO in every month. However, they are seen most frequently between April and October, and records during the winter months are rather rare. European Starling is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot. Although frequently

passing through in flocks, they are not banded frequently, with a one-day high of 9 birds on April 2, 1988 being unusual.

Family Motacillidae: Pipits and Wagtails

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)

AMPI

A rare migrant. American Pipit has been observed between May 4th (1998) and June 5th (2002) in the spring, with the majority of the records in the first two weeks of May. Fall records are more frequent than spring ones, having occurred between September 16th (1989) and October 30th (1999) with most of the records in the last week of September and first two weeks of October. Most records are of individuals or small flocks passing by overhead along the Ottawa River.

A total of seven American Pipits were banded between 1982 and 2003 – two in 1982 and five in 1989. All seven records were from the fall, between September 16th and October 15th.

Family Bombycillidae: Waxwings

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

BOWA

This irruptive species occurs in the Ottawa area in most years during the winter months, although its abundance varies greatly from year to year and it is not recorded at IPBO every year. The earliest fall record of this species is of an individual banded on October 11th (1991) and the latest spring record was of a flock of 22 birds observed on April 22nd (2000). When they are present, they can be found in flocks of up to 100 birds. In years where there is a good crop of buckthorn and bittersweet, these flocks may remain for several weeks, especially in January, February and March.

Bohemian Waxwings have been banded only three times at IPBO, on October 11 and 26, 1991 and on January 1, 1994.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

CEDW

Cedar Waxwings are among the most common breeding birds at IPBO, with the resident breeders usually arriving on territory in late May and remaining most years to late September. Outside of this period, their abundance at IPBO is highly variable. During January and February they are occasionally present in years where there is a good berry crop (for example, in 1993 and 2003), sometimes associating with American Robins or Bohemian Waxwings. In some years, migrants have also been present in March, April, early May and October, but usually this species is absent at this time.

The largest one-day total of Cedar Waxwings banded at IPBO is 74 individuals on May 4, 2001. There are several other large (over 20 individuals) totals from June and early July.

Family Parulidae: Wood Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

Very rare. The only record of Blue-winged Warbler at IPBO is of an individual observed during the Spring Migration Monitoring Program on May 18, 1999. This species breeds in southern Ontario, occasionally as far north and east as the Kingston region.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

GWWA

Golden-winged Warbler is a rare migrant at IPBO, with only ten records between 1982 and 2004. In the spring, Golden-wing Warbler has been recorded seven times, including five banded birds, between May 13th (1992) and June 13th (1986).

During the fall migration, individuals of this species have been banded three times, on August 12, 1985, August 17, 1988 and July 28, 1990.

Golden-winged Warbler is a rare breeding species in the Ottawa area, but it does nest regularly in small numbers on the Carp Ridge approximately 10 kilometres southwest of IPBO.

“Brewster’s Warbler” (*Vermivora chrysoptera x pinus*)

BRWA

“Brewster’s Warbler” is the fertile hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers which occurs rarely throughout the range of the parent species in Ontario. This hybrid has been recorded once at IPBO, when an after hatch-year male was banded from the Swamp netline on July 4, 1985.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*)

TEWA

An uncommon spring and fall migrant and possible breeder. During spring migration, it is usually one of the later warblers to pass through. The earliest occurrence is May 10th (2000), but the average return date is May 19th and the vast majority of the records are from the last two weeks of May. The latest spring migration record is June 7th (1985).

It is possible that this species may occasionally breed at IPBO. On June 26, 1985 a female with a brood patch and a male with a cloacal protuberance were both banded, suggesting that they may have been breeding. In 1999 a male Tennessee Warbler sang on the MAPS plot in June for several weeks. The Ottawa area is at the southern edge of this species’ breeding range. It is listed as possibly having bred inside the Ottawa Count Circle on the OFNC Bird Checklist and during the first Ontario Breeding Bird atlas (1981-1985) there was a record of possible breeding near Renfrew and confirmed breeding near Hawksbury.

Tennessee Warbler is an early southbound migrant in fall, with a long, drawn out migration period. This species has been recorded throughout July with numbers of migrants picking up in late July and August and peaking in the last week of August and first week of September and then tailing off, with the latest IPBO record on October 16th (1991, 1993).

The largest number of Tennessee Warblers banded in a single day is 16 individuals, on May 17, 1987.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*)

OCWA

Orange-crowned Warbler is a rare migrant at IPBO and, like many of the boreal forest-breeding passerines that migrate through this area, it occurs more frequently in fall than in spring. During the spring migration, Orange-crowned Warbler has been recorded between May 10th (1997) and May 26th (1983) with over half of the records coming from the third week in May.

There is one exceptionally early fall migration record, of an individual banded on July 24th (1993), but the next earliest date is September 7th (1982), with the bulk of the fall migration records occurring between the third week of September to the second week of October. The latest record is from October 14th (1995).

Orange-crowned Warbler is one of the least frequently occurring warbler species at IPBO. The largest one-day banding total is only two individuals, a total reached only three times during fall migration.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*)

NAWA

A common spring and fall migrant at IPBO, and an uncommon breeding species. Nashville Warbler is one of the earlier warblers to return in the spring, with the earliest record on May 1st (1989, 2004) with an average return date of May 8th.

Present as a breeding bird in secondary growth and wet edgy habitat throughout the summer at IPBO, Nashville Warbler is also one of the last warblers to head south in the spring – the latest record at IPBO is October 17th (1998).

The largest number of this species banded in a single day is 20 individuals on May 11, 1985. A Nashville Warbler banded as hatch year in 1993 was last captured 1 August 2003 on the MAPS plot, making it at least 10 years, 2 months. This is the North American longevity record for this species.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*)

NOPA

Northern Parula is a rare migrant which occurs more frequently during the fall migration. In the spring, the earliest record is from May 6th (2000) and the latest spring record is from June 5th (1999). The average return date is May 14th and the majority of the spring records are from the second and third weeks of May.

There are several early fall migration records of Northern Parula at IPBO, including four July records, the earliest being on July 8th (1995). This species is a rare breeder in the Ottawa area, and these individuals may represent failed or non-breeders dispersing from nearby territories. It has occurred in small numbers throughout August with peak numbers in the first two weeks of September. Northern Parula has occurred as late as October 13th (1984), but this is the only October record.

Like Orange-crowned Warbler, this species occurs infrequently at IPBO. The largest number of individuals banded in a single day is 2, but this total has been achieved a number of times in both spring and fall migration.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

YWAR

A common migrant, the Yellow Warbler is also one of the most common breeding birds at IPBO. The earliest spring return date for this species is April 29th (1994), but the average return date is May 5th. Peak migration seems to occur between the second and fourth weeks of May.

Yellow Warblers breed in the secondary growth and forest edge habitat at IPBO. They are one of the earliest southbound migrants, heading south as early as mid-July. Good numbers of migrants are usually observed until mid-August, when migration begins to wind down. The latest fall date for Yellow Warbler is September 13th (1997), but there are only two other earlier September records.

Yellow Warbler is the second most frequently banded species at IPBO, with 3,967 individual banded between 1982 and 2003. The largest number of Yellow Warblers banded in a single day is 52 individuals, on both July 25, 1992 and July 17, 1993. Totals of over thirty individuals have been achieved on a number of occasions between mid-July and early August when the local breeders numbers are augmented by southbound migrants.

A Yellow Warbler banded as a hatch year in 1988 was last captured 22 July 2000, making it at least 12 years, 1 months and 21 days old. This is the North American longevity record for this species.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)

CSWA

A common migrant and uncommon breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record for Chestnut-sided Warbler at IPBO is May 7th (1999), but the average spring return date for this species is May 15th. Chestnut-sided Warbler is an uncommon breeding species in secondary growth at IPBO. The Garden area of the Field is a good place to look for this species during the breeding season.

In fall migration, this species has occurred as late as September 25th (1993). The largest number of individuals banded in a single day is 8, on May 20, 1989.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*)

MAWA

A common migrant. During the spring, Magnolia Warbler has occurred as early as May 2nd, although the average arrival date is May 13th. Peak of migration for this species seems to be in the last two weeks of May, and it has occurred in June as late as June 11th (1988).

There are sporadic records in July, as early as July 1st (2000), although there is no other evidence of this species breeding at IPBO. Numbers pick up in late July and August as

fall migration gets underway, peaking in late August. Good numbers of this species are still present throughout September and it has been banded occasionally in early October, with the latest date being October 12th (1991).

The largest number of Magnolia Warblers banded in a single day is 25 individuals on August 31, 1982.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*)

CMWA

A rare spring and fall migrant and possible breeder. One of the rarer migrant warblers at IPBO, it is also much more likely to be recorded during fall migration than during spring, with three quarters of the records in the fall. In the spring, Cape May Warbler has been recorded between May 12th and May 27th, with the majority of the records occurring in the latter part of this period.

There are a handful of records of this species in June. At least one pair of Cape May Warblers was present on the MAPS plot during the breeding season in 1997, in June of 1998 a male sang on the MAPS plot for several weeks, and on June 12, 2004 a male was observed singing in a spruce tree along the road. This species breeds in spruce stands, which are present in the MAPS plot. During the current Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, this species has been recorded as possibly or probably breeding in 7 of the 86 10 km² squares in the Ottawa Region. Cape May Warbler is listed as a breeding bird on the Gatineau Park Bird Checklist, and probably breeds in spruce stands on the Canadian Shield on the Quebec side.

In fall migration, this species has been recorded as early as July 15th (1985) and as late as September 21st (1990) with migration at its peak in the last two weeks of August. The largest number of Cape May Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 4, a total that was achieved on May 15, 1984, and on July 17, 1993.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*)

BTBW

Uncommon migrant. The earliest record of this species in the spring is May 7th (1998), with an average return date of May 14th and most of the banding records falling in the second and third week of May and tapering off in the first week of June.

There are two summer banding records, one from late June and one from late July, but no evidence of this species having bred at IPBO. Fall migration begins in mid-August, with good numbers of this species being recorded throughout the month of September and into early October, with the latest fall banding record being October 21st (1989).

The largest number of Black-throated Blue Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 7 individuals, a total achieved twice during fall migration, on September 28, 1991 and October 3, 1992.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronat coronata*)

MYWA

A common migrant and uncommon breeder at IPBO. The term “Myrtle Warbler” refers to the eastern subspecies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler; the western subspecies, Audubon’s Warbler has never been recorded at IPBO.

Myrtle Warblers are usually the first species of warbler detected in the spring at IPBO (although in some years Pine Warbler is recorded first) with the earliest return date being April 17th (1983, 2000), and the average return date being April 26th. This is the most numerous warbler species in both spring and fall migration. Large numbers of Myrtles are possible any time from the last week of April until the third week of May, with the peak falling in the second week of May.

Myrtle Warblers are present through the summer months, and are usual breeders on the MAPS plot. There are a few banding records through June and early July, but numbers start to pick up in late July and August as hatch year birds and post-breeding adults begin to disperse. Fall migration for Myrtle Warblers peaks in the last two weeks of September and first week of October. After this numbers tail off through October, with three records from November, the latest being November 11, 1989.

The largest number of Myrtle Warblers banded in a single day is 71 individuals on May 7, 1983. Daily totals in excess of 40 individuals have been achieved on a number of occasions during peak spring migration in the first two weeks of May and in the fall in the last week of September.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*)

BTNW

An uncommon migrant and breeder. The earliest spring record for this species is May 2nd (1993), with an average return date of May 8th. This species is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot and probably also breeds in the mature woods around the edges of the Field. In the fall it is banded with greater regularity and in greater numbers than in the spring, with numbers of migrants picking up in the last week of August and continuing through September and tailing off late in the month with only about half a dozen records from early October. The latest record for this species at IPBO is October 14, 1983.

The largest one-day banding total for Black-throated Green Warblers at IPBO is 8 birds, a total achieved on both September 2, 1982 and September 3, 1989.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)

BLBW

Rare migrant. The earliest record for Blackburnian Warbler at IPBO is May 9th (2000), with the bulk of the spring records coming in the last two weeks of May and then tailing off in early June.

Interestingly, although this species has only been recorded as a transient on the MAPS plot, there is a cluster of banding records from late July, suggesting that this species may breed locally, at least in some years. After these records, there is a gap until mid-August when fall migration begins, peaking in the last week of August and the first week of

September. There are only two records after this point: of single birds banded on September 19, 1992, and on the latest date, September 25, 1999.

The largest number of Blackburnian Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 2 birds, a total achieved on a number of occasions during both spring and fall migrations.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*)

PIWA

A rare migrant and possible breeder. Pine Warbler is one of the earliest warblers to appear in the spring, with April 15th (2000) being the earliest date that it has been detected at IPBO, and April 26th being the average spring arrival date. Migration seems to peak in the first week of May, and the latest spring migration records are from May 29th (1983, 1999). Unlike many species of warbler, which are detected more frequently in fall, about two thirds of the records of Pine Warbler are from spring migration.

Pine Warbler has been observed in the large White Pines in the field in mid-June in both 1982 and 1985, suggesting that it may possibly have bred there.

In fall migration this species has been observed as early as August 8th (1992) and as late as September 26th (1982) with most fall records coming from the first two weeks in September.

The largest number of Pine Warblers banded in a single day is 2 individuals on May 3, 2000.

Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*)

WPWA

Uncommon migrant. The Western Palm Warbler breeds in northern Ontario and the Prairie provinces and is by far the more common of the two Palm Warbler subspecies that migrate through the Ottawa area. In spring Western Palm Warbler is one of the earlier warbler species to return, with the earliest date it has been recorded being April 26th (1985) with an average return date of May 6th. Spring migration peaks around the second week of May and tails off thereafter with the latest spring record on May 26th (1997).

In fall migration, the earliest record is August 28th (1993). Good numbers have been recorded through September and into the first week of October with a peak in the last week of September. The latest record is October 21st (1989).

The largest number of Palm Warblers banded in a single day is 9 individuals on May 14th (1997), a total that included 8 Westerns and 1 Yellow (see below).

Yellow Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochysea*)

YPWA

Very rare migrant. The Yellow Palm Warbler breeds in northern Quebec and the Maritimes. The Ottawa area is on the western fringes of this subspecies migratory route, and between 1982 and 2003 a total of 6 Yellow Palm Warblers were banded at IPBO. Four individuals were banded during the spring migration, and two in the fall. Yellow Palm Warbler can be distinguished from Western Palm Warbler based on the more extensive yellow on their throat and underparts.

Out of the 184 Palm Warblers banded at IPBO during this 22 year period, this accounts for only 3% (the rest were Westerns).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*)

BBWA

A rare migrant at IPBO in the spring, uncommon in the fall. The earliest spring record is May 7th (2000), but this is unusually early with an average return date of May 17th and the majority of spring records come from the last two weeks of May. In many years, this species was not been recorded during spring migration. The latest spring migration record is June 2nd (1983).

Bay-breasted Warbler is banded much more frequently in southbound migration than in spring, with about 80% of the banding records coming from the fall. In southward migration, it has been recorded as early as July 12th (1992) with sporadic records through the remainder of July and early August. The peak of fall migration seems to occur in the last week of August and the first week of September and then tails off, with the latest record coming on September 29th (1982).

The largest number of Bay-breasted Warblers banded in a single day is 15 individuals on September 4, 1983. This total is unusually high and there are few other one-day totals over two or three birds for this species.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)

BLPW

Uncommon migrant. Blackpoll Warbler is one of the later migrating species in the spring. The earliest record is from May 14th (2000) and the average return date is May 21st. The peak of spring migration is during the last week of May, and the latest spring migration date for this species is June 11th (1988).

The earliest southbound migration record for Blackpoll Warbler is July 30th (1984). There are scattered records from the month of August, but migration does not seem to pick up until the last week of August, continuing until the third week of September, after which numbers quickly tail off. The latest date for Blackpoll Warbler at IPBO is October 10th (1982). There is only one other record from the month of October.

The largest number of Blackpoll Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 6 birds on September 22, 2001.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)

BAWW

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring return date for Black-and-white Warbler is April 26th (2002), with an average return date of May 7th. This species breeds in secondary growth and wooded areas at IPBO, and is considered to be a regular breeder on the MAPS plot.

In the fall migration, this species can be found through September, with the latest record being October 5th (1997).

The largest number of Black-and-White Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 12 birds, on May 27, 1995.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)

AMRE

American Redstart is a common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring date for this species is May 6th (1999), with an average spring arrival date of May 13th. American Redstart breeds in the wooded areas around IPBO and is considered to be an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot.

In the fall, American Redstart has been recorded as late as October 6th (1991).

The largest number of American Redstarts banded in a single day is 15 birds, a total achieved on May 29, 2001.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

OVEN

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring arrival date for this species is May 5th (2000), with an average arrival date of May 13th. Ovenbird is a common breeding species in wooded areas at IPBO, including the forested areas surrounding the Field and the MAPS plot, where they are regular breeders.

The latest fall record for Ovenbird is October 5th (1989), with records tapering off after the third week of September.

The largest number of Ovenbirds banded in a single day is 13 birds on August 27, 1994.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)

NOWA

An uncommon migrant at IPBO. The earliest record for Northern Waterthrush is April 29th (1984) with an average spring return date of May 5th. This species is recorded throughout spring, with the majority of the banding records coming from the second through fourth weeks of May.

This species is recorded sporadically through June, and more frequently in July. It most likely breeds nearby, although it has only been recorded as a transient on the MAPS plot.

Northern Waterthrush has been banded throughout August as fall migration gets under way, however there are only a few records after the first week of September. The latest record for Northern Waterthrush in the fall migration is September 14th (2002).

The largest one-day total for this species is 4 individuals on July 25, 1992.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

CONW

Very rare migrant. There is only one record of this species from IPBO, of an individual banded in the Field in the Garden netline on August 29, 1993. Connecticut Warbler breeds in the boreal forest, to the north and west of the Ottawa area and is a very rare migrant through the area. Most Ottawa-area records are from late August and early September.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*)

MOWA

An uncommon spring and fall migrant at IPBO and probable local breeder. Mourning Warbler is one of the latest warblers in spring migration with May 14th (1985) being the earliest spring record and an average spring arrival date of May 25th. Mourning Warblers are recorded much more frequently in spring migration than in fall migration and almost half of the total records of this species at IPBO come from its peak migration period in the last week of May and first week of June.

There are small numbers of records throughout the summer months. This species likely breeds in the vicinity of IPBO, at least in some years. Two females with brood patches were banded in the Field on June 19, 1985 and hatch year birds have been banded in late July. The number of records increases slightly in late August and the first week of September, but there doesn't seem to be a notable peak of migration in this season. September 11th (1983) is the latest fall date for this species.

The largest number of Mourning Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 3 individuals, a total achieved on July 15, 1985, May 23, 1999 and September 3, 2000.

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)

COYE

Common Yellowthroat is a common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record of this species is May 7th (2000) with an average spring return date of May 13th. Common Yellowthroat breeds regularly in the Swamp as well as on the MAPS plot, around Egret Pond. The latest record of this species at IPBO in the fall is October 3rd (1992).

The largest number of Common Yellowthroats banded in a single day is 7 individuals, a total achieved on both May 23, 1988 and May 22, 1999.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

WIWA

Uncommon spring and fall migrant. The earliest spring record is May 10th (2000), but the average return date is May 20th. Migration peaks markedly in the last week of May, with 65% of the spring banding records coming from this period. The latest date this species has been recorded during spring migration is June 11th (1985).

The earliest fall migration record for Wilson's Warbler is August 10th (1985) and the latest record is September 27th (1995), with a peak of migration in the last week of August and the first two weeks of September.

The largest number of Wilson's Warbler banded in a single day is 7 individuals, a total achieved three times: on September 4, 1993, May 28, 1994 and May 23, 2000.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*)

CAWA

An uncommon spring and fall migrant. The earliest record of Canada Warbler in the spring is May 11th (2000), but this is unusually early - the average spring return date for this species is May 22nd and migration peaks in the last week of May. The latest spring

migration record for this species is June 15th (1984). Although Canada Warbler is a uncommon breeding species in the Ottawa area, there is no evidence that it has done so in the IPBO study area.

The earliest fall migration date for this species is July 22nd (2000) with numbers of migrants building through August and peaking in the last week and then tailing off. The latest record for Canada Warbler in the fall is September 20th (1983) and there are only three records after the first week of September.

The largest number of Canada Warblers banded in a single day at IPBO is 5 individuals, on June 2, 1984.

Family Thraupidae: Tanagers

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)

SCTA

An uncommon migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest record for Scarlet Tanager in spring migration is May 9th (2000, 2002) with an average spring return date of May 15th. Scarlet Tanager breeds in most years in the wooded areas on the MAPS plot. Fall migration seems to peak in the last week of August and first week of September. The latest fall record for Scarlet Tanager at IPBO is September 28, 1991.

The highest one-day total of Scarlet Tanagers banded at IPBO is 4 birds, on September 14, 1991.

Family Emberezidae: Buntings, Cardinals and Sparrows

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

EATO

A rare spring migrant at IPBO. The earliest date for Eastern Towhee is April 28th (1998). It seems to be most likely to be observed in late April and early May, but has been occasionally recorded later in the month. In 1988, an Eastern Towhee was banded from the Garden netline in the Field on May 8th and subsequently recaptured there on June 11th the same year, with a number of towhee sightings in the area in the interim, suggesting that it may have bred or attempted to breed in the area. A second Eastern Towhee was banded on May 11, 2001.

Eastern Towhees are rare breeders in the Ottawa area, but there is a small breeding population located on the Carp Ridge, approximately 10 kilometers west of IPBO. The June date is the latest for this species at IPBO, it has yet to be recorded during fall migration.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)

ATSP

This species is a common winter resident at IPBO and there is usually a small flock found around the Birdfeeders. The earliest fall record for American Tree Sparrow at IPBO is October 6th (1990), but they usually arrive around the middle of the month, with an average fall return date of October 18th.

Some of the banded birds have returned for multiple winters. In one extreme example a bird banded in 1990 was recaptured every winter until 1997. In most years, this species has gone back north by late April or early May. However in the cold, damp spring of 2002, there are records from May 15th and 21st, the latest spring records of this species at IPBO.

The largest numbers of American Tree Sparrows banded in a single day is 34 birds, on March 29, 1991.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)

CHSP

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record of Chipping Sparrow is April 15th (1998), with an average spring arrival date of April 26th. This species is a common breeder, especially in the Field and on the MAPS plot. In the fall, Chipping Sparrow has been recorded as late as October 26th (1991), but records after the middle of October are rare.

The biggest one-day banding total for this species is 9 individuals on both May 12, 1990 and July 25, 1992. Large flocks of Chipping Sparrows can often be found feeding along the road through the Field in September and early October.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

CCSP

A rare spring migrant at IPBO. There have been a total of seven Clay-colored Sparrows banded at IPBO during spring migration between May 16th (1998) and May 29th (1997). All of these records are of single individuals. This species is a rare breeder in the Ottawa area. At IPBO there is one record of a singing bird in the Field on July 12, 1992. There are also two records from the following year from July 10th and 18th, suggesting that this species may have at least attempted to breed here in these two years. Clay-colored Sparrow has yet to be detected in fall migration.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*)

FISP

An uncommon migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring record of Field Sparrow is April 13th (1998), with an average spring arrival date of April 20th. This species has bred in the Field, as well as on the MAPS plot. Most year there is a male on territory in the open area near just to the northeast of the Birdfeeders. In the fall, Field Sparrow has been recorded as late as October 25th (1991), but records after the middle of October are rare.

The largest number of Field Sparrows banded in a single day is 4 individuals, a total achieved a number of times in both spring and fall migration, as well as during the breeding season.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)

VESP

A rare migrant at IPBO. This species has been recorded only five times during spring migration, occurring as early as April 14th (1984). The rest of the spring sightings are spread through late April and the month of May. There are also two sightings from each of the months of June, July and August, from the Field area, suggesting that this species

may have at least attempted to breed here in some years. The latest sighting is from August 6th (1992). A total of seven Vesper Sparrows were banded at IPBO between 1982 and 2003

All of the banding records are of single birds, but three individuals were observed together in the field on April 14th, 1984.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

SAVS

An uncommon migrant and probable breeding species at IPBO. The earliest record of Savannah Sparrow is April 3rd (1988), with an average spring return date of April 24th. This species has been banded a number of times throughout the breeding season. It is a common breeder in agricultural fields in the Ottawa area, and probably breeds in the Field, at least in some years. During fall migration, Savannah Sparrow has been detected as late as October 14th (1989).

The largest number of Savannah Sparrows banded in a single day at IPBO is 5 birds on May 5, 1998.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*)

FOSP

An uncommon spring and fall migrant at IPBO. In spring migration Fox Sparrow has occurred as early as April 6th (1991) with an average spring return date of April 15th. Most pass through during the last two weeks of April, and the latest spring record of May 6th (2000) is the only record from this month.

In fall migration, the earliest record for Fox Sparrow is from September 28th (1991). The majority of the migrants seem to pass through in the first two weeks of October, but there are still a number of records from the latter half of the month, with the latest record coming on October 29th (1989).

Fox Sparrow has been banded in 14 out of the 22 years between 1982 and 2003, with a total of 50 individuals banded.

The largest number of Fox Sparrows banded in a single day is 3 birds, a total achieved a number of times in both spring and fall migration. One unusual sighting of Fox Sparrows occurred on October 20, 2001, when a flock of at least 12 birds was observed moving through the trees along the road between the Road South and Flicker netlines during the OFNC Fall Bird Count.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

SOSP

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. Song Sparrow is the first sparrow to return in the spring and, along with Red-winged Blackbird, one of the earliest passerine migrants. The earliest date for Song Sparrow is March 11th (2000), with an average spring return date of March 30th. Song Sparrow is one of the most common breeding species, nesting all along the Ottawa River Shoreline, in the Swamp, and on the MAPS plot. In the fall, the latest record for Song Sparrow is October 31st (1992).

The largest number of Song Sparrows banded in a single day is 21 individuals on August 2, 1986.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*)

LISP

An uncommon spring and fall migrant at IPBO. In spring migration, Lincoln's Sparrow has occurred as early as May 6th (1982, 2000), with an average spring return date of May 13th. Spring migration for this species seems to peak around the third week of May.

There have been sporadic observations of this species in June, July and August but this species is a very rare breeder in eastern Ontario, known to nest only in large peat bogs like the Mer Bleu or Alfred bogs. These "summer" birds recorded at IPBO are most likely non-breeders or early dispersers off their northerly breeding grounds. Fall migration appears to occur mostly in September, peaking in the later part of the month and then tapering off with the latest IPBO record from October 10th (1984).

While Lincoln's Sparrow was banded every year between 1982 and 2003 it occurs in small numbers, with an average of only 4 banded per year. The largest number of Lincoln's Sparrows banded in a single day at IPBO is 5 birds on May 17, 1999.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)

SWSP

An uncommon migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest record of Swamp Sparrow in the spring is April 15th (2000), with an average return date of April 26th. Swamp Sparrow breeds in small numbers in the Swamp, and is a yearly breeder on the MAPS plot. The latest record for this species in the fall is October 12, 1996.

The most Swamp Sparrows banded in a single day at IPBO is 5 birds, a total achieved on several occasions.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

WTSP

A common migrant and breeding species at IPBO. The earliest spring return date for White-throated Sparrow is April 6th (1983), with an average spring return date of April 20th. This species breeds in the secondary growth at IPBO and is a yearly breeder on the MAPS plot. In the fall, the latest record for Song Sparrow is November 9th (2002).

The largest number of White-throated Sparrows banded in a single day is 53 individuals on May 12, 1984.

Eastern White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*)

EWCS

An uncommon spring and fall migrant. The eastern subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow occurs every year, but often in small numbers. Sightings are typically of single birds or small flocks of 10 or less. The earliest spring date for this species is April 25th (2000), but this is unusually early – the average spring return date is May 9th. The majority of migrants pass through in the second and third weeks of May, and sightings are rare after this period, although there are a few from the last week of May and one on June 3rd (1993).

In fall, the earliest date for this species is September 16th (2000) with records increasing through late September and peaking in the first two weeks of October. The latest fall record of Eastern White-crowned Sparrow at IPBO is October 24th (1998)

The most Eastern White-crowned Sparrows banded in one day at IPBO is 14 individuals on May 14, 1988.

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) **GWCS**

Very rare. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow is the western subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow, breeding in Canada from Manitoba westward. This subspecies does occasionally wander easterwards and there is one record from IPBO, of a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow banded on May 4, 2000. Gambel's can be distinguished from the Eastern subspecies by its white lores (Eastern has black lores) and its orange-tinged bill (Eastern has a pinkish bill).

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) **SCJU**

A common spring and fall migrant. Slate-colored Juncos (the eastern subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco) are early spring migrants and can appear as early as mid-March. The average spring return date is April 4th, with but in some years substantial numbers of migrants can begin to turn up in the last week of March. Numbers of migrants pick up through the first half of April, peaking in about the third week of that month when they can occur in sizable flocks, often feeding along the roadside. Numbers tail off in late April and early May. The latest spring record of this species is May 24th (2000), but there are only a few records after the first week of May.

There is no evidence of Slate-colored Junco breeding at IPBO. The earliest southbound migrant detected is July 28th (1984). There are a few records from August and early September, with numbers of records increasing in mid-September and peaking in mid October when large flocks are often present. In most years they are gone by the end of November.

Slate-colored Juncos sometimes overwinter in the Ottawa area, and there are two records of this species at IPBO from the winter months: January 18, 1984 (1 bird), February 28, 1999 (4 birds).

The largest number of Slate-colored Juncos banded at IPBO in a single day was 107 birds on April 27, 1984.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) **LALO**

Lapland Longspur has been recorded only twice at IPBO, with single banded on December 15, 1994 and January 1, 1994. Both times the birds were associating with Snow Buntings and caught in the Roof Trap. This species is uncommon in agricultural areas around Ottawa in winter, and is most often observed associating with Snow Buntings.

Snow Bunting (*Plectorphenax nivalis*)**SNBU**

A common winter resident at IPBO. In fall, Snow Buntings can be observed as early as mid-October, as they begin their southward migration. The earliest fall date for Snow Bunting at IPBO is October 14th (1994). This species is usually observed intermittently, and in small numbers through the rest of October and November, but substantial numbers are usually not present until lasting snow cover arrives in mid- to late December. From this point, through January, February and early March, flocks of several dozen may be present for weeks at a time. Unlike most other birds, which are caught in mist nets, Snow Buntings are captured using the “Roof Trap”, a cage trap with a one-way door that is baited with corn, and placed on the roof of one of the buildings near the river.

Some of the Snow Buntings banded at IPBO have returned for multiple winter stays. Of the 1,715 birds banded by the end of the winter of 1996-1997, 54 (3.1%) had returned for one winter, 15 (0.9%) had returned for two winters, 4 (0.2%) had returned for three winters, and 1 bird (0.06%) had returned for four.

During mid-winter, the flocks of Snow Buntings at IPBO are composed almost entirely of male birds, although on very rare occasions females have been banded at this time. It appears that this is because females winter further south than the males do. Females are detected more frequently in mid-to late March at IPBO, during their northward migration, although they are still far outnumbered by males, even at this time of year.

Snow Buntings are usually present at IPBO until late March, departing for the north around the same time that the snow cover melts away. The latest spring record of Snow Bunting at IPBO is April 5th (1997).

Family Cardinalidae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Buntings**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*)****NOCA**

Uncommon year round resident. Although present all year, Northern Cardinal is detected most frequently in March through May, when they can be heard singing. This species is a yearly breeder on the MAPS plot. It is more frequent here, and in the woods surrounding the Field, than it is at the Point, although it does turn up at the Birdfeeder occasionally during the winter months. The largest number of individual banded in a single day at IPBO is 2 birds, a total achieved on several occasions.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)**RBGR**

Uncommon breeding species and migrant. Rose-breasted Grosbeak has been recorded as early as May 5th (1999) in spring, with an average spring return date of May 12th. This species is a regular breeder on the MAPS plot, and likely also breeds in the woods surrounding the Field. In fall, Rose-breasted Grosbeak has been recorded as late as September 30th (1982), but records after the first week of September are rare.

The most Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded in a single day at IPBO is 8 birds on May 15, 1993.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*)**INBU**

An uncommon breeding species and migrant. The earliest spring record for this species is May 10th (2002), with an average spring return date of May 15th. Indigo Bunting is an occasional breeder on the MAPS plot, and has probably bred in some years in the Field. It is likely not present every year at IPBO as a breeding species. Indigo Bunting has been recorded as late as September 8th (1983) in the fall.

The largest one-day total of Indigo Buntings banded at IPBO is 2 birds, a total achieved on a number of occasions.

Family Icteridae: Blackbirds**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)****BOBO**

An uncommon migrant and possibly an occasional breeding species. The earliest spring date for Bobolink at IPBO is May 4th (2002), with an average spring return date of May 11th. Most observations during spring migration are of birds flying over the Point area.

Bobolinks are common breeders in fields and pastures in the Ottawa area. At IPBO, they have been recorded in a few years in the field during summer, suggesting that they may have bred there, but the habitat is not optimal for them. Numbers of records of this species pick up again in early August as their southbound migration begins. The latest fall record for this species is August 25th (1988).

A total of 23 Bobolinks were banded between 1983 and 2003.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)**RWBL**

A common migrant and breeding species. One of the first passerine migrants to return to IPBO in the spring, Red-winged Blackbird has been observed as early as February 6th (1999), although the average return date is March 15th. Generally, males show up first at the Birdfeeder, and then move on to nearby breeding territories. This species breeds every year along the shore at the Point, in the Swamp and on the MAPS Plot at Egret Pond. In the fall this species is a common transient, but unlike the spring, they tend to fly over IPBO, and are rarely banded. The latest fall record for this species is November 8th (1998).

The largest one-day banding total for Red-winged Blackbirds at IPBO is 21 individuals, on May 7, 1988.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)**EAME**

An uncommon migrant and possible breeding species. The earliest spring record for the species is March 28th (1999) with an average spring arrival date of April 6th. This species is a common breeding bird in fields and pastures in the Ottawa area. It has been recorded from time to time in the Field during the breeding season and may nest there. Sightings at the Point are usually of birds flying over or migrants stopping briefly on the grassy area outside the banding shed.

The latest fall record for Eastern Meadowlark is August 24th (1996), which is unusual, since this species can be found in the Ottawa area well into October. The lack of sightings may be due to lack of observer effort in the Field during the fall, where this species is more likely to occur.

Though observed every year, this species has rarely been banded as the mist nets are largely located in wooded areas. Only six Eastern Meadowlarks were banded between 1982 and 2003.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)

RUBL

A rare migrant. This species is a relatively early spring migrant and is not recorded every year. The earliest spring record is April 14th (1983) and they are most often observed in the last week of April and first two weeks of May. Sightings after this point are unusual, but in the cool, damp spring of 2002, when the Ottawa River flooded wooded areas close to shore, Rusty Blackbirds lingered unusually late and were recorded sporadically through the last two weeks of May, with the latest record on May 31st. The previous late date for this species in spring had been May 12th (1983).

Surprisingly, this species has been recorded only once in the fall, with a single bird seen on October 10, 1983 at the Swamp. It is likely that it does occur at IPBO in fall more frequently than this suggests and has simply not been detected due to lack of observer effort.

Only nine Rusty Blackbirds were banded at IPBO between 1982 and 2003. Four birds were banded in 1983, four birds in 1985 and one in 2003, all in the period between May 1st and May 12th.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)

COGR

Common migrant and breeding species. Common Grackle is another early spring migrant, returning, on average, only slightly later than Red-winged Blackbirds. The earliest spring record for this species is February 23rd (1998), with an average spring return date of March 26th. Common Grackle is a usual breeder on the MAPS plot. The latest fall record for this species is November 22nd (2003).

The largest number of Common Grackles banded in one day at IPBO is 11 birds, a total achieved on both May 9, 1992 and May 27, 1995.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

BHCO

A common migrant and breeding species. The earliest spring arrival date for Brown-headed Cowbird is March 24th (1989), with an average spring return date of April 6th. This species occurs regularly on the MAPS plot. It is a brood parasite, laying its eggs in the nests of other songbirds. In the fall it has been observed as late as November 1st (1997), but there are relatively few records after September.

The largest one-day banding total for Brown-headed Cowbird at IPBO is 16 birds on April 10, 1988.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)

OROR

Very rare. There are three records of Orchard Oriole from IPBO. The first record was a second year male bird banded on July 5, 1983. The next record comes from June 10, 1987, when an after second year male was banded. The final record is from May 2001, when a male bird was observed escaping from the Oak Ridge netline.

The Orchard Oriole is a southern species, breeding as close to Ottawa as the Kingston area, but only occasionally straying this far north.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

BAOR

A common summer resident and breeding species. The earliest spring record for this species is May 1st (2004) with an average spring return date of May 10th. This species is a common breeder at the Point and a usual breeder on the MAPS Plot. Records of this species are rare after mid-August, and the latest fall record for Baltimore Oriole at IPBO is September 2nd (1999).

The largest number of Baltimore Orioles banded in a single day at IPBO is 16 individuals on May 22, 1984.

Family Fringillidae: Finches

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

PIGR

Rare in winter, irruptive. It has occurred as early in the fall as October 26th (1985) and as late in the spring as March 15th (1992). All the banding records are from the Birdfeeder. There are sporadic sightings of this species through the 1980's and early 1990's. The first individual banded was caught at the Birdfeeder on October 26, 1985. The majority of the remaining records come from the winter of 1997-1998 when a small flock stayed at the birdfeeder throughout the month of February, with 20 individuals banded over this period. The largest one-day banding total of Pine Grosbeaks of 5 birds comes from this period, on February 14, 1998.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*)

PUFI

Uncommon migrant and breeder, sometimes irruptive in winter. Purple Finch has occurred in every month at IPBO. Their abundance in winter is highly variable. In most winters they are absent, in others a few may be recorded. Occasionally, though, there have been irruptions in late winter and early spring, when sizeable flocks of Purple Finches have frequented the Birdfeeder for several weeks. These irruptions have occurred in 1984-85 (early February to mid-March) 1988-89 (late February to early April), 1992-93 (late March to early April) and 1996-97 (early March to early April).

In years when they are not around in the winter they typically begin to turn up in late March or early April, but usually only in small numbers. Purple Finch is a yearly breeder on the MAPS plot. In the fall, there are relatively few records after the end of October.

The majority of the banding records come from winter irruptions when flocks of Purple Finches frequent the Birdfeeder. The largest one-day total of this species is 72 individuals banded at the Birdfeeder on April 1, 1989.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

HOFI

Rare at IPBO. Although a year-round resident and breeder in the city of Ottawa, House Finch occurs infrequently at IPBO and there is no evidence that it has ever bred. It has been observed as early in the spring as March 20th (1993), as late in the fall as November 8th (1997) and has occurred in every month in between, except October.

About 70% of the records fall between early April and mid-June, although this may simply be an artifact of greater observer effort expended during this period for the Spring Migration Monitoring Program, not reflective of the species actual occurrence at IPBO.

A total of 18 House Finches were banded at IPBO between 1983 and 2003. The largest number banded in a single day is 2 individuals, a total achieved on several occasions in May.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

Rare. White-winged Crossbill has been observed on about a dozen occasions throughout the year, although this species has never been banded and the sightings are usually of birds flying overhead.

Interestingly, although it is observed most often in the Ottawa area during the winter, there are only two winter records at IPBO, both of single birds in the month of December. The month with the most records for IPBO is July, with four sightings including of a flock of 12 on one occasion and a flock of 7 on another. All these July sightings were in the conifers in the MAPS plot. October also has three sightings, but of one or two birds. There are also single records from May, August and September.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*)

CORE

Uncommon in winter, irruptive. Like all the finches, Common Redpoll abundance is highly variable from year to year, but irruptions seem to occur approximately every other winter, much more frequently than those of Purple Finches or Pine Siskins.

In the fall, Common Redpoll has been detected as early as October 11th (1997). In years where they are present, they typically do not show up in large numbers at the Birdfeeder until there is significant snow cover in January. In irruption years large numbers can occur any time from late January to early April, with peak numbers usually occurring in March, before they return to the north to breed. They are usually gone by early to mid-April, but this species has lingered as late as May 4th (1996).

The largest one-day total of Common Redpolls banded at IPBO is 172 individuals on March 26, 1988. The winter of 1987-88 was an exceptional one for redpolls, with 779 Common Redpolls banded. During the peak of irruptions it is not unusual for 50 or more birds to be banded in a single day at the Birdfeeder.

During the winter in the Ottawa area, two subspecies of Common Redpoll can occur. *Carduelis f. flammea* is the most common, but occasionally members of the *C.f. rostrata* race are banded at IPBO. The two races can be identified based on wing measurements, weight and plumage, with *rostrata* being larger and more streaked. There is a range of overlap between the two races, so it is likely that only the larger *rostrata* are being detected. The number of *rostrata* varies from irruption to irruption. In 1987-88, *rostrata* accounted for 8% of the redpolls banded, in 1997-98, they accounted for 5%. In every other irruption year since 1987, from 1 to 6 *rostrata* have been detected.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

HORE

Rare in winter, irruptive. During two recent “redpoll” winters, small numbers of Hoary Redpolls have accompanied the Common Redpolls at Birdfeeder at IPBO. In 1998, a total of 15 Hoary Redpolls were banded between February 7th and March 21st, marking the first time that this species had been detected at IPBO. Again, in 2000, small numbers of Hoary Redpolls accompanied the Common Redpolls at the Birdfeeder, being present between January 29th and March 4th. In 2004, a single Hoary was banded at the Birdfeeder on March 27th.

It is possible that this species had been overlooked in redpoll irruptions previous to 1998, as female Hoary Redpolls can be darker and more streaked than the males and banders may have been overcautious in looking for the “perfect frosty” Hoary. In the hand, bill measurements in combination with plumage provide an excellent means of definitively separating this species from the more numerous Common Redpolls.

The largest number of Hoary Redpolls banded in a single day at IPBO is 4 birds, a total achieved on both February 7 and 21, 2000.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*)

PISI

Uncommon, irruptive. While Pine Siskin has occurred in the fall at IPBO as early as October 6th (1996) and has, on rare occasions, lingered into early summer, as late as June 19th (1991), the greatest numbers have occurred during winter irruptions that have occurred between early February and early May, with peak numbers in March. Such irruptions have occurred in the winters of 1984-85 (late March to early April), 1987-88 (late March to early May), 1988-89 (mid-February to late April) and 1996-97 (mid-March to mid-April).

The largest number of Pine Siskins banded in a single day at IPBO is 167 birds, on March 19, 1989. This month saw several one-day totals in excess of 100, and a total of 639 Pine Siskins were banded in six days of banding activity between the late February and the end of March that year.

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)

AMGO

A common breeding species, uncommon during winter. American Goldfinch is the most commonly observed finch species at IPBO. It is common from March through

November, breeding in open areas of the Field, the Point and on the MAPS plot where it has bred every year.

In the winter months, its abundance varies greatly from year to year and it will often not be observed for weeks at a time at Birdfeeder. Other times a flock may remain for several weeks. These flock tend to be small and do not rival the size of Purple Finches, Common Redpolls or Pine Siskins during an irruption year.

The largest one-day American Goldfinch banding total for IPBO is 53 birds, on November 13, 1999.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)

EVGR

Uncommon, irruptive. Evening Grosbeak has been recorded in every month except September at IPBO. It is far more common in fall, winter and spring, from November through May when flocks of up to thirty birds have been recorded, often frequenting the Birdfeeder. Their winter abundance varies from year to year. In most years at least a few are detected. Throughout the 1980's and early 1990's they were regular at the Birdfeeder in winter. Since then they have occurred less frequently, although there were significant numbers present in the winter of 1997-1998. Sightings from the summer months are infrequent and have tended to be of only one or two birds.

The largest number of Evening Grosbeaks banded in a single day is 39 birds on November 23, 1985.

Family Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

HOSP

Uncommon. Like House Finches, House Sparrows are year round residents in the urban parts of the city of Ottawa. At IPBO they occur infrequently and in small numbers. Generally only one or two are observed at a time, but on occasion, small flocks of up to 10 birds have been recorded. They have been recorded as early as March 4th (1995) and as late as November 8th (1997). There are records from every month in between, but the majority are from April and May, possibly an artifact of more intensive observation during spring migration than at other times of year. In June of 2003, a pair of House Sparrows attempted to nest in one of the empty Purple Martin Houses at the Point.

A total of 18 House Sparrows were banded at IPBO between 1983 and 2003. The largest one-day total is 3 individuals on October 11, 1991.

Notable Gaps in the Checklist

Species known to breed in Ottawa Field-Naturalists 50 kilometer circle that are yet to be recorded at IPBO (10):

- ❑ Common Moorhen,
- ❑ American Coot
- ❑ Sandhill Crane
- ❑ Wilson's Phalarope
- ❑ Short-eared Owl
- ❑ Sedge Wren
- ❑ Marsh Wren
- ❑ Cerulean Warbler
- ❑ Grasshopper Sparrow
- ❑ Red Crossbill

Species known to migrate regularly through the Ottawa Field-Naturalists 50 kilometer circle that are yet to be recorded at IPBO (12):

- ❑ Greater White-fronted Goose
- ❑ Barrow's Goldeneye
- ❑ American Golden-Plover
- ❑ Whimbrel
- ❑ Hudsonian Godwit
- ❑ Sanderling
- ❑ White-rumped Sandpiper
- ❑ Baird's Sandpiper
- ❑ Purple Sandpiper
- ❑ Stilt Sandpiper
- ❑ Red-necked Phalarope
- ❑ Lesser Black-backed Gull