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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2006 Selkirk

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Weatherwise, the beginning part of the season was very hot and humid and dry. September had showery weather with some windy days. In October it stopped showering and just rained, sometimes for days at a time. On the 13th we had enough snow to cover the ground and points east experienced more severe snow. The wet weather made for some really flooded and wet trails. The addition of boardwalks this past summer made possible by a grant from T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation and my son Alex's hard work in building them made for easier walking.

Some compromises were made to my overall protocol because of health concerns. I had a kidney transplant in January, so my strength was just building through the fall season. Some days were missed because of appointments that were unavoidable. In addition, we started later in the season and did not do consistent banding through the summer. My chief assistant Roswitha also had an accident in early September and was unable to help the rest of the season.

We remain a purely volunteer organization made possible only by the dedication of those individuals who are willing to commit at least one day a week to come out and give assistance. Being the only licensed bander remains a difficulty which does not allow for continuation of the program when I am not available. This is a limiting factor which I do not think will be solved without volunteers willing to take on the responsibility required.

We experienced record numbers of Slate-colored Juncos (182) and Swamp Sparrows (89) this year. More noteworthy were the species we did not catch this year—Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Purple Finch, Eastern Towhee, Canada Warbler, and Wood Thrush. American Goldfinches for some reason have shown a steady reduction from 833 in 2000 to 136 this year. Some common species, such as Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, and Brown-headed Cowbird, were in the area but did not come down.

Only two bands were recovered this season. An American Robin, banded on 25 Oct 2004, was recovered near Beamsville, ON, on 4 Apr 2006. A Chipping Sparrow, banded on 21 Apr 2004, was recovered at Oak Lake, ON, 30 Apr 2005.

We had two school classes visit on separate days. One nature club visited and, in addition, we had 43 casual visitors.

Again, I give sincere thanks to the regular volunteers who give one or more days a week to assist. Without permission from Ontario Parks and Mark Custers to conduct scientific studies within the park we would not have such a good location.

Financially, we are supported through grants or donations by Haldimand Bird Observatory, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund of Bird Studies Canada, T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ontario Power Generator and individual contributors.

Selkirk Provincial Park 424-0795

Haldimand-Norfolk Counties, ON

Bander: John Miles

Chief Assistants: Stacey Logan, Al Thrower, Linda Thrower, John Dickie

John Miles' Selkirk Station had its best fall banding season ever. Before he was hospitalized, John sent out his fall 2006 totals and a brief summary of the season. My thanks go to Linda Thrower for supplying additional information about the season for the tables.

There were 15 species where totals tied or surpassed the all-time seasonal high for Selkirk, including Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Lawrence's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Gray Catbird, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and American Robin.

Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801

Bander: Stuart A. Mackenzie 423-0802

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Chief Assistants: Mike D. Boyd, Yousif Attia, John Brett, Audrey Heagy, Hugh McArthur, Fergus Nicoll

LPBO's 47th fall season officially began on 15 Aug at all three field stations. The first official bird was a moulting adult Swainson's Thrush banded at Old