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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Ruthven Park

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Lewiston**431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

Jerald J. Farrell, Bander

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The 2007 fall banding season started on 27 Aug. It had been planned to open the station earlier in August but many things came up to prevent that. The best days for both total numbers and species occurred over the first three days of banding. Hopefully for the fall of 2008 this station will record many more days of banding in the month of August. The station remained open later than in the past but most of the birds had passed through, which resulted in lower numbers of b/100nh.

Overall, the 2007 fall banding season was very good. Weather conditions were good, with no planned banding days having to be canceled.

Five local retraps handled.

Again this year, a banding demonstration was held on the day of the Pheasant Forever Youth Day Event. This is a great experience for the 40 youths and their parents attending and is evaluated by them as being the best of the many events they take part in through the day.

Ruthven Park**425-0795**

Haldimand County, ON

Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret, Banders

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We had a pretty exceptional fall season: our second highest banding total-3530 banded (vs the 3827 in 2005) of 85 species. After September, we thought we would have a new season record. At the end of that month we had banded 1425, well over 400 more than in any previous September. But then the bottom fell out and, although we banded a very respectable 1762 in October, we were nowhere close to the 2694 handled in Oct 2005. On our biggest day (11 Oct) we banded 192.

There were a couple of species we caught in unusually high numbers. Most unusual was the number of American Goldfinches. We normally catch quite a few and they are very common birds in our area, but we just were not prepared for the

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2007 Summary

	Lewiston, NY	Ruthven Park, ON	Rock Point, ON	Long Point, ON	Presque Isle, PA	Powdermill, PA	Bedford Valley, PA	Mt. Nebo, MD	Allegheny Front, WV
First Day/Last Day	8/27-11/2	9/3-11/7	7/23-11/13	8/3-11/15	8/1-10/27	8/1-11/30	8/14-10/23	8/27-10/31	8/11-10/21
Days Operated	14	61	67	103	28	96	28	36	72
No. Nets Used	15	1 to 15	2 to 16	0 to 60	7 to 13	3 to 70	1 to 12	14 to 17	15 to 30
Total Net Hours	932	4,540	4,520	12,557	797	16,764	-	2,723	9,408
% Caught in Traps	0%	2.0%	0%	11.9%	0.0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Lrgst Daily Catch	38 on 8/29	192 on 10/11	212 on 9/10	833 on 10/12	30 on 8/27	379 on 10/16	7 on sev days	55 on 10/17	945 on 9/23
Most Common Best Day	MAWA 18%	AMGO 32%	REVIMAWA 16%	MYWA 26%	GRCA 20%	AMGO 27%	AMGO 71%	WTSP 53%	BTBW 41%
Most Spec. Divrsty	18 on 8/29	30 on 9/10	36 on 9/10	52 on 9/28	13 on 8/27	43 on 9/18	7 on 10/13	18 on 9/8	36 on 9/26
No. Banded 2006	383	2,075	1,954	16,798	0	10,022	73	753	6,784
No. Banded 2007	322	3,530	2,603	15,516	115	8,628	72	1,010	8,053
No. Forms 2006	44	79	71	126	0	109	30	65	86
No. Forms 2007	48	85	81	134	23	113	27	56	85
Birds/100nh 2006	47.1	71.9	93.0	125.1	NA	45.7	0.2	38	87.1
Birds/100nh 2007	34.6	76.1	57.0	123.6	36.8	50.8	0.1	37	85.6
% HY 2006	83%	NA	75%	88%	NA	-	NA	73%	71%
% HY 2007	87%	NA	68%	75%	75%	61%	70%	64%	62%

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2007.

	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Park, ON		Rock Pont, ON		Long Point, ON		Presque Isle, PA	
		%HY				%HY		%HY		%HY
1.	32 MAWA (1)	81%	1280 AMGO (1)	249 AMGO (5)	43%	1917 MYWA (4)	92%	49 GRCA	79%	
2.	26 SWTH (6)	92	245 MYWA (6)	227 GRCA (3)	95	1406 AMGO	36	38 YWAR	72	
3.	23 BCCH (7)	83	207 WTSP (3)	221 WTSP (2)	78	1088 NSWO	75	25 WTSP	88	
4.	23 GRCA (4)	91	162 SCJU (4)	191 RCKI (1)	88	934 RCKI (1)	57	23 SWTH	83	
5.	19 WTSP	84	137 BLPW	120 MAWA (9)	53	729 WTSP (3)	79	16 HETH	88	
6.	18 GCKI	89	134 SOSP (7)	93 REVI	91	611 BLPW (9)	81	13 RCKI	88	
7.	16 HETH (2)	94	116 RCKI (2)	91 YWAR	70	590 GCKI (2)	78	8 ETTI	25	
8.	13 OVEN	92	116 BCCH	81 SOSP (6)	74	556 RBNU	71	8 GCKI	100	
9.	11 NAWA (8)	91	72 AMRO	73 GCKI (8)	56	471 SCJU (5)	78	8 MAWA	88	
10.	10 BTBW (5)	100	55 EWCS	69 BCCH (10)	74	464 BRGR (7)	55	7 GCTH	71	
			55 SWTH					7 NOCA		
								7 VEER		

Table 2 (Cont'd.) Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2007.

	Powdermill, PA		Bedford Valley, PA		Mt. Nebo, MD		Allegheny Front, WV	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	1830 AMGO	45%	19 AMGO	26%	230 WTSP (1)	35%	2109 BTBW (2)	40%
2.	607 WTSP	38	8 GRCA	87	114 INBU	87	1103 BTBW (3)	71
3.	536 SCJU	25	6 COYE	100	103 SOSP (3)	72	574 TEWA (5)	79
4.	432 PUFI	45			81 COYE (5)	79	568 MAWA (10)	61
5.	410 MYWA	78			71 GRCA (2)	86	508 BLPW (1)	54
6.	350 GRCA	80			45 SWSP	87	314 GCKI	89
7.	324 MAWA	60			32 OVEN	63	270 SWTH (6)	66
8.	316 SOSP	56			26 MAWA	54	248 SCJU (4)	60
9.	263 SWSP	53			23 RCKI (6)	80	242 BLBW (7)	59
10.	223 COYE	70			22 EATO (8)	59	184 RCKI (8)	55

1280 we ended up with. This is almost twice as many as any previous fall (the next highest being 678 in 2005). We have no explanation for this. And it just was not our station—my understanding is that banding operations at Prince Edward Point (southwest of Kingston) and at Braddock Bay (west of Rochester) also reported very large numbers of this species.

We also nearly doubled the number of Blackpoll Warblers (137 vs 76 in 2005). Another interesting increase was in the number of Field Spar-

rows. Recently, the National Audubon Society listed this as a bird at some risk as its numbers have declined by 68% in the past 40 years, possibly due to habitat destruction. We banded a record 11, which does not sound like a lot but is about twice as many as our next highest year. Interestingly, we had banded a record 20 in the spring of this year as well. Most were caught in the nets closest to an area of several acres that the Land Trust has taken out of agricultural production and has "let go"; i.e., revert to scrubby successional growth—the habitat type preferred by this species. Here is an

example of how a simple conservation measure has resulted in a direct benefit in conserving a species at some risk.

There was a significant movement of "northern" birds into southern Ontario this fall. Evidently there was a poor food crop in the north this past summer. We took advantage of this movement by banding two new species for the station: Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll.

The season ended on a positive note: the last bird banded (by Loretta Mousseau) was a Northern Shrike, giving us a total of three for the season.

Many thanks to banders Loretta Mousseau and Brian Pomfret and the many volunteers who assisted in numerous ways. Also thanks to the Lower Grand River Land Trust for its support.

Rock Point

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Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON

James A. Smith, Bander

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Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young,
Gisele Mills, Brittany Darragh: Chief Assistants

There was very good coverage this fall season, although still not doing Sunday banding and some days missed for reasons other than weather. This was only my sixth best season of eight in relation to banded birds. We were on summer schedule through July and August, which means closing by 10 am because of the sun on the nets. September and October were back to our normal times. Both months were ideal weather-wise.

Deer were a problem this season, taking the bottom panel out of six of my nets and finally completely destroying one. I resorted to putting up scarecrows on the deer trails leading to my nets. We started out with 16 nets and finished with 15. Habitat was maintained by cutting back some of the bushes near the nets to bring them down to former heights.

Highlights take the form of any bird that you are not normally banding a lot of: a White-eyed Vireo was only the second banded in the fall, Northern Shrike only the third ever banded, and two Great Crested Flycatchers were both HY birds. Anything northern like Purple Finch or siskin is a treat,

Oct. - Dec. 2008

although their numbers were well below those experienced in 2001. House Finch numbers were really low with only six banded. Other species that were low were Yellow Warbler, Western Palm Warbler, and both kinglets. We had a record high number of Black-throated Blue Warblers, with 46 banded.

Returns showed 24 banded previous to 2005 and the majority, of course, from 2007. The earlier birds were mostly Black-capped Chickadees. I have one record in for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, which does not have information at this point. I have had no foreign recoveries reported to me during this season.

We continue to collect tail feathers for species specified by Bird Studies Canada to determine breeding areas based on stable isotopes. Trend analysis has been done for Rock Point and other Migration Monitoring Stations and is available on the Bird Studies Canada web page:

www.bsc-eoc.org/volunteer/cmmn/index.jsp?targetpg=trends&lang=EN

Daily updates of banding with many bird pictures can be found at:

www.geocities.com/rockpointbanding/

The Harrier is a bi-annual publication that gives information on all Haldimand stations.

Volunteer effort has to be acknowledged as well as permission from Ontario Parks to conduct scientific research within Rock Point Provincial Park. Individual donations and grants from such sources as T.D. Friends of the Environment enable us to do the extra needed to maintain the station; and Bird Studies Canada for the scientific expertise and ability to analyse trends and other data.

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Fergus Nicoll, Chief Assistant

The return of thousands of breeding birds and their progeny was eagerly anticipated as we entered our 48th fall season. Migrating Yellow Warblers and dispersing Gray Catbirds dominated the first few