

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Rock Point

James A. Smith

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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

425-0793

Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON

James A. Smith, Bander

benavis@sympatio.ca

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,

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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.

Long Point Bird Observatory

423-0800

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON

423-0801

S. Mackenzie, Yousif Attia, Banders

423-0802

lpbo@bsc~eoc.org

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