

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Presque Isle State Park

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migrants. During the week following 12 Oct, 2645 birds of 60 species were banded. Among these was a HY male Townsend's Solitaire, which magically appeared at the Tip cabin on the 18th. It was captured later that day and remained in the area until the 26th.

Migration ground to a halt when an intense low pressure system swept north from Texas on the 20th. This system carried with it two Cave Swallows, which were observed at the Tip that day. Another individual was observed struggling past the Tip on 1 Nov. Two more were observed at BSC headquarters on the 6th, and seven were seen at the Tip on the 7th.

American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwings were the most numerous diurnal migrants in late October. Flying over the Tip on the 20th were 130 Eastern Bluebirds, upwards of 500 waxwings were counted on the 22nd, and 660 American Robins migrated past Old Cut on the 25th. Many Hermit Thrushes and the usual mix of sparrows persisted through October. There was, however, a noticeable absence of Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree Sparrows until the end of the season. Early on 2 Nov a young female Western Tanager, Long Point's second, was discovered in the Old Cut woodlot. This secretive bird fed on an abundant supply of grapes and skulked about the area until the 7th, but was never captured.

Moderate northwest winds blew on the night of 27 Oct and continued throughout the 28th. At dawn, a Barn Owl was flushed from its roost near the Tip. The bird flew along the south ridge, harassed by Sharp-shinned Hawks that were already active. Accipiter activity continued throughout the morning, and by 10 am, Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, and eagles peppered the sky. Nineteen Bald and 16 Golden eagles circled high above the Tip and headed directly south across Lake Erie toward Pennsylvania. Early that afternoon, one hawk net entangled three red-tails and one Northern Goshawk at the same time, though the goshawk and one red-tail managed to escape.

As October wound down and November began, blackbirds flying over Old Cut numbered close to one million. Rusty Blackbirds were frequently found

among these massive flocks. A Brewer's Blackbird was observed at the Tip on 6 and 7 Nov. A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at the Old Cut feeders 17 to 29 Sep. A possibly different individual was observed there on 29 Oct.

Almost every irruptive species pushed south in Ontario this fall. It began in early August when Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches and American Goldfinches began appearing in high numbers. Record numbers of goldfinch and both nuthatch species were banded. The 109 Purple Finches banded was second only to the 262 banded during an irruption in 1985.

In October, we started to notice higher than average numbers of Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls. Seven White-winged Crossbills were observed at Old Cut on the 3rd, and 13 Evening Grosbeaks flew over on the 7th. The first Pine Grosbeak landed briefly at the Tip on the 8th, followed by another three at Old Cut on the 16th. Bohemian Waxwings started to appear about the same time, with the first bird at the Tip on the 13th and three at Old Cut on the 16th.

In fall 2007, 27 volunteer field biologists from seven countries logged over 6800 field hours, collecting migration data on 269 species and banding 15,516 birds of 134 species and forms. This compares to 13,103 birds banded of 126 species in fall 2006. There were 103 days of coverage yielding 12,557 net hours with a catch rate of 123.6 b/100nh (versus 123 in 2006). Twenty-one volunteer 'Friends of LPBO' greeted over 1500 visitors and students of all ages, who enjoyed banding demonstrations and the fall migration at the Old Cut field station. A sincere thank you goes out to all the volunteers and supporters who made this demanding fall season so successful.

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Erie, PA

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This fall represents a reopening of banding at Presque Isle following the retirement of Ron Leberman. Operating just three days a week, we netted in approximately the same net lanes used

by Ron in previous years. We had a number of visitors and also some regular volunteers. The vegetation here is part mature forest and part edges near the bay.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

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Report for 2006:

Powdermill Nature Reserve's Bird Banding Program, located on the 2,200-ac biological field station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, completed its 45th consecutive fall migration banding season in 2006. We banded 10,022 birds this season, the third highest fall total in the history of the program, in 21,940 net hours. The overall capture rate for this fall (45.7 b/100nh) was above the long-term average of 42 b/100nh.

We banded 100 or more birds on 37 days this season. On 6 Oct, 890 birds were banded, breaking the previous record of 621 birds set more than 40 years ago on 16 Oct 1965. Historically, all of our big banding days have occurred in the last two weeks of October, so it was certainly an unexpected event for 6 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet made up 40% of the day's catch with 352 banded, more than doubling the previous high total for this species. This extraordinary amount of effort was due in large part to the dedication of our visiting ringing/banding team (Prof. David Norman, Scott Kennedy, Chris Benson, and Deb Plotts), who kept the station running full time, along with senior bird bander emeritus Bob Leberman, while the rest of PARC staff and interns attended the IV North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz, Mexico. In November, 1506 birds were banded, which was the second highest November total in the history of the program. We banded 107 species of birds this season with the highest total (47) occurring on 6 Oct.

Forty-seven species were one or more SD above average in terms of raw banding totals and only five were below (Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush). Ten species equalled or surpassed previous high fall totals: American Redstart (230 vs 222 in 1996), Blue-headed Vireo (86 vs 74 in 2004), Black-throated Blue Warbler (119 vs 101 in 2004), Chestnut-sided Warbler (106 vs 101 in 2004), Golden-crowned Kinglet (279 vs 119 in 1967), Nashville Warbler (109 vs 101 in 1974), Pine Warbler (2; tied with 1972), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1007 vs 441 in 1967), Swamp Sparrow (296 vs 294 in 1984), and Winter Wren (87 vs 71 in 2005).

Highlights for this season include species that are often missed in the fall such as Orchard Oriole, Lawrence's Warbler, Pine Warbler (all were only our tenth ever banded in the fall), Golden-winged Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler. A Blue-winged Teal was the first duck to be caught and banded at Powdermill in three years. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were captured including the first foreign recovery ever for this species in Pennsylvania which we captured on 22 Nov in McDonald, PA. This adult female was originally banded in Diamondhead, MS, on 25 Jan 2006 by Mark Myers.

We thank many visiting bander friends and colleagues, interns, and volunteers for their help this season. For regular help with banding, we thank Pam Ferkett, Kristin Sesser, Mary Shidel, Lauren Schneider, and Dean Thompson. We also enjoyed visits and help from fellow banders, Powdermill staffers, and other volunteers: Tom Anderson, Erin Estell, Bobbie Franks, Kris Jerrell, Todd Katzner, Carol Leppold, Cokie Lindsay, Andrew McGann, Trish Miller, Deb Plotts, Joe Schreiber, and Jessica Scopel. We are also grateful to our bander development workshop participants for their help and participation: Keith McKenrick, Bill Clark, Mary Alice Koeneke, Janet Creamer.

We were happy to host Giorgi Darchiashvili, a biologist from the Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife, for two weeks in September. Todd Katzner, who is the Director of Conservation and Field Research at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, and who has worked with