

2009

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2008 Rock Point Banding Station

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### Recommended Citation

Smith, James A. (2009) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2008 Rock Point Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 34 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol34/iss1/9>

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support. Ruthven Park staff, Marilyn Havelka (CAO) and Linda Jackson have been great to work with (especially when they bring tea and goodies). Haldimand Bird Observatory, of which Ruthven is a part, has received support from the Baillie Birdathon Fund, administered through Bird Studies Canada, Ontario Power Generation and the Observatory's friends and members. We also thank Pat Chow-Fraser from McMaster University's Biodiversity Program for her involvement (and that of her students).

#### ***Volunteer Effort:***

Thanks to all that made this such a successful (and fun!) season:

**28+ days** Rick Ludkin, Brian Pomfret

**14 – 20 days** Loretta Mousseau

**7 – 13 days** Matt Searles, Peter Thoem, Gwenn French

**4 – 6 days** Mitch Beck, Elaine Serena, Faye Socholotiuk, Cheryl-Anne Miller, Phil Alaimo, Jeff MacLeod (this does not include the enormous amount of time Jeff has put into developing and running the blog—check out: <http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog>)

**1 - 3 days** Marg Ludkin, Daphne Payne, Jackie McInnes, Revven Martin, Shirley Klement, Richard Joos, Margaret Troy, Michelle Kenny, Rhiannon Leshyk, Beth & Jean Leishman, Norm Pomfret, Margaret Heslin, Mike Alkema

#### **Rock Point Banding Station 420-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand/Norfolk County, On.

**James A. Smith**, Bander

[benavis@sympatico.ca](mailto:benavis@sympatico.ca)

[www.geocities.com/rockpointbanding/](http://www.geocities.com/rockpointbanding/)

Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young, Ken Perry: Chief Assistants

On the whole this was a cool spring with winter coat and heater on early mornings well into May. We used the same equipment as in previous years with nets in double configurations and remaining in the same position as previous years. This year showed the lowest catch rate of 37 b/100nh in the seven years that spring banding has been carried out at Rock Point. In contrast, it was the second highest

number of species caught with 15 of the 84 species being represented by only one bird. The number of warblers caught this spring represents the second worst total in seven years. So on the whole, not such a good spring.

<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
1. White-throated Sparrow	224	66	33	1
2. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	139	53.2	44.6	2.2
3. Gray Catbird	108	72.2	26.8	1
4. Yellow Warbler	107	63.6	35.5	.9
5. Slate-colored Junco	90	52.2	42.2	5.6
6. American Goldfinch	75	64	34.6	1.4
7. Song Sparrow	60	68.3	28.3	3.4
8. Swamp Sparrow	59	67.8	27.1	5.1
9. Magnolia Warbler	55	58.2	40	1.8
10. Red-winged Blackbird	53	60.4	37.7	1.9

Some returns of note were two Blue Jays banded in 2000; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, and Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2002; and two Yellow Warblers and two Gray Catbirds banded in 2003. We had 242 returns this year. Two possible foreign returns were caught with information still pending. Recoveries showed only one Brown-headed Cowbird first banded in 2004 and recovered only 15 km from the banding station.

We continued with a co-operative study involving feather collection for isotope studies. Unfortunately, we contributed only one sample since Tennessee Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler were being targeted and neither is plentiful in the spring at Rock Point.

Visitors are still welcome at Rock Point and we were fortunate in having Ken Perry with us for a week in May. Ken is from Ireland and thoroughly enjoyed our variety of birds. A group of guys from England looked us up as they continued their bird tour along Lake Erie. They had found us through our web at <http://www.geocities.com/rockpointbanding/>

A grant from T.D. Friends of the Environment enabled us to buy a dedicated computer for entering data, a new roof for the banding shed, additional boardwalk, solar panels, paint, and a hydro hookup for a new trailer. We are very grateful for this grant.

Thanks to:

Ontario Parks for continued permission to conduct scientific research in the park and for the use of washroom facilities all year. Bird Studies Canada for scientific expertise and analytical analysis. Canadian Migration Monitoring Network T.D. Friends of the Environment. All the volunteers who make it possible to continue at Rock Point.

#### **Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703**

Appledore Island, York County, ME

**Sara Morris**, Compiler; **David Bonter**, **Kristen Covino**, **Anthony Hill**, **David Holmes**, **Sara Morris**, **Becky Suomala**, **Mary Wright**, Banders  
morriiss@canisius.edu

Marygrace Barber, Amber Bratcher, Peggy Buckley, Liz Burton, Bill Clark, Margaret Hahn, Lindsay Herlihy, Tracy Holmes, Karen Mitchell, Charlotte Ott, Jeff Ott, Carlene Riccelli, Martha Stauffer, Brynne Stumpe, Amanda: Chief Assistants

Spring 2008 was an average season for our station. Our total number of birds banded was 2462, which was very close to our 16-year average of 2592. The 74 species we captured was exactly our average of 74.1 species. Even our 3404 net-hours were close to our average of 3492. The capture data for individual species indicated that there were no species that were significantly above or below their normal levels.

	<u>Species</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>
1.	Common Yellowthroat	457	71.8	14.9
2.	Magnolia Warbler	313	67.4	28.1
3.	White-throated Sparrow	228	97.4	0.0
4.	American Redstart	173	69.4	24.9
5.	Red-eyed Vireo	99	15.2	6.1
6.	Black-and-white Warbler	98	68.4	26.5
7.	Northern Parula	96	67.7	29.2
8.	Gray Catbird	90	71.1	15.6
9.	Blackpoll Warbler	86	66.3	24.4
10.	Northern Waterthrush	62	24.2	61.3

While the season was better than some of the recent slower years (e.g., 2005, 2006), it brought little excitement. Part of that was due to only a few "big days." Our highest day was 247 (26 May), which was

the only day with over 200 captures. In fact, we had only nine days with over 100 captures, and we have come to expect a few more busy days in the spring. We did not lose any complete days to weather, although high winds and rain resulted in several days with fewer net hours than normal.

Although we did not capture any new species for the station, volunteers were pleased with a number of relatively unusual species: two Black-billed Cuckoos, one Hairy Woodpecker, one Red-bellied Woodpecker, four Cape May Warblers, one Pine Siskin, and one Purple Finch. We also saw Common Ravens on the island early in the season.

Kristen Covino continued her research on the effects of energetic condition on migratory decisions by migrant landbirds for her graduate work at the University of Maine. The banding station hosted visitors, adult education students, and students taking classes at the Shoals Marine Lab. We were particularly pleased to host students from David Bonter's Field Ornithology class. The station could not continue without the continued logistic and financial assistance from the Shoals Marine Lab. We also are very grateful for the contributions of our dedicated volunteers and Canisius College.

#### **Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800, 423-0801, 423-0802**

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, On.

**Yousif S. Attia and Stuart A. Mackenzie**, Banders  
lpbo@bsc-eoc.org

Hugh McArthur, Jody Allair: Chief Assistants

This was Long Point Bird Observatory's 48th spring migration monitoring program. The Old Cut field station opened on 1 Apr, with the Tip following on 29 Apr, and Breakwater on the 25th. Unpredictable weather conditions left many wondering when spring would arrive. Old Cut was overrun with the first wave of migrants on 7 Apr, including both kinglets; Brown Creepers; American Tree, Song, and Fox sparrows; Dark-eyed Juncos; and four blackbird species. A milestone was