

2011

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2010 Rock Point Banding Station

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coverage and help. Each day we opened with great expectations – which were never realized! On our “biggest day” (15 May) we banded only 70 birds. We were expecting to get large numbers (“fallout”) on the days of inclement weather but this did not happen.

On a positive note, the number of species banded, 87, was the second highest on record. We banded record high numbers of the following: 33 Mourning Doves (due to the increased use of Potter traps); two Northern Rough-winged Swallows (they breed along the river but are rarely encountered by the nets); 20 Blue-winged Warblers (we had no Golden-wings or Brewster’s/Lawrence’s – the Golden-wing gene pool has been swamped); 10 Black-and-white Warblers.

As well as banding, we keep a daily total of the number of birds of each species seen/encountered that day. Overall, we encountered 139 species/hybrids.

The station was very busy this year not only with banding but also with the incorporation of the banding program into the educational efforts of the historic site. We hosted classes of school children on 18 mornings! Thank goodness we had so many helping hands/eyes. Thanks to everyone who helped out!!

**>7 weeks:** Rick Ludkin

**4-5 weeks:** Nancy Furber

**2-3 weeks:** Loretta Mousseau,

Christine Madliger, Chris Harris

**1-2 weeks:** Gord Armstrong, Dale Stockton

**4-6 days:** Faye Socholotiuk, Peter Thoem,

Audrey Heagy, David Brewer,

Maggie Ker, Oliver Love,

Christie Macdonald

**1-3 days:** Elaine Serena, Shirley Klement, Louise Unitt, Jeff MacLeod, Elisabeth Van Stam, Carol Jones, Tim Furber, Cindy Cartwright, Liz Vanderwoude, Rhiannon Leshyk, Brianne Guisso, Christina Kovacs, Chris McIntosh, Joyce Litster, Margaret and Dianne.

Jeff MacLeod has continued to do a lot of work “behind the scenes”—overseeing our blog: <http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog>

Oct - Dec 2011

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust and especially the staff of Ruthven Park for their wonderful support. This project was supported financially by the Land Trust and by Bird Studies Canada with funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon.

**Rock Point Banding Station 420-0793**

Dunnville, Haldimand/Norfolk County, ON

**James A. Smith, Bander**

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

Web page: <http://www.rockpointbirdbanding.com>

Chief Assistant(s): Roswitha Matuschek, Gavin Bennett, Sashi Schott.

This season is best characterized by high-effort coverage and low banding results. We never did realize what we hoped for in really good days. We did, however, pick up three new species for this site: a Yellow-throated Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler and Prairie Warbler. Two White-eyed Vireos were also banded and, although not new, they are not common. It is those occasional jewels that make up for the lack of White-throated Sparrows and other more common species.

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
106	White-throated Sparrow	81	15	4
98	Gray Catbird	95	13	2
89	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	62	37	1
71	Yellow Warbler	86	13	1
59	Red-winged Blackbird	53	47	0
58	Slate-colored Junco	74	24	2
46	Magnolia Warbler	65	33	2
38	Common Grackle	63	32	5
36	Common Yellowthroat	56	38	6
34	Trail's Flycatcher	62	24	14

Weather in this region was not a detrimental feature, although storms in the south central states were speculated to have sent the birds on a more westerly migration pattern missing the Great Lakes. I am not sure of this and hope that nothing more sinister moved the birds west. I am very curious to see what the migration of fall 2010 will show.

We had two foreign retraps: A Slate-colored Junco first banded in Sep 2009 by Scott Stoleson, Warren County, PA, was caught by us on 3 and 5 Apr 2010. A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded in Ohio on 13 May 2009 and caught by us on 21 May 2010.

Some of our birds were recovered: a Yellow Warbler banded 20 Jul 2009 and caught 31 Jul 2009 one mile from Clarion, Clarion County, PA, by Mark Hawthorn. A Yellow-shafted Flicker recovered four times between 2 Feb and 7 Mar 2010 by Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory three miles east of Chestertown, Kent County, MD; this bird was banded by us on 16 Sep 2008. A Myrtle Warbler banded 10 Oct 2009 and recovered 5 Jun 2010 at Washago, ON, by Janet Meadus. An American Robin banded 22 Oct 2009 and recovered 15 Jun 2010 at Cayuga, ON, by Charles Whidden.

We re-trapped 327 of our own birds with a Blue Jay from 2001; Red-winged Blackbird from 2002; three chickadees, a Yellow Warbler, and an American Robin from 2004; a Red-winged Blackbird from 2005; and Gray Catbird from 2006. The remaining birds were 28 from 2007, 52 birds from 2008, 123 birds from 2009, and only 115 from this year.

After the vandalism of last fall, we replaced most of the windows in the banding lab. This has given us more light but also necessitated us putting up removable protective covers. Other tools and materials also had to be replaced.

Thanks to:

**Ontario Parks** for continued permission to conduct scientific research in the park. 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**

**Ontario Trillium Foundation**

**All the volunteers** (15) who make it possible to continue at Rock Point.

Banding Data updated daily at:

<http://www.rockpointbanding.com>

## 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**  
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Spring 2010 was relatively disappointing on Appledore. Our total of 1,905 birds was the third lowest total since 1990, when we expanded the spring banding season. During spring 1990, we captured only 1,445 birds, but that also reflects fewer nets and only 1,777 net-hours. During spring 2006, we captured 1,722 birds, but that year had many fewer net hours. Even more distressing was that the number of species captured (61, compared to our average of 72) and the number of birds captured/100 net hours (58 compared to our average of 76.8) were the lowest recorded since 1990. The daily number of captures was likewise disappointing. Only two dates yielded more than 200 birds, and only five others yielded more than 100 birds and those totals were all below 150 birds. We did lose two full days and most of a third to weather, which is typical for the spring.

None of the species captured were outside their normal range, although this also reflects the variation in the number of birds captured among years. However, a number of species were well below their means, including several common migrants. Some of the most notable were Eastern Wood-Pewee (2010: 18; average:  $29 \pm 13$ ), Least

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
410	Common Yellowthroat	71.7	15.9	11.7
329	Magnolia Warbler	78.7	13.4	3.7
227	American Redstart	76.7	18.1	5.3
99	Gray Catbird	75.8	14.1	10.1
86	Blackpoll Warbler	74.4	15.1	10.5
78	Northern Parula	75.6	18	6.4
63	Red-eyed Vireo	17.5	7.9	74.6
54	Canada Warbler	55.6	13	31.5
43	Black-thr.-Blue Warbler	88.7	7	4.7
39	Ovenbird	51.3	28.2	20.5