

2011

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2010 Ruthven Park

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**Lewiston****431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**

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The fall 2010 banding season started on 6 Sep. Starting this late proved to be a bad decision. In total, 75 birds were handled on this date, including 13 warbler species. Banding should have started much earlier but the weather had not been good, with some temperatures in the high 80s. The 6 Sep date proved to be the best day for the fall banding season. The season ended on 18 Oct.

The very noticeable plus was in the thrush species. Increases were noticed in all species, with Hermit Thrush being the top bird handled with a total of 43.

As is usual in the fall, there were a few scheduled banding days lost because of wind, rain or both. There were only two local retraps.

There were six visitors to the station this fall, one of whom repeated four times and has become a big help to me when he is around. This fall completed the 35<sup>th</sup> year of continuing spring and fall banding at the Lewiston Station.

**Ruthven Park****425-0795**

Haldimand County, ON

**Banders: Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret**

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The season began on 1 Sep and ended on 7 Nov. We banded on every day except three, missing those days only because of very nasty weather. Our effort was punctuated by many records and firsts (most of which are posted on the blog entry for 7 Nov: (<http://www.ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog>). Some of these achievements are real and some can just be "explained away."

Probably the thing that stands out the most is the number of birds banded—4,763. This is 936 birds more than our previous high of 3,827 achieved in

2005. This is probably not an indication of there being more birds around as we cleared three new net lanes in which we put five new nets. These nets captured 834 birds or 89% of the increase. Further, our net hours, 7,224 (vs previous high of 5,676), because of the increased net number and the amount of time we were able to put into it (ahh...retirement) probably explains the rest. So, in other words, the increase was likely due to the increased number of nets and increased effort using them. However, there are some increases that cannot be explained by this:

- We banded 193 Blackpoll Warblers; this represents a 41% increase over our previous high (137).
- 422 Cedar Waxwings; 213% increase (135).
- 532 White-throated Sparrows; 63% increase (326).
- 87 Rusty Blackbirds (a species of special concern); 181% increase (31).

Blackpoll Warblers are primarily insectivores, so I cannot explain their increase other than that they had a really good breeding season or....we were just lucky (probably the latter). The other three species were probably attracted to the very good berry/fruit crop we had this year. The increase in net numbers probably contributed to the White-throated Sparrow increase as we caught significant numbers of them in the four new nets close to the river, but the waxwings and blackbirds were caught in all of the nets that were associated with patches of fruit—especially dogwood berries.

September was an incredible month for warblers at Ruthven: on average, warblers made up 37% of each day's banding total and on 8 Sep they made up 79% of the 71 birds banded!

**Banding Effort: 10 weeks: Rick Ludkin; 9-10 weeks: Nancy Furber; 2-3 weeks: Loretta Mousseau; 1-2 weeks: Faye Socholotiuk, Mike Furber, Christine Madliger, Chris Harris, Eric Bauer; 4-6 days: Peter Scholtens (and family), Liz Vanderwoude, Maggie Ker, Bill Read, Peter Thoem, Husak family, Elaine Serena; 1-3 days: Marg**

Ludkin, Gord Armstrong, Phil Alaimo, Rose-Marie Scholtz, Audrey Heagy, Oliver Love, Holly Anderson, Darryl Edwards, Marylene Boulet, Ruth Kinzie, David Brewer, Margaret Troy, Shirley Klement.

### **Rock Point**

**425-0793**

Haldimand County, ON

**Bander: James A. Smith**

benavis@sympatio.ca

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

Chief Assistant: Roswitha Matuschek

After what I considered a really poor spring and more than I wondering where the birds had gone, we were rewarded by the second best fall that we have had in 11 years.

We had excellent coverage and our number of net hours were up a bit from last year. With 58 b/100nh, the year stands at third from the bottom. For the past few years, with the exception of 2008 (46 b/100nh), this statistic has remained around the low to high 50s. It is certainly nothing like 2001 with 92 b/100nh.

Coverage was provided by my local volunteers plus three volunteers from Canada, Cornelia Harries from Germany, Alan Rutherford from Scotland, Lucy Brooks-Marchant from England, and Orla O'Brian from the U.S.A.

My local volunteers were Roswitha Matuschek, Kim Chritoff, Rick Young, Dora Young, and Jason Lymburner. Other volunteers would drop in and help for a day or so. Rock Point is a purely volunteer banding station.

Our nets remain in the same location as former years, with eight net locations holding two nets and one location holding an extra 6-m net. We band five or six hours a day with some days going a bit later. Where birds are caught is recorded so we know what nets produce and which are only moderate. We tried a little lure trapping this year and managed to encourage Bobolink and Eastern Bluebird to come

down and get a band. A few Rusty Blackbirds were also attracted but later we caught more without the use of a tape. A Great Horned Owl found in my pigeon coop was banded. (My pigeons are not for hawk bait, nor owls either for that matter!) Luckily, after taking some very poor pictures, we caught him in a hand net that I had around. Since he presented with his feet up and out of the net, we had little trouble getting a band on him.

Species represented by only one individual were: Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, House Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Connecticut Warbler. We had 17 species banded in record numbers for Rock Point.

Recaptures involved 725 captures of which 644 were captured only once. One Black-capped Chickadee was recaptured 25 times in this fall period. We were happy to see our old pair of Blue Jays which were banded in 2000. A Yellow Warbler banded in 2002 returned. A chickadee and House Finch were banded in 2004, and two Yellow Warblers and a Song Sparrow were banded in 2005. The remainder of recaptures were from 2007 with 5; from 2008 were 21; 2009 were 90, and the remainder from 2010.

We had no foreign recaptures.

We had three recoveries of our own birds: European Starling banded 20 Oct 2009 and recovered within 5 km on 30 Sep 2010; American Robin banded 22 Oct 2009 and recovered within 30 km on 15 Jun 2010; Ruby-crowned Kinglet banded 2 May 2008 and found near Toronto (150 km) on 6 May 2010.

We are appreciative of Parks Ontario for continued support in allowing us to remain in Rock Point Provincial Park. Individual donations and corporate monetary support helps us continue; Bird Studies Canada in analyzing long term trends; Niagara Falls Nature Club for monetary support; my individual volunteers who make the slow mornings great and the really busy mornings possible.