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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2011 Rock Point

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Elaine Serena, Joanne Fleet, Ben Oldfield, Stephanie Oldfield, Ralph Beaumont, Rosemary Beaumont; 1-3 days: Rita Bauer, Oliver Love, Anne Klaus, Lynda Mackiewicz, Jim Mackiewicz, Ezra Campanelli, Giovanni Campanelli, Lukian Husak, Zukhar Husak, Igor Husak, Bronwenn Tregunno, Lorraine Feenstra, Daniel Gough, Doris Southwell, Christie Macdonald, Birha Zuberi, Kara-Anne Ward, Sarah Parker, Holly Hennin, Sarah Baldo, Bill McCreadie, Sue McCreadie, Rob Mueller, Angie McAloney, Gabrielle Leiher, Charlene Edwards, Bill Read, James Furber, Marg Ludkin, Lyndsay Smith, Mike Alkema, Natalie Campbell.

Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793

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Roswitha Matuschek, Kim Christoff, Jason Lymburner, Chief Assistants

As in former years, we continue to be a purely volunteer based station. We had 12 local volunteers and two distance volunteers. They were Pierre-Alexander Dumas from Sherbrook, Quebec, and Robin Taxier from Ohio.

We started out by banding some nestling Tree Swallows at the beginning of July. Heat and thunderstorms meant we lost some days. We ended up with 61b/100nh for July. Of 210 birds banded that month, 71 were Yellow Warblers.

During August we continued with summer banding hours from dawn until around 10 and ended up with 580 birds. We banded on only 18 out of a possible 27 days. This gave us 50 b/100nh. Days were lost to personal business.

September returned us to normal banding hours from dawn until 6 hours later. We banded 21 out of 26 days, ending up with 1,044 birds and 62 b/100nh. Tennessee, Magnolia, Nashville, Wilson's, and Bay-breasted warblers showed high numbers in comparison to other years. A Prairie Warbler and Pine Warbler were rare for our station.

September saw 21 out of 26 banding days and 1,230 birds banded, giving us 68 b/100nhs. We had quite a few showers through this month, giving us soaked and muddy net lanes. We had three days with over 100 birds.

We banded only a few days in November with 125 birds banded. Five Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded. Only one Wood Thrush and one Western Palm Warbler were banded during this season, which was unusual.

We had 610 recaptured birds with 534 being banded in 2011.

A Black-throated Green Warbler banded at Rock Point on 12 Oct was found dead in Atlanta, Georgia, by Betsy Brandes on 3 Nov. A recurring catch for James Gruber from Maryland is a Yellow-shafted Flicker, first banded at Rock Point on 16 Sep 2008.

A Mourning Dove first banded at Rock Point 28 Jul 2007 was found dead at Port Rowan, Ontario, by Rebeca Fetherly on 29 Jul 2008. We caught a Hermit Thrush from Cabot Head Bird Observatory on the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario. An American Goldfinch was caught after being banded by our Ruthven station.

We submit data to Bird Studies Canada as part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. This past year a trend analysis was generated with most species showing a downward trend. These trends, taken in conjunction with other Canadian Migration Monitoring Network stations, take on significance towards planned conservation effort in Canada.

We are thankful for grants given to us from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, The Baillie Fund, and Niagara Falls Nature Club. We continue to be thankful for the ability to conduct research within Rock Point Provincial Park given to us by Ontario Parks. Individual donations given in cash, material and time are also acknowledged.