

2013

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2012 Rock Point

James A. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Smith, James A. (2013) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2012 Rock Point," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 38 : Iss. 4 , Article 22.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol38/iss4/22>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

Lewiston**431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

Jerald J. Farrell, Bander

jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

The 2012 fall banding season started on 25 Jun when the Purple Martin nesting boxes were lowered for the banding of the young. This brings the five-year-total of Purple Martin young (L) banded to 304. At the present time, we have two groups of gourds totaling 24 nesting boxes.

The mist netting was done on 12 days starting on 28 Aug and ending on 22 Oct, with a total of 329 birds banded of 40 species. There were four local retraps (one catbird and three Black-capped Chickadees). The weather this fall was very good and all planned banding days were conducted without any problems.

Again this year we had groups of 10-12 attend the Purple Martin banding, with many children attending. There were six different people that observed the mist netting, handling, and banding of birds.

Ruthven Park**425-0795**

Haldimand County, ON

Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret, Bander

rludkin@hotmail.com

In many ways 2013 was an exceptional year: most birds banded in the fall (5,195 vs 4,763 in 2010); most species banded (92 including our first Merlin and second Yellow-breasted Chat and Hooded Warbler); record September (1,980); and a record November (507).

There are a couple of factors that impacted these numbers. Probably the main one is that we have ramped up the number of nets we use—the 25 nets now in use will be the norm going forward. I have been able to do this as retirement has given me more time (I do not have to close in a rush and hurry off to work) and, for a long time, I have wanted to get a sense of what birds use our Butterfly

Meadow, a five-acre plot that is being maintained as habitat for butterflies. To do this, I ran a five-net chain across it and ran the chain for 13 days (it is very susceptible to winds). We caught 314 birds of 34 species, including the majority of Orange-crowned and Western Palm warblers.

Another factor was an irruption of northern birds. We banded record numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches (19), Pine Siskins (216), and even six Evening Grosbeaks (It was only the second time we have encountered them in 19 years of operation).

But the biggest factor was the 1,316 American Goldfinches we banded—1,316, more than 2 SD's above the mean going back to 1999. I have no idea why it was such a good year for this species.

Interestingly, our season record would have been much higher if we had had a good wild grape crop. For the past two falls we have banded an average of more than 500 Cedar Waxwings. But this year, we had NO wild grapes due to weather anomalies in the spring and our Cedar Waxwing number “plunged” to 196.

This banding program could not get by without the massive effort of its associated volunteers: 40 people put in 1,561 hours to help us do the work. Thanks to them all!!

We would also like to thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust (Ruthven Park) and the Haldimand Bird Observatory for their ongoing support.

Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793

Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON

James A. Smith, Bander

benavis@sympatio.ca

Web Site: www.rockpointbirdbanding.com

Kim Christoff, Roswitha Matuschek, Jason Lymburner, Chief Assistants

Number wise, this was our second best fall season in 13 years. We continue to encourage volunteers from distant parts and this fall we welcomed Erin Moffatt from Kitchener, Kate Channel from British

Columbia, and Julia Hedges from England. Kate particularly was involved in banding Northern Saw-whet Owls, with 56 owls banded. Distance volunteers help our more local volunteers, numbering 20 individuals. We continue to be a purely volunteer organization.

We lost 12 days to weather. In some cases, interpreting the weather forecast correctly and in others, wasting a reasonably good day based on the weather forecast.

We were very surprised by the number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets we banded. They were present from September right through until the first week in November.

Other noteworthy species were:

Northern Shrike - only the fourth banded.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - two for this season, making them the 10th and 11th since we started.

White-winged Crossbill with small flocks present at the end of the season but only one banded.

American Goldfinch, our second lowest totals.

Pine Siskin—another northern bird with numbers up this year.

American Tree Sparrow with numbers also up from most years.

Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Canada Warbler, Veery, Brown Creeper and Carolina Wren, with second highest totals ever.

Northern Waterthrush, an early migrant, was in very low numbers for this season.

Marsh Wren, with one. This was our eighth banding.

Tufted Titmouse, with two caught, making them eighth and ninth.

**Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) 423-0800
423-0801**

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON **423-0802**
Matt Slaymaker, Ana Gonzalez, Stu Mackenzie,
Banders

email address: lbpo@birdscanada.org

Chief Assistant: Hugh McArthur

LPBO's 53rd fall season officially started at Old

Page 184

Cut, the Tip and Breakwater on 13, 14, and 19 Aug, and ran until 15, 9 Nov and 15 Sep, respectively. Thirty-one volunteers, representing six countries, logged over 4,898 field hours collecting migration data on over 250 species and banding 21,920 birds of 123 species. There were 94 days of coverage, yielding 12,475 net hours, with a catch rate of 176 b/100nhs. Eight ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 9.8% of the catch. Twenty-three volunteer 'friends' of LPBO helped to serve over 2,000 visitors and students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the fall migration through Long Point.

Sporadic migration monitoring coverage began with the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologist Workshop in late July and early August, with the first waves of migrating flycatchers and early warblers. Fall migration picked up quickly, with mass movements of swallows at the end of July and early August, reaching numbers upward of 50,000. By early August LPBO had already detected aspects of what the fall migration would bring: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finch were on the move. Indeed, nearly every irruptive species moved through en masse this fall. Record numbers were banded for around 20 species this fall as irruptive species were accompanied by a plethora of young birds, the result of what was presumably a productive breeding season. Migration was fairly consistent throughout the fall aside from a 10-day hiatus surrounding hurricane Sandy toward the end of October. Following the storm there was one last major push of finches and temperate migrants including Evening Grosbeaks and many crossbills of both species.

A complete summary of the 2012 fall season is available in the winter 2013 edition of LPBO E-news.

Raptor banding was relatively productive with 74 diurnal raptors of five species being banded. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring began at Old Cut and the Tip on 26 and 28 Sep and ended on 17 and 9 Nov, respectively. There were 38 nights of coverage at Old Cut and 23 at the

Vol. 38 No. 4