

2016

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2015- Rock Point Bird Banding Station

James A. Smith

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Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793
Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON
James A. Smith
benavis@sympatico.ca
Chief Assistant(s) Kim Christoff, Madelaine Proulx,
Bev Stevenson
Web Site: www.rockpointbirdbanding.com

We changed things a little bit this year with a later start in Jul and not a full start until 1 Aug. This meant that we missed most of the Yellow Warblers. It also meant I could go to Scotland and band Great Skua. Net locations remained the same as in the spring with predictable catch rates for most of the nets. We did not use ground traps this year since I dislike having to get the birds out and what they do to themselves trying to get out.

We had 31 volunteers varying from 1 day to 62 days. Distance volunteers were from Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario. One family from the U.S. volunteered for about a week. Total volunteer hours were 1,417. A dedicated core of local volunteers enabled me to keep the station running.

Weather through Aug varied at start up from 8 to 18 ° Celsius. As is common in Aug we experienced high humidity. As in the past we only band from before sun up until around 10 because of the sun on the nets and the damage this can do to trapped birds. Sep was good with lows on startup of 6 ° Celsius and high of 22 °. Oct had some days with high winds. Startup temperatures were low of minus 1 and high of 12° C. Sep and Oct were standard banding from before sun up until six hours later.

We ran 20 nets of the standard 3 m by 12 m passerine nets. Most were Chinese-made nets. Nets have remained in the same locations except for a couple of moves of one net. The aerial net has proven to be minimally effective producing only 3.5% of our catch. Two other nets contributed only 7.9 % are up for consideration for next year.

Nothing was tremendously unusual in the species that we banded. A higher than normal number of Dark-eyed Junco (220) were banded in Oct. Some normal species like Field Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow were missed. The last two very cold winters seems to have eliminated Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse from the Oct - Dec 2016

park. In fact all wren species were in lower numbers. Two Brewster's Warblers were new for the station. We banded 26 of the normal 31 species of warblers that we have banded in the past. Connecticut and Hooded Warblers are not common for us so it was good to get one of each.

We had 347 birds recaptured and processed during this season. As is normal, most (332) were birds originally banded at Rock Point during this year. Seventeen were first banded in 2014, 14 in 2013, four in 2012, and five in 2011. A Song Sparrow from 2010, an American Goldfinch from 2009 and a Common Grackle from 2004 all were returns. No birds were recovered by us from any other location during the fall season.

Five birds were recovered from some other location: Black-capped Chickadee, banded 26 Oct 2014 recovered 9 Apr 2015 at Ruthven by Nancy Furber; Swainson's Thrush 28 Sep 2012 recovered 12 Oct 2015 in Danese, Fayette County, WV by Curtis Sheets; House Sparrow 13 Dec 2014 recovered 4 Oct 2015 in Dunnville, ON, by Keith Sheppard; Tree Swallow 13 Apr 2013 recovered 10 Jun 2015 east of Long Point Ontario by Bill Read.

A daily web site reports birds banded each day and usually includes pictures of birds from that day. www.rockpointbirdbanding.com This site is also on Facebook.

Thanks to Ontario Parks, T.D. Friends of the Environment, Ontario Power Generation, Niagara Falls Nature Club, Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and individual donations.

Long Point

Bird Observatory 423-0800, 423-0801, 423-0802

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON

Bander: **Mark Conboy**

email address: lpbo@bsc-eoc.org

Chief Assistant: Matt Iles

email address: lbpo@birdscanada.org

In 2015, LPBO banded 26,313 birds of 139 species and forms, bringing the grand total to 972,216 birds banded of 279 species and forms since 1960. The