There are small copses of trees distributed sporadically around the landscape. The nets have been placed around two feeding stations. A large maple tree stands in the middle of the yard and above the nets. There is a hedgerow at the north end of the property composed of evergreens (pines and spruce) and another hedgerow on the west property line composed of tall deciduous shrubs. A fenced-in pool with miscellaneous shrubs hems in the east side of the banding site.

Ruthven Park   **425-0795**
Haldimand County, ON
Banders: *Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret*
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The station was run from 4 Sep to 5 Nov. Although fall migration is well underway in August, we did not feel we could man it consistently without jeopardizing our ability to concentrate our efforts in September and October–you can only ask so much of volunteers. Even so, due to periods of poor weather and work commitments of its banders, the station was in operation for only 35 days this season. The station operated for 14 days in September, 16 days in October, and five days in November.

Up to 15 12-m mist nets (30-mm mesh) were deployed in nine net lanes. These net lanes are long-standing, with some being in the same place since 1995 and all being in place since 2000. The lanes have been cut into the dogwood scrub edge habitat that acts as a buffer between the lawns and fields of the historic site and the surrounding forest. Usually we add a net to the spring configuration to capture birds that use a brush pile that accumulates through the course of the summer, but there was no brush pile this year–so no net. On some days, not all the nets were utilized–especially on days with high winds.

We also deployed up to four ground traps and one Potter trap–especially in October, when ground-feeding sparrow species were more numerous.

The fall was fairly wet and windy. We experienced rain on 18 days in September (123 mm) and 16 days in October (133 mm). We would band if it was light and intermittent and the temperatures were mild, but otherwise we would not. When it was not

raining but the winds were up, we would not open some nets. (Many of our nets are vulnerable to west or northwest winds.) It was not a particularly cold fall; we experienced only three nights in October with below freezing temperatures.

The reduced amount of banding time translated into reduced numbers of birds banded–even though our rate of capture, 73.79 b/100nh was the highest ever. The total of 2,075 was our lowest total since 1997, as were our total net hours: 2,755.

While the number of birds banded was significantly higher in October (1,179) than September (737), September had the best variety–62 forms/species banded in September and 40 in October. The most species banded in a single day was 34 on 9 Sep. Our "biggest day" was 21 Oct, when we banded 133 birds.

There were no surprises on our 'top ten', although the 123 Hermit Thrushes was a new record (the previous high being 73 in 1998). Interestingly, we did not band a single Purple Finch this season despite banding 183 of them last year.

I thank the Lower Grand River Land Trust for their ongoing support of the banding program at Ruthven Park. This includes the use of the grounds, use of the banding lab building, and financial support. Ruthven staff Marilynn Havelka (CAO) and Linda Jackson have been especially supportive. Haldimand Bird Observatory, of which Ruthven is a part, has received support from the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Ontario Power Generation, George Pond, and the Observatory's friends and members. Many thanks to all who helped this season!!

Rock Point   **425-0793**
Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON
Bander: *James A. Smith*
benavis@sympatio.ca
Chief Assistants: Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young, Gisele Mills

Net locations remained the same from previous years except that a net which crossed a weedy pond was moved onto dry land. The more northern nets were used only when I had additional help, meaning that usually I used only nine nets instead of 15.