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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2008

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Banding totals at seven of the nine AFR Region III reporting stations were down from 2007 numbers, although %HY numbers were up at six. The improved numbers at Bedford Valley were probably due to new net lanes and new banding sites at Presque Isle. Presque Isle banders found an amazing number of ticks on their birds, with 35% of the birds they checked having at least one tick present.

Highlights from the must-read narratives include the banding of Long Point's first Boreal Owl as well as six Cave Swallows in early November. Allegheny Front recaptured a Black-throated Green Warbler banded five days earlier at Mount Nebo. Interesting acoustical research was done at Allegheny Front by Mike Lanzone. Staff from Allegheny Front helped identify approximately 500 birds of 31 species killed when they became disoriented in the bright security lights of a local high school during a dense fog.

As always, thanks to everyone who contributes to the AFR Region III report!

**Lewiston**

**431-0790**

Niagara County, NY

**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**

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The 2008 fall banding season started on 25 Aug. In a six-hour period, using 15 12-m mist nets, 25 birds of 13 species were captured. The Yellow Warblers had all disappeared by this time with only Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and Blue-winged being handled on this date. The station remained open until 24 Oct. There were a total of 288 birds of 43 species banded during this time period. The warbler species did not show much improvement over the spring banding

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numbers and I will be looking for much improvement during the 2009 banding season.

This year completes the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of operation at this banding site and it is always worth mentioning when a bird new to the station is captured. This year, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (HY) was banded and released.

There were five local retraps handled with one Blue Jay being four years old.

As in the past, a banding demonstration was held on the day of the Pheasant Forever Youth Day Event. Approximately 30 youths and their parents attended with visits to the mist net lanes. This banding program had pictures appear in the Pheasant Forever adult magazine as well as making the cover of their national youth magazine.

**Ruthven Park**

**425-0795**

Haldimand County, ON

**Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau,**

**Brian Pomfret, Banders**

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We were psyched this fall—we wanted to have a record-breaking season. I even let Brian (Pomfret) talk me into starting a week early. We also went as far as setting up a new net: #6A. Several years ago I had planted some Red Osier Dogwoods leaving a net lane among the plants expressly for this reason and this was going to be its inauguration. So we were ready. It seems the birds were having none of it.

This season we set a new **season high** record for net hours: 5,676. However, we set a new **season low** record for birds captured per 100 net-hours (b/100nh): only 41.1. This is our lowest fall capture rate since we started in 1995. Now, I do not want to bore you with figures but....if we had had the rate of capture that we had last year (76.06 b/100nh—a record), with this year's effort we would have

banded 4,508 birds. Instead we caught only 2,436—not bad, but we do not consider it to be a good fall season if we do not clear 3,000.

We knew we were in trouble early when we noticed that we were not catching many American Goldfinches in September. It is hard to know why but it is possibly related to the very wet summer we experienced. In retrospect, we think they may just have been late nesting. By the time we were done we had banded 436 of them but most of these we got in October. (Last year we banded 1,280.) September is an interesting month for banding; you just never know what you are going to find in your nets, as the long-distance migrants are moving through. But toward the end of the month these birds tail off and you get an influx of the short-distance migrants, which we tend to get in large numbers. We count on having six or seven days with over 100 birds banded and have had several instances of over 200 (e.g., 271 on 10 Oct 2005 and 254 on 22 Oct 2001). But this year we had only one 100+ bird day—125 on 23 Oct.

I wish I had a clear explanation for this but I do not. However, it was not just our station; Rock Point Provincial Park had low numbers as well.

We now have 10 “solid” (i.e., comparable) years of banding data, and Jeff MacLeod (a volunteer who actually enjoys biostatistics AND oversees the blog: <http://www.ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog>) has started to go through it to look for trends. Stay tuned.

Many thanks to banders Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret, Jeff MacLeod, and the many volunteers who assisted in numerous ways. Also thanks to the Lower Grand River Land Trust and the Haldimand Bird Observatory for their support.

**Rock Point** **425-0793**  
 Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON  
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 Roswitha Matuschek, Rick Young, Dora Young,  
 Gisele Mills, Brittany Darragh: Chief Assistants

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2008 Summary

	Lewiston, NY	Ruthven Park, ON	Rock Point, ON	Long Point, ON	Presque Isle, PA	Powdermill, PA	Bedford Valley, PA	Mt. Nebo, MD	Allegheny Front, WV
First Day/Last Day	8/25 to 10/24	8/25 to 11/8	7/21 to 11/6	8/1 to 11/15	8/6 to 11/1	8/2 to 11/23	8/22 to 10/23	8/24 to 11/7	8/15 to 10/22
Days Operated	13	74	71	107	67	93	40	44	68
No. Nets Used	11 to 15	up to 17	2 to 16	1 to 53	6 to 13	4 to 66	1 to 12	15 to 19	17 to 30
Total Net Hours	947	5,676	4,810	13,366	4,180	20,762	762	3,746	7,824
% Caught in Traps	0%	4.0%	0%	12.1%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Lrgst Daily Catch	50 on 10/15	125 on 10/23	76 on 9/16	523 on 9/16	147 on 10/7	322 on 10/28	19 on 10/17	99 on 9/10	621 on 9/14
Most Common BD	HETH & COGR 28%	CEDW 48%	GRCA 14.5%	BLPW 22.8%	-	MYWA 48%	CHSP 47%	MAWA 20%	BTBW 46.3%
Most Spec. Divrsty	13 on 10/15	21 on 9/29	25 on 9/16	64 on 9/16	15 on 10/3	43 on 9/20	10 on 10/10	29 on 9/10	34 on 10/5
No. Banded 2007	322	3,530	2,603	15,516	115	8,628	72	1,010	8,053
No. Banded 2008	288	2,436	2,220	9,708	1,604	7,279	239	1,363	5,653
No. Forms 2007	48	85	81	134	23	112	27	56	85
No. Forms 2008	43	88	84	151	72	107	45	74	81
Birds/100nh 2007	34.6	76.1	57	109	36.8	50.8	10	37	85.6
Birds/100nh 2008	30.4	41.1	46	64	37.2	35	31	37	72
% HY 2007	87%	NA	68%	75%	75%	61%	70%	64%	62%
% HY 2008	72%	NA	78%	80.2%	NA	73%	74%	78%	81.7%

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2008.**

	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Park, ON		Rock Point, ON		Long Point, ON		Presque Isle, PA	
		%HY			%HY		%HY		%HY	
1.	50 HETH (7)	84%	436 AMGO (1)	285 GRCA (2)	95%	1169 MYWA (1)	89%	515 MYWA	96%	
2.	23 GCKI (6)	52	216 MYWA (2)	250 AMGO (1)	57	621 RCKI (4)	68	148 GRCA (1)	91	
3.	21 SWTH (2)	62	155 WTSP (3)	178 WTSP (3)	94	480 WTSP (5)	84	100 WTSP (3)	86	
4.	18 MAWA (1)	83	145 SCJU (4)	139 YWAR (7)	86	468 GCKI (7)	84	63 HETH (5)	87	
5.	16 WTSP (5)	19	135 CEDW	107 RCKI (4)	73	457 SCJU (9)	85	44 SOSP	70	
6.	15 COGR	47	127 SOSP (6)	94 SOSP (8)	83	393 MAWA	87	34 GCKI	79	
7.	13 GRCA (4)	100	79 RCKI (7)	80 MAWA (5)	71	376 BLPW (6)	65	31 YWAR (2)	45	
8.	13 BCCH (3)	85	70 GRCA	77 CEDW	31	358 SWTH	80	30 COYE	87	
9.	13 RCKI	85	68 BLPW (5)	66 GCKI (9)	17	334 AMGO (2)	64	27 AMGO	43	
10.	12 AMRO	83	67 REVI	60 TRFL	10	290 NSWO (3)	18	23 SCJU	52	

**Table 2 (Cont'd.) Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2008.**

	Powdermill, PA		Bedford Valley, PA		Mt. Nebo, MD		Allegheny Front, WV	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	684 MYWA (5)	74%	39 CHSP	15%	134 WTSP (1)	67%	1400 BTBW (1)	77%
2.	424 MAWA (7)	68	22 AMGO (1)	45	121 INBU (2)	65	634 BTNW (2)	93
3.	418 WTSP (2)	54	17 SOSP	88	115 GRCA (5)	91	586 BLPW (5)	77
4.	372 SOSP (8)	60	16 GRCA (2)	81	92 SOSP (3)	80	361 TEWA (3)	69
5.	354 SCJU (3)	47	14 RCKI	57	69 BTBW	96	332 SCJU (8)	82
6.	323 RCKI	75	13 SCJU	84	68 MAWA (8)	71	273 GCKI (6)	94
7.	321 GRCA (6)	87			66 COYE (4)	77	227 MAWA (4)	89
8.	312 AMGO (1)	63			60 CEDW	86	190 SWTH (7)	91
9.	276 COYE (10)	74			58 SCJU	54	179 RCKI (10)	87
10.	261 SWSP (9)	56			56 PUF1	68	147 COYE	81

This season was the worst fall season in relation to b/100nh. Characterizing this season was the lack of any day with over a 100 birds. The species count was good, with 84 species.

Vireo species were down two thirds to a half from last year. Warblers, except for Yellow and Myrtle (Yellow-rump), were also down significantly. Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellowthroat remained at the same level as last year. Gray Catbird saw the second highest levels for the nine years of banding at Rock Point. Both

kinglets were down in numbers. Since this is a comparison only with the previous year, it cannot be considered as any type of trend.

We were fortunate this season in receiving a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation toward the purchase of a trailer to be used by volunteers and anyone else wishing to spend some time at the banding station. In addition, Niagara Trailer donated \$1,000 toward the purchase of the trailer. This, along with the earlier grant from T.D. Friends of the Environment, enabled us to do many upgrades at the station.