

Lewiston**431-0790**

Niagara County, NY
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The 2005 fall banding season started on 1 Sep and ran through 18 Oct. It had been planned to band later but weather set in with rain and high winds. Nets were eventually taken down on 3 Nov.

The thrush family group was well represented this fall. Swainson's Thrush showed a marked increase and reached the top of the list for the most banded. Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked, and Veery all appeared in the top ten this fall. If the nets could have been opened after the 18 Oct date, I am sure we would have good numbers of Hermit Thrush and also the kinglet count would have been much higher.

The total bird count was up a little this fall. It appears this bander has to accept 25-30 birds per banding outing and not expect the 60-70 bird counts that were experienced in earlier years. The 36.6 b/100nh this year is also up a little from last year but well below the 50+b/100nh a few years ago.

During the banding period, seven local recaptures were encountered (four Black-capped Chickadees, one Wood Thrush, one Tufted Titmouse and one Northern Cardinal).

Banding demonstrations were conducted at the Lew-Port Central School, Pheasant Forever Youth Day Event, as well as at the banding station.

Ruthven Park**425-0795**

Haldimand County, Ontario
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The station was run from 1 Sep to 5 Nov. Although fall migration is well underway in August (and we would dearly love to have the wherewithal to run the station 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. The station was in operation for 25 days in

September (83% coverage), 28 days in October (90%), and two days in November (40%) for an overall coverage of 83%. The reason that most days were "missed" was due to high winds and rain.

Up to 20 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. We extended one net forming a six-net chain that ran across the floodplain to the Grand River. We have been meaning to do this for some time in order to investigate how birds utilize the site; we had enough staffing this year to run these new nets on most days in October. 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 summer/fall of 2005 was one of the warmest on record. Most of the fall was also fairly dry in the banding area. The hurricanes that devastated parts of the southern US and the associated rains stayed south of Lake Erie. In mid October these tropical storms blocked the migration south resulting in unprecedented numbers of passerines being grounded in southern Ontario. A general killing frost did not occur until early November. There were a few mornings when there was a frost in low lying areas but some frost-prone plants were still green and blooming into November on the higher ground.

This was a record high season at Ruthven Park—we banded 3,827 birds, which is 616 birds more than the next best season (3,211 in 2001). This total was made up from 81 forms (i.e., species, subspecies and hybrids). Other records included:

- Most banded in one day – 271 (10 Oct); 163 of these were Yellow-rump. Warblers.
- Number of days with 100+ birds banded – 11 (one in September, nine in October and one in November);