
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 33rd 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