Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2013								
	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Park, ON		Rock Point, ON		Long Point, ON	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	83 PUMA (1)	100%	1481 CEDW (7)	84%	387 WTSP (2)	78%	1641 GCKI (2)	81%
2.	40 HETH (2)	95	603 MYWA (2)	93	286 GRCA (3)	91	1633 MYWA (1)	87
3.	30 GCKI	87	286 WTSP (3)	97	246 RCKI (1)	74	1209 RCKI (3)	83
4.	28 SWTH (4)	57	271 SCJU (4)	85	198 SOSP (6)	66	999 SCJU	83
5.	22 BCCH (8)	45	198 AMGO (1)	78	163 SCJU	91	846 WTSP (5)	84
6.	19 WTSP (5)	37	160 RCKI (6)	83	162 YEWA (5)	74	530 BRCR (6)	46
7.	17 GRCA (3)	100	142 SOSP (9)	89	151 GCKI (4)	62	516 BLPW (7)	77
8.	12 MAWA (6)	33	139 GCKI (10)	88	146 SWSP (7)	66	488 HETH	84
9.	10 RCKI	100	121 HETH	97	117 CEDW	28	424 SWTH (9)	77
10.	9 AMRO	89	103 AMRO	89	103 MAWA (8)	30	349 MAWA	86

Table 2 cont'd. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2013								
	Powdermill, PA		Aboretum at Penn State, PA		Mt. Nebo, MD		Allegheny Front, WV	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	406 AMGO (1)	75%	169 WTSP (1)	72%	177 SOSP (2)	78%	785 BTBW (1)	81%
2.	370 RCKI	35	148 GRCA (2)	70	135 CEDW	55	491 BTNW (3)	92
3.	316 RTHU (7)	89	27 NOCA (5)	74	125 GRCA (1)	90	367 BLPW (2)	62
4.	305 DEJU (8)	49	26 SOSP (7)	50	111 WTSP (4)	56	278 TEWA (4)	65
5.	290 REVI	67	25 AMGO (3)	76	98 INBU (8)	83	196 CMWA (6)	44
6.	280 WTSP (3)	43	16 EATO (5)	81	92 RCKI (5)	83	185 COYE (9)	86
7.	269 MAWA (6)	62	12 RCKI (9)	42	91 COYE (7)	82	136 MAWA (5)	85
8.	243 SOSP (9)	62	9 BCCH (10)	33	44 MAWA (9)	79	135 SCJU	96
9.	239 GRCA (10)	83	9 MAWA	44	43 BTBW	84	126 SWTH (7)	63
10.	210 SWTH (2)	88	7 HOFI (4)	43	41 EATO (10)	58	88 BLBW (8)	81

Lewiston **431-0790**
Niagara County, NY
Jerald J. Farrell, Bander
jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

The 2013 fall banding season completes the 38th continuous year of fall banding at this station. It got underway on 1 Jul with the start of banding young Purple Martins at the Lewiston Station. This is the sixth year for that project. Over that period of time, 384 Purple Martin young have been banded. At the present time, we have two groups of gourds totaling 24 nesting boxes. The last day for banding nestlings was 22 Jul 2014.

Mist netting got started on 6 Sep and ended on 15 Oct for a total of seven sessions. There were 199 birds banded of 28 species. The season got started a little later than normal due to weather, but otherwise weather was not a problem.

One ASY Purple Martin male (banded 5 Jul 2011) was found dead in a nesting box. Two Black-capped Chickadees were local recaptures.

Again this year we had a good number of children and adults attend the sessions on Purple Martin banding. We had a group of 35 youth who attended a Youth Day event at the Fin, Feather & Fur Conservation Society Club.

Ruthven Park **425-0795**
Haldimand County, Ontario
Banders: ***Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret,***
rludkin@hotmail.com

It was a strange fall banding season, a boom or bust situation for two of our main species: Cedar Waxwings and American Goldfinches. The Cedar Waxwing numbers could only be described as spectacular–we banded 1,481, well more than two standard deviations above the 14-year average of 129 and 819 above our previous high count (662 in 2011).

There has been an interesting increase in Cedar Waxwing numbers at Ruthven since we began fall banding in earnest in 1996. This increase is entwined in the arrival of wild grapes (*Vitis riparia)* to the site which began slowly in the initial years but jumped dramatically in 2010, as did bird numbers; in fact, you could almost say that you could date the arrival of wild grapes to the site with the increase in waxwing numbers. From 1996 to 2009 we averaged only 45.8 waxwings banded each fall. (Interestingly, we banded only two in 2009!) But then the floodgates opened: 422 in 2010; 662 in 2011; 196 in 2012.These numbers are related to the presence of wild grapes: in 2012 there were *none* due to weather anomalies in the spring and there was a drop-off (but only when compared to the two previous years). But this year we had a bumper crop of grapes, and waxwings were around in huge numbers starting in September and building through October/November. We banded 196 in September, 1,123 in October, and 162 in the first seven days of November.

On the other hand, American Goldfinch numbers plummeted. We banded only 198 for the season (just nine in September!). This is well below our 14-year average of 538 per fall season and last year's 1,316. What happened!? I do not know for sure but I suspect that they were decimated by conjunctivitis (*Mycloplasma gallisepticum)*, a disease that wiped out the House Finch population a number of years ago and is found in the family Fringillidae. We were seeing goldfinches with infected eyes in March, April and May, and a couple we captured in September were showing signs of it but not nearly as bad as those we saw in the spring. I can not come up with any other explanation as it appeared to be an average food year for them and summer weather was well within the norm. (While conjunctivitis is usually associated with House Finches, it has been noted in American Goldfinches. One report I saw mentioned infected goldfinches in the mid-eastern United States. We have had some of our birds recaptured down there. I wonder if they brought it back with them.....) But it just was not at Ruthven that there was a decline. When I questioned other birders and visitors that mentioned having bird feeders, I got the same answer: American Goldfinch numbers are way down. So something happened–something major and my guess is that it was conjunctivitis.

Photo by Rick Ludkin

But there were some other "funny" things happening as well. The numbers of "long-distance" warblers that we banded were all well below the September norm, although short-distance warbler numbers, like Yellow-rumped Warblers, were up (e.g., the 603 yellow-rumps that we banded was our second highest total for that species). On the other hand, most species of sparrows/juncos banded were well *above* the norm. Normally we get the long-distance warblers in September and the other