

# Mc Master University Biodiversity students

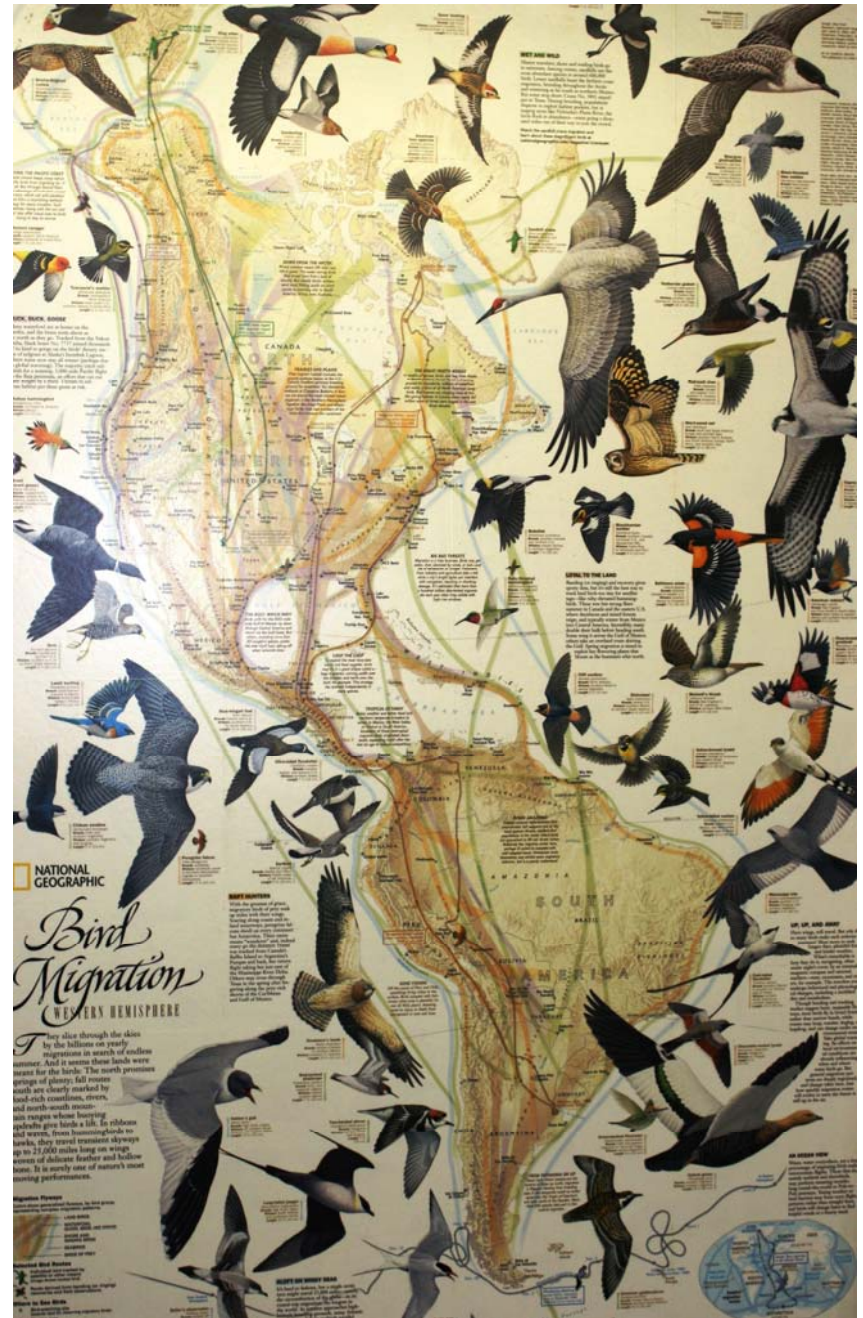
may be interested in the

## Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.



CANADIAN  
MIGRATION  
MONITORING  
NETWORK  
MEMBER STATION

# Western Hemisphere Bird Migration Routes



A hand-painted wooden sign is mounted on a plywood wall. The sign is shaped like a bird's wing and is divided into two main sections: a dark brown upper section and a light grey lower section. The text "RUTHVEN BANDING STATION" is painted in white, blocky, hand-drawn letters across the dark brown section. A small white floral or leaf-like symbol is painted below the text. To the right of the sign, a black and white feather is visible, and below it, a brown feather with a dark shaft is also present. The background is a light-colored plywood wall with visible wood grain and knots.

RUTHVEN  
BANDING  
STATION

# **The Ruthven Migration Monitoring station was developed:**

- To analyze, identify, and monitor trends of neo-tropical migrants during the Spring and Fall migrations by following a standardized protocol determined by the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.
- To provide a training facility for students and other individuals interested in developing practical skills in field ornithology.



# Bird Banding

- The "piggery" at Ruthven Park is now used as one of three field stations of the Haldimand Bird Observatory, one of twelve Canadian migration monitoring network organizations. Over the course of a year, approximately 3,000-3,500 birds, including 85 different species, are banded by volunteers.
- <http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog/about-ruthven-park>



- On September 26, 2009 a group of McMaster Biodiversity students under the able guidance of Pat and Marvin had a unique chance to visit Ruthven for some actual hands-on bird banding.
- Other volunteer Biodiversity students had actually arrived the previous night and slept over in the Coach House so that they could get up at the crack of dawn to help with opening the nets.
- So, at about 8 am. the place was abuzz with some 40 visitors all wanting to get first hand experience in birding and banding.
- It was a lot of fun because they were keen and a lot of fun. I think there's some future field researchers there, writes volunteer Rick Ludkin in his blog. <http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog/about-ruthven-park>

# Checking the nets for birds

- About 10 sets of nets need to be inspected



# Untangling the birds



# Bagging the birds for transport



# Banding the birds





# Measure wing span and check for ticks







# Releasing the birds









- According to Mr. Rick Ludkin, and author of the blog,

“ It was a good day.

**Banded 48:**

- 1 Eastern Wood Pewee
- 1 Black-capped Chickadee
- 2 White-breasted Nuthatch
- 2 Winter Wrens
- 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes
- 1 Hermit Thrush
- 2 Gray Catbirds
- 1 Red-eyed Vireo
- 1 Tennessee Warbler
- 1 Nashville Warbler
- 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler
- 2 Blackpoll Warblers
- 2 Lincoln's Sparrows
- 1 Swamp Sparrow
- 7 White-throated Sparrows
- 19 American Goldfinches

**Retrapped 15:**

- 2 Eastern Tufted Titmice
- 1 Black-capped Chickadee
- 2 White-breasted Nuthatches
- 1 House Wren
- 1 Magnolia Warbler
- 1 Blackpoll Warbler
- 3 Song Sparrows
- 4 American Goldfinches

**ET's: 48 spp.**

Rick ”

September 26, 2009

<http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog/about-ruthven-park>

And this is pictorial evidence that a good time was had by all !!!!



A large thank you from all of the  
participants to the organizing  
Dr. Patricia Chow–Frazer and  
Mr. Marvin Gunderman

**Thank you !!!**

**By Nicole Poot**