

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2006 Powdermill Nature Reserve

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by Ron in previous years. We had a number of visitors and also some regular volunteers. The vegetation here is part mature forest and part edges near the bay.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Adrienne Leppold, Robert C. Leberman,
Robert S. Mulvihill, and Michael J. Lanzone,
Banders**

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Report for 2006:

Powdermill Nature Reserve's Bird Banding Program, located on the 2,200-ac biological field station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, completed its 45th consecutive fall migration banding season in 2006. We banded 10,022 birds this season, the third highest fall total in the history of the program, in 21,940 net hours. The overall capture rate for this fall (45.7 b/100nh) was above the long-term average of 42 b/100nh.

We banded 100 or more birds on 37 days this season. On 6 Oct, 890 birds were banded, breaking the previous record of 621 birds set more than 40 years ago on 16 Oct 1965. Historically, all of our big banding days have occurred in the last two weeks of October, so it was certainly an unexpected event for 6 Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet made up 40% of the day's catch with 352 banded, more than doubling the previous high total for this species. This extraordinary amount of effort was due in large part to the dedication of our visiting ringing/banding team (Prof. David Norman, Scott Kennedy, Chris Benson, and Deb Plotts), who kept the station running full time, along with senior bird bander emeritus Bob Leberman, while the rest of PARC staff and interns attended the IV North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz, Mexico. In November, 1506 birds were banded, which was the second highest November total in the history of the program. We banded 107 species of birds this season with the highest total (47) occurring on 6 Oct.

Forty-seven species were one or more SD above average in terms of raw banding totals and only five were below (Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush). Ten species equalled or surpassed previous high fall totals: American Redstart (230 vs 222 in 1996), Blue-headed Vireo (86 vs 74 in 2004), Black-throated Blue Warbler (119 vs 101 in 2004), Chestnut-sided Warbler (106 vs 101 in 2004), Golden-crowned Kinglet (279 vs 119 in 1967), Nashville Warbler (109 vs 101 in 1974), Pine Warbler (2; tied with 1972), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1007 vs 441 in 1967), Swamp Sparrow (296 vs 294 in 1984), and Winter Wren (87 vs 71 in 2005).

Highlights for this season include species that are often missed in the fall such as Orchard Oriole, Lawrence's Warbler, Pine Warbler (all were only our tenth ever banded in the fall), Golden-winged Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler. A Blue-winged Teal was the first duck to be caught and banded at Powdermill in three years. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were captured including the first foreign recovery ever for this species in Pennsylvania which we captured on 22 Nov in McDonald, PA. This adult female was originally banded in Diamondhead, MS, on 25 Jan 2006 by Mark Myers.

We thank many visiting bander friends and colleagues, interns, and volunteers for their help this season. For regular help with banding, we thank Pam Ferkett, Kristin Sesser, Mary Shidel, Lauren Schneider, and Dean Thompson. We also enjoyed visits and help from fellow banders, Powdermill staffers, and other volunteers: Tom Anderson, Erin Estell, Bobbie Franks, Kris Jerrell, Todd Katzner, Carol Leppold, Cokie Lindsay, Andrew McGann, Trish Miller, Deb Plotts, Joe Schreiber, and Jessica Scopel. We are also grateful to our bander development workshop participants for their help and participation: Keith McKenrick, Bill Clark, Mary Alice Koeneke, Janet Creamer.

We were happy to host Giorgi Darchiashvili, a biologist from the Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife, for two weeks in September. Todd Katzner, who is the Director of Conservation and Field Research at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, and who has worked with

GCCW in connection with his own studies of Imperial Eagles, helped make the arrangements for Giorgi to receive training in banding techniques at Powdermill so that he could return to the Republic of Georgia to establish some pilot sites and, perhaps eventually, a national ringing scheme. We were delighted to have a surprise visit from Elizabeth P. (Betty) Neidringhouse on the morning of 21 Oct. Throughout much of the 1970s, Betty was the preparator in the Section of Exhibits, Design and Production for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Lastly, we acknowledge the work of our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who enters, checks, and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Adrienne J. Leppold, Robert S. Mulvihill, and
Robert C. Leberman, Banders**

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Report for 2007:

Powdermill Nature Reserve's Bird Banding Program, located on the 2200-ac biological field station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, completed its 46th consecutive fall migration banding season in 2007. We banded 8628 birds this season, in 16,764 net hours. The overall capture rate for this fall was 50.8 b/100nh. We banded 100 or more birds on 38 days this season. On seven of these days we banded over 200 individuals. The busiest days in terms of numbers of birds banded were on 16 Oct (379), 25 Oct (265), 4 Nov (245), 2 Oct (229), and 22 Sep (225).

Highlights for this season included a Sora captured on 6 Sep. Although Soras are often seen around our ponds at dusk they are seldom captured, and this bird represented the first capture since 2002. In fact, this was only the 13th Sora ever captured at Powdermill. On 20 Sep we captured an adult female Hooded Warbler that had an unusually extensive black hood and closely resembled a HY male. A very rare capture occurred on 5 Oct when

a Least Bittern was captured and banded. On 2 Nov we banded two Evening Grosbeaks, which were the first ones banded at Powdermill since 2001.

This year we made a substantial effort to contributed data to Project OwlNet, and we were rewarded by banding 106 Northern Saw-whet Owls. Lastly, we captured two Rufous Hummingbirds this fall (away from the Powdermill banding site). One of these was an unbanded individual and, amazingly, the other was a recaptured individual that had been banded by Powdermill staff at the exact same location the previous fall.

We thank many visiting bander friends and colleagues, interns, and volunteers for their help this season. For regular help with banding we thank Pam Ferkett, Kristin Sesser, Mary Shidel, Mike Comley, Lauren Schneider, and Dean Thompson. We also enjoyed visits and help from fellow banders, Powdermill staffers, and other volunteers: Rosemary Spreha, Guy Ubaghs, Keith McKenrick, Brent Worls, Emma DeLeon, Mike Allen, Mikey Lutmerding, Jo Anna Leachman, and David Holmes. We are also grateful to our bander development workshop participants for their help and participation: Bob Powell, Cailin O'Connor, Sandy Teliak, Ryan Trimbath, Daily Leonard, and P.J. Falatek. Lastly, we acknowledge the work of our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who enters, checks, and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

Bedford Valley

395-0783

Bedford, Bedford County, PA

Janet Shaffer, Bander

The netting season ran from 14 Aug to 13 Oct, a total of 28 days from 6:30 am until noon. Usually ten 12-m nets were open and sometimes two 6-m nets were used. Netting was done on several days when there were no captures at all. Afternoon banding was tried but was no more successful.

For the last three years, American Goldfinch has been on the list of most commonly banded birds, topping this year's list at 19. Netting effort increased considerably from 2005, but the number of birds