

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Bedford Valley

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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

did not. Fall banding here has steadily declined as compared to 2002, when 145 new birds were banded and 2003 when there were 121. Of the 27 different species banded in 2007, at least half were of just one or two individuals.

Mature vegetation is probably the biggest influence on net captures. From Pennsylvania Atlas observations in my back yard, there were numerous sightings of Scarlet Tanager, American Redstart, Indigo Bunting, Black-and-white Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Parula. Also, a Blackpoll Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Tennessee Warbler were observed on 5 Oct at a drip bird bath. It is evolving into a kind of contest to see how low the banding catch will get before it gets better. Perhaps logging the property is the solution.

Mt Nebo Banding Station **392-0792**
Oakland, Garrett County, MD
Connie Skipper and Fran Pope, Banders
connieskipper@hohnet.com

This was the seventh season of banding at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area. The station was open 36 days between 27 Aug and 31 Oct. In total, 1010 birds were banded of 56 species, with a station effort of 2723 net hours. Capture rate was 37 b/100nh. No new species were added to the station list this fall.

The top three species banded were White-throated Sparrow (an astounding 23% of the total), Indigo Bunting (11%) and Song Sparrows (10%). Skipper wrote in the daily log on 27 Aug: "The clearing beyond nets 12 and 13 is full of millet. I expect lots of Indigo Buntings and sparrows." This certainly proved to be true. The number of sparrows banded (421) was twice the station average. We banded five Fox Sparrows, a station high.

Common Yellowthroats (81) and Ovenbirds (31, a station high) were abundant and accounted for 11% of the total. Other warbler numbers and diversity were disappointing.

Gray Catbirds, normally in the top three, dropped to fifth place this season. They accounted for 7% of our total banded.

Nineteen birds banded in previous years at Mt. Nebo WMA were recaptured. Eleven of them were banded in 2006 (5 Song Sparrows, 3 Gray Catbirds, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 1 Common Yellowthroat). Five birds were banded in 2005 (2 Song Sparrows, 1 Purple Finch, 1 Eastern Towhee, and 1 Gray Catbird). Three were banded in 2003, all of them banded as AHY (Eastern Towhee male, Gray Catbird, and Ovenbird). Interestingly, the Ovenbird was also recaptured in 2005.

Twelve visitors spent time at the station working on their bird identification skills.

Thanks to Rick Latshaw and the Mt. Neb technicians for their help in clearing net lanes and to Samuel and Irene Yoder for their help in setting up and tending the nets.

Allegheny Front **390-0791**
Migration Observatory
Grant County, WV
Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison, AFMO
Banding Leaders
pattison914@gmail.com

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) conducted its 50th year of bird banding at Dolly Sods, WV, this fall. AFMO is located 10 miles southeast of Davis, WV. Banding began on 11 Aug and ended 21 Oct 2007. A total of 8053 birds were banded of 85 species, with a station effort of 85.6 b/100nh. A total of 220,397 birds have been banded from 1958-2007. This year was the best year for total number of birds banded since 1998, when 8585 were banded. There have been only six years when the total number of birds banded was higher than this year. The numbers have improved greatly since the U.S. Forest Service approved trimming and maintenance of vegetation at the banding station to a condition similar to what existed when the station was founded.

The station was open for 70 days and closed two days due to rain. There were 17 days when over 100 birds were banded, nine days over 200, one day over 500, one day over 600, and the best day of the season was 23 Sep when 945 birds were banded, which was the second largest day in AFMO's history. The most dominant species