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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2008 Powdermill Nature Reserve

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count on 2 Nov was in excess of 1200 individuals. A southerly wind system in early November kept temperate migrants mostly stationary and helped bring up some southern visitors. Tip volunteers were rewarded on 9 Nov, when at least 12 Cave Swallows were observed and two were banded. Four more Cave Swallows were banded on 10 Nov at the Tip, providing the highest band total for this species since the first one was banded in 1999.

**Presque Isle State Park and** 420-0800  
**Erie Bluffs State Park** 429-0805  
Erie, PA

**Sarah Sargent, Bander**

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Desiree Narango, Erika Dittmar, Chief Assistants

This fall was very productive as well as an exciting banding season. The flood of migrating Myrtle Warblers in mid-October kept us busy all the way until the last day of banding. We banded six days a week at three sites this fall: Niagara Boat Launch (the original banding site), as well as Fry's Landing, and a few days at Erie Bluffs State Park.

This fall we participated in a tick study that Yale University is working on. When processing birds, we checked each head/neck for ticks and removed them, when possible. An astonishing 454 ticks were removed from 18 different bird species, and we found that roughly 35% of birds checked for ticks had them attached!

Between the three banding stations, we had 68 visitors and 28 people come to volunteer. The extra hands were greatly appreciated, especially on days when we had large numbers of birds.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve** 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Banders: Andrew C. Vitz, Mike Lanzone, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Robert C. Leberman**

Chief Assistant: Gerardo Rodriguez

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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 PA, completed its 47<sup>th</sup> consecutive fall migration banding season in 2008. We banded 7,279 birds this season in 20,762 net-hours. The overall capture rate for this fall was 35b/100nh. We banded 100 or more birds on 30 days this season. On three of these days, we banded over 200 individuals. The busiest days in terms of numbers of birds banded were on 28 Oct (322), 2 Nov (204), and 4 Oct (202).

Species that were captured in numbers greater than 2 standard deviations above the long-term averages (1961-2007) included Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and Yellow-throated Vireo; numbers of no species fell below 2 standard deviations. We banded a single Olive-sided Flycatcher, two Rusty Blackbirds, and a Wilson's Snipe.

During this period, we offered an advanced banding workshop and provided banding demonstrations to over 15 groups, totalling more than 350 individuals. We thank many visiting banders and colleagues, interns, and volunteers for their help this season. For regular help with banding, we thank: Mary Shidel, Marja Bakermans, David Norman, Eugene Hood, Emma Deleon, Keith McKenrick, and Joe Schrieber.

**Bedford Valley**

395-0783

Bedford, Bedford County, PA

**Janet Shaffer, Bander**

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Fall of 2008 was very different from the previous two fall sessions. The number of banding days increased from 28 in 2007 to 40 in 2008. The number of birds banded increased from 72 in 2007 to 239 in 2008. The number of different species encountered this year was almost double that of 2007. It was hard to believe that using a couple of new nets and trying three new lanes could account for the difference.

There were several days when no birds were netted, and there were seven days when only one bird was