

2009

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2008 Bedford Valley

Janet Shaffer

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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 47th 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

banded. As usual for this location, there were 27 repeat/returns.

Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush had not been encountered here for many years. Warbler species banded were: Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Myrtle Warbler. It was unusual to get 14 Ruby-crowned Kinglets to band.

Most frequently banded were Chipping Sparrow, and the number could have been greatly increased had a helper been available.

Returns were a Carolina Wren, banded 18 Mar 2006; and the very worn band was replaced. Two Eastern Towhees also returned—one female banded 25 Apr 2006 and a male banded 24 May 2005.

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

This was the eighth season of banding at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area. The station was open 44 days, from 24 Aug through 7 Nov. A total of 1363 birds were banded of 74 species, with a station effort of 3746 net hours. Capture rate was 36 b/100nh. Four new species were added to the station list: Northern Parula, Yellow Palm Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Pine Siskin. This brings the station total species to 87.

The top three species banded were White-throated Sparrow (10% of the total), Indigo Bunting (9% of the total), and Gray Catbird (8% of the total). This is the first year that Slate-colored Juncos made it into the top ten. Mild temperatures allowed us to remain open into November, and most of the juncos were captured during those seven days.

Station highs included 22 Hermit Thrushes, 60 Cedar Waxwings, 13 Blue-headed Vireos, 4 Blue-winged Warblers, 18 Nashville Warblers, 68 Magnolia Warblers, 69 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 28 Black-throated Green Warblers
Oct. - Dec. 2009

(highest annual banded to date was 8), 6 Black-and-white Warblers, 13 American Redstarts, 58 Slate-colored Juncos, 18 Pine Siskins, and 11 American Goldfinches. These numbers are not adjusted for net hours. This year we had the second highest net hours of the eight years at Mt. Nebo.

The largest daily catch was 99 birds on 10 Sep with 29 species. The second largest daily catch was 77 birds on 11 Oct with 15 species, including 34 Cedar Waxwings that hit the nets that day. Five other days had catches of 50+ birds: 11 Sep (69), 21 Sep (58), 22 Sep (56), 4 Oct (56), and 10 Oct (54).

One exciting event was a foreign recapture of a bird banded at our station. A hatch-year male Black-throated Green Warbler, banded by Skipper on 13 Sep 2008, was recaptured on 17 Sep 10 mi SE of Davis, WV, at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. We recaptured two birds banded in 2004, two birds banded in 2005, five birds banded in 2006, and 16 birds banded in 2007. Most interesting was the Purple Finch banded as AHY-M on 25 Sep 2006. He was recaptured 25 Sep 2006, 30 Aug 2007, and 13 Sep 2008.

Ten visitors spent considerable time at the station enjoying the birds and the great outdoors.

Many thanks to Rick Latshaw, Mike Fazenbaker, and the Mt. Nebo WMA technicians for their help in clearing net lanes, and to Samuel and Irene Yoder for their expert help in tending the nets.

Allegheny Front
Migration Observatory **390-0791**
Grant County, WV
Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison, AFMO
Banding Leaders
Pattison9@comcast.net

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) conducted its 51st year of bird banding at Dolly Sods, WV, this fall. AFMO is located 10 mi southeast of Davis, WV. Banding began on 15 Aug and ended on 22 Oct 2008. In total, 5,653 birds were banded of 81 species, with a station effort of 72.0 b/