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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2009 Bedford Valley

Janet Shaffer

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The fall season officially started on 15 Aug at Old Cut, the Tip and Breakwater. New records for the Long Point area are a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Point Ryerse on 11 Oct and a *Selasphorus* (Rufous or Allen's) hummingbird species on 7 Sep.

Raptor banding this fall was not exceptional with 77 Sharp-shinned, 4 Cooper's, 4 Red-tailed hawks, 1 American Kestrel, and 3 Merlins banded. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring began at Old Cut and the Tip on 1 Oct, respectively, ending on 7 and 15 Nov. There were 30 nights of coverage at Old Cut and 12 at the Tip. A total of 421 Northern Saw-whet Owls was banded, up from the 299 banded in 2008.

Thirty-eight volunteers, representing eight countries, logged over 7000 field hours collecting migration data on nearly 270 species and banding 13,195 birds of 130 species and forms. This is an increase from 9663 birds banded of 126 species in 2008. LPBO had 107 days of coverage, yielding 12,700 net hours with a catch rate of 103 b/100nh. Twelve ground traps, four J-traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 9.8% of the catch (17.45% lower than the spring).

Presque Isle State Park and 420-0800
Erie Bluffs State Park 429-0805
Erie, PA
Sarah Sargent, Bander
ssargent@audubon.org
Desiree Narango, Erika Dittmar, Chief Assistants

Despite the rain and wind, this fall proved to be a successful banding season. Banding was conducted at three locations: two at Presque Isle State Park and one at Erie Bluffs State Park. In total, 1,231 birds, of 71 different species, were processed over

the course of 53 netting days (35.96 b/100nh). Of these birds, 1,105 were new captures and 126 were recaptures. The most prolific bird of the season, however, was the Myrtle Warbler captured only at Fry's Landing. Species banded this season that are of note included: three Purple Finches at Niagara Boat Launch, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker (orange morph) at Fry's Landing, and an American Woodcock at Erie Bluffs State Park. Special thanks goes out to the 124 visitors and 19 volunteers who assisted us in the field this banding season!

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Banders: Andrew C. Vitz, Mike Lanzone, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Robert C. Leberman
Chief Assistants: Gerardo Rodriguez
acvitz@yahoo.com

During fall 2009, we recorded very high numbers of many species migrating south with record numbers of individuals being banded (> 2 sd of long-term averages) for Magnolia Warbler (548), Black-throated Blue Warbler (139), Eastern Towhee (99), Black-and-white Warbler (39), and Northern Parula (15). However, overall numbers banded were down somewhat as a result of fewer captures than normal for many of the sparrows and kinglets. Weather patterns can influence bird migrations and likely played a role in these results. We captured above-average numbers for the majority of early fall migrants and below-average numbers for those species that move through the region during late fall. During this period we provided banding demonstrations to approximately 500 individuals and hosted an advanced bird banding workshop (7 participants).

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Nets were operated for 29 days beginning 21 Aug 2009 and continuing through 13 Oct 2009. Family obligations and rain limited the operation. No more

than seven nets were opened at any one time. A total of 88 new birds were banded, with 19 repeat/returns. Song Sparrows and Gray Catbirds were banded in the largest numbers. Warbler species with only a single individual banded were: Hooded, Canada, Black-throated Blue, Tennessee, Yellow Palm, Wilson's, Blackpoll, and Nashville. This banding season was extremely poor compared with fall 2008, when 239 new birds were banded representing 45 species.

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

This was the ninth season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 46 days from 16 Aug through 9 Nov. In total, 1084 birds of 66 species were banded, with a station effort of 4310 net hours. The capture rate was 25 b/100nh. Two new species were added to the station list: Great Crested Flycatcher and Golden-winged Warbler. This brings the station total to 89 species. One Cerulean Warbler was banded; only one had been banded in previous years.

A good food supply is one of the reasons why we chose to band in Mt. Nebo WMA. Soft mass was a mixed bag in the old field area this year. Autumn olive, hawthorns, and multiflora rose hips were abundant. Honeysuckle and black cherries had a medium crop, while apples and crabapples were nonexistent. Millet is sometimes planted proximal to our nets, which significantly increases the number of birds we capture. That was not the case this year and may have contributed to the low capture rate, especially of Indigo Buntings.

The top ten list had few surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (13% of the total), White-throated Sparrow (7%), and Common Yellowthroat (7%). This is the first year for Golden-crowned Kinglets (3%) to make the top ten (30 birds).

I compared the number of birds banded this year to the past nine years' average. The numbers of Black-capped Chickadee (33), Golden-crowned Kinglet (30), Blue-headed Vireo (16), Red-eyed Vireo (15), Chestnut-sided Warbler (24), Magnolia Warbler (75), Black-throated Green Warbler (27), and American Redstart (13) were above average. On the other hand, the numbers of American Robin (9), Cedar Waxwing (12), Indigo Bunting (6), Eastern Towhee (12), and Swamp Sparrows (9) were below average.

Station highs included Downy Woodpecker (4), Eastern Wood Pewee (3), Eastern Phoebe (7), Great Crested Flycatcher (3), Tufted Titmouse (8), Golden-crowned Kinglet (30), Canada Warbler (6), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (5), and American Goldfinch (19). These numbers are not adjusted for net hours. This year yielded the lowest b/100nh (25) of the nine years at Mt. Nebo.

The largest daily catch was 58 birds on 5 Oct with 22 species. The second largest daily catch was 55 birds on 15 Sep with 18 species and 55 birds on 10 Oct with 17 species.

The station had 157 recaptures of 103 birds of 21 species. One notable recapture was a Northern Cardinal banded as an AHY Male on 23 Sep 2003. The band was so worn that we rebanded it on 15 Sep 2009. We recaptured one Black-capped Chickadee banded as AHY in 2004, a male Eastern Towhee banded as AHY in 2005, three birds banded in 2006, seven birds banded in 2007 and nine birds banded in 2008. A Worm-eating Warbler banded in 2008 was recaptured this year. This was a very interesting recapture considering we have banded only three birds of this species in the nine years at Mt. Nebo.

The station had 17 visitors, several of whom spent considerable time at the station enjoying the birds and the great outdoors.

We thank Mike Fazenbaker, who was enormously helpful in clearing net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Mike Fazenbaker for granting us the