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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2010 Powdermill Nature Reserve

Andrew C. Vitz

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**Long Point      423-0800, 423-0801, 423-0802**  
**Bird Observatory**

**Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON**

**Banders: Mike Burrell and Ross W. Wood**

lpbo@bsc~eoc.org

Chief Assistants: Hugh McArthur, and Stu Mackenzie

The fall season officially started on 12 Aug at Old Cut. The Tip and Breakwater were opened on the 16th and 28th, respectively. The fall season had many highlights, including three new species banded: Caspian Tern, Green-tailed Towhee, and Spotted Towhee, all at the Tip. The Green-tailed Towhee and a Western Wood-Pewee, observed at the Tip in late August, both represent new species for the Long Point area.

Black-capped Chickadees staged an unprecedented irruption through Long Point this fall, with almost 2,000 banded, more than double the previous high of 800. Cave Swallows also staged an impressive movement into the Long Point area, with an estimated total of 300-500 present in the region in late October and early November. While not a record, five Cave Swallows were banded at the Tip. Virtually all species of passerines were banded in near record numbers this fall at LPBO and several species set new highs.

Raptor banding this fall was productive, with 1 American Kestrel, 6 Merlins, 1 Northern Goshawk, 88 Sharp-shinned hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk, which was banded. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring began at Old Cut and the Tip on 1 and 6 Oct, respectively, and ended on 13 and 12 Nov. There were 28 nights of coverage at Old Cut and 14 at the Tip. In total, 717 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded; the third highest for LPBO.

Long Point Bird Observatory cooperators conducting additional research produced 16 publications in collaboration with partners at Acadia University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Guelph, and many others. Forty-six volunteers, representing six countries, logged over

5,077 field hours collecting migration data on nearly 255 species and banding 17,595 birds of 133 species and forms. This is a new record high for the fall period and well above the 10-year average of 12,134 birds of 119 species. LPBO had 104 days of coverage, yielding 10,784 net hours, with a catch rate of 163 b/100nh. Eight ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 10.1% of the catch (18.1 % lower than the spring).

Twenty-three volunteer Friends of LPBO helped to serve over 1170 visitors and students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the fall migration through the Old Cut field station.

For more information about LPBO, read the LPBO E-news, download the 2010 Program Report, and learn about the recent sightings at Long Point - visit the <http://www.birdscanada.org/longpoint>

**Presque Isle      420-0800, 429-0805, 421-0822**  
**State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park**  
Erie, PA

**Bander: Sarah Sargent**

ssargent@audubon.org

Chief Assistants: Anne Balogh; Christine, and Michelle Varona

The combined three sites at Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park operated for 48 days during fall 2010. We had fewer species than we did in fall 2009 but banded 358 more birds.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve      401-0791**  
**Rector, Westmoreland County, PA**

**Bander: Andrew C. Vitz**

Chief Assistants: Mary Shidel, Jeff Moker, Lauren Morgan-Outhisack  
acvitz@yahoo.com

We had typical fall weather during 2010. We processed record, or near record, numbers for quite a few species during the fall period. As a result, the following species had capture totals over 2 SD from our long-term data: Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet,

Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

We exceeded last year's record numbers of Magnolia Warblers by 90 individuals for a total of 638 being banded this season. We also had record numbers for Golden-crowned Kinglet (303), and tied record highs for Blackpoll Warbler (92) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (9). It was the second best fall in our history for Northern Parula (12), Black-throated Blue Warbler (121), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (475).

The only record low recorded this fall was for Field Sparrows (31, the only species below 2 SD). A high number of warblers and vireos resulted in a consistently busy September, and numbers spiked in early October with 492 individuals being banded on 3 Oct. Capture rates tapered off by the third week in October, and a final push of finches and kinglets caused numbers to spike again at the end of the month before dropping off for the season.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated group of staff and volunteers who make the intensive banding operation at Powdermill possible. Fall volunteers included David Norman, Carolyn Stratford, Isabelle Stratford, Heather Kraus, Trey Stoner, Julie Zeyzus, Ellen McCallie, Chris Sheedy, Molly McDermott, Matt Shumar, Martha Stauffer, Joe Schrieber, Nathan Brouwer, Susan Elbin, Maya Groner, Henry Schumacher, Alice Van Zoren, Robert Vitz, Anna Maria Bakermans, and Joe Szewczak.

**Bedford Valley** 395-0763  
Bedford, Bedford County, PA  
**Bander: Janet Shaffer**  
jgshaffer@PA.net

Nets were open for a total of 25 days, usually between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and noon, from 10 Aug to 27 Oct. There was a break of two weeks in October due to travel. On most days seven nets were operated; there were two days when zero birds were netted.

A total of 192 new birds were banded with 51 repeats/returns representing 37 species. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded, which is rare for this station. There were five warbler species with just one individual banded.

Fall 2010 was significantly more productive than 2009, although certain species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglets were absent. Closing for two weeks in mid-October impacted the operation more than any weather conditions.

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

This was the tenth season of banding at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The station was open 41 days from 26 Aug through 1 Nov. In total, 1,159 birds were banded of 66 species, with a station effort of 3,041 net hours. The capture rate was 38 b/100nh. The only new species added to the station list was Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This brings the station total to 90 species.

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. Multiflora rose hips were abundant. Honeysuckle had a medium crop. Millet was planted next to some of our nets which significantly increased the number of birds captured, especially Indigo Buntings.

The top ten list had no surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (24% of the total), Indigo Buntings (10%) and White-throated Sparrows (7%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, Purple Finch, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Eastern Towhee.

Station highs included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Brown Creeper (6) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (65).

The largest daily catch was 67 birds on 4 Oct with 16 species. The second largest daily catch was 55 birds on 16 Sep with 18 species.