

2011

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2010 Bedford Valley

Janet Shaffer

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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
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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.