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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2011

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We lost a long-time fall reporting station (Bedford Valley) with the passing of Janet Shaffer in July 2012. Janet had contributed to the fall AFR for many years, both in spring and fall. But we gained a new Pennsylvania station – the Arboretum on the campus of Penn State University, not all that far from Bedford Valley. Allegheny Front banders celebrated their 54th year of continuous fall migration banding, a tribute to Ralph K. Bell.

It was a unanimous decision at all reporting stations ... fall 2011 was a VERY poor banding season. The total banded was 47,373 birds but the number of birds captured at the seven stations that operated both in 2010 and 2011 was down about 30% in 2011. Weather was mentioned as a factor in the poor season at several stations. Allegheny Front was closed for 21 days during the season – for Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee in September and 12 inches of snow on 1 Oct. Long Point had “perfect weather for migration but not for stopover.”

The season was ‘bookended’ by Purple Martin banding at Lewiston at the beginning and Northern Saw-whet Owls at Ruthven, Rock Point, Long Point, and Powdermill at the end of the season. Ruthven handled a fallout of 309 Cedar Waxwings one morning, highlighting the importance of a pre-planned protocol for handling fallout during migration.

We always welcome new reporting stations for the Fall AFR reports. If you are interested in contributing your fall banding data, please contact me.

Lewiston

Niagara County, NY

Jerald J. Farrell, Bander

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431-0790

The 2011 fall banding season started on 5 Jul, when the Purple Martin nesting boxes were lowered for the banding of the young. This is the fourth year for this project and the banding of 84 young was the best total yet. In the last four years, a total of 222 Purple Martin young have been banded.

Mist netting started on 31 Aug. Nets were opened for a total of 10 days with the last day being 8 Oct. A total of 195 birds were banded of 38 different species. This was a very average fall for the birds with the weather being very good through the period.

We had two large groups of children and adults observe the Purple Martin banding, and 15 people came to the banding station to walk the net lanes and observe the banding.

There were only four retraps (two each of catbirds and chickadees) this fall, with all being a year or less of age.

Ruthven Park

Haldimand County, ON

Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret, Banders

rludkin@hotmail.com

425-0795

The station was run from 1 Sep to 7 Nov. Although fall migration is well underway in August, we did

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2011 Summary

	Lewiston, NY	Ruthven Park, ON	Rock Point, ON	Long Point, ON	Presque Isle, PA
First Day/Last Day	8/31 to 10/08	9/1 to 11/7	7/17 to 11/4	8/15 to 11/15	7/16 to 10/28
Days Operated	10	64	71	104	52
No. Nets Used	15	23	14 to 17	0 to 53	4 to 12
Total Net Hours	593	7,192	5,321	11,370	2,610
% Caught in Traps	0	3.0%	0	9.3%	0
Largest Daily Catch	26 on 9/17	309 on 10/25	147 on 9/6	673 on 10/11,17	140 on 10/10
Most Common on Best Day	19% BLPW	56% CEDW	33% MAWA	68% MYWA	79% MYWA
Most Species Diversity	16 on 9/19	25 on 10/9	30 on 9/6	28 on 10/1	18 on 9/16
No. Banded 2010	301	4,763	3,674	17,595	1,589
No. Banded 2011	279	3,963	3,215	11,594	1,151
No. Forms 2010	36	90	90	133	63
No. Forms 2011	39	87	90	128	65
Birds/100nh 2010	40.4	63.2	58.4	163.0	54.2
Birds/100nh 2011	30.4	52.7	60.4	102.0	47.7
% HY 2010	NA	NA	77%	88%	85%
% HY 2011	NA	NA	76%	86%	NA

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2011 Summary (continued)

	Powdermill, PA	Arboretum at Penn State, PA	Mt. Nebo, MD	Allegheny Front, WV
First Day/Last Day	8/4 to 11/16	9/10 to 10/18	8/27 to 11/2	8/12 to 10/15
Days Operated	80	9	31	44
No. Nets Used	15 to 65	2 to 8	15.5	10 to 30
Total Net Hours	19,588	223	2,261	4,752
% Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0
Largest Daily Catch	264 on 10/22	76 on 10/18	53 on 10/6	440 on 9/13
Most Common on Best Day	36% MYWA	28% WTSP	26% WTSP	35% BTBW
Most Species Diversity	42 on 10/4	18 on 10/18	19 on 10/4	32 on 9/11
No. Banded 2010	7,929	NA	1,159	10,363
No. Banded 2011	7,266	283	852	4,610
No. Forms 2010	96	NA	66	82
No. Forms 2011	109	41	60	69
Birds/100nh 2010	39.4	NA	38	186
Birds/100nh 2011	37.1	132.0	38	99
% HY 2010	71%	NA	79%	60%
% HY 2011	NA	63%	78%	70%

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2011

	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Park, ON	Rock Point, ON		Long Point, ON		Presque Isle, PA	
		% HY			% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	84 PUMA	100%	662 CEDW (3)	251 WTSP(1)	88%	2045 MYWA (7)	91%	390 MYWA (1)	79%
2.	22 SWTH (2)	95	556 MYWA (6)	245 RCKI (5)	78	974 GCKI (2)	82	129 GRCA (3)	96
3.	19 BCCH (6)	95	493 AMGO (1)	240 GRCA (2)	89	825 RCKI (6)	84	77 WTSP (4)	77
4.	15 HETH (1)	93	269 SCJU (4)	203 YEWA	84	599 WTSP (5)	80	61 GCKI (2)	49
5.	14 MAWA (5)	86	259 WTSP (2)	177 MAWA	62	594 BLPW (3)	90	51 YEWA (8)	94
6.	10 WTSP (4)	70	153 SOSP (9)	152 SCJU	85	526 SCJU	72	46 COYE (10)	87
7.	10 GRCA (7)	100	122 GCKI (7)	152 SOSP (7)	61	485 HETH (10)	89	34 HETH (5)	74
8.	9 BLPW	67	121 AMRO	120 AMGO (6)	60	455 BRCR	97	33 BLPW	58
9.	9 GCTH	89	108 RCKI (5)	99 CEDW (4)	55	326 MAWA	85	33 BRCR (9)	64
10.	8 WOTH	88	100 HETH (10)	99 GCKI (3)	79	262 AMRE	85	26 MAWA	81

Table 2 (cont). Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2011

	Powdermill, PA		Arboretum at Penn State, PA		Mt Nebo, MD		Allegheny Front, WV	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	960 MYWA	67	102 GRCA	72%	176 GRCA (1)	90%	1074 BTBW	71%
2.	487 AMGO (4)	78	34 AMGO	74	85 WTSP (3)	47	736 BLPW	54
3.	411 MAWA (1)	50	28 WTSP	76	83 SOSP (5)	83	642 BTNW	88
4.	336 RCKI (3)	66	17 SOSP	65	52 CEDW	95	362 TEWA	54
5.	321 RTHU (9)	91	16 NOCA	63	49 RCKI (4)	NA	270 CMWA	53
6.	315 GRCA (8)	78	10 HOFI	80	36 COYE (7)	64	235 BLBW	60
7.	292 WTSP (2)	39	9 MAWA	0	31 BCCH	92	233 MAWA	81
8.	270 REVI (10)	80	8 EATO	75	27 MAWA (8)	48	118 SWTH	81
9.	233 COYE	74	7 RCKI	29	23 BTBW (9)	96	99 COYE	86
10.	225 SOSP	58	6 MYWA	50	22 EATO (10)	86	86 OVEN	84