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

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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

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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

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