

2012

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2011 The arboretum at Penn State

Nick T. Kerlin

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Long Point Bird Observatory 423-0800
Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON 423-0801
Ross W. Wood, Matt Slaymaker, 423-0802
Stu Mackenzie, Banders

lpbo@bsc~eoc.org

Hugh McArthur, Chief Assistant

email address: lbpo@birdscanada.org

LPBO's 52nd fall season officially started at Old Cut on 15 Aug with the Tip and Breakwater opening on 16 and 27 Aug, respectively. Forty-seven volunteers, representing eight countries, logged over 3,323 field hours, collecting migration data on over 250 species, and banding 11,527 birds of 124 species. LPBO had 104 days of coverage, yielding 11,370 net hours, with a catch rate of 102 b/100nh. Eight ground traps, four J-Traps and two Heligoland traps contributed 9.3% of the catch (11.6 % lower than the spring). Twenty-three volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to serve over 1500 visitors and students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations among other marvels of the fall migration through the Old Cut Research Station.

Sporadic migration monitoring coverage began with the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologist Workshop in late July. The fall began incredibly slow and remained that way for the majority of the season. Favorable weather created perfect conditions for migration and less than great conditions for stopping over. The slow pace continued throughout the season, with a few peak days at the end of September and late October. The fall season was also kind of slow highlights wise. A beautiful male Yellow-throated Warbler was banded at the Tip on 25 Oct.

Raptor banding this fall was very productive owing to a special effort put in by Latin American trainee from Cuba, Alejandro Sosa, with 183 diurnal raptors of seven species being banded, including nine Peregrine Falcons! Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring began at Old Cut and the Tip on 2 and 3 Oct and ended on 22 and 5 Nov, respectively. There were 37 nights of coverage at Old Cut and 14 at the Tip. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration this year was incredibly slow, with a total of only 190 banded, our lowest total since owl

monitoring began in 1998. One Eastern Screech Owl and two Long-eared Owls were also banded.

For more information on the research, education, and training programs of LPBO, visit us at <http://www.birdscanada.org/lpbo> Visualizations of our data, including summary statistics, migration windows, seasonal checklists, and population trends, are available at <http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon>

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

Sarah Sargent, Bander

ssargent@audubon.org

Mattie Van der Boom, Lauren Smith, Amy Gondran, Chief Assistants

Although there were several good flights of Yellow-rumped Warblers, results for fall 2011 were down from 2010 numbers by about 400 birds at Presque Isle.

The Arboretum at Penn State 404-0775
State College, Centre County, PA

Nick T. Kerlin, Bander

bluebird6771@verizon.net

Dr. Margaret Brittingham, Andrew Weber, PSU WFS-497A students, Chief Assistants

Banding was conducted at two Arboretum locations this season: adjacent to the Bellefonte-Central Rail Trail in Big Hollow and near the Overlook Pavilion at the H.O.Smith Botanic Gardens.

The rail trail area consists of former pasture lands populated primarily with invasive shrub species (autumn olive, multiflora rose and privet) adjacent to a small woodlot of second growth woodland of white oak. Banding has occurred at this location since fall of 2010.

The pavilion site included shrubby wood edge (predominately white oak) and a bird feeding area adjacent to the gardens and mowed field for football parking. This site was added to meet the public outreach component of the Avian Education

Program by providing banding demonstrations for interested visitors to the botanic gardens.

Bander-in-Charge was Nick Kerlin. Valuable assistance was provided by Dr. Margaret Brittingham and graduate student instructor Andrew Weber. A total of 10 PSU students (WFS 497A) assisted at various times in learning banding, identification, sexing-aging and record keeping techniques under direction of the bander-in-charge. Students also presented impromptu talks and answered questions about banding to site visitors.

Banding occurred on nine days (one additional day was canceled due to high winds) from 10 Sep to 18 Oct 2011. In total, 2-8 mist nets (6-12 meter length) were opened from 7 am to 11 am each day. Some hours were shortened due to weather conditions (rain, wind). In total, 283 birds were banded of 41 different species. Number of birds handled (new banded and recaptures) was 295. Total net hours were 223. Total b/100nhs was 132 for the two sites.

Best day (highest number of birds and species) was 18 Oct, the final day of operation, when 76 birds of 18 species were banded. The "Best birds" species-wise were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm (western) Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Mourning Warbler.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 401-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Andrew C. Vitz, Bander

Mary Shidel, Heather Kraus, Brandon Miller,

Fabian Meijer, Chief Assistants

acvitz@yahoo.com

Although average weather conditions existed throughout the fall, a little over half (48) of our 80 banding days were shortened by weather, including high temperatures, rain and wind and an early November snow. We had a very average August and September, with numerous days affected by Southeast winds. Captures dramatically increased in October, with a high diversity of warblers in early October replaced by exceptionally high numbers of

Yellow-rumped Warblers in the latter half of the month. From 1 Aug through the end of November, we banded 7,266 birds of 109 unique species and processed another 2,613 banded birds. Species captured above 2 standard deviations included: American Bittern, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Wilson's Snipe, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Many of these species were rare captures for Powdermill. Over the course of our 50 year banding effort, we have caught only three other American Bitterns and four other Clay-colored Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows, historically once more abundant at Powdermill (50 captures over 50 years), have only been caught one other time (2008) in the past 15 years.

Other highlights included Pine Warbler, a species which we usually catch only one per year: we banded one Pine Warbler on 3 Oct, and *three* more the following day. As noted above, we had a near-record year for Yellow-rumped Warblers, banding 959 of this species (all but nine of them banded in the month of October).

A Gray Catbird banded on 21 Aug 2011 was recovered in Jun 2012 about 15 miles from this station, near Latrobe, PA, and a Cedar Waxwing banded on 28 Oct 2011 was recovered on 10 May 2012 in Castleton, VT.

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations for 37 individuals and six groups comprised of 95 individuals from local colleges, elementary schools, and scout groups. Additionally, an Advanced Banding Workshop was attended by five participants from 13 through 18 Sep.

Mt Nebo Banding Station 392-0792

Oakland, Garrett County, MD

Fran Pope, Connie Skipper, Banders

connieskipper@hohnet.com

This was the eleventh season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 31 days, from 27 Aug through 2 Nov. In total, 852 birds were banded