

2012

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2011 Powdermill Nature Reserve

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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,

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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

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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