

2014

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 The Arboretum at Penn State

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color-banding project of American Goldfinches and House Finches; although to date most reports have been from nearby, we encourage all banders to keep an eye out for any birds with white alphanumeric codes on black bands, and to report these to us through our form at <http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/feederbirds.html>

(The Coordinator apologizes for inadvertently omitting the narrative of this report from the AFR Spring 2012 Review.)

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

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Windy! That was the one word to describe most days of operation. Constant and often gusty winds caused net movement visible to birds and required more frequent net checks to insure bird safety. Some nets were not opened as a result. Two scheduled days during the period were cancelled and operations closed early on one day due to inclement weather conditions (rain/snow, high winds).

Species	Number	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
GRCA	60	67%	17%	16%
WTSP	42	14	0	86
AMRO	23	43	14	43
AMGO	17	65	18	17
SOSP	16	13	12	75
NOCA	11	18	0	82
HETH	6	83	0	17
BLJA	4	50	25	25
WOTH	4	0	0	100
EATO	4	0	0	10

Two new mist nets were added for a total of ten and banding headquarters was moved from an open area to the pavilion at the Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center. The pavilion provided a more favorable location for banding operations (table work space, protection from precipitation for equipment and

volunteers) as well as a more easily recognizable gathering point for visitors.

Twenty-eight volunteers (Penn State students and others) provided 292 hours of volunteer time.

A total of 76 visitors, including students from the State College Area School District Delta Program, Altoona High School and Penn State Wildlife & Fisheries Science 406 ornithology class visited the site.

There were no foreign recaptures; however, a Hermit Thrush originally banded at the site on 22 Apr 2011 was recaptured 4 Apr 2012. This raised speculation as to whether it was a wintering individual or caught during a migration stopover in both years. Additionally, where did it breed in the interim? Area habitat and elevation is not typical of this species for breeding.

The oldest bird recaptured was an American Goldfinch originally banded 27 Aug 2010 as a SY bird and recaptured 9 May 2012.

A Research Summary from a 2013 EBBA Memorial Grant Recipient

Boldness in Response to Predatory Threat and its Correlation with Reproductive Success in Carolina Chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*)

Personalities in non-human animals, defined as individual consistencies in behaviors over time and context, represent an emerging topic in animal behavior and evolutionary ecology. Because of expected associations with survival and fitness, risk-taking behavior (boldness) is often studied from a personality perspective. My study addressed boldness in response to predatory threat in Carolina Chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*), tested through field experiments. Chickadees are good model species because they react to threats with behavior that can be quantified easily: both alarm-call rate and the number of *dees* in the *chick-a-dee* call increases linearly with degree of threat. In spring 2012 and 2013, I presented breeding pairs with three stimulus models