

2014

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2013 The arboretum at Penn State

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Gull was observed at the Tip on 29 Oct. A Brown Booby, that was originally observed at the mouth of the Niagara River, did a leisurely fly-by at Tip on 31 Oct and was later observed on the north-east shores of Lake Erie. This was the 396<sup>th</sup> species on the Long Point Area checklist. A Cave Swallow, the only record for Ontario for 2013, was also observed flying west across the lake and proceeding down the north beach on 8 Nov. The season went out with a bang as LPBO's third Snowy Owl was banded at the Tip on 13 Nov. A complete summary of the 2013 fall season is available in the winter 2014 edition of the *LPBO E-news*.

**Presque Isle State Park** **420-0800**  
Erie, PA  
Bander: **Sarah Sargent**  
**ssargent@audubon.org**

With regret, because of lack of funding, the Presque Isle State Park banding stations were unable to open.

**The Arboretum at Penn State** **404-0775**  
State College, Centre County, PA  
Bander: **Nick T. Kerlin**  
**bluebird6771@verizon.net**  
Margaret Brittingham, Chief Assistant and  
Nate Fronk (graduate assistant)

The banding program is part of the Avian Education Program of The Arboretum at Penn State (main campus at University Park). Banding was first conducted on a trial basis at this location in the fall of 2010.

The "five best birds" (based upon past presence and existing habitat) were all single captures of warblers this season (Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler). There were a total of 42 local recaptures this season, but no foreign recaptures.

The banding site was open for public visitation during all hours of operation with organized group tours through prior arrangement. A total of 216 people visited during the period.

Four community volunteers and 25 Penn State students (most from the Wildlife and Fisheries major) contributed 667 hours of time to banding operations and public outreach activities during the season. Major assistance was provided by Margaret Brittingham.

**Powdermill Nature Reserve** **400-0791**  
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA  
Bander(s)/Compiler: **Luke DeGroot**  
**degrootel@carnegiemnh.org**  
Chief Assistants: Mary Shidel, Blain Carnes,  
Heather Kraus, Brandon Miller

Despite an effort level consistent with past years and relatively few cancellations due to weather, this season resulted in our second-lowest capture rate (25.1 b/100nh), well below our long-term average of 41.5 b/100nh. (Our lowest capture rate, 24.7 b/100nh, was in 1967.) Radar images of the nocturnal movement of birds showed more often than not the birds were steered away from our banding station in southwestern Pennsylvania by winds from the north and evening/overnight storms moving through the region.

Over the summer, our habitat management included a major make-over of two small ponds on property that were losing water and filling in with vegetation. Both were restored to shallow water-filled ponds with graded banks and low vegetation at the water's edge. Within days of the ponds refilling we were observing wading Green Herons and perched Belted Kingfishers in that area. Although we did not manage to catch any Green Herons this fall, the pond restoration did have an impact on our numbers of Belted Kingfishers. Throughout the fall, we banded a total of eight kingfishers, more than double our long-term average. Notably, in the five previous fall seasons *combined*, we banded just *one* kingfisher.

We banded seven woodcocks this year, all of them during the month of October. This was a new fall high total over the course of our 52 years banding here at Powdermill. The increased capture rate likely resulted from two things: 1) better habitat surrounding the area of the pond restoration