

2013

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2012 The arboretum at Penn State

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### Recommended Citation

Kerlin, Nick T. (2013) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2012 The arboretum at Penn State," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 38 : Iss. 4 , Article 25.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol38/iss4/25>

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Tip. Like many other species, Northern Saw-whet Owls irrupted this year making it the second busiest fall since consistent owl monitoring began in 1998. LPBO banded 937 owls, compared to the last major irruption in 2007 when 1,088 were banded. Our slowest year was 2011, with only 190 banded. Five Eastern Screech-Owls, LPBO's second Boreal Owl, and a record 14 Long-eared Owls were also banded.

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We only banded for a single day this fall, due to lack of funding. It was a productive day with a high capture rate and the usual concentration of Myrtle Warblers at this location.

**The Arboretum at Penn State**                      **404-0775**  
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Dr. Margaret Brittingham, Chief 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.

Notable captures, based upon past species sightings and habitat included: Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-checked Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Mourning Warbler. Fifty-five American Goldfinches banded on 23 Sep fed on a large thistle patch adjacent to the banding nets. They were part of a flock of over 100 observed there the previous day.

A female AHY Northern Cardinal banded 20 Sep 2012 was recovered (apparent window strike) three miles southwest of the banding station on 9 Jan 2013. A female HY Eastern Towhee banded 27 Sep 2012 was found near Statesboro, GA on 26 Jan 2013.

Thirty-three birds of ten species were repeat visitors, with three species (Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Ovenbird) all banded in Sep 2010 and recaptured in Sep 2012.

The banding site was open for public visitation during all hours of operation with organized group tours through prior arrangement. A total of 220 people visited during the period, including two Boy Scout Webelos dens, State College High School biology class and three Penn State Wildlife & Fisheries classes.

Thirty volunteers (Penn State students and others) provided 497 hours of volunteer time.

A "Banders-in-Training" program was initiated to attract additional volunteers for the banding program. The program, developed by Dr. Margaret Brittingham and assisted by other volunteers, included in-class and field training on difficult bird identification, banding procedures, equipment use and record keeping. Twenty-one volunteers attended the training and individually assisted on three or more of the banding days this fall.

The *Centre Daily Times* and PSU *Penn Stater* magazine staff blog published full length articles with photos on the banding program. A summary of each day's banding was posted online to the State College Bird Club listserv and Facebook page as well as selected entries into The Arboretum at Penn State Facebook page.

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Wind and climate had a significant effect on our capture rates at Powdermill this fall. There were many nights where (southerly) wind was not favorable for migration in our area and October was comparatively slow with only 2501 new birds (most years 3000 to 3500 are banded). Watching