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## Atlantic Flyway Review: (Western Ridge) Region III- Fall 2016- Powdermill Nature Preserve

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## *Eastern Regional News*

*Eastern Bird Banding Association*

*Founded 1923*

### **Atlantic Flyway Review: (Western Ridge) Region III - Fall 2016**

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We always welcome new reporting stations for the Fall AFR reports. If you are interested in contributing your fall banding data, please contact me.

**Powdermill Nature Preserve 400-0791**  
**Rector County: Westmoreland, PA**  
**Bander(s) / Compiler: Luke DeGroot**  
**email address: degrootel@carnegiemnh.org**  
**Chief Assistant(s): Mary Shidel, Katie Barnes, Nick Glover**

In fall 2016 we banded 6,545 new birds, which was on par (6<sup>th</sup> place) with our capture rates for the last ten years. Recapture rates were fairly consistent as well; we processed 2,689 (4<sup>th</sup> highest over 10 years) for a total count of 9,234. However, we cannot help but wonder how much higher those totals could have been in better (cooler) weather conditions.

After the warmest month on record to-date (July 2016), the fall season started out and remained a warm one. Our total net hr. (19,594 hr.) came in almost 2,000 hr. lower than our average of the last five years (21,567). Most of that was due to early weather-related closures. On 30 of our 72 banding days we closed early due to high temperatures. The majority of these warm days fell in August, but

early-closure days also included 10 days throughout the month of September and 4 days in October (16, 18-20); on 2 November the temperature hit 80F just before our normal closing time.

No species were below 2 sd, but several were above: Carolina Chickadee (n=13), Cooper's Hawk (n=1), Northern Mockingbird (n=1), Orchard Oriole (n=2), Warbling Vireo (n=4) and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (n=7). Both the Cooper's Hawk and the Northern Mockingbird were especially exciting for us—we had not banded either since 2007! Three species showed up in particularly good numbers: Blue Jays (n=34; fall mean=13), Ovenbirds (n=137, fall mean=60) and Swainson's Thrushes (n=593, fall mean= 222).

We had three foreign recoveries this fall, all of them Northern Saw-whet Owls. On 19 October we encountered an adult female Saw-whet that had been banded in 2013 near Carlisle, PA (106 miles east of our station).

On 1 November, we recaptured another owl from that same location, a hatch-year female banded just five days earlier. Our third recovered Saw-whet, from 25 Oct, was also an adult female, originally banded on 31 Oct 2015, in Friedensburg, PA (162 mi ENE of Powdermill). Additionally, a second-year female Saw-Whet banded *here* on 11/16/15 was re-caught on 10/26/16 in Powhatan, Virginia (almost 200 km SSE).

**Table 1. AFR III Fall 2016 Summary**

	<b>Powdermill PA</b>	<b>Penn State PA</b>	<b>Allegheny Front WV</b>	<b>Mt. Nebo MD</b>	<b>Ruthven ON</b>
First day/Last day	8/14/16 to 11/15/16	9/8/16 to 10/26/16	8/13/16 to 10/2/16	8/22/16 to 11/08/16	9/1 to 11/7
Days operated	72	48	45	47	68
No. Nets Used or Range	29 to 67	4 to 10	27 to 30	16	21
Total net Hrs.	19,594	446	6135	3,132	6,191
Number of traps in Use	0	0	0	0	0
% Caught in traps	0	0	0	0	0
Lgst Daily Catch	276 on 10/20/16	42	829	45 on 9/13, 45 on 10/7	116 on 10/9
Most Common Best day	31% MYWA	WTSP	35% BLPW	15% COYE, 22% WTSP	MYWA
Most Species Diversity	42 on 9/16/16	11 on 10/15/16	36 on 9/24	21 on 9/26	na
No. Banded 2015	6,024	340	2,924	786	3,441
No. Banded 2016	6,545	335	5,423	1,163	2,328
Total Species 2015	101	40	66	63	88
Total Species 2016	105	35	77	70	85
Birds/100 nh 2015	27.8	92	66	52.6	49.3
Birds/100 nh 2016	33.4	86	88	37	32.6
% HY 2015	65.4	68%	83.06%	77%	86.60%
% HY 2016	76.1	58%	69.8%	72%	79.40%

**Table 2. Most Common Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2016**

Table 2. Most Common Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2016										
	Powdermill PA		PennState PA		Allegheny Front		Mt. Nebo MD		Ruthven	
	%HY		%HY		%HY		%HY		%HY	
1.	593 SWTH	77.2	105 GRCA	65	1082 BTBW	65	100 WTSP	41	493 AMGO	72.2
2.	499 RCKI	46.1	62 WTSP	45	858 BLPW	53	91 GRCA	95	213 MYWA	87.7
3.	409 MYWA	60.6	25 HOFI	60	565 CMWA	69	81 COYE	81	143 SCJU	76.9
4.	373 AMGO	38.6	23 NOCA	61	459 BLNW	88	99 SOSP	79	123 WTSP	90.8
5.	309 MAWA	59.9	13 RCKI	69	443 TEWA	68	72 RCKI	42	120 RCKI	80.0
6.	299 GRCA	83.9	10 SWTH	50	371 SWTH	68	57 AMGO	61	80 NSWO	65.0
7.	290 RTHU	90.3	9 BCCH	100	267 BLBW	70	41 DEJU	48	75 BLHV	81.8
8.	240 REVI	77.9	7 TUTI	71	232 MAWA	89	39 BCCH	72	59 REVI	88.1
9.	230 COYE	66.5	7 WOTH	13	169 OVEN	80	35 SWTH	69	58 BCCH	96.8
10.	219 CEWA	37.4	7 BLPW	72	117 COYE	81	35 CEDW	35	50 MAWA	96.0

We had 312 visitors at the lab during the fall banding season, including classes from four nearby universities, several local schools and many families. In September, seven people participated in our Advanced Bander Training Workshop. Additionally, we hosted a North American Banding Council (NABC) certification session attended by 10 candidates and evaluated by 10 trainers with over 200 years of combined banding experience. One candidate was certified at the trainer level, three candidates at the bander level, and five candidates at the assistant level.

**The Arboretum at Penn State                      404-0775**  
**State College, Centre, PA**  
**Bander Nick T. Kerlin**  
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**State College, PA 16801**  
**email address: bluebird6771@verizon.net**  
**Chief Assistant Dr. Margaret Brittingham**

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. Overall it was a mediocre season in numbers and species. Weather conditions had no effect on banding totals, as there was no presence of any major weather influence. One and a half days were rescheduled due to rain and another day was shortened by two hours for the same reason.

For the first time in seven seasons of fall banding, no Song Sparrows were caught. Noteworthy, since in three of the previous years they were in the top five banded birds. Result of a natural population down trend? Missed because of "wrong" day for banding when they moved through the area? Did other stations find this species in lower numbers? The "five best birds" (based upon past presence and volunteers' preference) were Connecticut Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Purple Finch.

There were no foreign (outside of local area) recaptures. Forty-seven birds were recaptured on one or more days after being banded at the Arboretum. Noteworthy local recaptures included a Blue Jay — banded 8 Oct 2010 as a HY bird and a Northern Cardinal - banded 15 Apr 2011 as AHY (after hatch year) bird.

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The banding site was open for public visitation during all hours of operation with organized group programs through prior arrangement. A total of 149 people visited during the period. Daily summaries were posted on the local State College Bird Club listserv.

Eight community volunteers and 26 Penn State students (most from the Wildlife and Fisheries major) contributed 476 hours of time to banding operations and public outreach activities during the season. The annual "Bander-in-Training" program had 12 participants with three continuing to assist beyond the minimum required three days. Special thanks to Dr. Margaret Brittingham (Avian Education Program coordinator, Professor of Wildlife Resources), Shari Edelson (Director of Horticulture/Curator of The Arboretum at Penn State), Penn State Operation and Physical Plant employees (trail maintenance/support).

**Allegheny Front    390-0791**  
**Dolly Sods, Grantco CO, WV**  
**Migration Observatory Banding Station**  
**Project Leaders:**  
**Joan Bell Pattison and Todd Schnopp**  
**pattison914@gmail.com**

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) is located at Dolly Sods, Grant County, West Virginia. AFMO is 10 km southeast of Davis, WV, high on top of the Allegheny Front in the Monongahela National Forest. This fall, AFMO opened on 13 Aug and closed on 2 Oct 2016. AFMO is the oldest, continuous bird banding station in North America. This was our 59th consecutive year of bird banding at AFMO. A total of 5,423 birds were banded representing 77 species with a Station effort of 88 birds per 100 net hours.

A total of 266,759 birds have been banded since Ralph K. Bell founded AFMO and banded his first bird on 8 Sep 1958. A total of 125 species have been banded since 1958.

The overall percentage of hatch-year birds (using known age birds only) was 69.8% compared with 83.06% in 2015 and 75.84% in 2014. There were