

2018

Atlantic Flyway Review: (Western Ridge) Region III- Fall 2016- The Arboretum at Penn State

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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**
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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:
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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