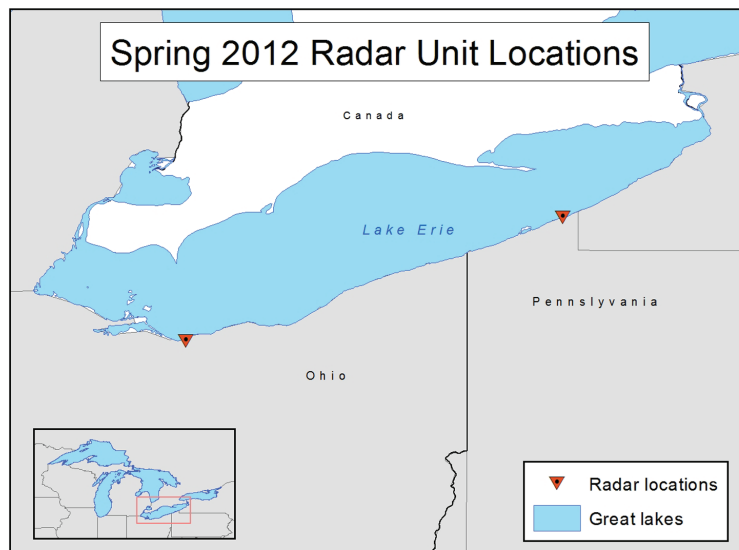




**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Great Lakes Avian Radar Technical Report Lake Erie Shoreline: Erie County, Ohio and Erie County, Pennsylvania**

*Spring 2012*



*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3  
Funding Provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*



# Great Lakes Avian Radar Technical Report Lake Erie Shoreline: Erie County, Ohio and Erie County, Pennsylvania

*Spring 2012*

*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3  
Funding Provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*

*2016*

**Principle Investigator:**

Jeff Gosse, Regional Energy Coordinator, USFWS, Region 3

**Authors:**

Rebecca Horton, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Region 3

Nathan Rathbun, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Region 3

Tim Bowden, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Region 3

Daniel Nolfi, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USFWS Region 3

Erik Olson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist (GIS), USFWS Region 3

David Larson, Asst. Reg. Energy Coordinator (Retired), USFWS Region 3

**Corresponding Author:****Nathan A. Rathbun**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5182  
Email: [nathan\\_rathbun@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_rathbun@fws.gov)

**Authors' Complete Contact Information:****Jeffrey C. Gosse**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Regional Energy Coordinator  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5138  
Email: [jeff\\_gosse@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_gosse@fws.gov)

**Timothy S. Bowden**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5197  
Email: [timothy\\_bowden@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_bowden@fws.gov)

**Rebecca L. Horton**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5196  
Email: [rebecca\\_horton@fws.gov](mailto:rebecca_horton@fws.gov)

**David J. Larson**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Assistant Regional Energy Coordinator  
(Retired)  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5336

**Daniel C. Nolfi**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5195  
Email: [daniel\\_nolfi@fws.gov](mailto:daniel_nolfi@fws.gov)

**Erik C. Olson**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist (GIS)  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5488  
Email: [erik\\_olson@fws.gov](mailto:erik_olson@fws.gov)

**Nathan A. Rathbun**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Ecological Services  
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
Phone: 612/713 5182  
Email: [nathan\\_rathbun@fws.gov](mailto:nathan_rathbun@fws.gov)

# Great Lakes RESTORATION



Funding for this study was provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

**Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The mention of trade names or commercial products in this report does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the Federal government.**

Key words: Great Lakes, Lake Ontario, migration, avian radar, wind energy, birds, bats

Recommended citation:

Horton, R. L., N. A. Rathbun, T. S. Bowden, D. C. Nolfi, E. C. Olson, D. J. Larson, and J. C. Gosse. 2016. Great Lakes Avian Radar Technical Report Lake Erie Shoreline: Erie County, Ohio and Erie County, Pennsylvania, Spring 2012. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Technical Publication FWS/BTP--R3012-2016

ISSN 2160-9498 Electronic ISSN 2160-9497

FWS/BTP--R3012-2016

Biological Technical Publications online:

Biological Technical Publications Series

# Table of Contents

<b>List of Figures</b> .....	ii
<b>List of Tables</b> .....	iv
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	v
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	vi
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
Objectives .....	2
<b>Methods</b> .....	3
Study Area .....	3
Equipment .....	4
Data Collection .....	5
Data Processing and Quality Control .....	6
Data Summary and Trends Analysis .....	9
<b>Results</b> .....	12
Qualitative Assessments .....	12
Directional Trends .....	16
Temporal Trends .....	17
Altitudinal Trends .....	27
<b>Discussion</b> .....	39
Radar Study and Management Considerations .....	41
<b>Literature Cited</b> .....	49

# List of Figures

<b>Figure 1.</b> Locations at which MERLIN Avian Radar Systems were deployed during the spring 2012 migration season .....	3
<b>Figure 2.</b> Land cover types found within a 3.7-km radius of the radar locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania during spring 2012 .....	4
<b>Figure 3.</b> Computer representation of the potential survey volume scanned by horizontal and vertical radars used in Ohio and Pennsylvania during spring 2012. Graphic provided by DeTect, Inc. ....	5
<b>Figure 4.</b> Vertical and horizontal clutter maps from Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	7
<b>Figure 5.</b> Schematic of the vertical scanning radar and the standard front .....	8
<b>Figure 6.</b> Graphical representation of the structural form of the vertical scanning radar within the standard front used for density estimates .....	10
<b>Figure 7.</b> Volume of 50-m altitude bands within the standard front as estimated with a Monte Carlo integration .....	11
<b>Figure 8.</b> Trackplots recorded in 1-hour increments by horizontal and vertical scanning radars during an apparent nighttime migration event in Ohio .....	14
<b>Figure 9.</b> Trackplots recorded in 1-hour increments by horizontal and vertical scanning radars during an apparent nighttime migration event in Pennsylvania .....	15
<b>Figure 10.</b> Target direction during four biological periods during spring 2012 at sites in Ohio (left) and Pennsylvania (right) .....	16
<b>Figure 11.</b> Hourly counts by horizontal and vertical radars from April 1 – June 11, 2012 in Ohio .....	18
<b>Figure 12.</b> Hourly counts by horizontal and vertical radars from April 4 –June 11, 2012 in Pennsylvania .....	19
<b>Figure 13.</b> Box plots showing the variability in target passage rate (targets/km/hour during four biological periods in spring 2012 at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	20
<b>Figure 14.</b> Mean hourly target passage rate in spring 2012 at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	21
<b>Figure 15.</b> Weekly mean nocturnal and diurnal target passage rates (targets/km/hour) in Ohio (top row) and Pennsylvania (bottom row) from April 1 –June 11, 2012 .....	21
<b>Figure 16.</b> Comparison of nocturnal and diurnal target passage trends(based on a moving 7-day mean) in spring 2012 at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	22
<b>Figure 17.</b> Comparison of nocturnal target passage trends (based on a moving 7-day mean) in spring 2012 at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	23
<b>Figure 18.</b> Altitude profile of nocturnal and diurnal targets at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	25
<b>Figure 19.</b> Altitude profile of dawn and dusk targets at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	26



<b>Figure 20.</b> A sample of hourly altitude profiles corrected for the shape of the sample volume in Ohio .....	27
<b>Figure 21.</b> A sample of hourly altitude profiles corrected for the shape of the sample volume in Pennsylvania .....	28
<b>Figure 22.</b> Altitude profile of target density below 400 m at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	29
<b>Figure 23.</b> Percentage of nights when the maximum target density (targets/1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> /altitude band) or count (targets/altitude band) occurred within an altitude band at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	30
<b>Figure 24.</b> Percentage of night hours when the maximum target density (targets/1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> / altitude band) or count (targets/altitude band) occurred within an altitude band at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	31
<b>Figure 25.</b> Variation in flight altitudes based on target density (targets/1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> /altitude band) at our site in Erie County, Ohio .....	32
<b>Figure 26.</b> Variation in flight altitudes based on target density (targets/1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> /altitude band) at our site in Erie County, Pennsylvania .....	33
<b>Figure 27.</b> Mean hourly target height (m) in spring at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	34
<b>Figure 28.</b> Example of a sampling schedule in which data were collected once per week (top graphic) vs. a continuous sampling schedule (bottom graphic) .....	36

# List of Tables

<b>Table 1.</b> Predominant land cover types found within a 3.7-km radius of the radar locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012 .....	3
<b>Table 2.</b> Survey effort (hours) by vertical and horizontal scanning radars in spring 2012 in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	12
<b>Table 3.</b> Mean direction, angular concentration ( $r$ ), and percentage of time with strong directionality ( $r \geq 0.5$ ) of targets by biological time period in Ohio and Pennsylvania .....	16
<b>Table 4.</b> Mean target passage rate (TPR) with standard deviations during four biological time periods in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012 .....	20
<b>Table 5.</b> Comparison of mean target passage rate (TPR) and mean height (m) with standard deviations during four biological time periods in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012 .....	28

# Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the funding provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, for which we are very appreciative. We are also grateful for the advice, technical assistance, and contributions of our collaborators Doug Johnson (U.S. Geological Survey), Kevin Heist (University of Minnesota), and Anna Peterson (University of Minnesota). The statistical and programming expertise of Jake Ferguson (University of Florida) provided our model of the geometric shape of the radar beam. We also thank the landowners that provided space for our radar units and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

programs for their assistance during the season, including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, and the Ohio Ecological Services Field Office. This manuscript benefited from four external reviews, and we thank the contributors: Megan Seymour of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife USFWS Ohio Field Office, Michael Wellik of the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, David Ewert of the Nature Conservancy, and Ryan Zimmerling of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

# Executive Summary

Global wind patterns help move millions of migrating birds and bats through the Great Lakes region, where the shorelines provide important stopover habitat. Shorelines are thought to concentrate migrants because they offer a last refuge prior to crossing a geographic obstacle, and they are likely used for navigation. However, shorelines are also attractive for wind energy development, which is a known cause of mortality in birds and bats. Due to this potential for conflicting land use interests, more information on the aeroecology of the shorelines of the Great Lakes region is required. Therefore, we used two avian radar systems to identify the activity, temporal patterns, and duration of migration in birds and bats that occurred along shorelines of the Great Lakes.

We placed avian radar systems on opposite ends of the south shore of Lake Erie, and the automated systems continuously tracked and recorded the movements of targets (birds and bats) from early April to mid-June 2012. We determined the direction of movement, target passage rates, and altitude profiles for the air space above our study areas, and we developed a model of the vertical sample volume that allowed us to estimate the target density according to the altitude band.

Migration appeared to be strong along the southern shoreline of Lake Erie, and at both of our locations, the mean target passage rates at night were greater than those at dawn, day, and dusk combined. The nocturnal movements were typically oriented in a northerly direction, although we also recorded other behaviors associated with migrants, such as reverse migration, dawn ascent, and migrants over water returning to land at dawn. After applying a correction, the peak density was found to occur between 50 – 150 m above ground level, although the density at higher and lower altitudes may have been underestimated.

The results of our research highlight the potential role of radar in implementing the Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines and help to identify areas where the impacts to wildlife from wind energy could be minimized. We documented migration activity in the air space above our study areas, and the results indicate that the high target density at low altitudes may present conservation concerns. Our data

revealed the ebb and flow of migration activities throughout the sampling period and documented the occurrence of nocturnal peaks through late May. Given the amount of time during which migration occurred in the sampled sites, curtailing wind energy operations to minimize bird and bat mortality during nocturnal pulses could severely limit energy production time along shorelines during the migration season. Combining the results of radar studies with fatality searches would greatly improve risk assessments and assist with the interpretation of standardized radar studies.

Avian radar is often used to perform surveys for pre-construction risk analyses, and although it is an important tool, few regulatory agencies have experience implementing avian radar or recognizing the strengths and limitations of the technology. This report highlights a number of considerations in the use of avian radar, and it reviews certain potentially confusing metrics and introduces new metrics for reporting radar data. In addition to providing information relevant for wildlife conservation in the Great Lakes region, this report presents concepts that are widely relevant for reviews of avian radar studies and describes methods for identifying critical components of migration, such as the following:

- Nocturnal pulses
- Season length
- Estimated density per altitude band
- Migrant behavior near a geographical obstacle

Given the rapid growth of the wind energy sector, our most effective conservation strategy might be identifying and avoiding locations where migrants concentrate when choosing sites for energy development. Our use of commercial-grade avian radar to document migration is a broad-scale effort toward this end, and to our knowledge, this effort is the first of its type by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Introduction

Collectively, the Great Lakes are one of the largest bodies of freshwater on the planet, and they have a surface area of nearly 245,000 km<sup>2</sup> and over 17,500 km of shoreline. Global wind patterns help move millions of migrating birds and bats through the Great Lakes region (Rich 2004, Liechti 2006, France et al. 2012), and globally recognized Important Bird Areas are often located on lake shorelines (Audubon 2013). Migrants passing through the region concentrate near shorelines (Ewert et al. 2011, Peterson and Niemi 2011, Buler and Dawson 2012, France et al. 2012), which provide important stopover habitats, or areas that are used temporarily for refueling, rest, and protection while en route to their breeding grounds. Compared with inland areas, these shorelines offer increased foraging opportunities relative to inland areas (Smith et al. 2004, 2007, Bonter et al. 2007, 2009) and may serve as visual cues for navigation or as refuges for migrants before or after they cross open water (Buler and Moore 2011).

Due to their location and size, the Great Lakes likely represent a geographic obstacle that migrants must cross or avoid based on the environmental and physiological conditions at the time of they encounter the obstacle (Faaborg et al. 2010, Schmaljohann et al. 2011). For migrants that rely on powered flight, it is more efficient to make several short flights than a single long flight because of the cost of carrying high fuel loads (Alerstam 1990), and this may be one reason why migrants partially circumnavigate the Great Lakes despite being physiologically capable of crossing them (Alerstam 1990, 2001, Ruth 2007). Thus, the decision to cross likely represents a trade-off between minimizing costs (e.g., energy and time) and exposure to risk factors (e.g., predation and fatigue) associated with migration (McGuire et al. 2012a). Shorelines offer refuge when conditions do not favor flights over water.

When challenged by an obstacle, migrants may temporarily reverse or deviate from seasonally appropriate flight directions or return to land to delay or recover from a crossing (Bruderer and Liechti 1998, Akesson 1999, Ewert et al. 2011). Schmaljohann and Naef-Daenzer (2011) found that birds managing low fuel loads and/or unfavorable weather conditions returned to the shoreline habitat

rather than continue across open water in the direction of migration. For bats, the migrants varied in their choice to cross over or circumnavigate lakes above the shorelines, and a number of long distance migrants use torpor to postpone migration in unfavorable conditions (McGuire et al. 2012b). These behavioral responses as well as the need to use stopover habitat during migration likely contribute to the increased use of shorelines and demonstrate the importance of these areas for conservation.

Migrants concentrated along shorelines can be very mobile. In addition to using the shoreline habitats for immediate refueling and rest, migrants make broad-scale flights between habitat patches, explore wind conditions, and orient for migration. For example, radio-tagged bird and bat migrants on the north shore of Lake Erie made repeated movements between habitat patches, with individual birds and bats relocating as far as 18 and 30 km from their capture site, respectively, prior to resuming migration (Taylor et al. 2011). Nocturnal migrants, such as warblers and other Neotropical species, regularly engage in morning flights along shorelines (Wiedner et al. 1992). These flights typically occur within 2 hours of sunrise and likely represent reorientation along a geographic obstacle or movements between stopover habitats (Able 1977, Moore 1990, Wiedner et al. 1992). Flights of this nature often occur above the tree line (Bingman 1980) but at heights lower than those associated with nocturnal migration (Harmata et al. 2000, Mabee and Cooper 2004, Newton 2008). Migrants have also been observed initiating nightly exploratory flights at stopover sites (Schmaljohann et al. 2011), and these flights are considered normal activities aimed at calibrating internal compasses and testing the wind speed and direction aloft. Migrants also follow north-south oriented shorelines en route to their destination (Buler and Dawson 2012), whereas east-west oriented shorelines may be used to circumnavigate open water or find narrow points for crossing (Alerstam 2001, Diehl et al. 2003, France et al. 2012). Cumulatively, these activities define an area of use near lake shores and include a variety of movements and altitudes for landscape-level, exploratory, and migratory flights. However, these activities may increase the risk of collision with tall structures, such as buildings, communication towers or wind turbines.

Migrant populations may experience the greatest mortality pressure during migration (Newton 2006, 2007; Sillett and Holmes 2002, Diehl et al. 2014), and the negative ramifications of compromised stopover habitat are becoming increasingly clear (Sillett and Holmes 2002, Mehlman et al. 2005, Faaborg et al. 2010). Shoreline habitats along the Great Lakes are subject to pressures from urban and energy development, land conversion, and environmental contamination, which may limit habitat availability and/or reduce habitat quality (France et al. 2012).

Of further concern is the devastation of hibernating bat populations by white-nose syndrome, which has increased the need for identifying conservation areas as several of these species face extirpation in the Great Lakes region (Turner et al. 2011). The increased number of wind energy installations within the U.S. is further devastating bat populations by causing high numbers of fatalities to long-distance migratory tree bats (Kunz et al. 2007a, Cryan 2011, Arnett and Bearwald 2013, Hayes 2013, Smallwood 2013). In response to such factors, substantial efforts are being made to identify and protect stopover habitat along the shorelines of the Great Lakes (Buler and Dawson 2012, Ewert et al. 2012, France et al. 2012, Johnson, 2013), although careful planning is needed to balance the demands between increased renewable energy development to mitigate climate change and the conservation of migratory species.

There is a national movement towards supplying 20% of the end-use electricity in the U.S. market by wind power by 2030 (US DOE 2008, 2015) and 35% by 2050 (US DOE 2015). As of 2012, wind energy installations were on target to achieve the 2030 goal (AWEA 2015), which would represent a nearly five-fold increase in wind energy capacity over the next 15 years (Loss et al. 2013). Coinciding with this national effort, wind energy development is increasing within the Great Lakes region, where windy shorelines are attractive areas for turbine placement (Mageau et al. 2008, Great Lakes Commission 2011). However, utility-grade wind facilities have been associated with mortality events in migrating vertebrates (Newton 2007, Arnett et al. 2008, Smallwood and Thelander 2008), and chronic fatalities across the US, particularly in bats, have become a concern (Timm 1989, Johnson 2005, Arnett and Bearwald 2013, Hayes 2013, Smallwood 2013). For example, approximately 75% of all bat mortalities occur in three species of long-distance migratory bats that are impacted by wind energy facilities (Cryan 2011, Kunz et al. 2007a, Arnett and Baerwald 2013), and these migrants, the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), and silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), typically account for the majority of

bat fatalities at wind facilities in the Upper Midwest (Arnett et al. 2008). Three Wisconsin studies found high fatality rates for these same migrant species as well as substantial fatalities in the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) (Gruver et al. 2009, BHE Environmental 2010, Grodsky et al. 2012), although the presence of major hibernacula in the vicinity of wind facilities may have influenced the results. Additionally, low reproductive rates inhibit the ability of bats to rebound from population declines (Racey and Entwistle 2000), which have already begun in several species (Kunz et al. 2007a, Cryan 2011). The cumulative impacts on migratory birds and bats are a concern that will increase with the growth of wind energy if methods to avoid or minimize mortality events are not implemented. A number of promising conservation measures have been proposed to reduce mortality levels, but the greatest benefit to the conservation of migrants might lie in our ability to identify and avoid future growth in locations where migrants concentrate.

To help meet the needs of both renewable energy development and wildlife conservation, we established this project to identify the activity, temporal patterns, and magnitude of migration that occurs along the shorelines of the Great Lakes. Since bats and many bird species migrate during the night throughout the spring and fall, documenting migration is challenging because observing sporadic nocturnal movements is difficult. We used a combination of techniques to address this problem. We primarily used two avian radar units that simultaneously scanned the horizontal and vertical planes 24 hours per day, and we used nearly 40 automated ultrasonic/acoustic monitors to record bird and bat calls. Finally, we collected incidental bird observations in the areas near the monitoring equipment. We are reporting only on the avian radar portion of the overall study, and our objectives include the following:

- Monitor locations along the shorelines of Lake Erie using a consistent methodology;
- Maintain an archive of continuously recorded radar data during the spring migration season;
- Identify the activity patterns captured by radar that are diagnostic of migration;
- Estimate the duration of the migration season.
- Document changes in the behavior of migrants under varying conditions and during different parts of the season.

# Methods

## Study Area and Site Selection

In spring 2012, we selected two sites along Lake Erie for radar placement, with one site located towards the western end of the lake in Ohio and the other site located towards the eastern end of the lake in Pennsylvania (Figure 1). We located sites within 1.5 km of the Lake Erie shoreline to monitor the airspace above inland, shoreline and lake areas. The western site, which is located in Erie County, Ohio, at 41.3798° N, -82.4376° W, was approximately 1.5 km from the shoreline and 177 m above sea level. Here, the radar unit was placed in the middle of an agricultural field in an area where cultivated crops and deciduous forest were the predominant land cover types within

the range of the radar unit according to our analysis using Esri ArcGIS software and the 2006 National Land Cover Database (Fry et al. 2011) (Table 1, Figure 2, Appendix 2). Cultivation in this area of Ohio predominately consists of row crops, such as corn and soybeans. The eastern site, which is located in Erie County, Pennsylvania, at 42.2213° N, -79.8683 W, was approximately 1 km from the shoreline and 222 m above sea level. This radar was also placed in an agricultural field although in an area where cultivated crops and open water are the primary land cover types within range of the radar unit (Table 1, Figure 2, and Appendix 2). The crops in this area of Pennsylvania are predominately vineyards and fruit orchards.



**Figure 1.** Locations where MERLIN Avian Radar Systems were deployed during the spring 2012 migration season.

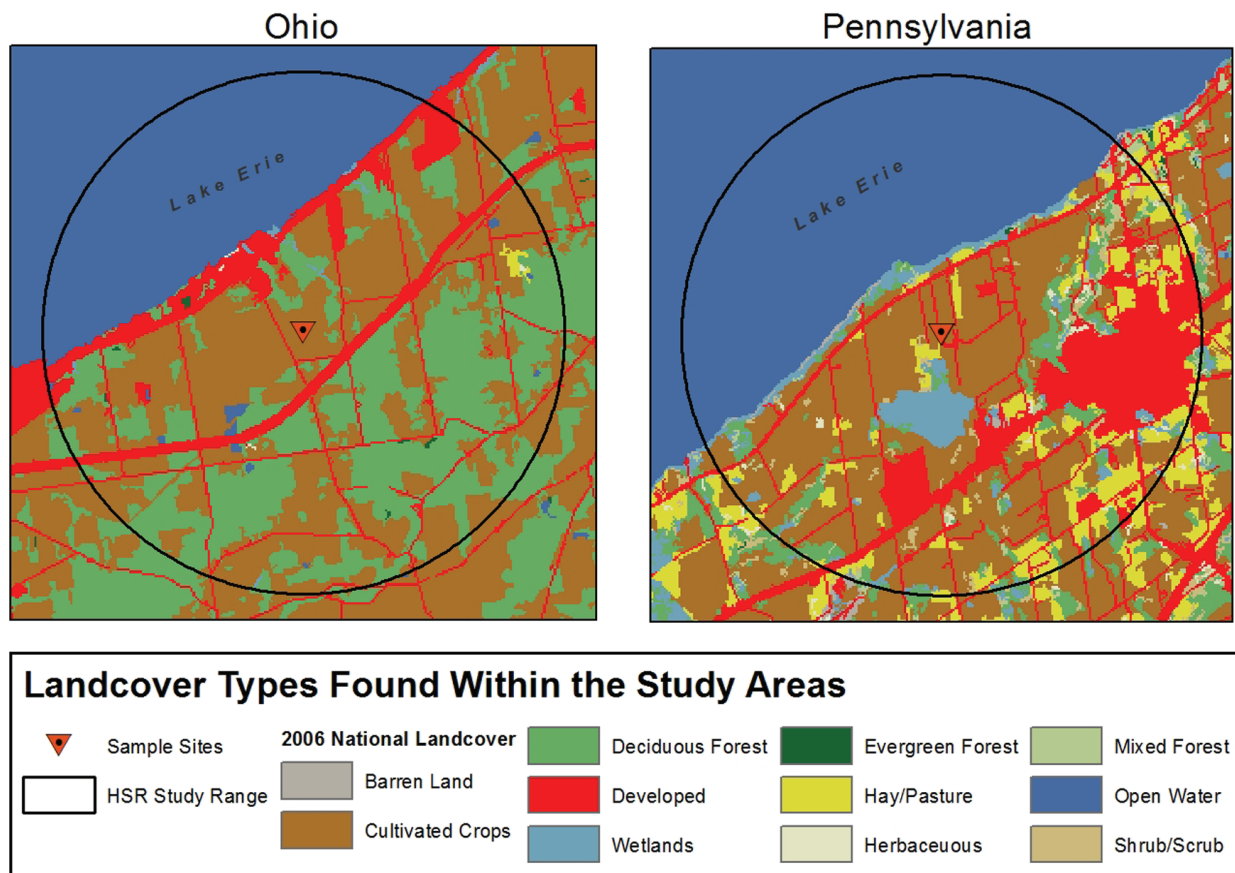
National Land Cover Class	Ohio % of Land Cover	Pennsylvania % of Land Cover
Cultivated Crops, Hay/Pasture	35.83%	36.44%
Developed <sup>1</sup>	10.96%	16.23%
Forest <sup>2</sup>	28.52%	5.50%
Open Water	24.40%	35.79%
Other <sup>3</sup>	0.28%	6.03%

<sup>1</sup>Includes low-, medium- and high-intensity development and developed open space.

<sup>2</sup>Includes deciduous, evergreen and mixed forests.

<sup>3</sup>Includes barren land, herbaceous, shrub/scrub and woody and emergent herbaceous wetlands.

**Table 1.** Predominant land cover types found within a 3.7-km radius of the radar locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012.



**Figure 2.** Land cover types (Fry et al. 2011) found within a 3.7-km radius of the radar units in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012.

Esri ArcGIS software was used to model the areas of interest to identify suitable locations for radar siting. This suitability modeling incorporated elevation, land cover, and shoreline datasets for the Great Lakes. Additional landscape characteristics were derived from these datasets (elevation below the local maximum, percent forested, distance to forest, distance from shoreline, etc.) and ranked to create a continuous raster surface within the area of interest with estimated suitability values. Contiguous areas with high suitability were identified through the GIS modeling process and targeted for on-site assessment.

Biologists were dispatched to the areas of interest to more thoroughly evaluate the potential sites identified by the modeling effort, and this assessment included determining the land use, line of sight to shorelines, and accessibility for the placement of the radar units. Additional suitable locations not identified through modeling were frequently discovered through this process and evaluated. When the field biologists determined that a location was highly suitable relative to the other locations visited, contact with the property owners

was initiated to obtain permission to set up the radar units.

#### Equipment

We used two model SS200DE MERLIN Avian Radar Systems (DeTect Inc., Panama City, FL) to document migration movements, and these systems were selected because they are self-contained mobile units specifically designed to detect, track, and count bird and bat targets. Each system employed two marine radars that operated simultaneously, with one scanning the horizontal plane and the other scanning the vertical plane (Figure 3). Additionally, each unit contained four computers for real-time automated data processing and a SQL server for the storage and review of processed data. The units were configured with a wireless router to allow remote access to the computers and automated status updates.

*Description of radar:* The solid-state marine radar antennas (Kelvin Hughes, London, UK) employed by our systems were 3.9 m in length and had a peak power of 170 W, wavelength in the S-band (10 cm), and frequency range of 2.92 – 3.08 GHz, and



they were configured to operate with both short and medium pulses (0.1 and 5  $\mu$ s, respectively). The horizontal radar was also equipped with Doppler to help filter the stationary targets. The radars emanated a fan-shaped beam that had an approximately 1° horizontal and 25° vertical span when operated in the horizontal plane. The S-band radar was selected because it uses longer wavelengths that are less sensitive to insect and weather contamination compared with the X-band (3 cm wavelength) antenna (Bruderer 1997), and it is also less sensitive to signal attenuation from ground clutter, such as vegetation and structures (DeTect Inc., unpublished data, 2009). The radars spin perpendicular to each other at a rate of 20 RPM and were synchronized so that they did not emit over one another. The horizontal scanning radar (HSR) was affixed to a telescoping base that was raised to approximately 7 m above the ground for operation; this radar rotated in the x-y plane with a 7° tilt to reduce the amount of ground clutter within its view. Although the radar was capable of scanning large distances, we selected a 3.7-km range setting to collect higher resolution data and identify smaller targets, such as passerines and bats. The HSR was primarily used to provide information on target movement direction. The vertical scanning radar (VSR) rotated in the x-z plane and scanned a 1° x 25° span of the atmosphere. We selected a 2.8 km range setting for this radar to collect data with increased resolution and used the VSR to provide information on the number and height of the targets.

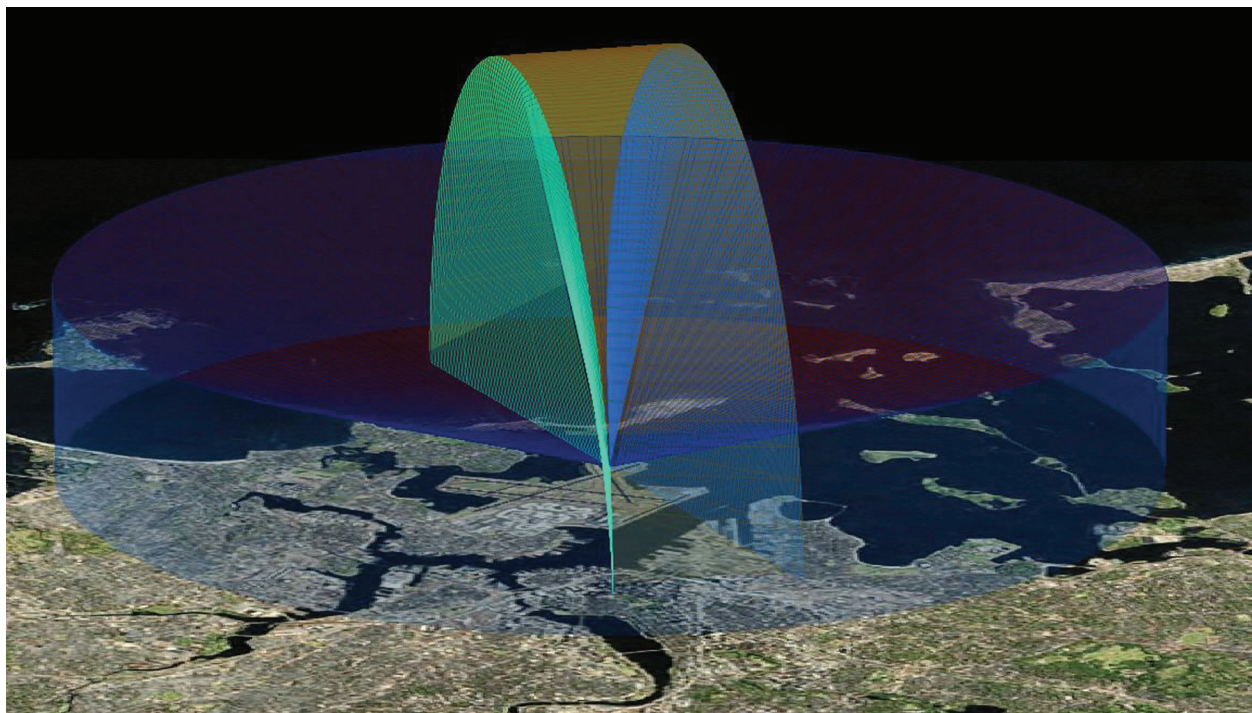
*Weather Station.* Each system was equipped with a weather station (Davis Vantage Pro 2, Hayward, CA, USA) that recorded wind speed and direction, humidity, temperature, precipitation, and barometric pressure. The weather data were summarized and stored every 5 minutes. An anemometer was attached to the radar unit, and it measured wind speed at a height of approximately 6 m above the ground.

---

### Radar Set Up and Data Collection

The radar systems were deployed at their respective sites during the third week of March; however, data collection did not start until the first week of April because of the need for adjustments at each unit and a malfunction with the vertical scanning radar in Ohio. Each radar system was maintained into the second week of June to capture the anticipated end dates of the migration season.

Establishing a radar system at a site involved several steps, including orienting the VSR, micro-site selection, and performing adjustments to ensure that adequate information was captured. We anticipated a primarily northbound direction of migration along the Lake Erie shoreline during spring and oriented the vertical scanning radars to an angle that was slightly off-perpendicular to the anticipated direction of traffic. This orientation was a compromise between a perpendicular angle that would intercept the greatest number of targets (birds or bats) and a parallel angle that would maximize the amount of travel time within the



**Figure 3.** Computer representation of the potential survey volume scanned by the horizontal and vertical radars used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in spring 2012. Graphic provided by DeTect, Inc.

radar beam, and it was also influenced by micro-site selection, which is important because the position of the radar can affect the amount of interference from ground clutter or other sources. If large areas were obstructed from the radar view or if substantial amounts of clutter impeded data collection, then the systems were incrementally rotated to improve the view and/or reduce interference.

Once a position was established, clear-air thresholds and the radar's built-in sensitivity time control (STC) filters were employed to reduce small non-target returns and improve the tracking of distant targets. These settings are necessary because an object reflects more energy at close range than it does when it is further from the radar. For example, an object within a range of 50 m will return approximately 16-times more energy compared with an object at 100 m (Bruderer 1997, Schmaljohann et al. 2008). To further improve the data collection, clutter maps were generated using 60-scan composite images (Figure 4) during time periods with low biological activity to identify areas with constant returns (white areas) that were not biological targets, such as tree lines, fencerows and buildings. These areas were assigned a reflectivity threshold that precluded the constant returns from being included in the data, thus reducing our ability to detect targets in these areas.

Following this initial set up, MERLIN software was customized for the conditions at the sites. The MERLIN software provides real-time processing of raw radar data to locate and track targets while excluding non-targets and rain events, although the parameters used by the tracking software require adjustments to account for site-specific conditions. DeTect personnel trained our biologists to establish these settings with the goals of minimizing the inclusion of non-targets and maximizing cohesive target tracking. The processed data were stored in an Access database and then transferred each day to a SQL database, where they were stored and later queried for data analysis.

Despite the radar system's ability to be operated remotely for extended periods of time, biologists remained on site during the data collection period to ensure continuous functioning, monitor raw (unprocessed analog radar returns) and processed radar outputs, provide routine maintenance (such as re-fueling and oil changes), and manage data storage. In addition to the processed data, we maintained all of the raw radar data for potential reprocessing. The raw radar data were temporarily stored in the field on 2 TB external hard drives and regularly transported on ruggedized external drives back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office (Region 3), where the data were transferred to long-term tape storage.

---

### **Radar System Outputs**

The MERLIN software generates more than 30 measurements to describe the target size, shape, location, speed, and direction of movement. These data are of the same type used by biologists when identifying biological targets on a radar screen (DeTect Inc., unpublished data, 2009), and this information was stored in the database for later analysis. To reduce potential false tracking, the MERLIN tracking algorithm removed tracks with less than five observations and an automated filter was used to remove sectors of the sample volume that were dominated by rain.

In addition to storing the target attribute data, the DeTect software outputs a two-dimensional digital display of targets being tracked in real-time and static images of tracked targets over a specified period of time (Trackplots) for both the vertical and horizontal radars. During each site check, we viewed the real-time digital display to ensure that it was consistent with the raw radar display, and we later viewed 15-minute and 1-hour Trackplots to assess the target direction and height during the previous day's activity.

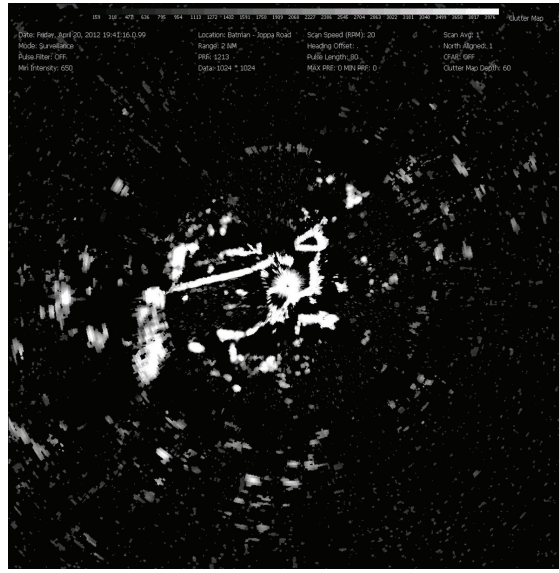
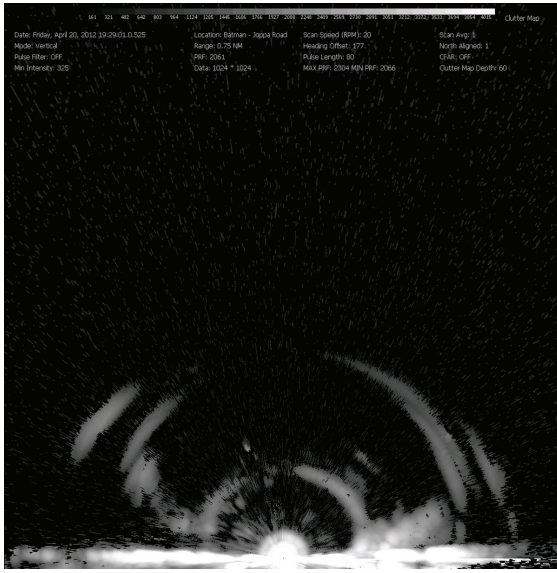
---

### **Data Processing and Quality Control**

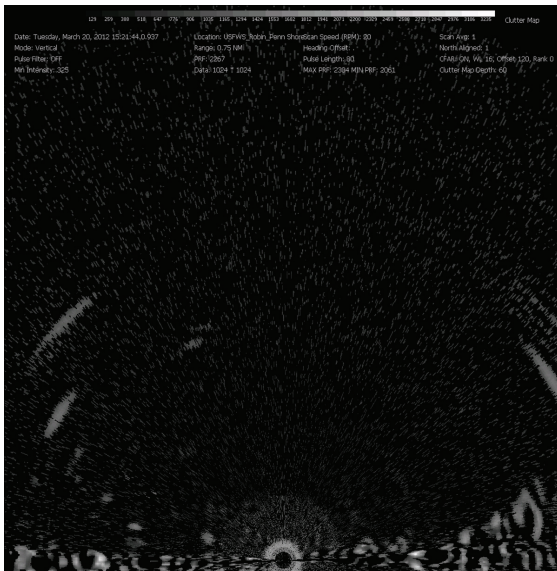
Prior to the data analysis, the data processed by MERLIN software were further evaluated for potential contamination by non-targets. Although an automated rain filter was used, it did not remove all of the rain from the recorded outputs during certain time periods. Additionally, insects and other forms of transient clutter may have been recorded during data collection. Therefore, biologists reviewed all of the data in 15-minute time increments and removed the time periods that were dominated by rain, although there were no time periods dominated by other forms of transient clutter that needed to be removed.

We relied on visual inspections of the track patterns to discern contamination events. Rain and insect events form diagnostic patterns (Detect Inc., personal communication, 2011), and time periods with these types of track patterns can be removed. Unknown contamination that mimicked the patterns of desired targets was not removed from the database and contributed to the error associated with the indices. In addition, we evaluated initial counts by generating a time series of the variation in the number of targets per hour throughout the season for the HSR and VSR radars. In general, the HSR and VSR hourly counts were positively correlated with higher HSR counts, and in situations where the VSR counts were higher than the HSR counts or where the peak counts appeared to be outliers, the data were further investigated for evidence of contamination or potential issues with

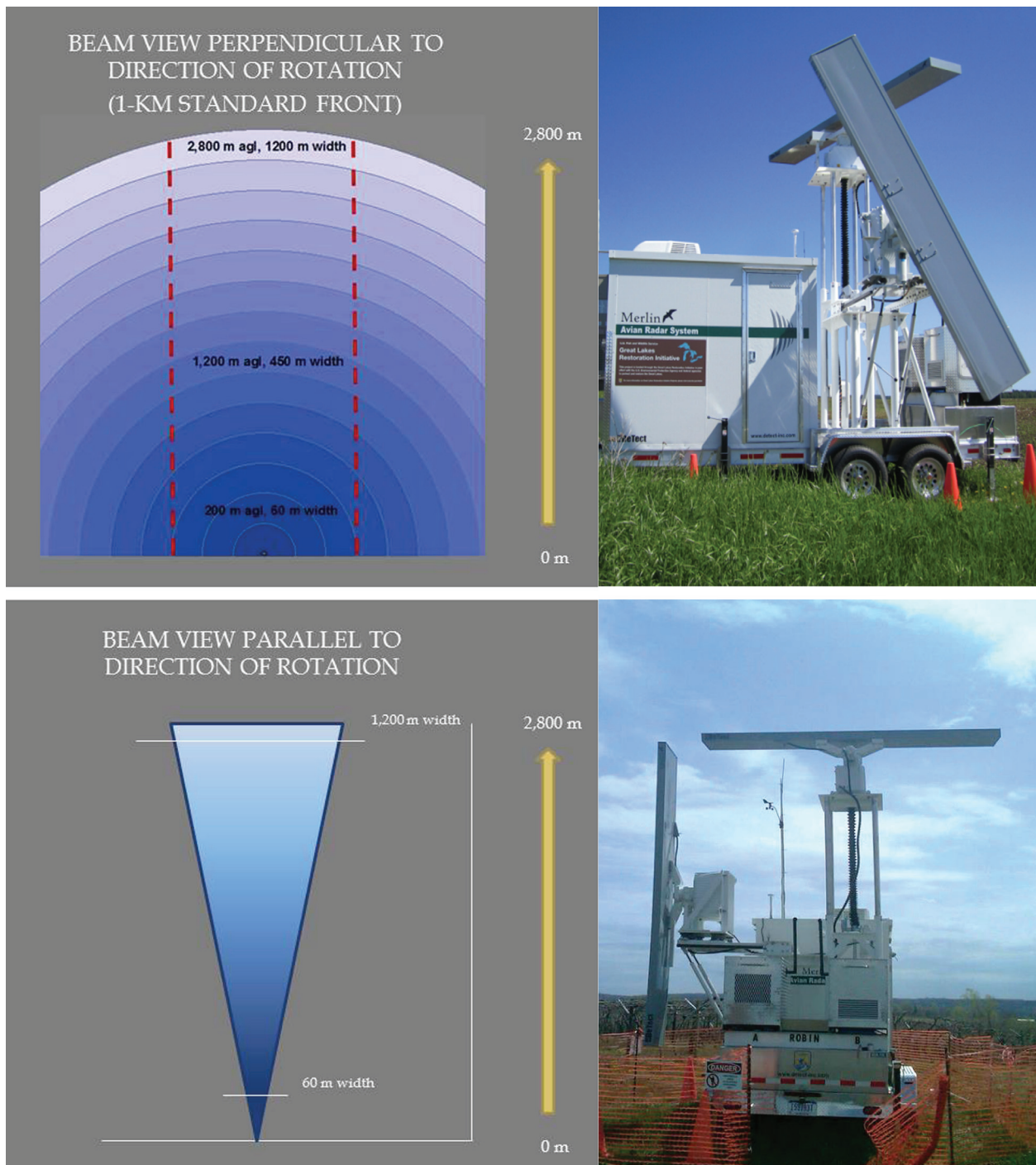
## Ohio Clutter Maps



## Pennsylvania Clutter Maps



**Figure 4.** Clutter maps from vertical (left) and horizontal (right) scanning radars at study sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania during the spring 2012 migration season. Brighter areas represent static returns from stationary objects, such as tree lines and fencerows. Target detection may be obscured in these areas because of obstructions from the objects.



**Figure 5.** Schematic depicting the vertical scanning radar beam from two different views and pictures of the radar unit associated with those views. The top left graphic identifies the standard front used for data analysis, which extends to 500 m on either side of the radar and up to a height of 2800 m. In this graphic, the radar is situated at the bottom center and the red dashed lines represent the lateral limits of the standard front. In the bottom graphic, the radar rotation is suspended so that the beam is emitting directly upward; this view is an approximation of the beam dispersion as it travels away from the radar unit (schematic not drawn to scale).

radar performance. On the rare occasions when time periods with anomalies appeared to represent artifacts that were unrelated to target movement (e.g., rain events, insects or data processing errors), these periods were removed from further analysis.

Once the contaminated time periods were removed, we summarized the data using SQL queries provided with the MERLIN radar system. Data from the HSR were used to calculate the hourly counts and target direction, and all of the targets within 3.7 km of the radar unit were included in the analysis. Data from the VSR were used to calculate the hourly counts and height estimates, and these data were truncated to a 1-km or “standard front”. We adopted this sampling technique because it is the method used by the manufacturer of the MERLIN units and has also been used by other researchers (Lowery 1951, Liechti et al. 1995, Kunz et al. 2007b). The standard front was defined by a volume of space that extended 500 m to either side of the radar and continued to the maximum data collection height (2800 m) (Figure 5). For each site location, the time at sunrise and sunset was calculated, and target counts were further segregated into four biological time periods: dawn, day, dusk, and night. Dawn represented 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunrise; day represented 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset; dusk represented 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunset, and night represented 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

---

### Data Summary and Trends Analysis

We used the processed data to assess the activity patterns associated with migration. Horizontal Trackplots were viewed to identify changes in activity and investigate the behaviors of the migrants, such as reverse migration (Akeson 1999) and migrants moving toward the shore at dawn, and vertical Trackplots were viewed to investigate changes in activity, such as dawn ascent (Myres 1964, Diehl et al. 2003). Target counts represented abundance, and we used these indices to identify directional, temporal, and altitudinal trends.

*Directional Trends.* The mean angle and concentration ( $r$ ) of the target movement directions were analyzed following the methodology for circular statistics (Zar 1999) included in the DeTect SQL queries. The angular concentration value has a value of 1 when all of the angles are the same and a value of 0 when all of the angles cancel each other out, indicating that there is no predominant direction of travel (e.g., if 50% of the vectors are  $180^\circ$  and 50% are  $360^\circ$ , then no direction is predominant because there were as many targets heading south as there were heading north). We

anticipated a generally northward direction of movement by the nocturnal targets during the spring migration season and reported the mean direction and the percent of nocturnal targets that traveled in a direction between northwest and northeast ( $292.5^\circ - 67.5^\circ$ ). We used radial graphs to plot the number of targets per 8 cardinal directions (i.e., eight groups centered on N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, and NW) during the four biological time periods (i.e., dawn, day, dusk, and night).

*Temporal Trends.* We plotted the counts of targets per hour processed by the MERLIN software for both the HSR and VSR antennas as a time series to identify pulses of nocturnal activity, the duration of the season, and changes in activity patterns over time. The HSR and VSR radars have different strengths that complement one another and were plotted together. The HSR index tracks low flying targets in a  $360^\circ$  span around the radar unit, and compared with the VSR, detection is not affected by the target’s direction of travel, although the HSR index is much more affected by ground clutter, which impacts target detection and tracking, and errors caused by ground clutter lead to both under and over counting. Targets blocked by ground clutter may not be counted, and targets that fly in and out of areas with ground clutter may be counted multiple times. Such issues lead to HSR counts that are more influenced by site characteristics relative to the VSR counts; however, the HSR index better captures targets under certain conditions, such as when targets are primarily at low elevations and/or traveling parallel to the VSR. The HSR is also more susceptible to beam-bending from dynamic atmospheric conditions relative to the VSR, which presents minimal beam refraction primarily because of its orientation. The VSR index was used to track targets captured within the standard front, and it exhibits more consistent detection than the HSR because it mostly tracks against clear air except in the lowest altitude bands. Detection by the VSR index is affected by target direction and distance from the radar (Bruderer 1997, Schmaljohann et al. 2008), and it is impacted by ground clutter, particularly at low elevations. Plotting these indices together provided a more comprehensive understanding of changes in target activity over time.

We used the VSR index to calculate the target passage rate (TPR), which is the number of targets per standard front per hour, using the DeTect SQL queries, and hour intervals with less than 30 minutes of recording time were omitted from this calculation. For example, after removing all of the hours with less than 30 minutes of clean data, the nocturnal TPR for a given night (biological time period) was calculated by dividing the target

count by the number of nighttime minutes and multiplying the value by 60 to yield the number of targets per hour during that night. We extended this metric to the season and calculated the mean TPR for the four biological time periods and hours of the season. The mean nocturnal TPR for the season is the sum of the night TPRs divided by the number of nights sampled. Similarly, the mean hourly TPR for the season is the sum of the TPRs for an hour-long period divided by the number times that hour was sampled. We also calculated mean nocturnal (night biological period) and diurnal (day biological period) TPR weekly during the sampling period using two methods. First, to demonstrate the variability among the sampled weeks, we divided the sum of the TPRs for a week (nocturnal or diurnal) by seven and reported the weekly mean TPR and its standard deviation.

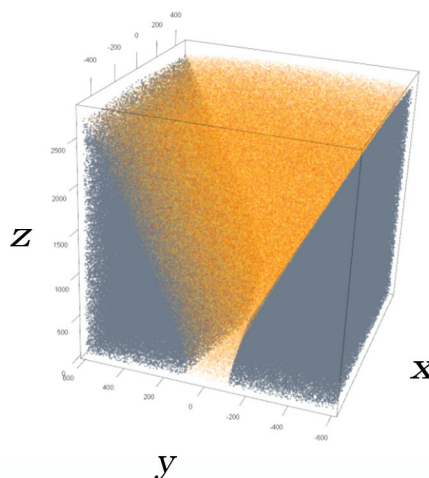
*Altitudinal Trends.* The DeTect SQL queries were used to estimate the height of the targets tracked within the standard front from the VSR data.

The height estimates were calculated based on the range and bearing of the target location with the largest radar echo and reported as the height above the ground as measured at the radar unit; this measurement does not consider changes in topography across the landscape. We used these estimates to calculate the mean altitude of the targets above the ground according to biological time period and hour, and we reported the mean and median altitudes for the season.

*Density per Altitude Band.* To provide information on the density of targets per 50-m altitude band per hour within the standard front, we first estimated the volume of the radar beam's approximate geometric shape. The width of the radar beam expands as it travels from the radar, resulting in increased survey volume with distance from the origin. The shape of the survey volume represents the space in which targets have the potential of being detected and is one of several factors that define the realized or actual survey volume (Bruderer 1997, Schmaljohann et al. 2008). We calculated the volume contained by the shape of the radar beam and reported the target density (targets per 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>) per 50-m altitude band per hour for each biological period. This was calculated by dividing the number of targets per volume of an altitude band by the number of minutes with clean data during the biological time period of interest and multiplying the result by 60.

To estimate the volume of the 50-m altitude bands that are constrained by the standard front, we used Monte Carlo integration (Press et al. 2007), which is described in detail elsewhere (manuscript in preparation) and summarized here. The volume contained by the shape of the radar beam can be

calculated using spherical coordinates and multiple integration. However, subjecting this volume to Cartesian constraints (i.e., the standard front and the altitude bands) complicates the calculation, so the volume bands are more easily estimated using Monte Carlo integration, which is a method used to calculate an unknown volume by enclosing it in a known volume and saturating the space with random points. Monte Carlo integration requires rules that determine whether the randomly drawn points are inside or outside of the unknown volume, and the proportion of points that fall within these constraints multiplied by the volume of the known space is approximately equal to the unknown volume. In Monte Carlo integration, the estimate approaches the true value as the number of random points approaches infinity.



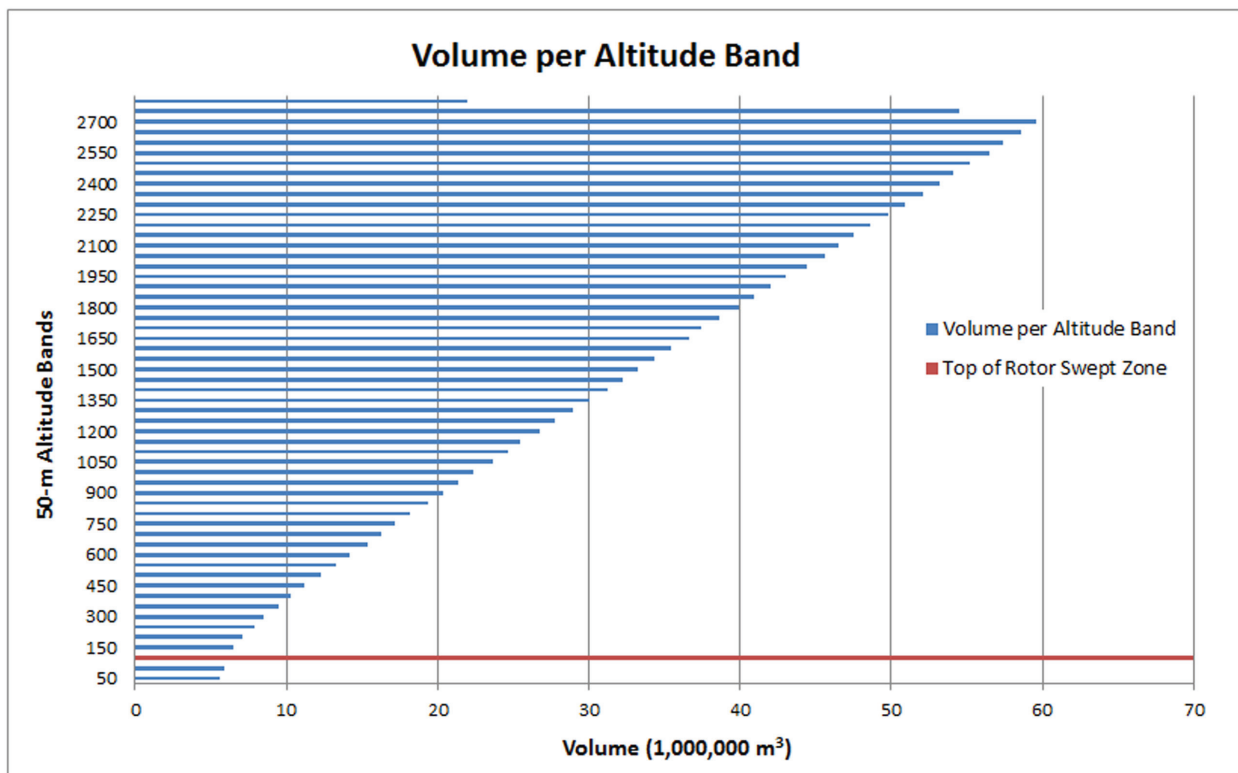
**Figure 6.** Graphical representation of the structural volume of the vertical scanning radar within the standard front. In this graphic, the radar unit is located at the origin and the radar beam extends to 500 m on either side of the radar unit (x-axis) up to a maximum height of 2800 m (z-axis). The y-axis represents the spread of the radar beam as it extends away from the origin. The orange semi-transparent points represent the volume contained by the radar beam. Dark gray points represent the volume within the box but not included in the radar beam.

We used R software (R Core Team 2012) to describe a box of known volume that was large enough to enclose the radar beam and saturated this space with 10 million random points, and we determined two simple rules that defined whether a point was in the survey volume. The first rule was that the distance of the randomly drawn point from the origin had to be less than 2.8 km, and the second rule was that the angle between a randomly drawn point and the vertical plane (the x-z axis in Figure

6) had to be less than  $12.5^\circ$  (i.e., half the angle of the width of the beam). The volume of a full sweep of the radar beam, which was estimated by Monte Carlo integration, was within 5% of the analytical solution using spherical coordinates; therefore, the number of random points that we used provided a reasonable approximation of the volume. By determining the volume of a full sweep of the radar beam, we were able to further constrain the Monte Carlo integration to describe the structural volume of the radar beam within a standard front (Figure 6) and within altitude bands (Figure 7).

our density estimate to a density estimate based on the number of targets per 50-m altitude band per hour while assuming an equal amount of volume within each altitude band (the volume of each altitude band is equal to the total volume divided by the number of altitude bands). An assumption implicit to reporting the number of targets per altitude band is that comparisons among bands can be made directly (i.e., altitude bands are equal); for our comparison metric, we made this assumption explicit (see Appendix 4).

The number of targets per altitude band has often been reported by other researchers, although volume corrections are seldom reported. We wanted to compare our correction to the uncorrected method; however, the count data and volume data were on different scales. Therefore, we compared



**Figure 7.** Volume of 50-m altitude bands within the standard front as estimated by Monte Carlo integration. Altitude band intervals represent the upper band limit, and the target counts provided by the vertical scanning radar are limited to the structure of the standard front. The red line represents the top of the rotor-swept zone at 130 m.

# Results

Data collection began in the spring 2012 season on April 1 and 3 at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively, and it ended on June 11, 2012 at both sites, which produced a survey period of 1,727 hours at the Ohio site and 1,679 hours at the Pennsylvania site (Table 2). Data were recorded continuously while the radar units were operational, although gaps in the data occurred during rain events and when the radar units were not operational due to maintenance or malfunction (radar downtime). The horizontal radar at the Ohio site malfunctioned and did not

collect data from May 7 through mid-day on May 10 because of water intrusion and a corrosion issue in an electrical pin. The vertical radar at the Pennsylvania site malfunctioned from April 21 through mid-day on May 10 because of the STC filter reverting to a default setting, which resulted in a loss of target detection during this time. When correcting for radar downtime and removing the periods with rain, the vertical and horizontal radars collected usable data 92% and 99% of the season in Ohio and 66% and 98% of the season in Pennsylvania, respectively.

**Table 2.** Survey effort (hours) by vertical and horizontal scanning radars during spring 2012 at the radar sites in Ohio (OH) and Pennsylvania (PA).

Site	Radar	Survey Period	Radar Downtime	Time Radar Collected Data	Radar Data w/Rain	Usable Radar Data	% Usable Data
OH	WSR <sup>1</sup>	1727	28	1699	1107	1592	92%
OH	HSR	1727	19	1708	00	1707	99%
PA	WSR <sup>2</sup>	1679	502	1177	76	1101	66%
PA	HSR	1679	34	1645	44	1641	98%

<sup>1</sup>Vertical and horizontal radars are not equally impacted by rain events or downtime.

<sup>2</sup>Vertical radar malfunctioned and did not collect data for approximately 3 weeks of the survey period.

## Qualitative Assessments

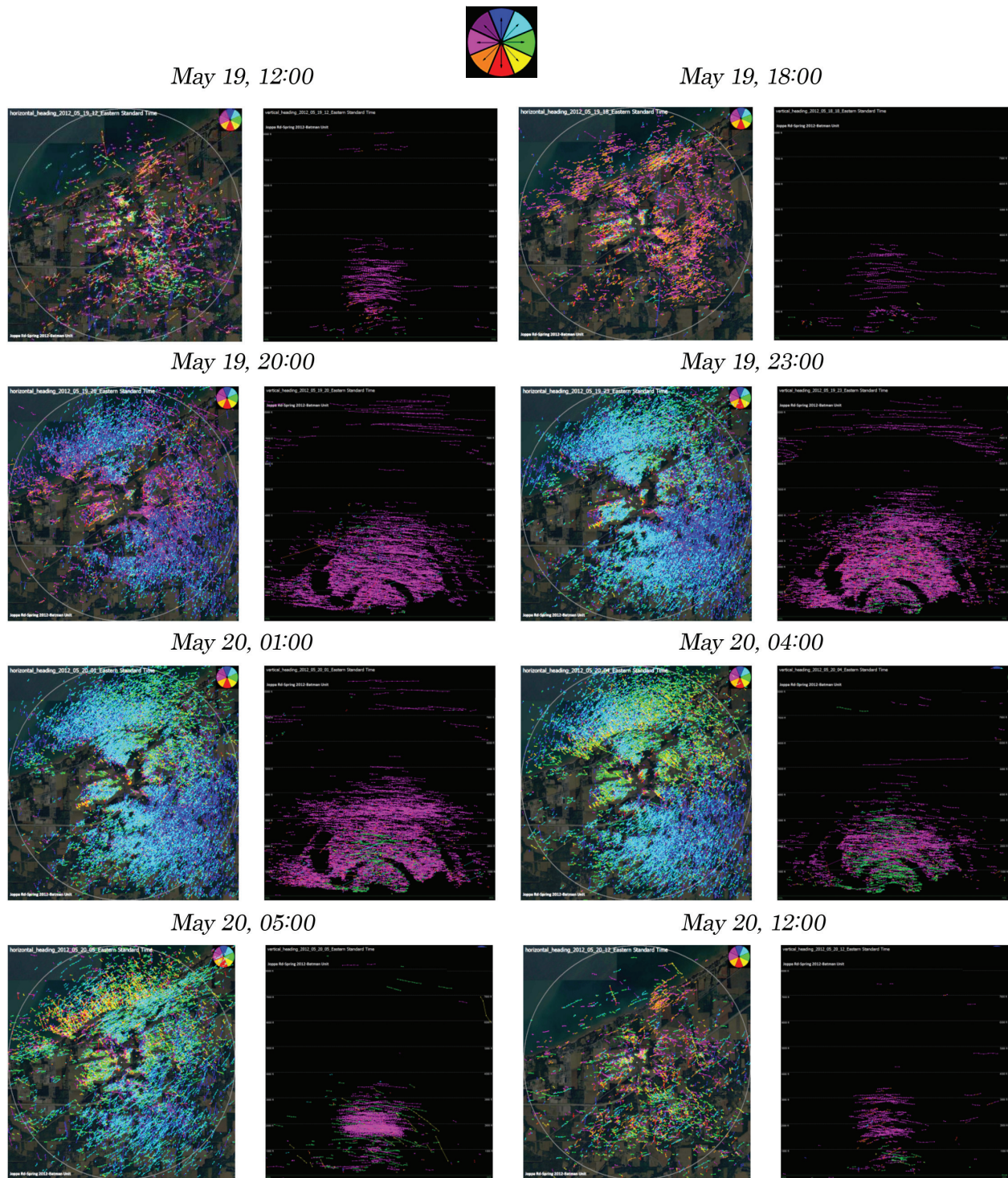
Plots of the tracked targets showed images of nocturnal migration events at both locations (Figure 8 and 9). For example, on May 19 at the Ohio site, the horizontal radar recorded scattered activity, and the vertical radar recorded a low number of targets from 12:00 – 18:00 (Eastern Standard Time). During the 18:00 hour, directional movement began, and biologists observed that these targets were blackbirds flying west towards their nighttime roosts. During this time, the vertical radar showed low target counts because of the low altitude at which these targets flew as well as the direction and position of the radar unit, which was oriented for optimum data collection for targets moving north. During the 20:00 hour, directional movement to the north/northwest began, and vertical radar detection increased with more

targets at higher altitudes. At approximately 23:00, northern movement continued, although the targets began to move northeast as well, and vertical detection continued to increase. By 04:00 on May 20, the target flight direction shifted from predominantly north/northeast to northeast/east, and the target counts began to decline on both the horizontal and vertical radars. By 05:00, the target directions shifted again, with certain scattered directional activity as well as movement towards the land from out over the water. The horizontal and vertical radars detected a continued decrease in activity, and the target height began to decrease as well. By 12:00, diurnal activity appeared to be similar to that of the preceding day at 12:00 (Figure 8). This pattern of target movement and changes in altitude were indicative of a pulse of migratory activity.

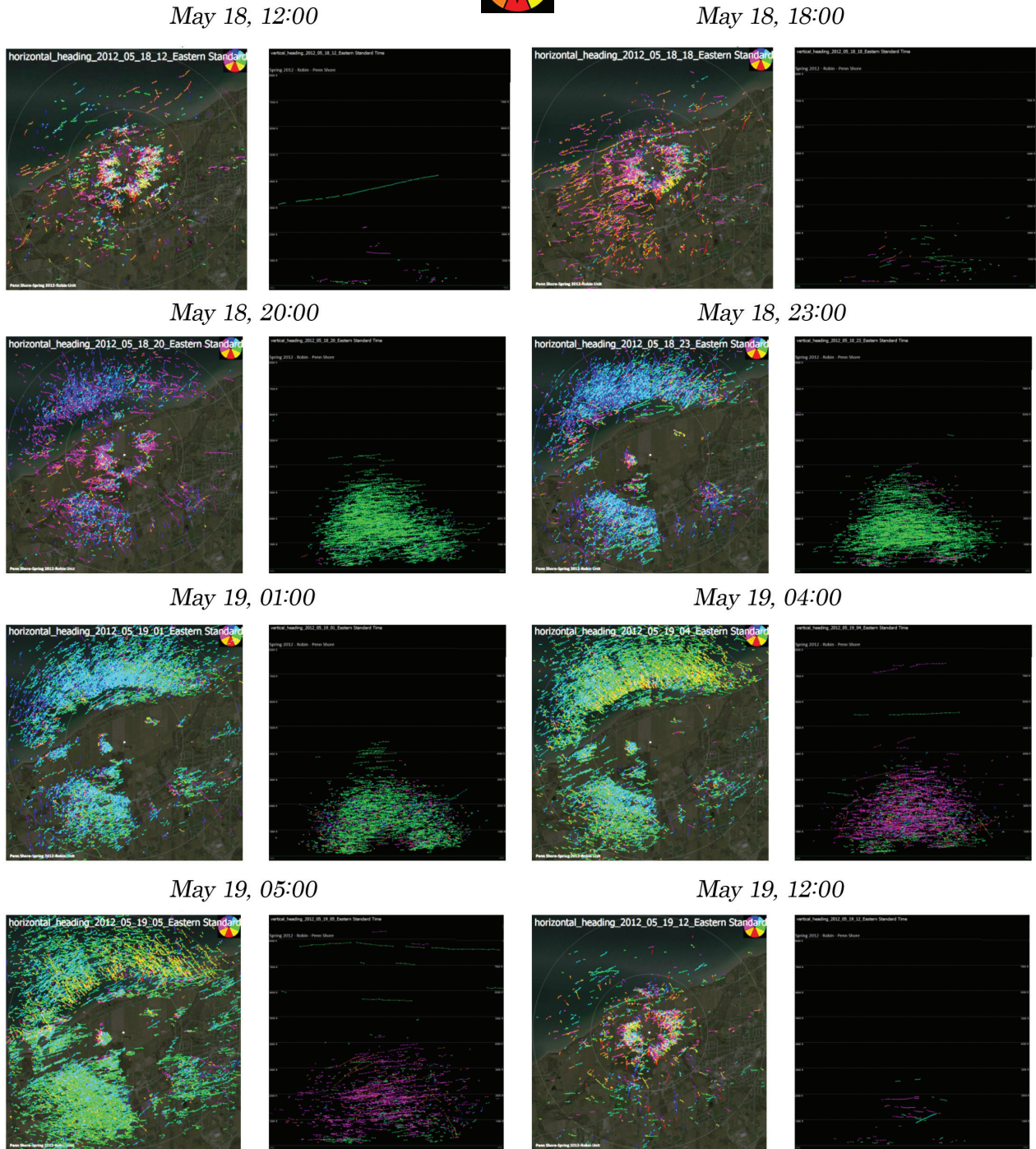


A similar pattern of low target activity and flight heights during the day and increased directional activity and higher flight heights at night was also observed at the Pennsylvania site. Figure 9 shows targets moving north towards the shoreline at dusk (with certain western movement as well) and a shift in the direction of target movement to the northeast at approximately 23:00. By 04:00 the next morning, the target direction had shifted again, moving south to the shore and east along the lakeshore rather than north across the lake. This pattern continues until after dawn when the activity begins to return to the normal non-directional diurnal movement.

Also apparent on the Trackplots from both sites are areas that are not well recorded by the radar because of beam blockage from ground clutter (i.e., topography, vegetation, buildings, etc.) (Figure 4), thus resulting in reduced detection in the air space within the data collection range (e.g., west of the radar unit at the Ohio site and in the center and eastern areas of the Pennsylvania radar site, as observed in the horizontal Trackplots in Figures 8 and 9). Rings of decreased detection near the radar unit and where the radar switched from short to medium pulses are also evident in both the horizontal (May 19, 20:00) and vertical (May 19, 23:00) Trackplots (observed at a range of approximately 1,400 – 2,000 m).



**Figure 8.** Images of the tracks during 1-hour increments recorded by horizontal and vertical scanning radars during a migration event at our radar site in Ohio. Horizontal radar images (columns 1 and 3) show the directions of targets as indicated by the color wheel (dark blue indicates travel to the north and red indicates travel to the south). Vertical radar images (columns 2 and 4) show the target heights.



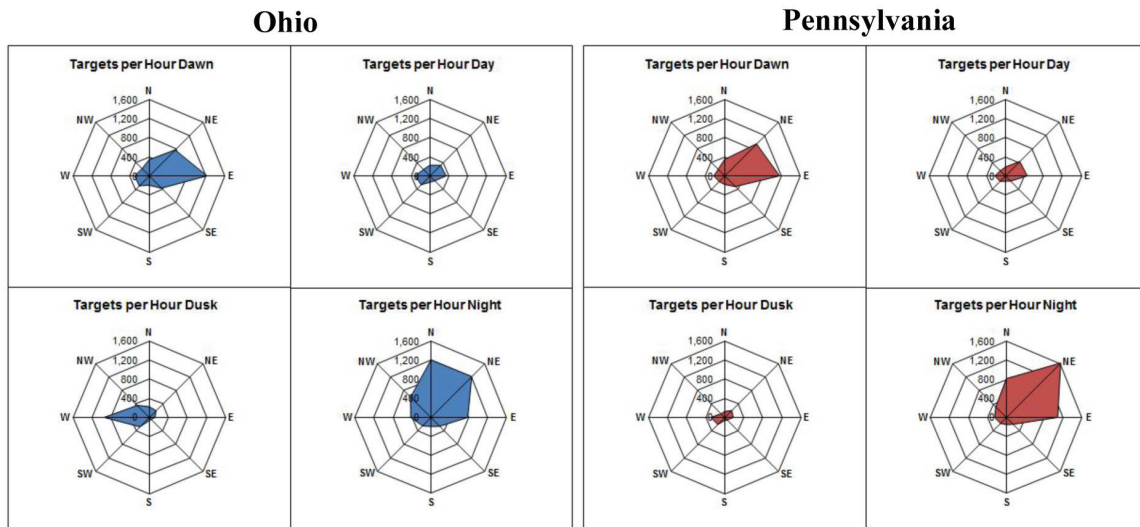
**Figure 9.** Images of tracks during 1-hour increments recorded by horizontal and vertical scanning radars during a migration event at our radar site in Pennsylvania. Horizontal radar images (columns 1 and 3) show the directions of targets as indicated by the color wheel (dark blue indicates travel to the north and red indicates travel to the south). Vertical radar images (columns 2 and 4) show the target heights.

### Directional Trends

During the spring 2012 season, the nocturnal target direction was generally north/northeast at both of the sampled locations (Figure 10). At the Ohio site, the mean nocturnal direction was 23°, and it had an angular concentration (r) of 0.43 (n = 3,078,229 targets). In addition, on 76% of the nights, the mean target direction was between northwest and

northeast (292.5° – 67.5°). The Pennsylvania site had a mean nocturnal direction of 45° (r = 0.56, n = 2,874,773) with 68% of nights presenting a mean direction between northwest and northeast. Onshore movement to the east at dawn was visible at both locations (Figure 10), and uniform directionality at night was slightly stronger at our Pennsylvania site compared with the Ohio site (Table 3).

### Target Direction per Hour during Four Biological Time Periods



**Figure 10.** Target direction per hour during four biological periods in spring 2012 at our sites in Ohio (left) and Pennsylvania (right).

**Table 3.** Mean direction, angular concentration (r), and percent of biological time periods with strong target directionality (r ≥ 0.5) at our sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Biological Period	Ohio				Pennsylvania			
	Mean Direction (degrees)	r	% Time r ≥ 0.5	n	Mean Direction (degrees)	r	% Time r ≥ 0.5	n
Dawn	75	0.39	49.2%	262,766	69	0.49	56.5%	251,484
Day	12	0.09	3.1%	1,810,464	59	0.28	21.7%	1,765,471
Dusk	287	0.52	71.2%	164,532	299	0.13	23.2%	92,224
Night	23	0.43	62.9%	3,078,229	45	0.56	66.7%	2,874,773

---

### **Temporal Trends**

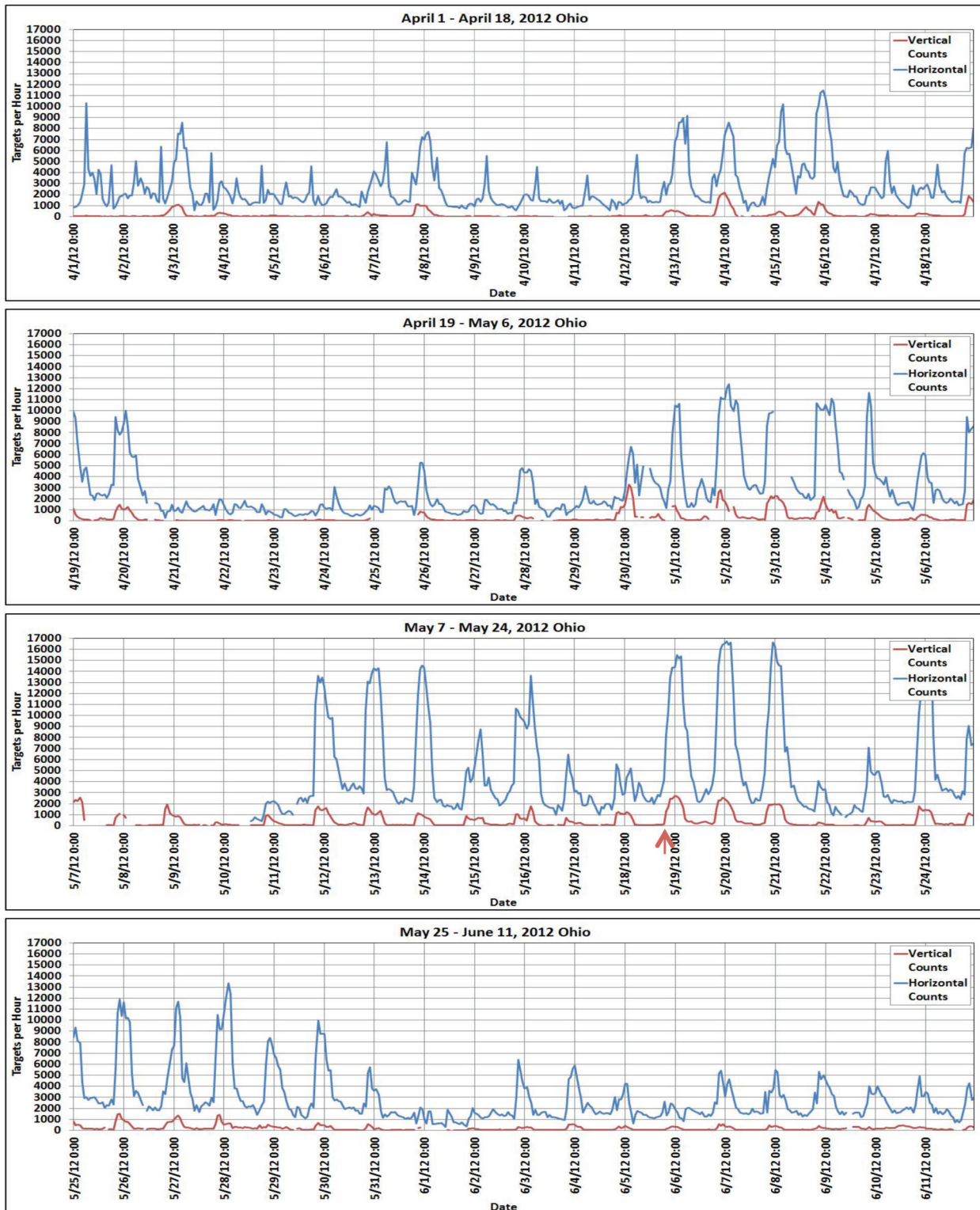
*Time Series Plots.* Hourly target counts provided by the horizontal and vertical radars showed pulses of elevated nocturnal activity at our study sites with peaks occurring a few hours before midnight. Throughout our sampling period, these events were often clustered into groups of several nights, and they were first observed on April 3 and 8 at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively (Figures 11 and 12). At both sites, the occurrence and magnitude of nocturnal pulses decreased substantially after June 1.

Different activity patterns were apparent at our study sites as the season progresses. For example, activity patterns were dominated by nocturnal pulses, which were observed with the horizontal and vertical radars beginning in late April in Ohio. This pattern was apparent on the horizontal radar for Pennsylvania as well (the vertical radar at our unit in Pennsylvania malfunctioned at this time), and it

continued until late May when the activity levels began to decrease overall.

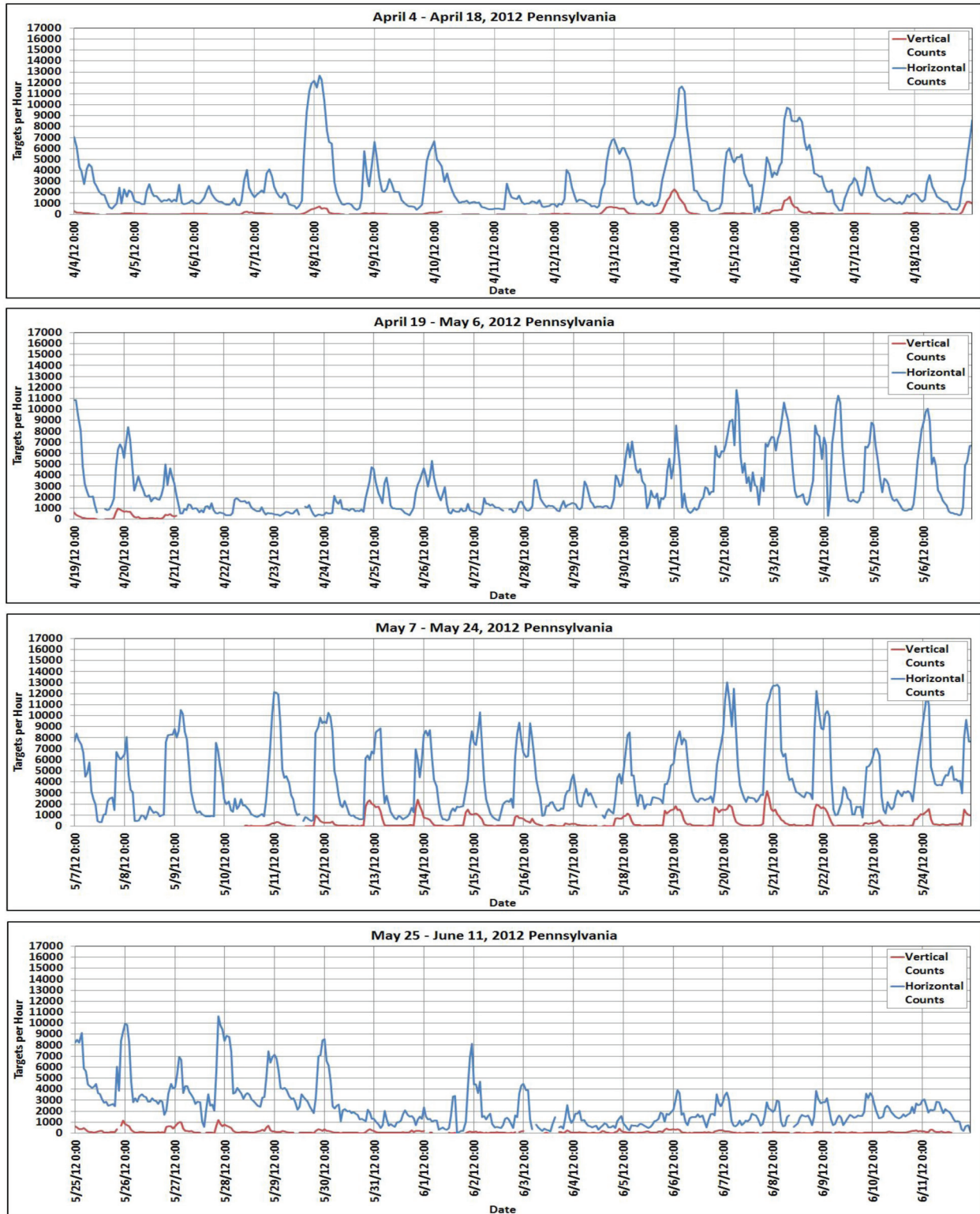
Differences in the detection capability of the vertical and horizontal scanning radars were also apparent. As noted earlier, on May 16 at 18:00 at the Ohio site, the westward flight path of blackbirds was well captured by the horizontal radar, although the higher degree of target movement was not captured by the vertical radar because of the flight path and lower altitude of these targets (note the red arrow pointing to this time period in Figure 11). At midnight on April 30, many targets passed at high elevations above the HSR range of detection, which brought the count indices of the two antennas much closer together. The record from May 20 provides an example of targets above the study area moving in a direction and at an altitude distribution that could be detected by both radars.

## Hourly Counts by Horizontal and Vertical Radars: Ohio



**Figure 11.** Hourly counts by the horizontal and vertical radars from April 1 – June 11, 2012 in Ohio. Light gray vertical lines indicate midnight.

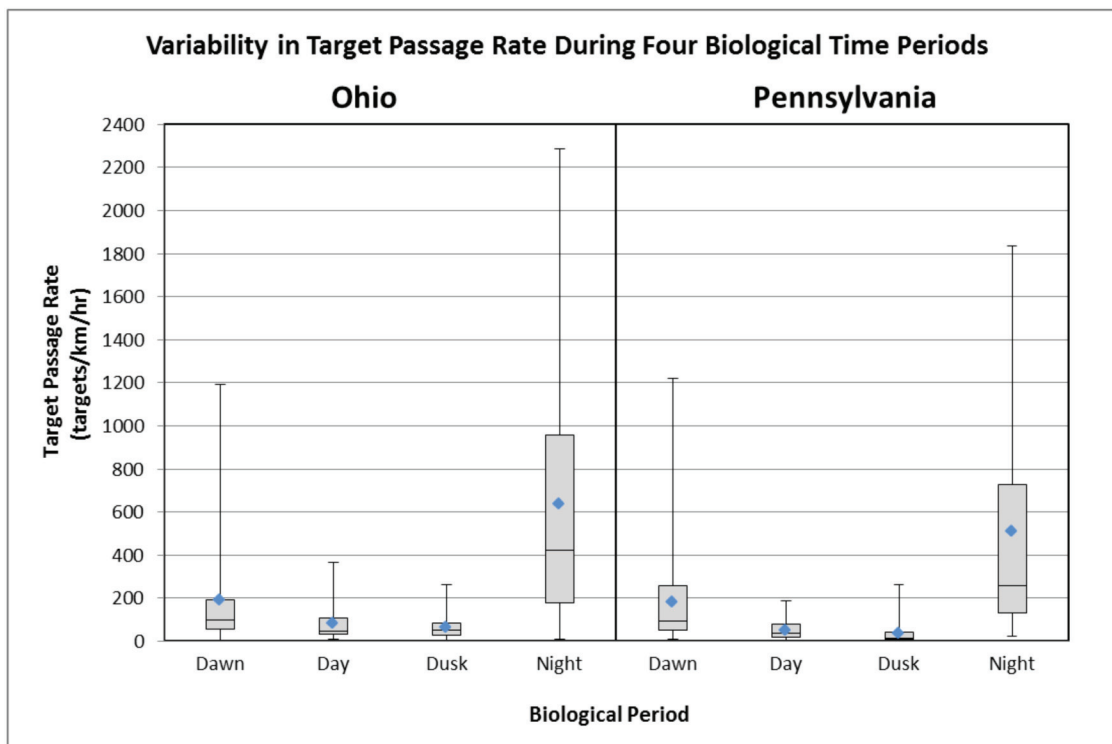
## Hourly Counts by Horizontal and Vertical Radars: Pennsylvania



**Figure 12.** Hourly counts by the horizontal and vertical radars from April 4 – June 11, 2012 in Pennsylvania. Light gray vertical lines indicate midnight, and the gap in the vertical data from April 21 - May 11 was because of a radar software malfunction.

*Target Passage Rate.* The pattern of mean TPR among the four biological time periods was similar between the two study sites (Figure 13), and the mean TPR at night was greater than the combined means of the other three biological time periods (Table 4). The mean nocturnal TPR was  $640 \pm 601$  SD ( $n = 68$  nights) and  $514 \pm 518$  SD ( $n = 49$  nights) at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively. The mean TPR varied by hour and

presented peak numbers between 21:00 and 22:00 hours (approximately dusk through an hour after sunset) at both sites. At both locations, the mean TPR gradually decreased as the night progressed, with the most drastic decline occurring from approximately 04:00 to 05:00, which corresponded to dawn (Figure 14).



**Figure 13.** Box plots showing the variability in target passage rate (targets/km/hour) during the four biological periods in spring 2012 in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Whiskers represent the 1st and 4th quartiles; boxes represent the 2nd and 3rd quartiles (with the line between indicating the median); and blue diamonds represent the seasonal mean for the time period.

**Table 4.** Mean target passage rate (TPR) with standard deviations during the four biological periods in Ohio and Pennsylvania in Spring 2012.

Biological Period	Ohio Mean TPR	Pennsylvania Mean TPR
Dawn	$192 \pm 244$	$183 \pm 223$
Day	$83 \pm 83$	$52 \pm 43$
Dusk	$66 \pm 56$	$37 \pm 55$
Night	$640 \pm 601$	$513 \pm 518$



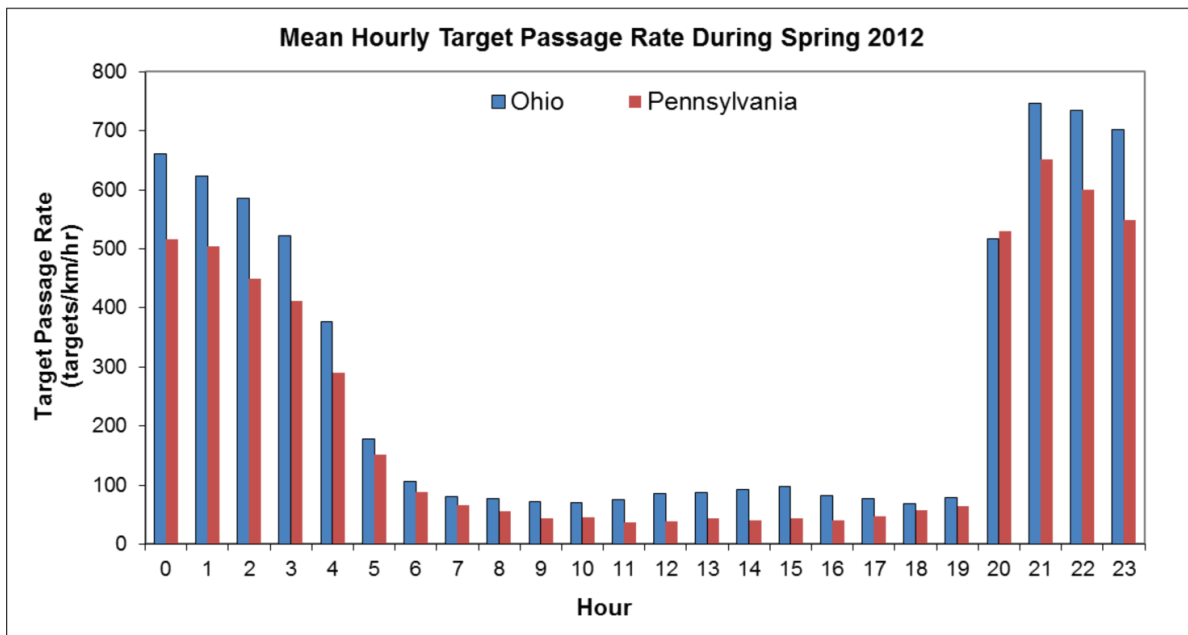


Figure 14. Mean hourly target passage rate (targets/km/hour) in spring 2012 at sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

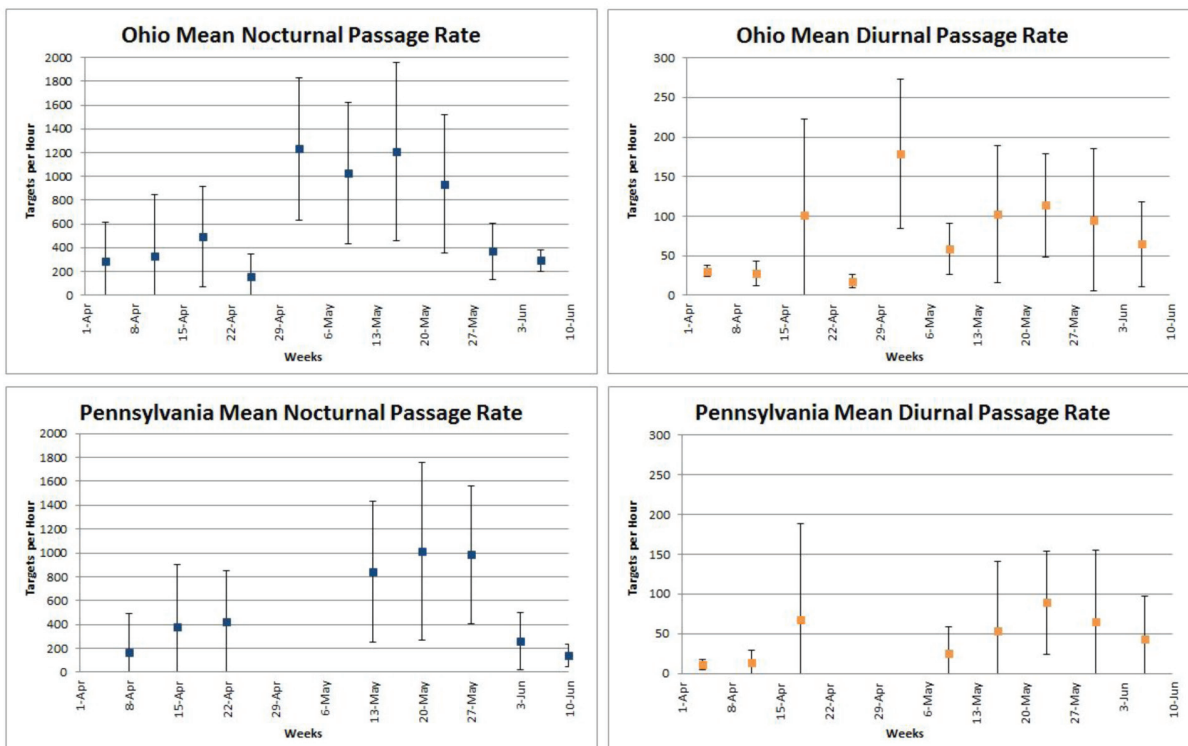
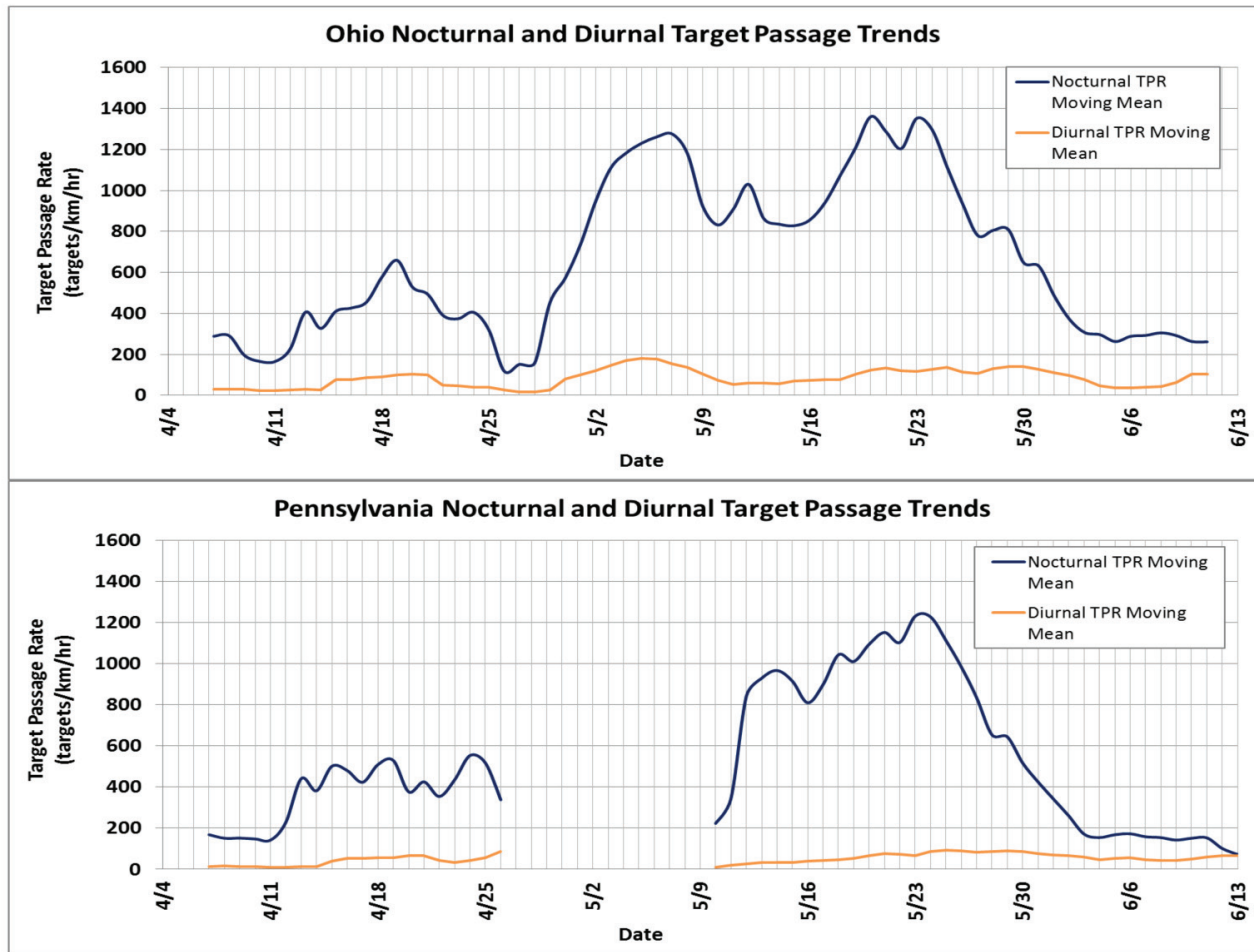


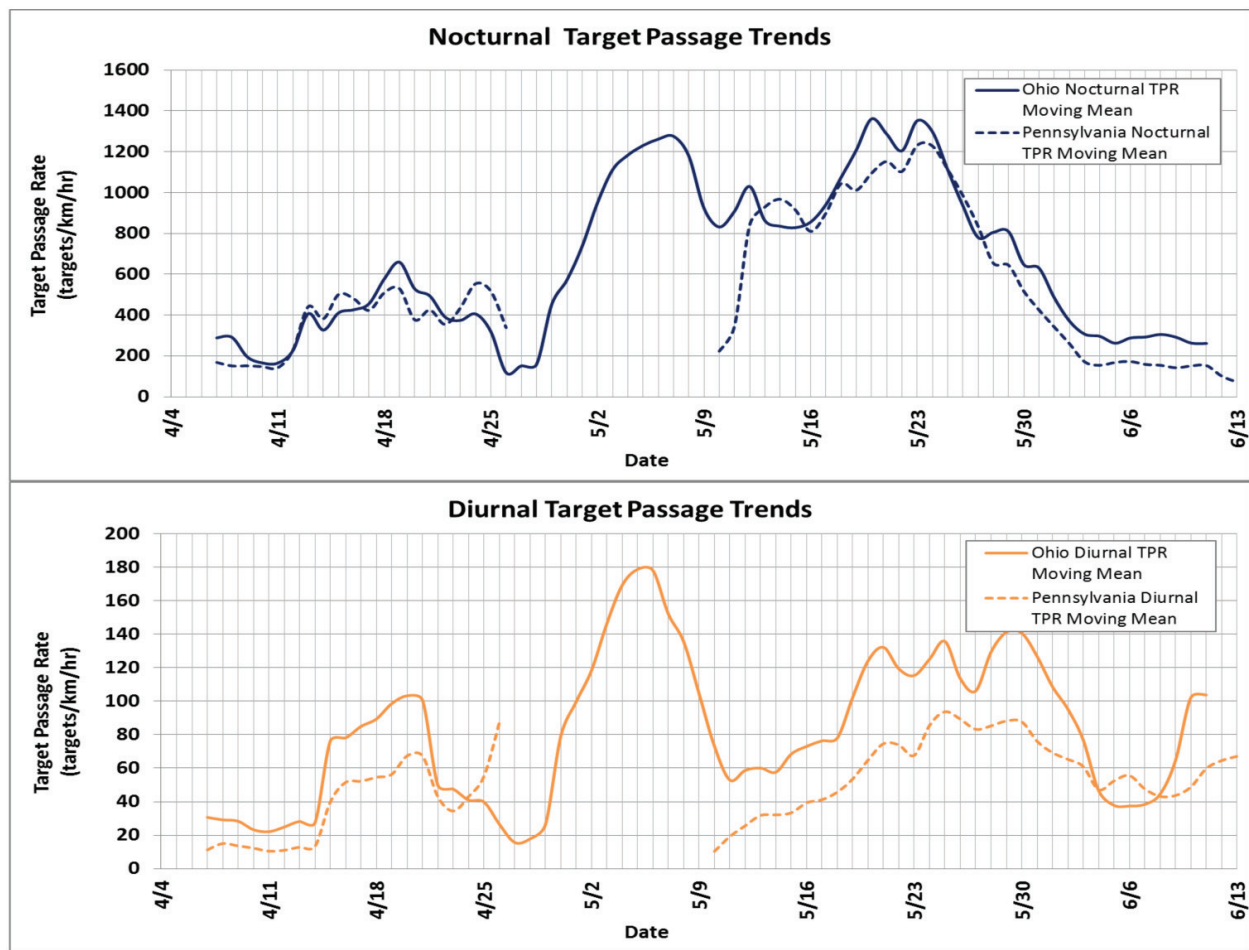
Figure 15. Weekly mean nocturnal and diurnal target passage rates (targets/km/hour) in Ohio (top row) and Pennsylvania (bottom row) from April 1 – June 10, 2012. Error bars represent one standard deviation. Note the different scales on the nocturnal and diurnal plots.

*Weekly Mean of Target Passage Rates.* At both sites, the weekly mean nocturnal target passage rates were relatively high compared with the diurnal target passage rates, and both sites showed a general increase in the means throughout the season. In mid-to-late May, the mean nocturnal TPRs began to decrease (Figure 15), and the lower TPR during the last week of April was likely due to a change in weather conditions bringing lower temperatures and a mix of sleet and snow. This shift in weather likely

resulted in fewer migrants moving through the area during this time period in Ohio. The weekly mean nocturnal TPR was consistently higher than the weekly mean diurnal TPR (Figures 15), and as the migration season subsided, less of a difference was observed between the nocturnal and diurnal target passage rates (Figures 15 and 16). Trends in both the nocturnal and diurnal TPRs (7-day moving means) were similar at both sites (Figure 17).



**Figure 16.** Comparison of the nocturnal and diurnal target passage trends (based on a 7-day moving mean) in spring 2012 in Ohio (top row) and Pennsylvania (bottom row).



**Figure 17** Comparison of the nocturnal (top row) and diurnal (bottom row) target passage trends (based on a 7-day moving mean) in spring 2012 in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

### Altitudinal Trends

Our density estimate accounted for the geometric shape of the sampled space and were substantially different than the density estimate that assumed an equal amount of sample volume per altitude band. The dawn and dusk altitude profiles differed between our two locations, and the low elevation density was greater at our Ohio site (Figures 18 and 19). The hourly altitude profiles revealed considerable variation in the use of altitude bands at night (Figures 20 and 21); however, over the course of the season, the 50 – 100 m and 100 – 150 m altitude bands were the most densely used at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites (Figure 22), which presented a total of 5.83 targets per 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> per night hour and 5.44 targets per 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> per night hour, respectively. The maximum target density was below 150 m for 75.0% and 68.0% of the nights at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively (Figure 23). A similar pattern (although with more variation) occurred when the hours from 20:00 – 04:00 were considered individually and the maximum target density that occurred below 150 m

during 64.9% and 64.7% of these night hours at the Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively (Figure 24).

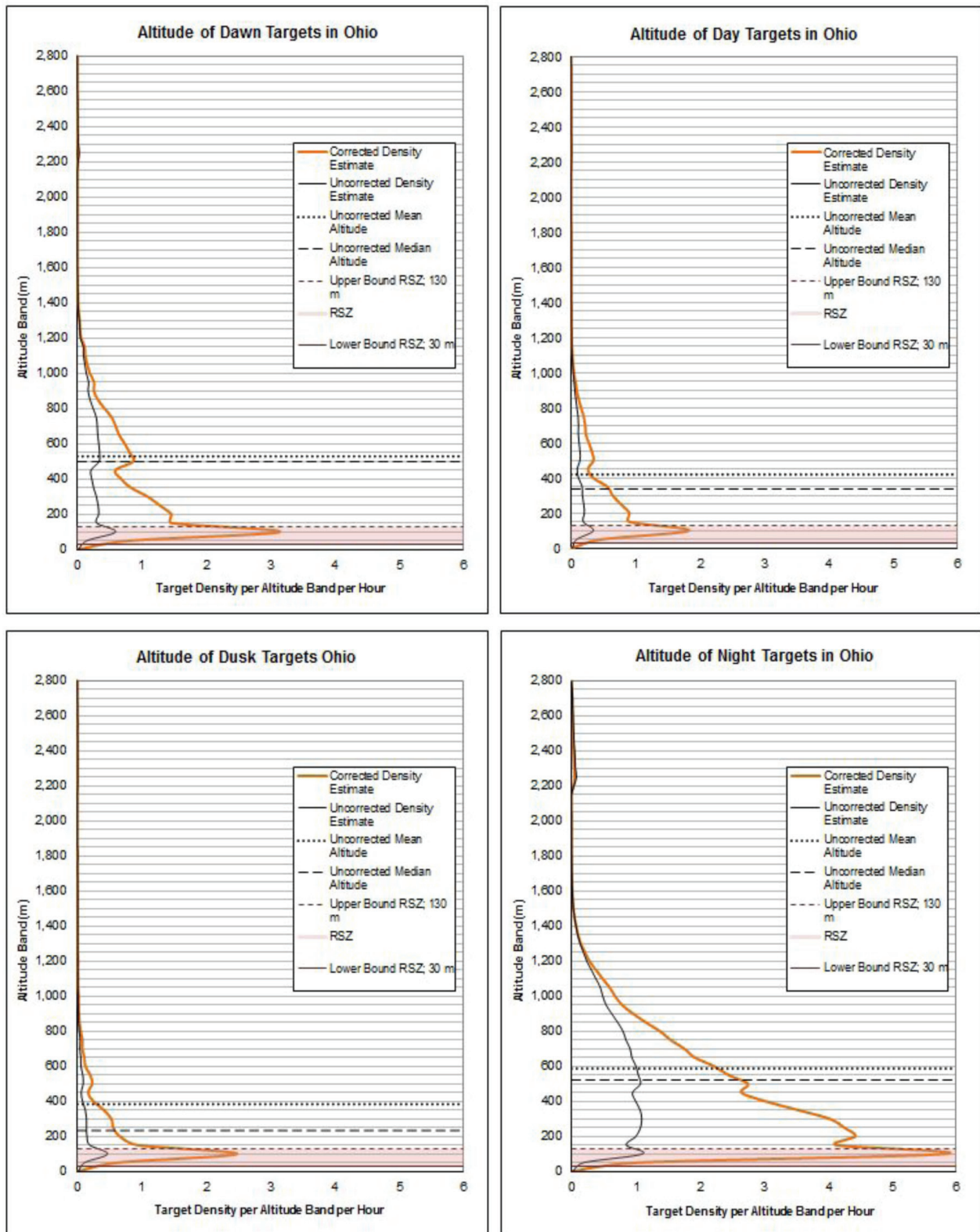
At both sites, targets were observed within the entire range of the sampled altitude bands. The mean altitude of nocturnal targets was 587 m  $\pm$  424 m SD and 447 m  $\pm$  296 m SD above the ground at our Ohio and Pennsylvania sites, respectively, and the median altitude at night was 522 m and 405 m, respectively. The median altitude was greatest during the night and dawn biological time periods. Although many radar reports include estimates of the mean and median target altitudes, we found that these estimates were poor indicators of maximum density (Table 5) because of differences in the volume of air space sampled at various altitude bands. Figures 25 and 26 are based on target density and show the variation in flight altitudes used by birds and bats that were counted by our vertical scanning radars throughout our survey period (April 1 – June 11, 2012 at the Ohio site and April 4 – June 11, 2012 at the Pennsylvania site).

These graphics show the altitude bands of 0 – 1,300 m where most targets were counted (targets were counted up to 2,750 m, which is the extent of our sampling range). These graphics show that night hours at both sites had the highest density of flight activity and that the range of flight altitudes increased during the night hours. The graphics also show that many targets flew well within a 30 – 130 m RSZ and that the mean and median altitudes do not reflect peak density altitudes, demonstrating how these values can misrepresent flight risk.

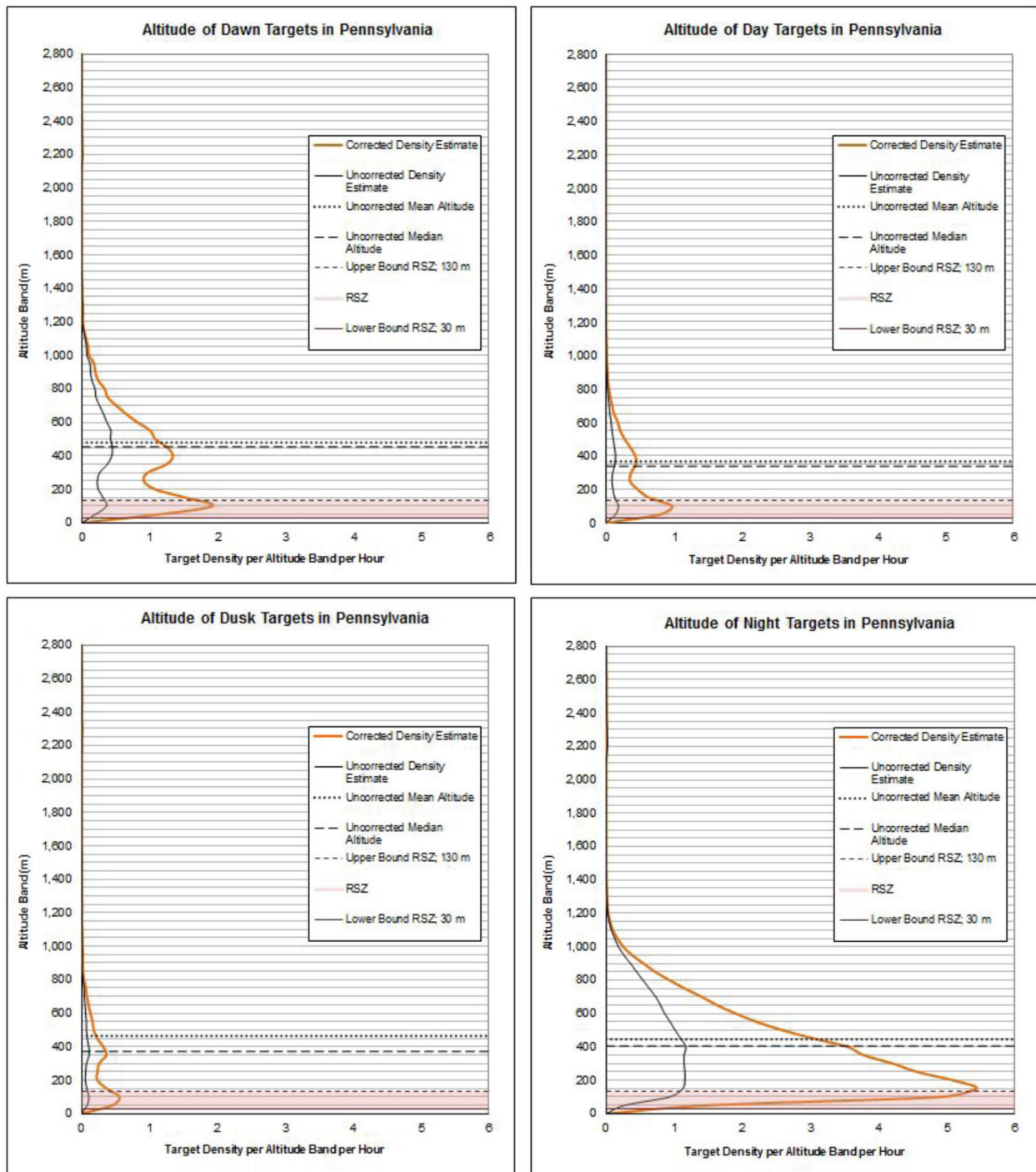
The mean altitude per hour during the season showed a similar pattern at the two locations (Figure 27), with the mean altitude increasing after dusk, tapering from 21:00 to 22:00 hours, and decreasing after midnight. A spike in the mean altitude occurred at approximately 04:00 in Ohio and during 04:00 and 05:00 in Pennsylvania, and these time periods occurred during or near dawn in at least a portion of the survey period.

**Table 5.** Comparison of the mean altitude (m) with the standard deviation, median altitude, and altitude band (50-m bands) that contained the maximum target density during the four biological periods at our sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012. Max Band Density represents the top of the altitude band.

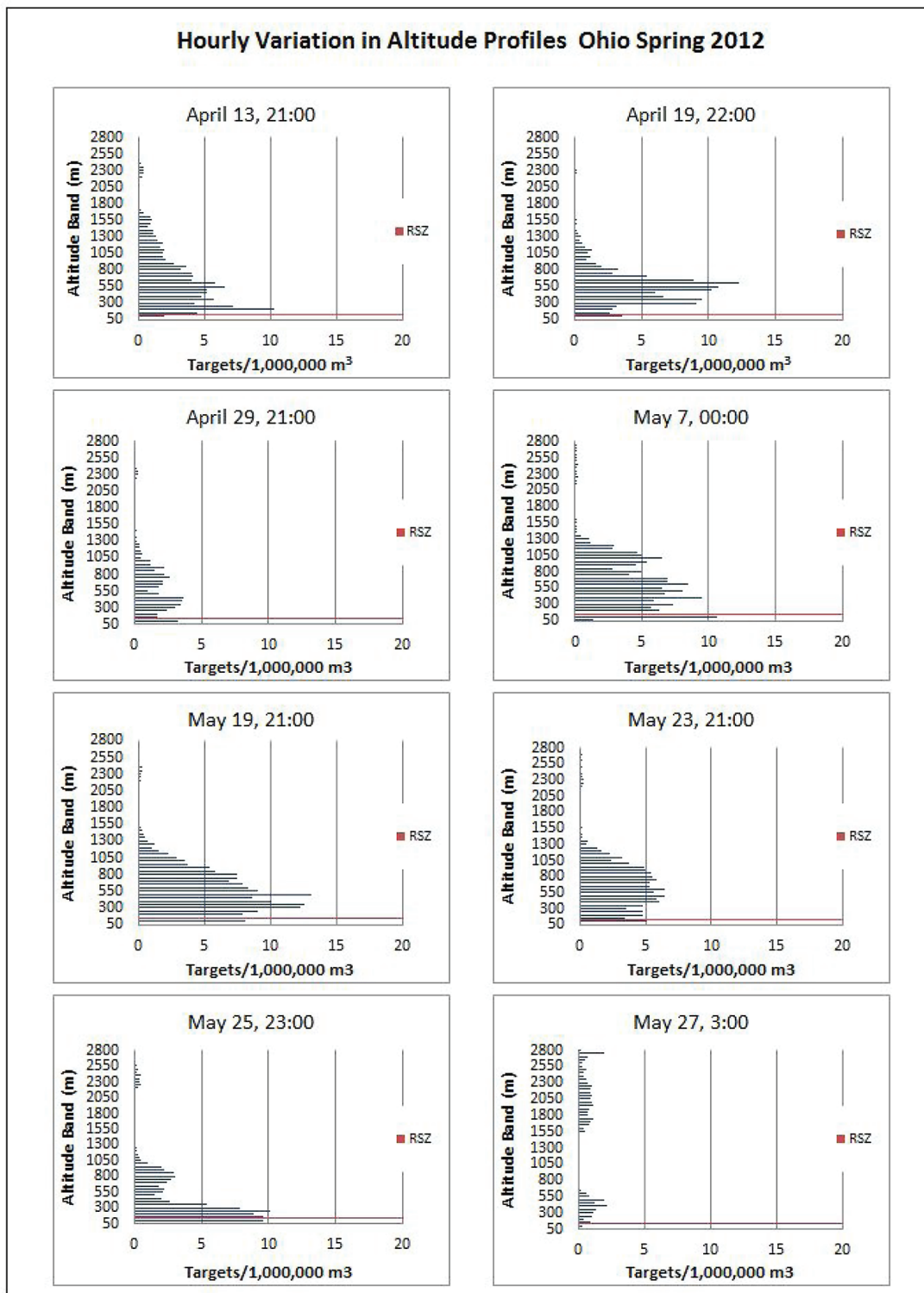
Biological Period	Ohio			Pennsylvania		
	Mean	Median	Max Band Density	Mean	Median	Max Band Density
Dawn	529 ± 393	499	100	479 ± 310	453	100
Day	420 ± 345	337	100	368 ± 302	339	100
Dusk	385 ± 468	233	100	465 ± 467	370	100
Night	587 ± 424	522	100	447 ± 296	405	150



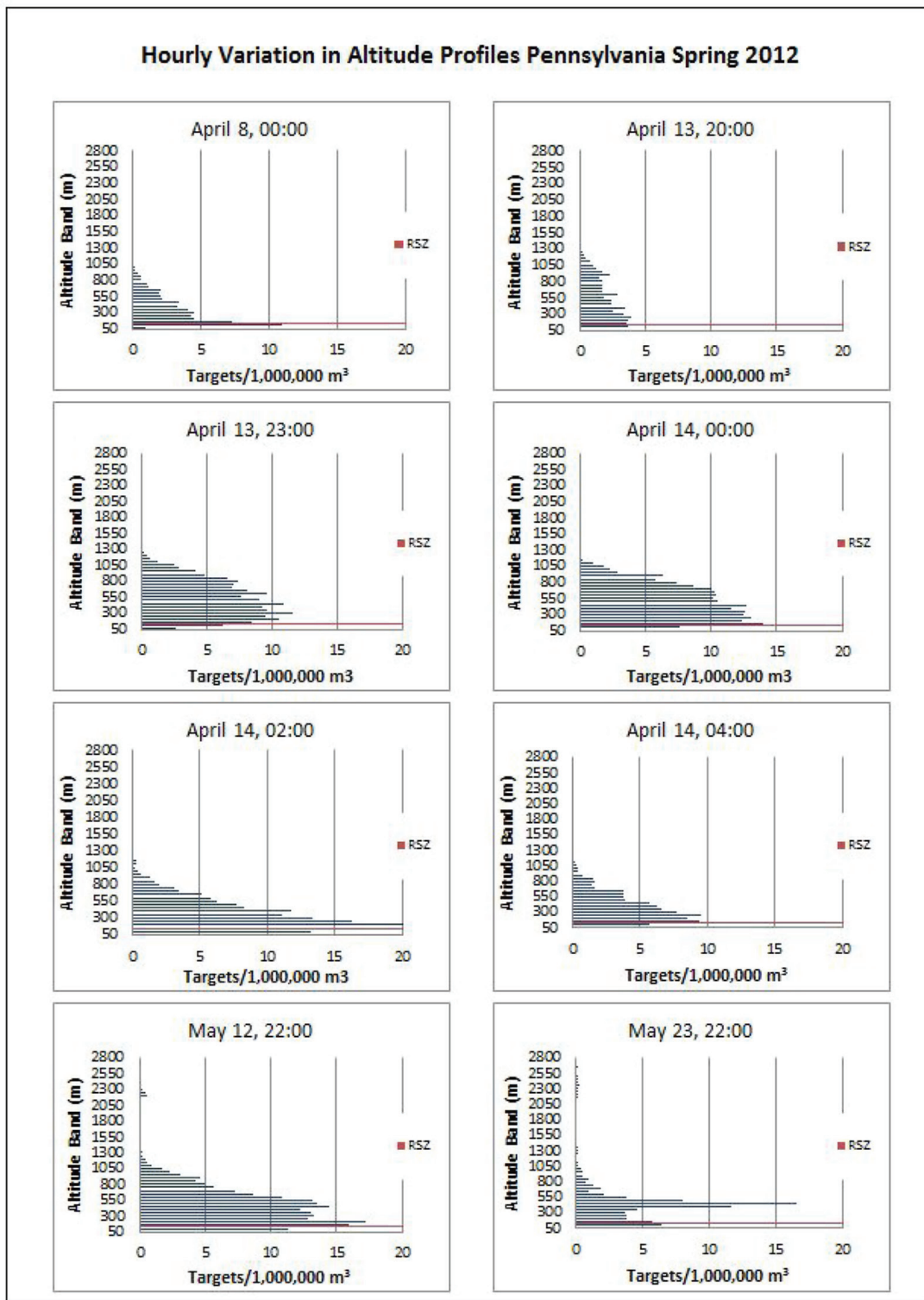
**Figure 18.** Altitude profile of the targets at our site in Ohio. Corrected lines depict the target density (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>) per 50-m altitude band per hour after adjusting for the structure of the sample volume. Uncorrected lines depict the target density per 50-m altitude band per hour with an assumed uniform volume distribution (volume of each band is equal to the total volume divided by the number of bands). The red band represents the rotor-swept zone (RSZ) between 30 – 130 m, and the y-axis labels indicate the top of the altitude band.



**Figure 19.** Altitude profile of the targets at our site in Pennsylvania. Corrected lines depict the target density (targets/ $1,000,000 \text{ m}^3$ ) per 50-m per hour altitude band after adjusting for the structure of the sample volume. Uncorrected lines depict the target density per 50-m altitude band per hour with an assumed uniform volume distribution (volume of each band is equal to the total volume divided by the number of bands). The red band represents the rotor-swept zone (RSZ) between 30 – 130 m, and the y-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.

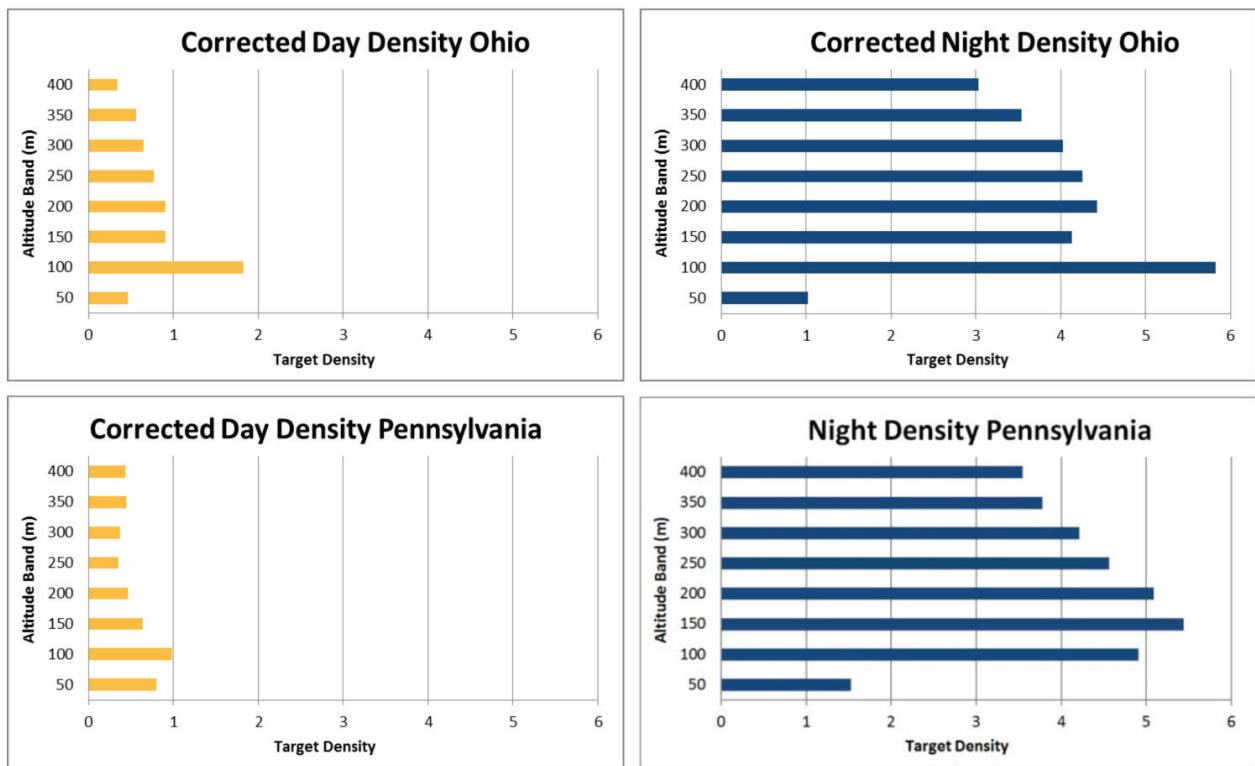


**Figure 20.** Sample of the hourly altitude profiles corrected for the shape of the sample volume at our site in Ohio in spring 2012. Hours were selected to portray the variability in density per altitude band of the passing targets. The x-axis represents the target density; the red line represents the top of the rotor-swept zone at 130 m; and the y-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.

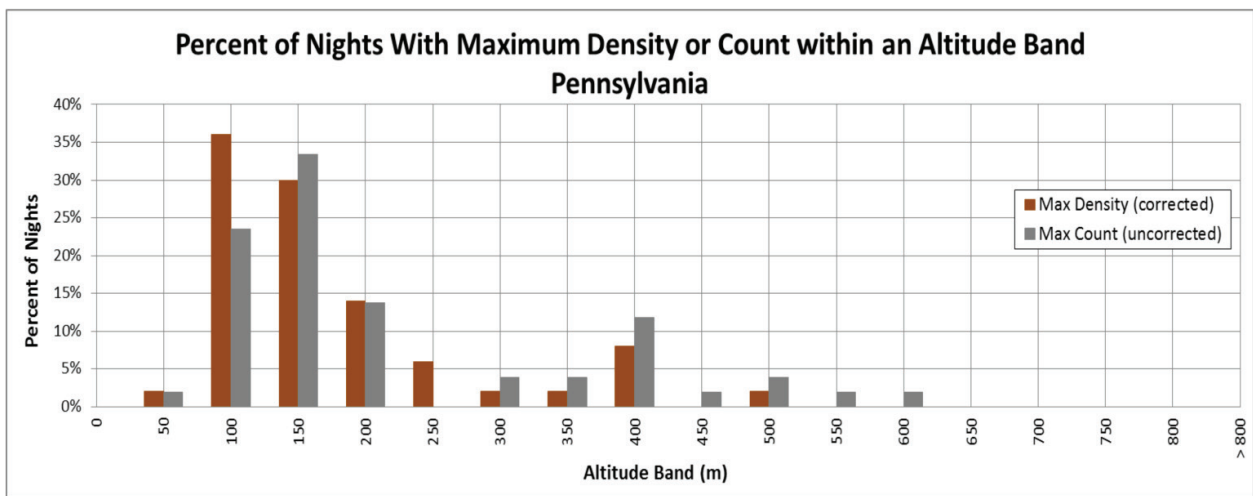
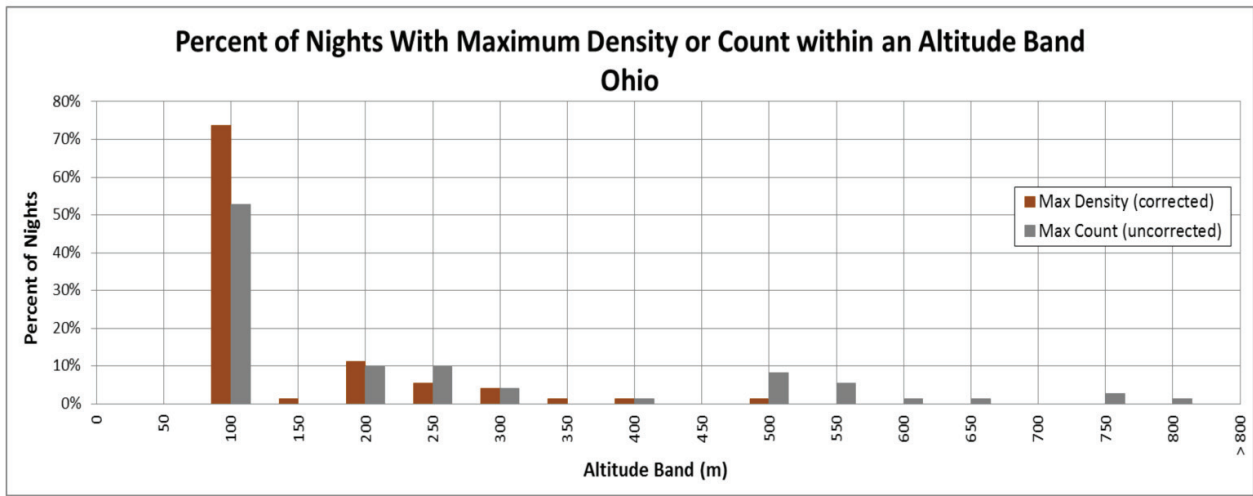


**Figure 21.** Sample of the hourly altitude profiles corrected for the shape of the sample volume at our site in Pennsylvania in spring 2012. Hours were selected to portray the variability in density per altitude band of the passing targets. The x-axis represents the target density; the red line represents the top of the rotor-swept zone at 130 m; and the y-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.

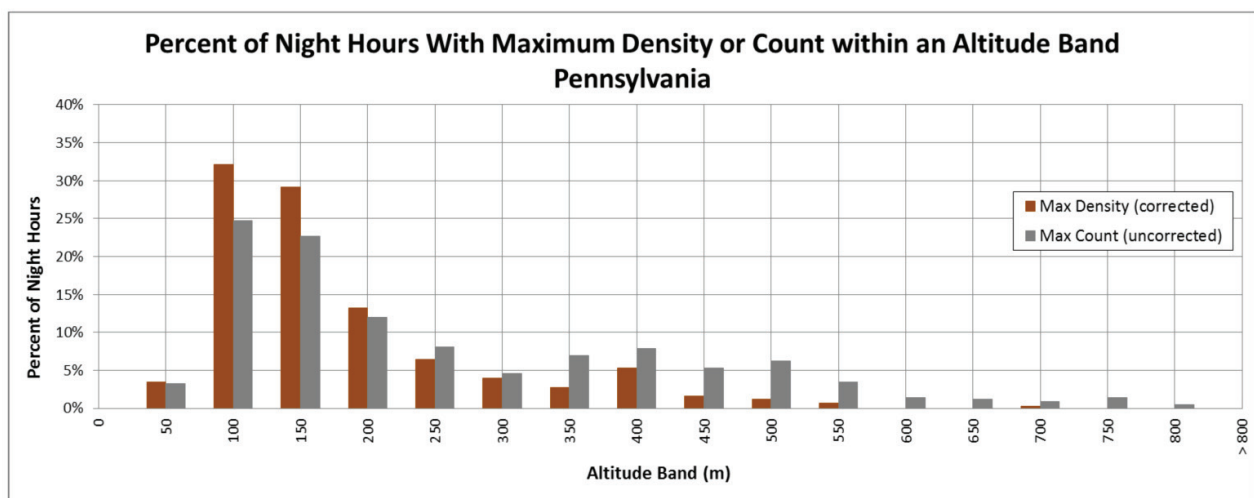
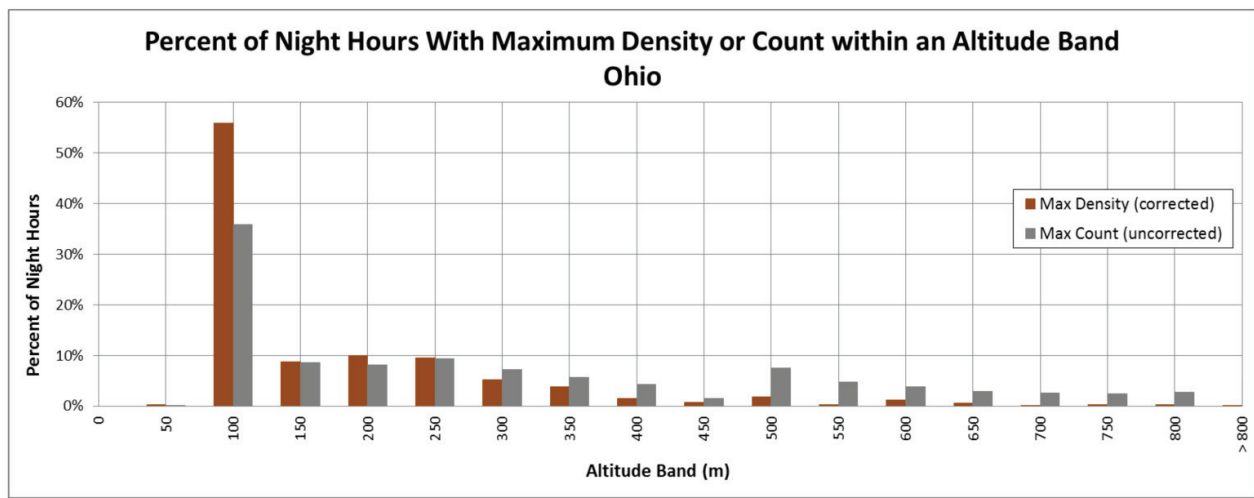




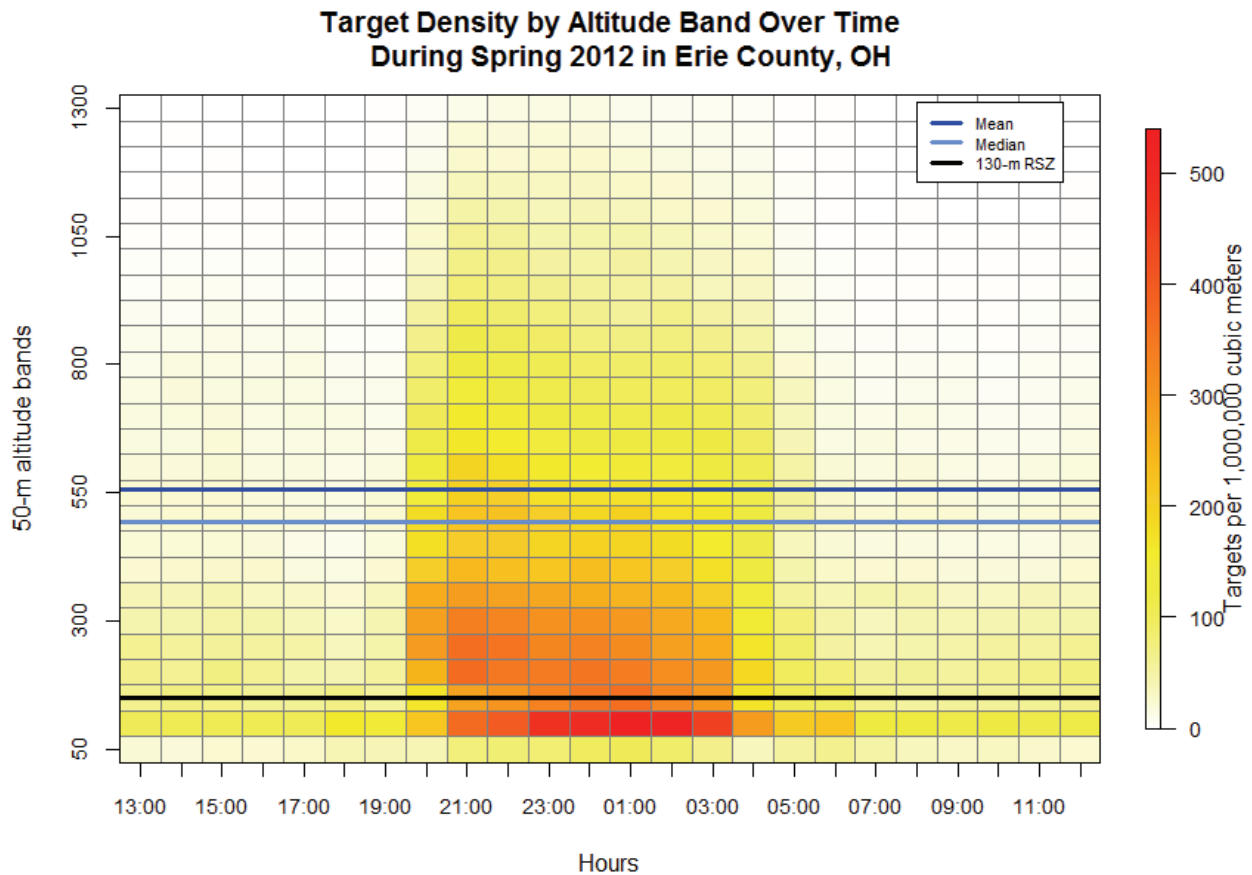
**Figure 22.** Altitude profile of the corrected target density below 400 m in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The x-axis represents the target density (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>) per 50-m altitude band, and the y-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.



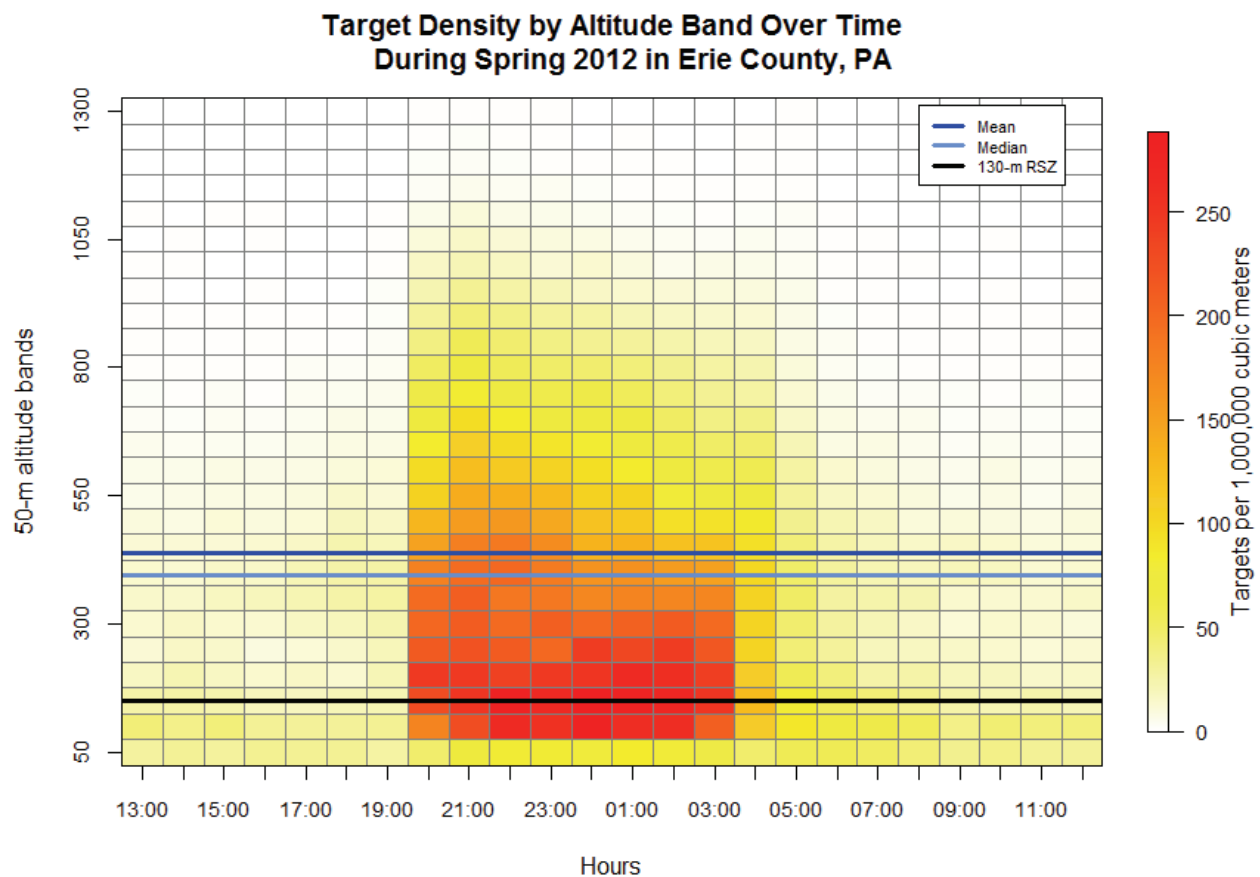
**Figure 23** Percent of nights when the maximum density (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ altitude band) or count (targets/altitude band) occurred within a given 50-m altitude band in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012. X-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.



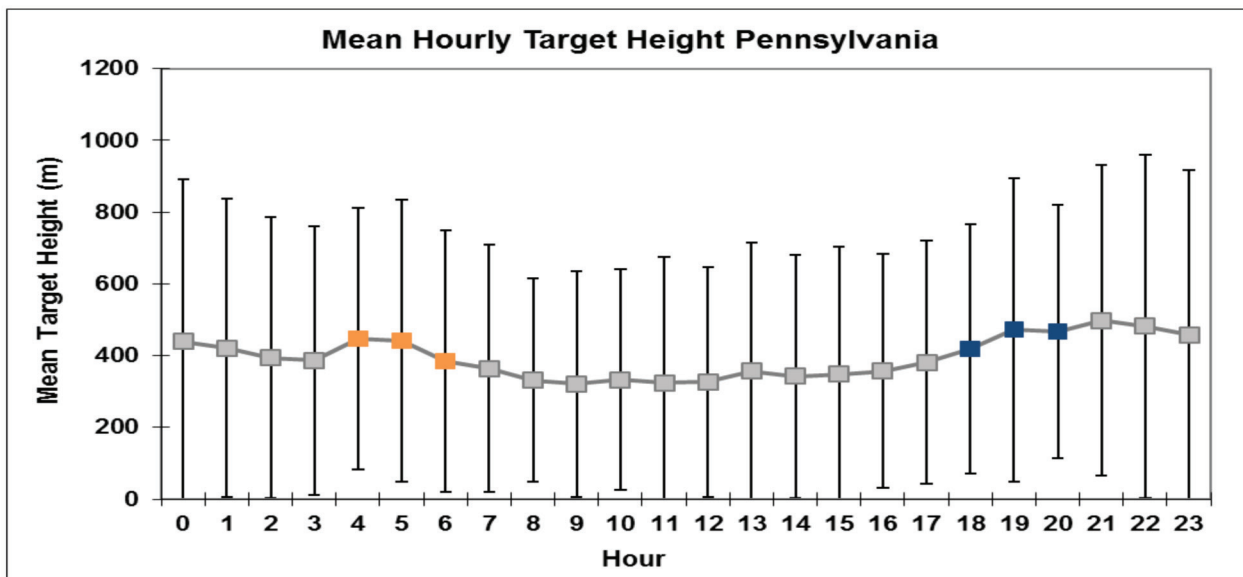
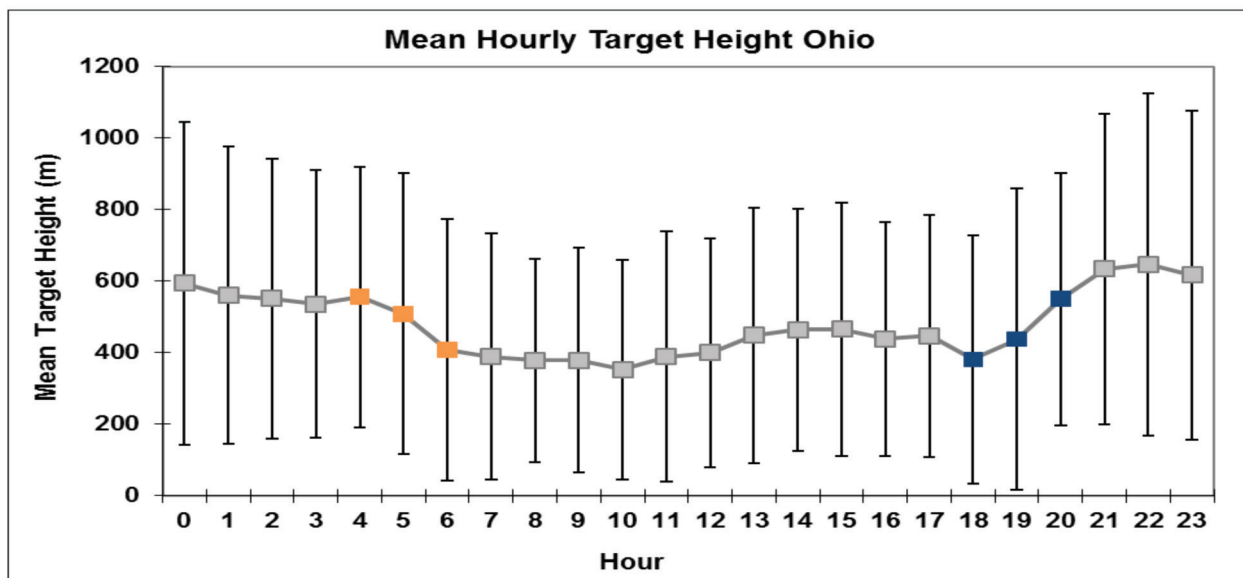
**Figure 24.** Percent of night hours (20:00 – 04:00) when the maximum density (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ altitude band) or count (targets/altitude band) occurred within a given 50-m altitude band in Ohio and Pennsylvania in spring 2012. X-axis labels represent the top of the altitude band.



**Figure 25.** Variation in flight altitudes based on target density (targets per million cubic m) at our site in Erie County, Ohio throughout the spring study period. Altitude bands are in meters and labels represent the max value of each altitude band. Density of targets is in targets per million cubic meters. Colors shown in each rectangle indicate the relative density observed for that altitude (key shown on the right) and time. The dark blue and light blue lines represent the nocturnal mean and median target heights, respectively. The black line at 130 m represents the max height of a turbine with a RSZ of 30 – 130 m. Note the difference in density scale used in Figure 26.



**Figure 26.** Variation in flight altitudes based on target density (targets per million cubic m) at our site in Erie County, Pennsylvania throughout the spring study period. Altitude bands are in meters and labels represent the max value of each altitude band. Density of targets is in targets per million cubic meters. Colors shown in each rectangle indicate the relative density observed for that altitude (key shown on the right) and time. The dark blue and light blue lines represent the nocturnal mean and median target heights, respectively. The black line at 130 m represents the max height of a turbine with a RSZ of 30 – 130 m. Note the difference in density scale used in Figure 25



**Figure 27.** Mean hourly target heights (m) in spring 2012 in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Orange and blue markers indicate the hours in which sunrise and sunset occurred during the season, respectively. Error bars represent one standard deviation.

# Discussion

We undertook this study to document migration along the shorelines of the Great Lakes. We found that migration movements were common along the southern shoreline of Lake Erie, where we established our study sites, and we believe that the data collected at these two sites are representative of migration along the rest of the Lake Erie shoreline. Our research contributes to a growing body of literature documenting various aspects of migration and identifies the Great Lakes shorelines as areas important for the conservation of migratory species. Our data further provide unique observations on the magnitude and timing of nocturnal migration that could not be observed without the aid of radar technology.

---

## Sampling Regime

The sampling regime is an important consideration for migration studies because migratory movements are partially guided by environmental conditions and occur in pulses throughout the migratory season (Alerstam 1990). Our continuous sampling scheme captured the timing of migration events and provided a more complete picture of the migratory season than a systematic (once per week) or random sampling scheme, which could have missed pulses of activity (Figure 26). We used diurnal radar observations to provide a baseline to evaluate nocturnal activity, and including this time period in the sampling scheme helped to distinguish the magnitude of the migration events (Figure 16). Our sampling regime was also useful in indicating when the nocturnal migration season for passerines and bats declined in late May, although our April start date may not have included the onset of migration at our study sites. With additional data collection, we will be able to better describe the migration season and its variations according to location and year, and this information will help tailor conservation efforts, such as turbine curtailment, to time frames when they will be most effective.

---

## Site Comparison Considerations

Target counts provided by radar are influenced by the radar type and calibration, filtering of non-intended targets, count algorithms, frequency band, antenna orientation, sampling scheme, and detection probability and sample volume variations (Bruderer 1997, Harmata et al. 1999, Schmaljohann et al. 2008).

Even when the same equipment and methodology are used among sites or studies, comparisons should be made cautiously if the probability of detection and sampling volume are ignored (Schmaljohann et al. 2008). Recognizing that our counts represent an index of target passage that is site specific, we are cautious in performing comparisons among other sites or studies. Therefore, rather than relying solely on the magnitude of target passage as an indication of migration, we have assessed the activity patterns among sites to compare the relative strength of migration. For example, a site with a nocturnal passage rate that shows peaks that are multiple times larger than the lulls for the majority of the sampling period would likely experience a greater degree of migration than a site with less of a discrepancy or a site that had a nocturnal passage rate that only occasionally spiked above the baseline value of nocturnal passage rates.

---

## Migration Patterns

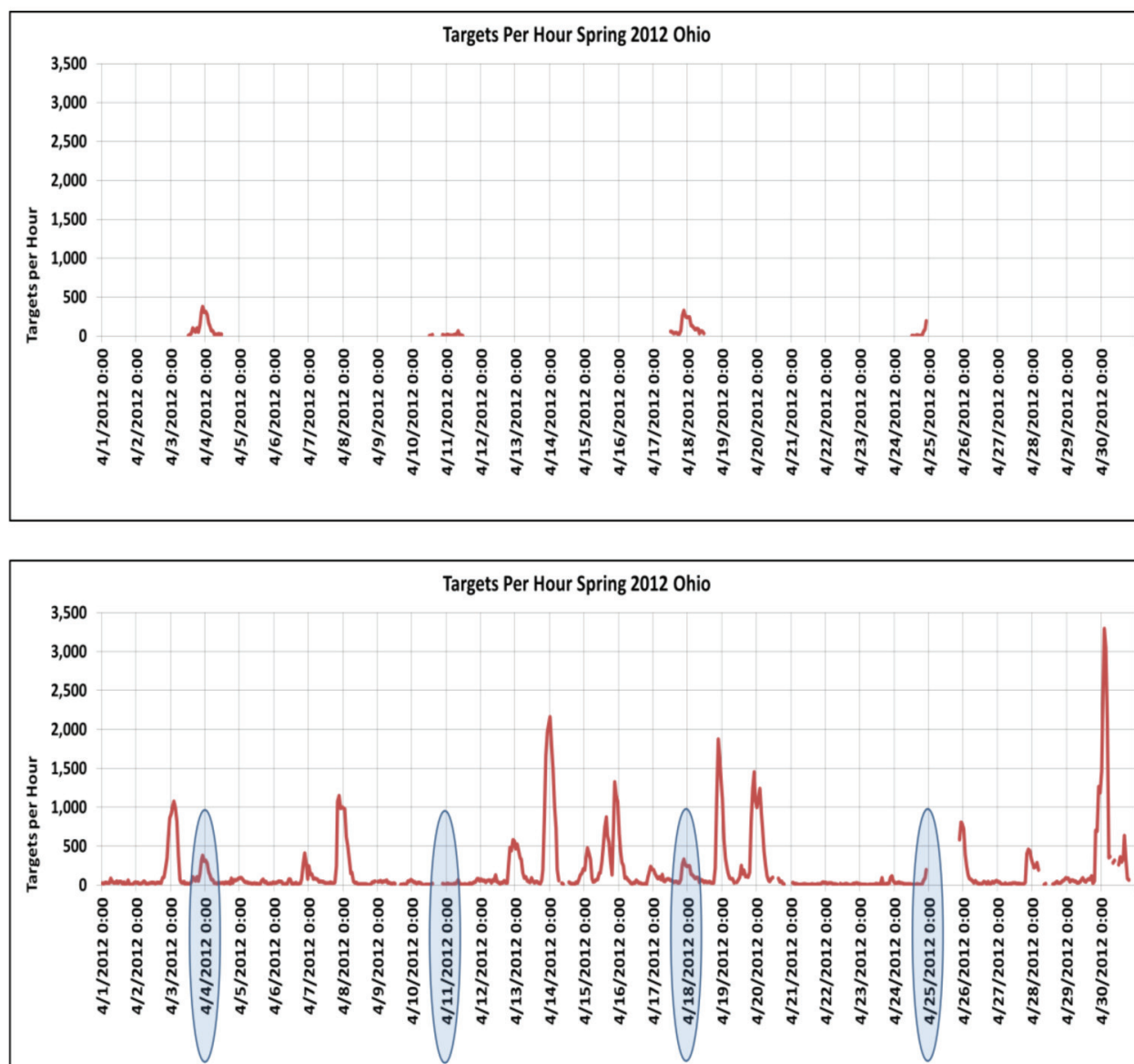
The recorded patterns of movement were consistent with other migration observations (Newton 2008) and indicated that nocturnal migratory flights occurred regularly in spring 2012 at both of our surveyed locations. This nocturnal activity was typically oriented in a north/northeast direction (Figure 10) and occurred in seasonal pulses that were captured by the horizontal and vertical radars (Figures 11 and 12). We also observed targets flying over water return to shorelines near dawn, and the target passage rate (mean for the season) was greatest during the nocturnal biological time period at both locations (Table 4, Figure 13). These patterns match with what we have observed at all other sites surveyed around the Great Lakes (Bowden et al. 2015). The mean hourly heights exhibited a pattern previously associated with migration (Harmata et al. 2000, Mabee and Cooper 2004), with heights increasing near dusk, peaking several hours before midnight, and beginning to decrease prior to dawn. The slight increase in mean height near dawn at the Pennsylvania site (Figure 25) was consistent with the migratory behavior described as dawn ascent (Myres 1964, Diehl et al. 2003), which is attributed to migrants that fly at higher altitudes to gain a broader view of the surrounding landscape before selecting a stopover habitat or returning to the shoreline if flying over water. Taken together, we attribute these

nocturnal observations to migrants and suggest that the studied shorelines are important for their conservation.

At both of our sample locations, nocturnal targets appeared to move across the landscape in waves, with peaks near April 19 and May 20 at both sites (Figure 17) and an additional peak observed at the Ohio site near May 7. The vertical radar in Pennsylvania was malfunctioning during this time period; however, the data collected on the horizontal radar (Figure 12) indicated that a peak likely occurred during this time as well. These fluctuations may be related to broad-scale weather fronts, variations in temporal patterns among guilds of migrants, or a combination of these and other

factors (Newton 2009). The trends at locations of similar latitude but on opposite ends of Lake Erie revealed broad-scale influences and indicated that further investigation into their causes would allow for the prediction of heavy migration events.

The weekly mean nocturnal TPR estimates were consistently higher than the weekly mean diurnal TPR estimates throughout the data collection period (Figures 15 and 16); however, the difference decreased by early June. This shift from time periods with significantly higher nocturnal activity to time periods with diminished nocturnal activity indicates that migration substantially contributed to the aeroecology above our study areas.



**Figure 28.** Example of a hypothetical sampling schedule in which data are collected once per week (top graphic) versus the actual continuous sampling schedule (bottom graphic). Red lines represent the number of targets counted per hour by the vertical scanning radar from April 1 – April 30, 2012 in Erie County, Ohio.



---

### Flight Altitude

The altitude profiles indicated that most of the nocturnal targets passed below 800 m with peak densities in the 50 – 150 m altitude bands (Figures 18, 19 and 22). We corrected for the approximate shape of the survey volume and included this correction in our density estimates, although this correction is based on the manufacturer's estimate of beam geometry, which may not be precise. Furthermore, beam propagation was not consistent over time because it was affected by side lobes, target size and distance, and atmospheric conditions. Nevertheless, we believe that the correction was an improvement over the altitude profiles that ignored beam geometry and sampling effort. We were not able to correct for the loss of detection with distance from the radar (Schmaljohann et al. 2008), and our vertical scanning radars lost detection at a range of approximately 1,400 – 2,000 m, which was where the radar transitioned from the short to medium pulse. For these reasons, our estimates likely under-represented the density as altitude increases. However, the densities per altitude band were already decreasing (Figure 18) before the 1,400 m band, and any undercount would be unlikely to change the overall picture.

The reported altitude profiles varied considerably among the nighttime hours at our sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania (Figures 20 and 21). Migrants adjusted their flight altitude according to the wind direction and speed, visibility, time, and the landscape below the flight trajectory (Alerstam 1990, Hueppop et al. 2006, Liechti 2006). For example, headwinds aloft have resulted in migrants moving *en masse* to lower altitudes that present reduced wind speeds (Gauthreaux 1991). In addition, migrants typically returned to land at least twice during every 24-hour period; therefore, changes in flight altitude occurred at various times over the course of the night and were associated with targets ascending from and descending to stopover sites. Depending on the location, these altitude changes may place migrants at risk of collision with wind turbines and other tall human-made structures.

---

### Radar Study and Management Considerations

Although radar may be the best tool available for gathering large amounts of data on nocturnal migration, the interpretation of radar data can be challenging. Marine radar is the most common type of radar used to track the movements of birds and bats (Larkin 2005), and its use in risk assessments will likely increase with wind energy development. Despite this growing trend, standardized equipment and methodologies for establishing radar settings, ground-truthing biological targets, and data processing have not been adopted, although such considerations would substantially improve the

quality of the data. Standardization presents an enormous challenge; however, without it, comparisons among studies may be more reflective of changes in equipment, methodology, and site conditions rather than differences in migratory activity among sites.

Additionally, the metrics reported in radar surveys can be misleading to anyone unfamiliar with avian radar. For example, the mean altitude of target passage is often reported to be above the rotor-swept zone and has been interpreted to indicate low risk. However, the mean altitude can be well above the rotor-swept zone, even when there is a high rate of target passage within the zone because of the long range over which radars collect altitude data, which was up to 3 km above the ground in our study; thus, high flying targets can inflate the mean altitude. This bias was apparent in our data and can be observed by comparing the mean altitude of nocturnal targets to the most densely populated altitude band (Figures 18, 19, 25, 26, and Table 5). It is also misleading to compare the percent of targets below and above the height of the rotor-swept zone without addressing the inherent difference in radar sampling effort at various altitude bands. Within our sampling framework, there were three 50-m altitude bands below 150 m (an estimate for the height of the rotor-swept zone) and 53 altitude bands above 150 m. Based on our model, we estimated that approximately 1% of the potential survey volume was below 150 m. Therefore, we would expect a small percentage of targets to be recorded at or below the rotor-swept zone, although this does not necessarily indicate low risk. Additionally, sampling in areas in the lower altitude bands is often poor due to the effects of ground clutter (Figure 4).

When examining general migration patterns, high nighttime migrant activity was documented at our two Lake Erie radar sites as demonstrated by our Trackplots (Figures 8 and 9), the time series plots from each site (Figures 11 and 12), high target passage rates (Figures 13 - 15 and Table 4). Percent of targets within a 30 – 130 m rotor-swept zone were high during all biological time periods, with target density being highest at night (Figures 18, 19, 25 and 26). Throughout the migration season, nighttime targets were recorded flying along the shorelines and across the lake (Figure 10); as dawn approaches nighttime migrants need a place for refuge, rest, and foraging, thus migrants flying over water have been recorded returning towards shore around dawn. The combination of these behaviors indicates that high numbers of nighttime migrants may be at risk of collision with wind facilities, communication towers or other tall structures located along the shorelines of Lake Erie.

Although the target passage rate and target density were lower during the dawn, day, and dusk periods, the migrants may still be at risk of collision during these time periods. Targets were recorded flying along the lakeshore during these time periods, indicating that the Lake Erie shoreline is used by migrants during all times of the day in the migration season for both flightpaths and stopover habitat.

---

### **Conclusions**

In this report, we provide examples of methodologies and analyses that are helpful in the interpretation of radar data. We suggest that relative changes in the counts at a single site indicate the level of migration activity, and these data provide a better indicator than comparisons between the magnitude of counts recorded in different studies. Careful attention should be given to how these indices fluctuate over fine temporal scales, such as at hourly scales compared with monthly or seasonal scales. Our clutter maps provided information on our ability to detect targets at various altitudes, and we believe that it is important for radar operators to address their ability to detect targets at low altitudes, particularly for collision risk assessments. We provide the basis for a method of accounting for the structure of the sample volume that offers a partial solution, albeit with limitations (Schmaljohann et al. 2008), instead of ignoring the biases associated with sampling

effort. Overall, we found that radar provides insights into nocturnal migration that would be otherwise unattainable, and we believe that its continued development and careful interpretation will result in valuable contributions to the management and conservation of migrating birds and bats.

The results of our research highlight the potential role of radar in implementing recommendations from the Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines (USFWS 2012) for the identification of areas where impacts to wildlife should be minimized. We documented clear examples of migrant activity along the southern shorelines of Lake Erie at our study sites in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and the density of targets at lower altitudes is of concern. Additionally, increases in turbine heights and blade lengths increase the size of the rotor-swept zone, thus creating larger areas of flight risk for birds and bats. The collected data may be of interest to public and private entities involved with wind energy development and the potential placement of turbines in the Great Lakes region. Coupling avian radar systems with other forms of research or using radar in conjunction with post-construction fatality searches may broaden the utility of their use in risk assessments of wind energy developments.

# Literature Cited

- Able, K. P. 1977. The flight behaviour of individual passerine nocturnal migrants: a tracking radar study. *Animal Behaviour* 25:924-935.
- Akesson, S. 1999. Do passerine migrants captured at an inland site perform temporary reverse migration in autumn? *Ardea* 87:129-138.
- Alerstam, T. 1990. *Bird Migration*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Alerstam, T. 2001. Detours in bird migration. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 209:319-331.
- Arnett, E. B., and E. F. Baerwald. 2013. Impacts of wind energy development on bats: Implications for conservation. Pages 435-456 in R. A. Adams and S. C. Pederson. Editors. *Bat Ecology, Evolution and Conservation*. Springer Science Press, New York, USA.
- Arnett, E. B., W. K. Brown, W. P. Erickson, J. K. Fiedler, B. L. Hamilton, T. H. Henry, A. Jain, G. D. Johnson, J. Kerns, R. R. Koford, C. P. Nicholson, T. J. O'Connell, M. D. Piorkowski, and R. D. Tankersley, Jr. 2008. Patterns of bat fatalities at wind energy facilities in North America. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:61-78.
- Audubon. 2013. Important Bird Areas Program. <http://web4.audubon.org/bird/iba/>. (last accessed May 2015).
- AWEA. 2015. American Wind Energy Association. <http://www.awea.org/Issues/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=4437>. (last accessed January 2015).
- BHE Environmental, Inc. 2010. Post-construction bird and bat mortality study Cedar Ridge wind farm Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin. Unpublished interim report. [www.bheenvironmental.com](http://www.bheenvironmental.com)
- Bingman, V. P. 1980. Inland morning flight behavior of nocturnal passerine migrants in eastern New York. *Auk* 97: 465-472.
- Bonter, D., T. Donovan, and E. Brooks. 2007. Daily mass changes in landbirds during migration stopover on the south shore of Lake Ontario. *Auk* 124:122-133.
- Bonter, D., S. A. Gauthreaux, Jr., and T. M. Donovan. 2009. Characteristics of important stopover locations for migrating birds: remote sensing with radar in the Great Lakes Basin. *Conservation Biology* 23:440-448.
- Bowden, T.S., E.C. Olson, N.A. Rathbun, D.C. Nolfi, R.L. Horton, D.J. Larson, and J.C. Gosse. 2015. Great Lakes Avian Radar Technical Report Huron and Oceana Counties, Michigan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Technical Publication FWS/BTP-2015.
- Bruderer, B. 1997. The study of bird migration by radar, Part 1: The technical basis. *Naturwissenschaften* 84: 1-8.
- Bruderer, B., and F. Liechti. 1998. Flight behaviour of nocturnally migrating birds in coastal areas - crossing or coasting. *Journal of Avian Biology* 29:499-507.
- Buler, J. J. and R. H. Diehl. 2009. Quantifying Bird Density During Migratory Stopover Using Weather Surveillance Radar. *Ieee Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* 47:2741-2751.
- Buler, J. J. and F. Moore. 2011. Migrant-habitat relationships during stopover along an ecological barrier: extrinsic constraints and conservation implications. *Journal of Ornithology* 152:101-112.
- Buler, J. J. and D. K. Dawson. 2012. Radar analysis of fall bird migration stopover sites in the Northeast U.S. Final Report. Cooperative Agreement USGS and University of Delaware.
- Cryan, P.M. 2011. Wind turbines as landscape impediments to the migratory connectivity of bats. *Environ Law*. 41:355-370.
- DeTect, Inc. 2009. MERLIN avian radar survey for a proposed wind project. Unpublished technical report. Panama City, FL.
- Diehl, R. H., R. P. Larkin, and J. E. Black. 2003. Radar observations of bird migration over the Great Lakes. *Auk* 120:278-290.
- Diehl, Robert H., John M. Bates, David E. Willard, and Thomas P. Gnoske. "Bird mortality during nocturnal migration over Lake Michigan: a case study. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 126, no. 1 (2014): 19-29.
- Ewert, D.N., P.J. Doran, K.R. Hall, A. Froelich, J. Cannon, J.B. Cole, and K.E. France. 2012. On a wing and a (GIS) layer: Prioritizing migratory bird stopover habitat along Great Lakes Shorelines. Final report to the Upper Midwest/Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

- Ewert, D. N., M. J. Hamas, R. J. Smith, M. E. Dallman, and S. W. Jorgensen. 2011. Distribution of migratory landbirds along the northern Lake Huron shoreline. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123:536-547.
- Faaborg, J., R. T. Holmes, A. D. Anders, K. L. Bildstein, K. M. Dugger, S. A. Gauthreaux, Jr., P. Heglund, K. A. Hobson, A. E. Jahn, D. H. Johnson, S. C. Latta, D. J. Levey, P. P. Marra, C. L. Merkord, E. Nol, S. I. Rothstein, T. W. Sherry, T. S. Sillett, F. R. Thompson, III, and N. Warnock. 2010. Conserving migratory land birds in the New World: Do we know enough? *Ecological Applications* 20:398-418.
- France, K. E., M. Burger, T. G. Howard, M. D. Schlesinger, K. A. Perkins, M. MacNeil, D. Klein, and D. N. Ewert. 2012. Final report for Lake Ontario Migratory Bird Stopover Project. Prepared by The Nature Conservancy for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in fulfillment of a grant from the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund (C303907).
- Fry, J., Xian, G., Jin, S., Dewitz, J., Homer, C., Yang, L., Barnes, C., Herold, N., and Wickham, J., 2011. Completion of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the Conterminous United States, PE&RS, Vol. 77(9):858-864.
- Gauthreaux, S. A. 1991. The flight behavior of migrating birds in changing wind fields – radar and visual analyses. *American Zoologist* 31:187-204.
- Great Lakes Commission. 2011. State of the science: an assessment of research on the ecological impacts of wind energy in the Great Lakes Region. Report by the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative, Great Lakes Commission, 19 p.
- Grodsky, S. M., C.S. Jennelle, D. Drake, and T. Virizi. 2012. Bat mortality at a wind-energy facility in southeastern Wisconsin. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 36(4):773-783.
- Gruver, J., M. Sonnenburg, K. Bay, and W. Erickson. 2009. Post-construction bat and bird fatality study at the Blue Sky Green Field Wind Energy Center, Fond Du Lac County, Wisconsin. Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. Unpublished final report.
- Harmata, A. R., K. M. Podruzny, J. R. Zelenak, and M. L. Morrison. 1999. Using marine surveillance radar to study bird movements and impact assessment. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 27:44-52.
- Harmata, A. R., K. M. Podruzny, J. R. Zelenak, and M. L. Morrison. 2000. Passage rates and timing of bird migration in Montana. *American Midland Naturalist* 143:30-40.
- Hayes, M. 2013. Bats killed in large numbers at United States Wind Energy Facilities. *Bioscience* 63: 975-979.
- Hueppop, O., J. Dierschke, K. M. Exo, E. Fredrich, and R. Hill. 2006. Bird migration studies and potential collision risk with offshore wind turbines. *Ibis* 148:90-109.
- Johnson, G.D. 2005. A review of bat mortality at wind-energy developments in the United States. *Bat Research News*. 46: 45-49.
- Johnson, P. L. 2013. Migratory Stopover of Songbirds in the Western Lake Erie Basin (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University).
- Kunz, T. H., E. B. Arnett, W. P. Erickson, A. Hoar, G. Johnson, R. Larkin, M.D. Strickland, R. Thresher, and M. Tuttle. 2007a. Ecological impacts of wind energy development on bats: questions, research needs, and hypotheses. *Frontiers of Ecology and the Environment* 5(6):315-324.
- Kunz, T. H., E. B. Arnett, B. M. Cooper, W. P. Erickson, R. P. Larkin, T. Mabee, M. L. Morrison, M. D. Strickland, and J. M. Szewczak. 2007b. Assessing impacts of wind-energy development on nocturnally active birds and bats: a guidance document. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71:2449–2486.
- Larkin, R.P. 2005. Radar techniques for wildlife biology. Pages 448-464 In: C. E. Braun, editor *Techniques for wildlife investigations and management*, 6th Edition. The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.
- Liechti, F., B. Bruderer, and H. Paproth. 1995. Quantification of nocturnal bird migration by moonwatching: comparison with radar and infrared observations. *J. Field Ornithol.* 66: 457–468.
- Liechti, F. 2006. Birds: blowin' by the wind? *Journal of Ornithology* 147:202-211.
- Loss, S., T. Will, and P. Marra. 2013. Estimates of bird collision mortality at wind facilities in the contiguous United States. *Biological Conservation*, 168:201-209.
- Lowery, G.H. Jr. 1951. A quantitative study of the nocturnal migration of birds. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Natural History* 3: 361–472.
- Mabee, T. J. and B. A. Cooper. 2004. Nocturnal bird migration in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. *Northwestern Naturalist* 85:39-47.
- Mageau, M., B. Sunderland, and S. Stark. 2008. Minnesota's Lake Superior coastal program wind resource development in the Minnesota coastal zone. University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Community Development. Project No. 306-02-08. Contract No. A92528.

- McGuire, L. P., K. A. Jonasson, and C. G. Guglielmo. 2012a. Torpor-assisted migration in bats. In: *The Society for Integrated & Comparative Biology*; January 4, 2012; Charleston, SC. Session 20.
- McGuire, L. P., C. G. Guglielmo, S. A. Mackenzie, and P. D. Taylor. 2012b. Migratory stopover in the long-distance migrant silver-haired bat, *Lasiurus noctivagus*. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 81: 377–385.
- Mehlman, D. W., S. E. Mabey, D. N. Ewert, C. Duncan, B. Abel, D. Cimprich, R. D. Sutter, and M. Woodrey. 2005. Conserving stopover sites for forest-dwelling migratory landbirds. *Auk* 122:1281-1290.
- Moore, F.R., P. Kerlinger, T. R. Simons. 1990. Stopover on a Gulf Coast Barrier Island by spring trans-Gulf migrants. *Wilson Bulletin*. 102: 487-501.
- Myres, M. T. 1964. Dawn ascent and reorientation of Scandinavian thrushes (*Turdus* spp.) migrating at night over the northeastern Atlantic Ocean in autumn. *Ibis* 106:7–51.
- Newton, I. 2006. Can conditions experienced during migration limit the population levels of birds? *Journal of Ornithology* 147:146-166.
- Newton, I. 2007. Weather-related mass-mortality events in migrants. *Ibis* 149:453-467.
- Newton, I. 2008. *Migration ecology of birds*. Academic Press, Elsevier. UK. 975 pp.
- Peterson, A. and G. J. Niemi. 2011. Development of a comprehensive conservation strategy for the North Shore Highlands Region of Minnesota in the context of future wind development. Final Report. Natural Resources Research Institute technical report: NRRI/TR-2012/13.
- Press, W. H., S. A. Teukolsky, W. T. Vetterling, and B. P. Flannery. 2007. *Numerical Recipes: The Art of Scientific Computing* (3rd ed.). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- R Core Team. (2012). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. ISBN 3-900051-07-0, URL <http://www.R-project.org/>.
- Racey, P., and A. Entwistle. 2000. Life-history and reproductive strategies of bats. *Reproductive biology of bats*, 363-414.
- Rich, T. D., C. J. Beardmore, H. Berlanga, P. J. Blancher, M. S. W. Bradstreet, G. S. Butcher, D. W. Demarest, E. H. Dunn, W. C. Hunter, E. E. Inigo-Elias, J. A. Kennedy, A. M. Martell, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, K. V. Rosenberg, C. M. Rustay, J. S. Wendt, T. C. Will. 2004. *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ithaca, NY.
- Ruth, J. M., editor. 2007. *Applying radar technology to migratory bird conservation and management: strengthening and expanding a collaborative*. Fort Collins, CO, U. S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Discipline. Open-File Report 2007 – 1361, 84p.
- Schmaljohann, H., P. J. J. Becker, H. Karaardic, F. Liechti, B. Naef-Daenzer, and C. Grande. 2011. Nocturnal exploratory flights, departure time, and direction in a migratory songbird. *Journal of Ornithology* 152:439-452.
- Schmaljohann, H., F. Liechti, E. Baechler, T. Steuri, and B. Bruderer. 2008. Quantification of bird migration by radar - a detection probability problem. *Ibis* 150:342-355.
- Schmaljohann, H. and B. Naef-Daenzer. 2011. Body condition and wind support initiate the shift of migratory direction and timing of nocturnal departure in a songbird. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 80:1115-1122.
- Sillett, T. S. and R. T. Holmes. 2002. Variation in survivorship of a migratory songbird throughout its annual cycle. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 71:296-308.
- Smallwood, K.S. 2013. Comparing bird and bat fatality-rate estimates among North American wind-energy projects. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 37: 19-33.
- Smallwood, K. S. and C. Thelander. 2008. Bird mortality in the Altamont Pass wind resource area, California. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72:853-853.
- Smith, R. J., M. J. Hamas, D. N. Ewert, and M. E. Dallman. 2004. Spatial foraging differences in American redstarts along the shoreline of northern Lake Huron during spring migration. *Wilson Bulletin* 116:48-55.
- Smith, R. J., F. R. Moore, and C. A. May. 2007. Stopover habitat along the shoreline of northern Lake Huron, Michigan: Emergent aquatic insects as a food resource for spring migrating landbirds. *Auk* 124:107-121.
- Taylor, P. D., S. A. Mackenzie, B. G. Thurber, A. M. Calvert, A. M. Mills, L. P. McGuire, and C. G. Guglielmo. 2011. Landscape Movements of Migratory Birds and Bats Reveal an Expanded Scale of Stopover. *Plos One* 6.
- Timm, R.M. 1989. Migration and molt patterns of red bats. *Illinois Bull. Chicago Academy of Science*.
- Turner, G. G., D. M. Reeder, and J. T. H. Coleman. 2011. A Five-year Assessment of Mortality and Geographic Spread of White-Nose Syndrome in North American Bats, with a Look at the Future. Update of White-Nose Syndrome in bats. *Bat Research News*, 52:13-27.

- U.S. Department of Energy. 2008. 20% Wind energy by 2030: increasing wind energy's contribution to U.S. electricity supply. U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/41869.pdf> (last accessed May 2015).
- U.S. Department of Energy. 2015. Wind Vision: A New Era for Wind power in the United States. U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Scientific and Technical Information, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. [http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/WindVision\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/WindVision_Report_final.pdf) (last accessed May 2015)
- USFWS. 2012. U.S. Fish and Wildlife land-based wind energy guidelines. OMB Control No. 1018-0148.
- Wiedner, D. S., P. Kerlinger, D. A Sibley, P. Holt, J. Hough, and R. Cmsley. 1992. Visible morning flights of neotropical landbird migrants at Cape May, New Jersey. *Auk* 109 (3): 500-510.
- Zar, J.H. 1999. *Biostatistical Analysis*, 4th ed. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. 662 pp. 1018-0148.
- Wiedner, D. S., P. Kerlinger, D. A Sibley, P. Holt, J. Hough, and R. Cmsley. 1992. Visible morning flights of neotropical landbird migrants at Cape May, New Jersey. *Auk* 109 (3): 500-510.
- Zar, J.H. 1999. *Biostatistical Analysis*, 4th ed. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. 662 pp.



# Appendices

- Appendix 1: Spring 2012 Report Summary**
- Appendix 2: Percent Land Cover Associated with Study Sites and the 2006 National Land Cover Database Classification**
- Appendix 3: Corrected Density per Hour by Biological Period**
- Appendix 4: Comparison of Static and Corrected Density Estimates**

# Appendix 1

## *Spring 2012 Report Summary*

- Migration occurred on the southern shoreline of Lake Erie at both ends of the lake during spring 2012
  - Migration is identified by uniformity of movement of direction (northwards) at night, high target passage rate, and nighttime peaks
  - Patterns and timing of migration were similar between the sites
    - Waves of migration with highest concentrations near April 19 and May 20 occurred at both sites
    - Wave of migration also occurred near May 7 in Ohio. A migration wave likely occurred in Pennsylvania at this time; however the vertical scanning radar malfunctioned during this time.
- Date range of pulses that occurred during the migration season
  - April 13 – May 30 in Erie County, Ohio
  - April 13 – May 28 in Erie County, Pennsylvania
- Patterns of activity were different between Dawn, Day, Dusk, and Night time periods
  - Movement north, during the night
    - 76% of nights surveyed the mean direction of travel was generally northerly at Erie County, Ohio
    - 68% of nights surveyed the mean direction of travel was generally northerly at Erie County, Pennsylvania
  - Movement in towards shore at dawn
    - Observed at both sites
  - Highest target passage rate at night
  - Dawn ascent
    - Increase in height around dawn hours observed at all both sites
- Peak density of targets in volume corrected counts
  - Max density below 150 m 75% of nights and 65% of night hours at Erie County, Ohio
  - Max density below 150 m 68% of nights and 65% of night hours at Erie County, Pennsylvania
- Standards for radar studies need to be established and recommendations are included in this report
  - Using radar counts as an index of activity and not a population estimate
  - Surveying continuously over the whole migration season
  - Examining smaller time periods (Dawn/Day/Dusk/Night or Hourly) rather than seasonal metrics
  - Using volume corrected counts on the vertical radar to better estimate use of low altitudes and the rotor swept zone
  - Using 50-m altitude bands to represent height distributions rather than mean or median heights
  - Examining the most densely populated altitude bands rather than comparing numbers or percentages of targets below, within, and above the rotor swept zone
  - Recognizing that migrants change altitude for various reasons over time (due to wind, weather, topography, and time of day, for example) and that targets flying several altitude bands above the rotor swept zone may still be at risk.



## Appendix 2

### *Percent Land Cover Associated with Study Sites and the 2006 National Land Cover Database Classification*

**Percent landcover found within 3.7 km of radar locations in Ohio and Pennsylvania.**

National Land Cover Class	Ohio % of Land Cover	Pennsylvania % of Land Cover
Barren Land	0.00%	0.31%
Cultivated Crops	35.62%	29.44%
Deciduous Forest	28.41%	4.46%
Developed*	10.96%	16.23%
Evergreen Forest	0.11%	0.01%
Hay/Pasture	0.21%	7.01%
Herbaceous	0.05%	0.41%
Mixed Forest	0.00%	1.02%
Open Water	24.40%	35.79%
Shrub/Scrub	0.00%	1.00%
Wetlands**	0.23%	4.32%

\* Includes low, medium and high intensity development and developed open space.

\*\*Includes woody and emergent herbaceous wetlands.

Classification Description for the 2006 National Land Cover Database (taken from [http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd06\\_leg.php](http://www.mrlc.gov/nlcd06_leg.php); accessed 5/5/2014).

Classification Description
<b>Water</b>
<b>Open Water</b> - areas of open water, generally with less than 25% cover of vegetation or soil.
<b>Perennial Ice/Snow</b> - areas characterized by a perennial cover of ice and/or snow, generally greater than 25% of total cover.
<b>Developed</b>
<b>Developed, Open Space</b> - areas with a mixture of some constructed materials, but mostly vegetation in the form of lawn grasses. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. These areas most commonly include large-lot single-family housing units, parks, golf courses, and vegetation planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes.
<b>Developed, Low Intensity</b> - areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20% to 49% percent of total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.
<b>Developed, Medium Intensity</b> – areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 50% to 79% of the total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.
<b>Developed High Intensity</b> -highly developed areas where people reside or work in high numbers. Examples include apartment complexes, row houses and commercial/industrial. Impervious surfaces account for 80% to 100% of the total cover.

*(Appendix 2 continued)*

<b>Barren</b>
<b>Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)</b> - areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, sand dunes, strip mines, gravel pits and other accumulations of earthen material. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 15% of total cover.
<b>Forest</b>
<b>Deciduous Forest</b> - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.
<b>Evergreen Forest</b> - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species maintain their leaves all year. Canopy is never without green foliage.
<b>Mixed Forest</b> - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. Neither deciduous nor evergreen species are greater than 75% of total tree cover.
<b>Shrubland</b>
<b>Dwarf Scrub</b> - Alaska only areas dominated by shrubs less than 20 centimeters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This type is often co-associated with grasses, sedges, herbs, and non-vascular vegetation.
<b>Shrub/Scrub</b> - areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class includes true shrubs, young trees in an early successional stage or trees stunted from environmental conditions.
<b>Herbaceous</b>
<b>Grassland/Herbaceous</b> - areas dominated by graminoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation. These areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling, but can be utilized for grazing.
<b>Sedge/Herbaceous</b> - Alaska only areas dominated by sedges and forbs, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation. This type can occur with significant other grasses or other grass like plants, and includes sedge tundra, and sedge tussock tundra.
<b>Lichens</b> - Alaska only areas dominated by fruticose or foliose lichens generally greater than 80% of total vegetation.
<b>Moss</b> - Alaska only areas dominated by mosses, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation.
<b>Planted/Cultivated</b>
<b>Pasture/Hay</b> – areas of grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops, typically on a perennial cycle. Pasture/hay vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation.
<b>Cultivated Crops</b> – areas used for the production of annual crops, such as corn, soybeans, vegetables, tobacco, and cotton, and also perennial woody crops such as orchards and vineyards. Crop vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class also includes all land being actively tilled.
<b>Wetlands</b>
<b>Woody Wetlands</b> - areas where forest or shrubland vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.
<b>Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands</b> - Areas where perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for greater than 80% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.

## Appendix 3

### *Corrected Density per Hour by Biological Period*

Estimated density of targets by altitude band during spring biological time periods (dawn, day, dusk, night) in Ohio (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/time period).

Altitude Band	Dawn Dawn	Day Day	Dusk Dusk	Night Night
50	0.88	0.5	0.66	1.00
100	3.11	1.8	2.55	5.88
150	1.55	0.9	0.99	4.41
200	1.55	0.9	0.77	4.44
250	1.33	0.8	0.66	4.33
300	1.11	0.6	0.55	4.00
350	0.88	0.6	0.44	3.55
400	0.77	0.3	0.22	3.00
450	0.66	0.3	0.22	2.77
500	0.99	0.3	0.22	2.88
550	0.88	0.3	0.22	2.44
600	0.77	0.3	0.11	2.22
650	0.66	0.2	0.11	1.99
700	0.66	0.2	0.11	1.88
750	0.55	0.2	0.11	1.55
800	0.44	0.2	0.10	1.44
850	0.33	0.1	0.10	1.22
900	0.33	0.1	0.10	1.10
950	0.33	0.1	0.10	0.88
1000	0.22	0.0	0.10	0.77

Estimated density of targets by altitude band during spring biological time periods (dawn, day, dusk, night) in Pennsylvania (targets/1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/time period).

<b>Altitude Band</b>	<b>Dawn</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Dusk</b>	<b>Night</b>
50	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.5
100	1.9	1.0	0.6	4.9
150	1.5	0.6	0.4	5.4
200	1.1	0.5	0.2	5.1
250	0.9	0.4	0.2	4.6
300	1.0	0.4	0.3	4.2
350	1.3	0.4	0.4	3.8
400	1.3	0.4	0.3	3.5
450	1.3	0.4	0.2	3.0
500	1.1	0.3	0.2	2.6
550	1.0	0.2	0.2	2.2
600	0.8	0.2	0.1	1.9
650	0.7	0.1	0.1	1.6
700	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.4
750	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.2
800	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.9
850	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7
900	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5
950	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
1000	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3

## Appendix 4

### *Comparison of Static and Corrected Density Estimates*

Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *dawn* biological period in Ohio, spring 2012.

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	302	302	31.3	5.6	0.1	0.8	2.3%	2.3%	4.6%
100	1,249	1,551	31.3	5.9	0.6	3.1	9.7%	9.7%	17.8%
150	633	2,184	31.3	6.5	0.3	1.5	4.9%	4.9%	8.3%
200	694	2,878	31.3	7.1	0.3	1.5	5.4%	5.4%	8.3%
250	677	3,555	31.3	7.9	0.3	1.3	5.3%	5.3%	7.3%
300	621	4,176	31.3	8.5	0.3	1.1	4.8%	4.8%	6.2%
350	529	4,705	31.3	9.5	0.3	0.8	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%
400	470	5,175	31.3	10.3	0.2	0.7	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%
450	444	5,619	31.3	11.2	0.2	0.6	3.5%	3.5%	3.4%
500	711	6,330	31.3	12.2	0.3	0.9	5.5%	5.5%	4.9%
550	723	7,053	31.3	13.3	0.3	0.8	5.6%	5.6%	4.6%
600	699	7,752	31.3	14.1	0.3	0.7	5.4%	5.4%	4.2%
650	664	8,416	31.3	15.3	0.3	0.6	5.2%	5.2%	3.7%
700	647	9,063	31.3	16.2	0.3	0.6	5.0%	5.0%	3.4%
750	616	9,679	31.3	17.2	0.3	0.5	4.8%	4.8%	3.0%
800	515	10,194	31.3	18.2	0.2	0.4	4.0%	4.0%	2.4%
850	414	10,608	31.3	19.4	0.2	0.3	3.2%	3.2%	1.8%
900	351	10,959	31.3	20.4	0.2	0.3	2.7%	2.7%	1.5%
950	370	11,329	31.3	21.4	0.2	0.3	2.9%	2.9%	1.5%
1,000	289	11,618	31.3	22.4	0.1	0.2	2.2%	2.2%	1.1%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dawn time period was 12,855.

<sup>2</sup> Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dawn time period was 17.65.

(Appendix 4 continued)

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *day* biological period in Ohio, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	2,248	2,248	31.3	5.6	0.1	0.5	3.1%	3.1%	2.6%
100	9,301	11,549	31.3	5.9	0.3	1.8	12.8%	12.8%	10.3%
150	5,009	16,558	31.3	6.5	0.2	0.9	6.9%	6.9%	5.1%
200	5,511	22,069	31.3	7.1	0.2	0.9	7.6%	7.6%	5.1%
250	5,238	27,307	31.3	7.9	0.2	0.8	7.2%	7.2%	4.4%
300	4,692	31,999	31.3	8.5	0.2	0.6	6.5%	6.5%	3.6%
350	4,557	36,556	31.3	9.5	0.2	0.6	6.3%	6.3%	3.2%
400	3,037	39,593	31.3	10.3	0.1	0.3	4.2%	4.2%	1.9%
450	2,504	42,097	31.3	11.2	0.1	0.3	3.5%	3.5%	1.5%
500	3,641	45,738	31.3	12.2	0.1	0.3	5.0%	5.0%	2.0%
550	3,660	49,398	31.3	13.3	0.1	0.3	5.1%	5.1%	1.8%
600	3,305	52,703	31.3	14.1	0.1	0.3	4.6%	4.6%	1.5%
650	2,965	55,668	31.3	15.3	0.1	0.2	4.1%	4.1%	1.3%
700	3,033	58,701	31.3	16.2	0.1	0.2	4.2%	4.2%	1.2%
750	2,856	61,557	31.3	17.2	0.1	0.2	3.9%	3.9%	1.1%
800	2,379	63,936	31.3	18.2	0.1	0.2	3.3%	3.3%	0.9%
850	1,889	65,825	31.3	19.4	0.1	0.1	2.6%	2.6%	0.6%
900	1,476	67,301	31.3	20.4	0.1	0.1	2.0%	2.0%	0.5%
950	1,164	68,465	31.3	21.4	0.0	0.1	1.6%	1.6%	0.4%
1,000	822	69,287	31.3	22.4	0.0	0.0	1.1%	1.1%	0.2%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the day time period was 72,396.

<sup>2</sup> Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the day time period was 8.82.

*(Appendix 4 continued)*

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *dusk* biological period in Ohio, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	235	235	31.3	5.6	0.1	0.6	5.2%	5.2%	8.0%
100	994	1,229	31.3	5.9	0.5	2.5	22.2%	22.2%	32.1%
150	408	1,637	31.3	6.5	0.2	0.9	9.1%	9.1%	12.1%
200	316	1,953	31.3	7.1	0.1	0.7	7.1%	7.1%	8.5%
250	298	2,251	31.3	7.9	0.1	0.6	6.7%	6.7%	7.2%
300	303	2,554	31.3	8.5	0.1	0.5	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%
350	263	2,817	31.3	9.5	0.1	0.4	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%
400	174	2,991	31.3	10.3	0.1	0.2	3.9%	3.9%	3.2%
450	127	3,118	31.3	11.2	0.1	0.2	2.8%	2.8%	2.2%
500	191	3,309	31.3	12.2	0.1	0.2	4.3%	4.3%	3.0%
550	180	3,489	31.3	13.3	0.1	0.2	4.0%	4.0%	2.6%
600	119	3,608	31.3	14.1	0.1	0.1	2.7%	2.7%	1.6%
650	113	3,721	31.3	15.3	0.1	0.1	2.5%	2.5%	1.4%
700	82	3,803	31.3	16.2	0.0	0.1	1.8%	1.8%	1.0%
750	93	3,896	31.3	17.2	0.0	0.1	2.1%	2.1%	1.0%
800	61	3,957	31.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	1.4%	1.4%	0.6%
850	42	3,999	31.3	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%
900	35	4,034	31.3	20.4	0.0	0.0	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%
950	32	4,066	31.3	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.7%	0.7%	0.3%
1,000	32	4,098	31.3	22.4	0.0	0.0	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dusk time period was 4,479.

<sup>2</sup> Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dusk time period was 7.73.

*(Appendix 4 continued)*

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *night* biological period in Ohio, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	3,437	3,437	31.3	5.6	0.2	1.0	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%
100	20,788	24,225	31.3	5.9	1.1	5.8	5.6%	5.6%	11.0%
150	16,036	40,261	31.3	6.5	0.9	4.1	4.3%	4.3%	7.8%
200	18,862	59,123	31.3	7.1	1.0	4.4	5.1%	5.1%	8.3%
250	20,205	79,328	31.3	7.9	1.1	4.3	5.4%	5.4%	8.0%
300	20,556	99,884	31.3	8.5	1.1	4.0	5.5%	5.5%	7.6%
350	20,101	119,985	31.3	9.5	1.1	3.5	5.4%	5.4%	6.7%
400	18,801	138,786	31.3	10.3	1.0	3.0	5.1%	5.1%	5.7%
450	17,872	156,658	31.3	11.2	1.0	2.7	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%
500	20,205	176,863	31.3	12.2	1.1	2.8	5.4%	5.4%	5.2%
550	19,563	196,426	31.3	13.3	1.0	2.4	5.3%	5.3%	4.6%
600	18,883	215,309	31.3	14.1	1.0	2.2	5.1%	5.1%	4.2%
650	17,697	233,006	31.3	15.3	0.9	1.9	4.8%	4.8%	3.6%
700	17,153	250,159	31.3	16.2	0.9	1.8	4.6%	4.6%	3.3%
750	15,957	266,116	31.3	17.2	0.9	1.5	4.3%	4.3%	2.9%
800	15,079	281,195	31.3	18.2	0.8	1.4	4.1%	4.1%	2.6%
850	13,529	294,724	31.3	19.4	0.7	1.2	3.6%	3.6%	2.2%
900	11,754	306,478	31.3	20.4	0.6	1.0	3.2%	3.2%	1.8%
950	10,092	316,570	31.3	21.4	0.5	0.8	2.7%	2.7%	1.5%
1,000	9,117	325,687	31.3	22.4	0.5	0.7	2.5%	2.5%	1.3%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the night time period was 371,776.

<sup>2</sup> Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the night time period was 53.18.



(Appendix 4 continued)

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *dawn* biological period in Pennsylvania, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	296	296	31.3	5.6	0.2	1.1	3.5%	3.5%	6.7%
100	527	823	31.3	5.9	0.4	1.9	6.3%	6.3%	11.2%
150	454	1,277	31.3	6.5	0.3	1.5	5.4%	5.4%	8.9%
200	352	1,629	31.3	7.1	0.2	1.1	4.2%	4.2%	6.3%
250	332	1,961	31.3	7.9	0.2	0.9	3.9%	3.9%	5.3%
300	382	2,343	31.3	8.5	0.3	1.0	4.5%	4.5%	5.7%
350	546	2,889	31.3	9.5	0.4	1.3	6.5%	6.5%	7.3%
400	638	3,527	31.3	10.3	0.4	1.3	7.6%	7.6%	7.8%
450	650	4,177	31.3	11.2	0.5	1.3	7.7%	7.7%	7.3%
500	609	4,786	31.3	12.2	0.4	1.1	7.2%	7.2%	6.3%
550	619	5,405	31.3	13.3	0.4	1.0	7.4%	7.4%	5.9%
600	533	5,938	31.3	14.1	0.4	0.8	6.3%	6.3%	4.8%
650	461	6,399	31.3	15.3	0.3	0.7	5.5%	5.5%	3.8%
700	379	6,778	31.3	16.2	0.3	0.5	4.5%	4.5%	2.9%
750	302	7,080	31.3	17.2	0.2	0.4	3.6%	3.6%	2.2%
800	283	7,363	31.3	18.2	0.2	0.3	3.4%	3.4%	2.0%
850	216	7,579	31.3	19.4	0.2	0.2	2.6%	2.6%	1.4%
900	186	7,765	31.3	20.4	0.1	0.2	2.2%	2.2%	1.2%
950	177	7,942	31.3	21.4	0.1	0.2	2.1%	2.1%	1.0%
1,000	110	8,052	31.3	22.4	0.1	0.1	1.3%	1.3%	0.6%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dawn time period was 8,413.

<sup>2</sup> Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dawn time period was 17.23.

*(Appendix 4 continued)*

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *day* biological period in Pennsylvania, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	2,669	2,669	31.3	5.6	0.1	0.8	8.3%	8.3%	4.6%
100	3,467	6,136	31.3	5.9	0.2	1.0	10.8%	10.8%	5.7%
150	2,467	8,603	31.3	6.5	0.1	0.6	7.7%	7.7%	3.7%
200	1,981	10,584	31.3	7.1	0.1	0.5	6.2%	6.2%	2.7%
250	1,672	12,256	31.3	7.9	0.1	0.4	5.2%	5.2%	2.1%
300	1,890	14,146	31.3	8.5	0.1	0.4	5.9%	5.9%	2.2%
350	2,507	16,653	31.3	9.5	0.1	0.4	7.8%	7.8%	2.6%
400	2,675	19,328	31.3	10.3	0.1	0.4	8.4%	8.4%	2.5%
450	2,413	21,741	31.3	11.2	0.1	0.4	7.5%	7.5%	2.1%
500	2,038	23,779	31.3	12.2	0.1	0.3	6.4%	6.4%	1.6%
550	1,688	25,467	31.3	13.3	0.1	0.2	5.3%	5.3%	1.2%
600	1,503	26,970	31.3	14.1	0.1	0.2	4.7%	4.7%	1.0%
650	1,118	28,088	31.3	15.3	0.1	0.1	3.5%	3.5%	0.7%
700	900	28,988	31.3	16.2	0.0	0.1	2.8%	2.8%	0.5%
750	689	29,677	31.3	17.2	0.0	0.1	2.2%	2.2%	0.4%
800	495	30,172	31.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	1.5%	1.5%	0.3%
850	365	30,537	31.3	19.4	0.0	0.0	1.1%	1.1%	0.2%
900	306	30,843	31.3	20.4	0.0	0.0	1.0%	1.0%	0.1%
950	193	31,036	31.3	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%
1,000	156	31,192	31.3	22.4	0.0	0.0	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%

<sup>1</sup> Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the day time period was 31,965.

(Appendix 4 continued)

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *dusk* biological period in Pennsylvania, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	120	120	31.3	5.6	0.1	0.5	6.9%	6.9%	11.9%
100	154	274	31.3	5.9	0.1	0.6	8.9%	8.9%	14.4%
150	110	384	31.3	6.5	0.1	0.4	6.3%	6.3%	9.5%
200	76	460	31.3	7.1	0.1	0.2	4.4%	4.4%	6.0%
250	86	546	31.3	7.9	0.1	0.2	4.9%	4.9%	6.0%
300	102	648	31.3	8.5	0.1	0.3	5.9%	5.9%	6.7%
350	161	809	31.3	9.5	0.1	0.4	9.3%	9.3%	9.4%
400	152	961	31.3	10.3	0.1	0.3	8.7%	8.7%	8.2%
450	119	1,080	31.3	11.2	0.1	0.2	6.8%	6.8%	5.9%
500	101	1,181	31.3	12.2	0.1	0.2	5.8%	5.8%	4.6%
550	99	1,280	31.3	13.3	0.1	0.2	5.7%	5.7%	4.1%
600	84	1,364	31.3	14.1	0.1	0.1	4.8%	4.8%	3.3%
650	72	1,436	31.3	15.3	0.0	0.1	4.1%	4.1%	2.6%
700	57	1,493	31.3	16.2	0.0	0.1	3.3%	3.3%	2.0%
750	49	1,542	31.3	17.2	0.0	0.1	2.8%	2.8%	1.6%
800	27	1,569	31.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	1.6%	1.6%	0.8%
850	15	1,584	31.3	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%
900	12	1,596	31.3	20.4	0.0	0.0	0.7%	0.7%	0.3%
950	16	1,612	31.3	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%
1,000	11	1,623	31.3	22.4	0.0	0.0	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%

1 Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dusk time period was 1,739.

2 Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the dusk time period was 3.86.

(Appendix 4 continued)

**Comparison of methods to estimated target density by altitude band during the *night* biological period in Pennsylvania, spring 2012.**

Altitude Band (m)	Target Count	Running Total Target Count <sup>1</sup>	Static Volume	Corrected Volume	Static Target Density per Hour	Corrected Target Density per Hour <sup>2</sup>	% Total Targets	% Static Density	% Corrected Density
50	3,527	3,527	31.3	5.6	0.3	1.5	1.7%	1.7%	3.0%
100	12,026	15,553	31.3	5.9	0.9	4.9	5.7%	5.7%	9.8%
150	14,477	30,030	31.3	6.5	1.1	5.4	6.9%	6.9%	10.8%
200	14,878	44,908	31.3	7.1	1.2	5.1	7.1%	7.1%	10.1%
250	14,876	59,784	31.3	7.9	1.2	4.6	7.1%	7.1%	9.1%
300	14,738	74,522	31.3	8.5	1.1	4.2	7.0%	7.0%	8.4%
350	14,740	89,262	31.3	9.5	1.1	3.8	7.0%	7.0%	7.5%
400	15,080	104,342	31.3	10.3	1.2	3.5	7.1%	7.1%	7.0%
450	14,102	118,444	31.3	11.2	1.1	3.0	6.7%	6.7%	6.1%
500	13,056	131,500	31.3	12.2	1.0	2.6	6.2%	6.2%	5.2%
550	12,120	143,620	31.3	13.3	0.9	2.2	5.7%	5.7%	4.4%
600	11,070	154,690	31.3	14.1	0.9	1.9	5.2%	5.2%	3.8%
650	10,280	164,970	31.3	15.3	0.8	1.6	4.9%	4.9%	3.2%
700	9,387	174,357	31.3	16.2	0.7	1.4	4.5%	4.5%	2.8%
750	8,172	182,529	31.3	17.2	0.6	1.2	3.9%	3.9%	2.3%
800	6,960	189,489	31.3	18.2	0.5	0.9	3.3%	3.3%	1.8%
850	5,757	195,246	31.3	19.4	0.4	0.7	2.7%	2.7%	1.4%
900	4,609	199,855	31.3	20.4	0.4	0.5	2.2%	2.2%	1.1%
950	3,344	203,199	31.3	21.4	0.3	0.4	1.6%	1.6%	0.8%
1,000	2,313	205,512	31.3	22.4	0.2	0.3	1.1%	1.1%	0.5%

1 Total target counts recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the night time period was 210,917.

2 Total density of targets per hour recorded up to the 2,800 m band during the night time period was 50.29.

## *Notes*

---





**Spring 2012**

