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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2005 Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

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Warblers were also extraordinarily high at 7% of the total, compared to about 4% the other four years at this site. Our White-throated Sparrow and kinglet numbers were down from normal, likely because we missed the last half of October.

We recaptured a Black-capped Chickadee that was banded in 1999. He has been captured and released seven times over the years. Five birds were recaptured that were banded in 2003 (two Gray Catbirds, an Ovenbird, a Black-capped Chickadee, and an Indigo Bunting). We banded an AHY Wood Thrush on 25 Sep 2004, and he was recaptured 21 Sep 2005.

Thank you to Sam and Irene Yoder who helped with the banding process and to Gary Yoder who constantly sharpened our observation skills with his insightful questions.

Allegheny Front Migration Observ. 390-0791
Grant County, WV
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The 48th year of bird banding at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO), 10 mi southeast of Davis, WV, began on 13 Aug and ended on 16 Oct. A total of 5493 birds were banded this season of 78 species, with a station effort of 8549.75 net hours, giving a capture rate of 64.2 b/100nh. This was the best year for number of birds banded since 1999 when 5562 birds were banded.

The station was open for 59 days and closed for a total of six days due to bad weather. There were 10 days when over 100 birds were banded, five days over 200, one over 300, one over 400, and one over 500. The edge of Hurricane Katrina passed through on 31 Aug, then good westerly winds began and 439 birds were banded on 2 Sep and 207 on 3 Sep. A weather front passed through the area on 15 Sep and provided westerly winds on 16 and 17 Sep. Sep 17 was the best day of the season, when 510 birds were banded. Westerly winds on 18, 20-23 Sep also produced good flight days and even a slight easterly wind on 19 Sep was a good flight day. Another front went through 29 Sep and following the front, 195 birds were banded on 1 Oct and 153 on 2 Oct. Then there was a stalled weather front with rain

from 6-14 Oct over the northeastern U S, and this probably contributed to the lower number of migrants going southwestward through the banding station area early in October.

Migrating White-crowned Sparrows and their first capture date would be a good example of how weather affected the migration. Most, if not all, White-crowned Sparrows nesting in eastern Canada and Labrador would have been going southwestward, as many spend their winters in Texas. This year, the first of this species were banded on 15 Oct, after the rains had, for the most part, moved out of New York. The first of this species was banded on 6 Oct in 2004 and 7 Oct in 2003.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species with 1057 banded, which is 45.6% above the 10-yr running average. It has been the leader for the past eight out of 10 years. Blackpoll Warbler was second highest with 1036 banded (108.1% above the 10-year average); Black-throated Green Warbler was third highest with 568 banded (42.5% above the 10-year average); Magnolia Warbler was fourth highest with 327 banded (39.7% above the 10-year average); and Cape May Warbler was fifth highest with 280 banded (148.9% above the 10-year average). The total of the top five species banded is 3268, which is 59.4% of the total birds banded this fall.

An unusual bird was banded by Bob Dean at the station on 20 Sep. It was a bilateral gynandromorphic (male and female) Black-throated Blue Warbler. The right half of the body was female and the left half was male. The wing chord of the male side was

4 mm longer than the female side, with both wing chords being an average length for the representative sex of this species. The bird was released alive and in good condition.

An AHY female Blackpoll Warbler was caught as a foreign retrap on 15 Sep 2005. It had been banded at Farm Island State Recreation Area, three miles east of Pierre, SD, on 24 May 2005. Apparently, it was traveling to its nesting grounds at the time it was banded and was recaptured at AFMO on its fall migration to South America.

There were two interesting foreign recoveries: a HY male Ovenbird banded by Bob Dean at AFMO on 20 Sep 2004 was recaptured at Biodome de Montreal, QC on 12 May 2005; and a HY male Golden-crowned Kinglet banded by Fred McCullough at AFMO on 6 Oct 2004 was recaptured at a banding station in Guelph, ON, on 27 Sep 2005. More information about the AFMO recoveries can be found in the October 2003 issue of *The Redstart* 70(4), 106-115, by Ralph K Bell titled, "Recoveries of Birds Banded at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory."

The Flyover Count was started in 1990 and we now have 16 years of data. Don Pattison coordinated the count and had help from many volunteers. Results from four selected species that make up the majority of the Count are as follows (with the 16-year average in parentheses):

Species	Flyover Count (16-yr avg)	Lowest Numbers
Ruby-thr Hummingbrd	265 (460)	252 in 1999
Blue Jay	2,108 (6,187)	45 in 1996
American Goldfinch	1,602 (2,998)	968 in 2003
Monarch Butterfly	947 (1,139)	67 in 2004

This banding season, 1105 people signed our visitor's book. They came from 19 states as well as England, Japan, Pakistan and Trinidad/Tobago. Several schools and colleges visited the station, including the Highland Adventist School from Elkins, Franklin Middle School Boy Scout Troop #675 from Parsons, Alderson Broaddus College, Georgetown University, West Virginia University Club for freshman, and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

We thank the personnel of Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson, Cheat/Potomac District Ranger Jeff Hammes, Special Use Manager Laura Hise, Ed Lang and all others for their cooperation and help. We also thank the West Virginia D.N.R. for the use of their building for storage of our banding shed, and also the Brooks Bird Club, other bird clubs, members of the WV Highland Conservancy, and many visitors for their financial support.

The volunteer banders who participated this year in many capacities were Bob Dean, Ken and Sue Heselton, Fred and Carol McCullough, Randy and Beth Ritter, Charles Ziegenfus and station leaders Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. Bill Agee and Ken Heselton provided many hours of computer time and expertise. LeJay Graffious erected and later removed the banding shed with several volunteer helpers, and Sue Heselton made a new front cover for it. The scheduled volunteers who helped this year were: Tammy Butcher, Kathleen Dullnig, Jay Fox, Matt Fox, Tom and Dawn Fox, Walter Fye, Kathleen Larkin, Jack and Joleene Minear, Loretta Mullens, Tim Newlin, Don Pattison, Carl and Joan Rowe, and Steven Sushinski. We thank these volunteers and the many other kind people who helped in various ways.

Roan Mountain

360-0820

Carter County, TN / Mitchell County, NC

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Autumn bird banding was conducted at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain for the sixth consecutive year and eighth year out of the last ten. The banding station was open for 22 days from 6 Sep through 11 Oct 2005. The start date this year was later than average. Seven mist nets were used in traditional sites, for a total effort of 369 net hours.

A total of 502 birds of 34 species were banded this season. Both of these figures are slightly below average, but this is partly attributable to the late start. The overall capture rate of 136 b/100nh was near normal. The best days were 11 Sep, with 48 birds banded, and 15 Sep, with 46 birds banded. Tennessee Warblers rebounded from last fall's very low numbers. Blue-headed Vireo and Bay-breasted Warbler were banded in record high numbers this fall, while Chestnut-sided Warbler and Ovenbird numbers hit a record low. Gray-cheeked Thrush was missed for the first time. Brown Creeper was new to the station list, bringing the cumulative list to 73 species. In addition, one hummingbird was released unbanded.

Two Chestnut-sided Warblers were recaptured this fall. One had been banded here last fall, but the other had been banded here on 8 Sep 2000 (as an HY male), making it five years old.