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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2005 Roan Mountain

Richard L. Knight

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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

Richard L. Knight, Bander

rknight@preferred.com

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.

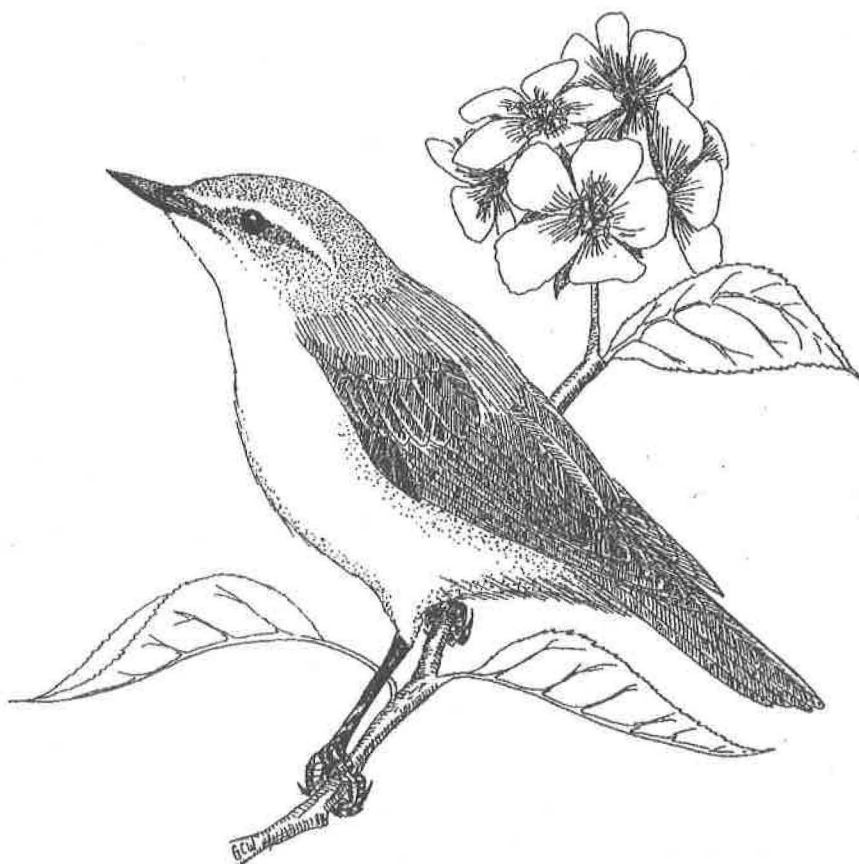
A total of 502 birds of 34 species were banded this season. Both of these figures are slightly below average, but this is partly attributable to the late start. The overall capture rate of 136 b/100nh was near normal. The best days were 11 Sep, with 48 birds banded, and 15 Sep, with 46 birds banded. 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.

The station's first foreign recovery occurred when a Dark-eyed Junco, which had been banded on 30 Sep 2004 at Big Bald Mountain (23 mi SW of Roan Mtn.), was netted here on 9 Oct. Also of note, I received notification that a Black-throated Blue Warbler, which had been banded here on 25 Aug

2001 (as an HY male), was found dead in Asheville, NC, on 16 Apr 2005.

My thanks to the Cherokee National Forest and Pisgah National Forest for permission to band birds at this site.



Tennessee Warbler
by George West