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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Mt Nebo Banding Station

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did not. Fall banding here has steadily declined as compared to 2002, when 145 new birds were banded and 2003 when there were 121. Of the 27 different species banded in 2007, at least half were of just one or two individuals.

Mature vegetation is probably the biggest influence on net captures. From Pennsylvania Atlas observations in my back yard, there were numerous sightings of Scarlet Tanager, American Redstart, Indigo Bunting, Black-and-white Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Parula. Also, a Blackpoll Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Tennessee Warbler were observed on 5 Oct at a drip bird bath. It is evolving into a kind of contest to see how low the banding catch will get before it gets better. Perhaps logging the property is the solution.

**Mt Nebo Banding Station**                      **392-0792**  
Oakland, Garrett County, MD  
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This was the seventh season of banding at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area. The station was open 36 days between 27 Aug and 31 Oct. In total, 1010 birds were banded of 56 species, with a station effort of 2723 net hours. Capture rate was 37 b/100nh. No new species were added to the station list this fall.

The top three species banded were White-throated Sparrow (an astounding 23% of the total), Indigo Bunting (11%) and Song Sparrows (10%). Skipper wrote in the daily log on 27 Aug: "The clearing beyond nets 12 and 13 is full of millet. I expect lots of Indigo Buntings and sparrows." This certainly proved to be true. The number of sparrows banded (421) was twice the station average. We banded five Fox Sparrows, a station high.

Common Yellowthroats (81) and Ovenbirds (31, a station high) were abundant and accounted for 11% of the total. Other warbler numbers and diversity were disappointing.

Gray Catbirds, normally in the top three, dropped to fifth place this season. They accounted for 7% of our total banded.

Nineteen birds banded in previous years at Mt. Nebo WMA were recaptured. Eleven of them were banded in 2006 (5 Song Sparrows, 3 Gray Catbirds, 1 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 1 Common Yellowthroat). Five birds were banded in 2005 (2 Song Sparrows, 1 Purple Finch, 1 Eastern Towhee, and 1 Gray Catbird). Three were banded in 2003, all of them banded as AHY (Eastern Towhee male, Gray Catbird, and Ovenbird). Interestingly, the Ovenbird was also recaptured in 2005.

Twelve visitors spent time at the station working on their bird identification skills.

Thanks to Rick Latshaw and the Mt. Neb technicians for their help in clearing net lanes and to Samuel and Irene Yoder for their help in setting up and tending the nets.

**Allegheny Front**                                      **390-0791**  
**Migration Observatory**  
Grant County, WV  
**Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison, AFMO**  
**Banding Leaders**  
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Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) conducted its 50<sup>th</sup> year of bird banding at Dolly Sods, WV, this fall. AFMO is located 10 miles southeast of Davis, WV. Banding began on 11 Aug and ended 21 Oct 2007. A total of 8053 birds were banded of 85 species, with a station effort of 85.6 b/100nh. A total of 220,397 birds have been banded from 1958-2007. This year was the best year for total number of birds banded since 1998, when 8585 were banded. There have been only six years when the total number of birds banded was higher than this year. The numbers have improved greatly since the U.S. Forest Service approved trimming and maintenance of vegetation at the banding station to a condition similar to what existed when the station was founded.

The station was open for 70 days and closed two days due to rain. There were 17 days when over 100 birds were banded, nine days over 200, one day over 500, one day over 600, and the best day of the season was 23 Sep when 945 birds were banded, which was the second largest day in AFMO's history. The most dominant species