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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2009 Mt Nebo Banding Station

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than seven nets were opened at any one time. A total of 88 new birds were banded, with 19 repeat/returns. Song Sparrows and Gray Catbirds were banded in the largest numbers. Warbler species with only a single individual banded were: Hooded, Canada, Black-throated Blue, Tennessee, Yellow Palm, Wilson's, Blackpoll, and Nashville. This banding season was extremely poor compared with fall 2008, when 239 new birds were banded representing 45 species.

**Mt. Nebo Banding Station**                      **392-0792**  
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This was the ninth season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 46 days from 16 Aug through 9 Nov. In total, 1084 birds of 66 species were banded, with a station effort of 4310 net hours. The capture rate was 25 b/100nh. Two new species were added to the station list: Great Crested Flycatcher and Golden-winged Warbler. This brings the station total to 89 species. One Cerulean Warbler was banded; only one had been banded in previous years.

A good food supply is one of the reasons why we chose to band in Mt. Nebo WMA. Soft mass was a mixed bag in the old field area this year. Autumn olive, hawthorns, and multiflora rose hips were abundant. Honeysuckle and black cherries had a medium crop, while apples and crabapples were nonexistent. Millet is sometimes planted proximal to our nets, which significantly increases the number of birds we capture. That was not the case this year and may have contributed to the low capture rate, especially of Indigo Buntings.

The top ten list had few surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (13% of the total), White-throated Sparrow (7%), and Common Yellowthroat (7%). This is the first year for Golden-crowned Kinglets (3%) to make the top ten (30 birds).

I compared the number of birds banded this year to the past nine years' average. The numbers of Black-capped Chickadee (33), Golden-crowned Kinglet (30), Blue-headed Vireo (16), Red-eyed Vireo (15), Chestnut-sided Warbler (24), Magnolia Warbler (75), Black-throated Green Warbler (27), and American Redstart (13) were above average. On the other hand, the numbers of American Robin (9), Cedar Waxwing (12), Indigo Bunting (6), Eastern Towhee (12), and Swamp Sparrows (9) were below average.

Station highs included Downy Woodpecker (4), Eastern Wood Pewee (3), Eastern Phoebe (7), Great Crested Flycatcher (3), Tufted Titmouse (8), Golden-crowned Kinglet (30), Canada Warbler (6), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (5), and American Goldfinch (19). These numbers are not adjusted for net hours. This year yielded the lowest b/100nh (25) of the nine years at Mt. Nebo.

The largest daily catch was 58 birds on 5 Oct with 22 species. The second largest daily catch was 55 birds on 15 Sep with 18 species and 55 birds on 10 Oct with 17 species.

The station had 157 recaptures of 103 birds of 21 species. One notable recapture was a Northern Cardinal banded as an AHY Male on 23 Sep 2003. The band was so worn that we rebanded it on 15 Sep 2009. We recaptured one Black-capped Chickadee banded as AHY in 2004, a male Eastern Towhee banded as AHY in 2005, three birds banded in 2006, seven birds banded in 2007 and nine birds banded in 2008. A Worm-eating Warbler banded in 2008 was recaptured this year. This was a very interesting recapture considering we have banded only three birds of this species in the nine years at Mt. Nebo.

The station had 17 visitors, several of whom spent considerable time at the station enjoying the birds and the great outdoors.

We thank Mike Fazenbaker, who was enormously helpful in clearing net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Mike Fazenbaker for granting us the

privilege of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. Thanks to Samuel Yoder for his help in setting up the station, especially for placing the net poles, as well as the careful tending of nets with his sister, Irene. Bill Pope's availability for clearing paths, monitoring nets, and running errands was greatly appreciated.

**Allegheny Front  
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 52nd year of Bird Banding at Dolly Sods, WV, this fall. AFMO is located 10 miles southeast of Davis, WV. Banding began on 15 Aug and ended on 14 Oct 2009. In total, 4428 birds were banded of 80 species, with a station effort of 66.8 b/100nh. Mourning Dove is a new species for the station this fall, which brings the AFMO total species banded to 121. The overall percentage of hatch year birds (using known-age birds only) was 72.15%. In total, 230,478 birds have been banded since 1958, when the writer (Bell) founded AFMO.

The station was open for 48 days and closed for 13 days due to high winds, fog and/or rain. There were seven days when over 100 birds were banded, two days over 200, two days over 300, and the best day of the season was 1 Oct, when 471 birds were banded. The most dominant species banded that day were the Blackpoll Warbler (220), the Black-throated Blue Warbler (52) and the Blue Jay (40).

The Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 1048 banded, which is 0.01% over the 10-year average (including 2008). It has been the leader for the past eight out of 10 years. The Blackpoll Warbler was the second highest with 894 banded (29.5% above the 10-year average), the Black-throated Green Warbler was the third highest with 492 banded (-11.3% under the 10-year average), the Cape May Warbler was the fourth highest with 182 banded (44.2% over the 10-year average), and the Swainson's Thrush was the fifth

highest with 171 banded (-21.7% under the 10-year average). The total of the top five species banded was 3,139, which was 70.9% of the total birds banded this season. The next highest banded were Tennessee Warbler (167), Magnolia Warbler (141), Slate-colored Junco (130), Blue Jay (126), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (109).

Compared to birds banded at AFMO in 2008, there was an increase in Blackpoll Warblers banded this fall and a decrease in Tennessee, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers, which could possibly be weather related at nesting time. An article in the Fall, 2009, *Purple Martin Conservation Association* magazine (Vol. 18, pp. 4 & 5) stated that in late June and early July this year there was an extensive low pressure system that moved very slowly across the Great Lakes bringing cold, wet and windy weather and, as a result, thousands of nestling Purple Martins died because their parents could not bring them enough food.

We received notice of a foreign recovery of a bird banded at AFMO. A HY Blackpoll Warbler banded by Bob Dean at AFMO on 25 Sep 2006 was recaptured by Ralf Strewe, Magdalena University, 1 mile SE of Santa Marta, Colombia, on 24 Oct 2008. Jo Anna Lutmerding, Biologist/Encounter Data Manager for the Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, stated to the writer (Pattison) "this is the only encounter record we have of a Blackpoll Warbler in South America." Recoveries of banded Blackpoll Warblers indicate that they are from northwestern United States, western Canada, and Alaska and are migrating to northern South America for the winter; but those caught in the nets at AFMO on Dolly Sods are migrating southwestward. A possible answer to this could be found in a study by Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., a professor of zoology at Clemson University who contends that when birds are blown off their migratory path by strong winds, they apparently compensate to get back on the original route, and that is why they are going southwestward at AFMO. However, how far they go before turning southeastward again is not known.