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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2010 Mt Nebo Banding Station

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Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

We exceeded last year's record numbers of Magnolia Warblers by 90 individuals for a total of 638 being banded this season. We also had record numbers for Golden-crowned Kinglet (303), and tied record highs for Blackpoll Warbler (92) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (9). It was the second best fall in our history for Northern Parula (12), Black-throated Blue Warbler (121), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (475).

The only record low recorded this fall was for Field Sparrows (31, the only species below 2 SD). A high number of warblers and vireos resulted in a consistently busy September, and numbers spiked in early October with 492 individuals being banded on 3 Oct. Capture rates tapered off by the third week in October, and a final push of finches and kinglets caused numbers to spike again at the end of the month before dropping off for the season.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated group of staff and volunteers who make the intensive banding operation at Powdermill possible. Fall volunteers included David Norman, Carolyn Stratford, Isabelle Stratford, Heather Kraus, Trey Stoner, Julie Zeyzus, Ellen McCallie, Chris Sheedy, Molly McDermott, Matt Shumar, Martha Stauffer, Joe Schrieber, Nathan Brouwer, Susan Elbin, Maya Groner, Henry Schumacher, Alice Van Zoren, Robert Vitz, Anna Maria Bakermans, and Joe Szewczak.

**Bedford Valley** 395-0763  
Bedford, Bedford County, PA  
**Bander: Janet Shaffer**  
jgshaffer@PA.net

Nets were open for a total of 25 days, usually between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and noon, from 10 Aug to 27 Oct. There was a break of two weeks in October due to travel. On most days seven nets were operated; there were two days when zero birds were netted.

A total of 192 new birds were banded with 51 repeats/returns representing 37 species. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded, which is rare for this station. There were five warbler species with just one individual banded.

Fall 2010 was significantly more productive than 2009, although certain species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglets were absent. Closing for two weeks in mid-October impacted the operation more than any weather conditions.

**Mt. Nebo Banding Station** 392-0792  
Oakland, Garrett County, MD  
**Banders: Connie Skipper and Fran Pope**  
connieskipper@hohnet.com

This was the tenth season of banding at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The station was open 41 days from 26 Aug through 1 Nov. In total, 1,159 birds were banded of 66 species, with a station effort of 3,041 net hours. The capture rate was 38 b/100nh. The only new species added to the station list was Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This brings the station total to 90 species.

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. Multiflora rose hips were abundant. Honeysuckle had a medium crop. Millet was planted next to some of our nets which significantly increased the number of birds captured, especially Indigo Buntings.

The top ten list had no surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (24% of the total), Indigo Buntings (10%) and White-throated Sparrows (7%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, Purple Finch, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Eastern Towhee.

Station highs included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Brown Creeper (6) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (65).

The largest daily catch was 67 birds on 4 Oct with 16 species. The second largest daily catch was 55 birds on 16 Sep with 18 species.

The station had 243 recaptures of 178 birds of 17 species. Returns included one Gray Catbird banded in 2005; two Song Sparrows banded in 2006; two Common Yellowthroats banded in 2007; two Gray Catbirds, one Indigo Bunting, one Purple Finch and one Black-capped Chickadee all banded in 2008; and two Gray Catbirds, a Black-capped Chickadee and one Song Sparrow banded in 2009. One Gray Catbird, either unlucky or trap happy, that we had banded as an AHY female in 2005 was recaptured five times in 2010.

The station had 38 visitors, several of whom spent considerable time at the station enjoying the birds and the great outdoors.

We thank Mike Fazenbaker who helped clear the net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Mike Fazenbaker for granting us the privilege of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. Thanks to Bill Pope for his help mowing and tending the nets.

**Allegheny Front  
Migration Observatory**

Grant County, WV

**Banding Leaders: Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell  
Pattison**

pattison9@comcast.net

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) conducted its 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 8 Oct 2010. A record yearly number of 10,363 birds were banded of 82 species with a station effort of 186 b/100nh.

Common Nighthawk and Summer Tanager were new species for the station, which brings the total species banded to 123. The overall percentage of hatch-year birds (using known age birds only) was 60.01% compared with 72.15% in 2009. A total of 240,841 birds have been banded since the writer (Bell) founded AFMO in the fall of 1958. The station was open for 47 days and closed for eight days due to bad weather. There were 12 days when over 100 birds were banded, 9 days over 200, 3 days over 300, 2 days over 400, 2 days over 500, 2 days

over 600, and 2 days over 700 birds were banded. We banded from 100 to 700+ birds on 32 days out of the 47 days we were open. Perhaps the lack of hurricanes and the fact that we had 36 banding days with direct west wind, played a factor in the large numbers of birds we banded and saw flying over our nets this fall.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 2,100 banded, which is 102% over the 10-year average (2000-2009). The Blackpoll Warbler was second highest with 1,478 banded, which is 134.6% over the 10-year average. It is interesting to note that since 1981 (30 years), the first Blackpoll Warblers have always arrived at AFMO between 20 Aug and 10 Sep and their peak days have occurred between 10 Sep and 6 Oct. The Black-throated Green Warbler was third highest with 1,254 banded, which is 125.98% over the 10-year average. The Magnolia Warbler was fourth highest with 1,072 banded, which is 367.1% over the 10-year average. The Swainson's Thrush was fifth highest with 526 banded, which is 140.7% over the 10-year average. The total number of birds banded of the top five species is 6430, which was 62% of the total birds banded this fall. The next highest numbers of birds banded were Tennessee Warbler (495), Ovenbird ((397), Blackburnian Warbler (353), Cape May Warbler (330), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (239).

In addition to the species stated in the previous paragraph, some of the other species whose numbers were, on average, up this year were the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Lincoln's Sparrow. Some of the birds whose numbers, on average, were down this year were the Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, Slate-colored (Dark-eyed) Junco, and Blue Jay.

The Flyover Count was started in 1990 and has continued every year during the fall banding season