

2014

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2013 Mt Nebo Banding Station

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mentioned above and 2) targeted effort on several mornings in October, banding assistants arrived early and opened a few sets of nets near where the woodcocks had been sighted.

Our most uncommon capture of the season was a Clay-colored Sparrow, caught and banded on 1 Oct, the fifth ever banded at Powdermill in the 52-year history of the banding program. Another highlight for the fall was a hatch-year Sora which we banded on 3 Sep and recaptured once, on 27 Sep; our long-term average for this species is less than one per year.

Species above two SD included AMWO (n=7) and YTVI (n=8), both of which were new high totals for the fall, as well as CCSP (n=1), OVEN (n=112), REVI (n=290), and SPSA (n=2). No species fell below 2 SD, although we had three species that reached record-low totals for the fall: CMWA (n=5), LISP (n=20) and WCSP (n=1). Not record-setting, but conspicuously absent in numbers were the Yellow-rumped Warblers. Our long-term average for this species is 332.8; this year we banded just 64.

We had two foreign recaptures reported, both banded at Powdermill during the first week of October: an Indigo Bunting banded on 3 Oct 2013 and recaptured in Hamilton, Ontario on 9 May 2014; a Chipping Sparrow banded on 7 Oct 2013 and recaptured in Wooster, Ohio on 16 Jun 2014.

As usual, the banding station was visited by many school groups, university classes and bird/ecology clubs. An Advanced Bander Training Workshop was offered in the second week of September.

**Mt Nebo Banding Station**                      **392-0792**  
Oakland, Garrett County, MD  
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This was the thirteenth season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 45 days from 24 Aug 2013 through 30 Oct 2013. A total of 1,467 birds were banded of 73 species, with a station effort of 3,885 net hours. The capture rate was 38

birds/100 nh. Bicknell's Thrush was added to the station list this year, bringing the station total to 95 species.

A good food supply is one of the reasons why we chose to band in Mt. Nebo WMA. There was a good apple, thorn berry and black cherry crop. Some autumn olive berries and rose hips were scattered throughout but not present in their usual abundance. Several adjacent plots were planted with oats and barley.

The top-ten list had no surprises this year. The top three species banded were Song Sparrow (12% of the total), Cedar Waxwing (9%), and Gray Catbird (8%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Eastern Towhee.

Ten species hit a station high this fall. Most notable were nine Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (average three), 92 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (average 47), 135 Cedar Waxwings (average 32), 177 Song Sparrows (average 74), and 40 American Goldfinches (average 11).

The largest daily catch was 109 birds on 28 Oct with 13 species. Cedar Waxwings comprised 50% of the catch. The second largest daily catch was 72 birds on 29 Oct with 16 species.

The station had 294 recaptures of 211 birds of 21 species. Forty birds banded in prior years were recaptured in 2013. The Eastern Towhee banded by Fran Pope on 11 Sep 2004, as an after-hatch-year female and recaptured on 29 Sep 2013 was nine years old. This equals the longevity record of the oldest known Eastern Towhee given on North American birds on the USGS website.

We had one foreign recapture to report: a Song Sparrow, band #1511-07973, banded by Skipper on 9 Sep 2006, was found dead near Troutville, VA, on 5 Mar 2014. Incredibly, this is the same Song Sparrow that was recaptured at our banding station

Bird species and number of individuals banded in prior years at Mt. Nemo WMA that were recaptured in 2013.									
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Species #									
GRCA 1	EATO 1		SOSP 1	COYE 2		SOSP 1	GRCA 1	GRCA 2	GRCA 5
							EATO 1	SOSP 1	SOSP 5
							COYE 1	COYE 1	CSWA 1
							BCCH 1	INBU 1	BCCH 3
							INBU 2		EATO 1
							PUFI 1		COYE 2
									INBU 5
1	1	0	1	2	0	1	7	5	22

on 14 Oct 2013 (see next paragraph).

We had an interesting recapture of two Song Sparrows in the same net on 14 Oct 2013. The bands on each bird were quite old, smooth and shiny. They appeared to be a pair. Bird #1511-07973 had been banded on 9 Sep 2006 and recaptured in 2007, 2010 and 2013. Bird #1201-75900 had been banded on 16 Aug 2009 and had been recaptured in 2012 and 2013.

The station had 33 visitors. This included a fifth grade class and four chaperones from Crellin Elementary School and a wildlife class from Garrett College.

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

**Allegheny Front 390-0791**

**Migration Observatory**

Grant County, WV

Banding Sta.& Project Leader: **Joan Bell Pattison**

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

**Ralph K. Bell, Founder**

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Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) is located at DollySods, Grant County, West Virginia. AFMO is 10 miles southeast of Davis, high on top of the Allegheny Front in the Monongahela National Forest. This fall, the station was opened on 1 Aug and closed on 4 Oct 2013.

This was the 56th consecutive year of bird banding at AFMO. A total of 3,467 birds were banded of 73 species with a station effort of 58 b/100 nh. A total of 255,136 birds have been banded since Ralph K. Bell founded AFMO in 1958. The total species for the station are 124, with one new species banded this year. The new species was the Broad-winged Hawk and we banded two of them. The overall percentage of hatch-year birds (using known-age birds only) was 78.65%, compared with 66.13% in 2012 and 70.37% in 2011. There were nine days this fall when over 100 birds were banded and three days when over 200 were banded. The station was open for 45 days and closed for four days due to rain. There were very few fronts recorded this fall and they were not associated with very strong westerly winds. This calm weather pattern probably contributed to less migrants being blown off course and, therefore, fewer birds coming over the mountain to get back on their southwesterly course. Of the birds that did come over, many were seen flying high over our nets with ease.

Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 785 birds banded (39.8% under the 10-year average from 2003-2012). Black-throated Green Warbler was 2nd highest with 491 birds banded (31.9% under the 10-year average). Blackpoll Warbler was 3rd highest with 367 birds banded (57% under the 10-year avg.) Tennessee Warbler was the 4th highest with 278 birds banded (24.6% under the 10-year average). Cape May Warbler was the 5th highest with 196 birds banded (1% over the 10-year average). The total number of these top five species