

2014

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2013 Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

Ralph K. Bell

Joan Bell Pattison

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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
Pattison914@gmail.com

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

is 2,117, which is 61% of the total birds banded this fall. The next highest numbers of birds banded were Common Yellowthroat (185), Magnolia Warbler (136), Dark-eyed Junco (135), Swainson's Thrush (126) and Blackburnian Warbler (88).

Two recoveries were reported this year. Todd Schnopp banded an adult male Black-throated Blue Warbler at AFMO on 11 Sep 2011, and it was found dead in a yard in DeBary, FL, on 24 Apr 2013. Todd Schnopp also banded an adult Blue Jay at AFMO on 23 Sep 2012 which was found dead near Norwich, Chenango County, NY, on 19 Jun 2013.

The Fall Flyover Count at AFMO was started by Ralph K. Bell in 1990 and was coordinated by Donald Pattison. Results from the fall 2013 count of selected species, which make up the majority of the count are:

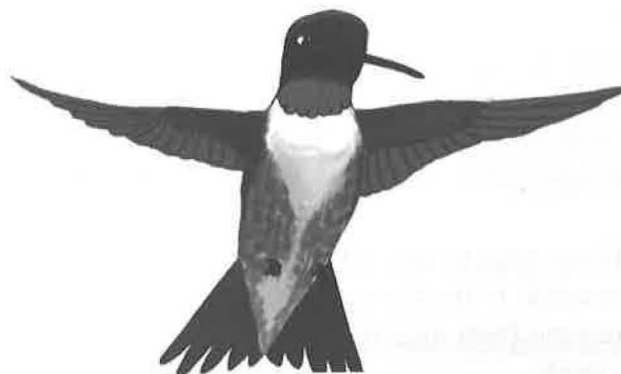
307 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
727 Blue Jays
534 American Goldfinches
74 Monarch Butterflies
29 Dragonflies

This fall 1,016 people signed our AFMO Visitor's Book. These visitors came from 21 states, Washington DC, Canada, France, Ireland, Japan and Spain. Several school groups visited AFMO to learn about birds and nature from the experienced banders and volunteers. Dr. Ross Conover brought his Glenville State College Ecology Class and Cheryl Jacko brought her class from the Highland Adventist School, Elkins, WV. Other groups that visited were the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, Waynesburg, PA; Georgetown University Freshman Group, Washington D.C.; the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Front Royal, VA; Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA; Wanderbird Hiking Club, Washington, DC; and the Canaan Valley Weekend Tour, Davis, WV.

Thanks to the personnel of Monongahela National Forest: Supervisor, Clyde Thompson; Special Use Manager, Laura Hise; Develop Recreation Manager, Ed Sherman; Forestry Technician, John Waggy and all others for their cooperation and help. Thanks,

also, to the West Virginia DNR for the use of their building for storage of the bird banding shed. Thanks to the clubs, groups, visitors and volunteers for their financial support, which is our only means of replacing the 30 mist nets we use for the banding operation.

The banders who participated this year were Randy Ritter and Beth Ritter (who were also the Campground Hosts for the bird banding season), Bob Dean, LeJay Graffious, Fred and Carol McCullough, Todd Schnopp, Charles Zigenfus and Station Leader, Joan Pattison. Jeff and Sheila Berry were apprentice banders. The scheduled volunteers who tended nets, kept records, assisted with the visitors, and helped in many other ways were: Tom and Dawn Fox, Maggi Perl, Don Pattison, Jackie Burns, Tom and Debbie Long, Bill Beatty, Jan Runyan, Stephen Sushinski, Rich Bailey and Joe Schreiber, as well as all the banders. Thanks to Tom Fox and his crew for the big job of clearing the net lanes so we could begin banding. Thanks to LeJay Graffious, Todd Schnopp and their helpers for erecting the banding shed in August and taking it down at the end of the banding season. Thanks to Luke Pattison for contributing his computer time and expertise to his grandfather's AFMO research project. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and expertise in many ways and in most cases for many years to help continue the research Ralph K. Bell envisioned for AFMO.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by George West