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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) – Fall 2015

Elizabeth W. Brooks, Coordinator

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Although Jerry Farrell will continue to band young Purple Martins at his Lewiston Station, the 2015 fall banding season was his 40th and final year of fall banding. New houses and a golf course in the vicinity of the banding station dramatically changed the number of migrating birds passing through the area. We thank Jerry for his 40 years of contribution to the Atlantic Flyway Review.

Ruthven’s development of a banding group of young people (the BAGend Baggers!) is to be commended. The group of youngsters (11-18 yrs old) were able to band 343 birds of 43 species. A Bander Training

Course was made available to banding volunteers at Penn State Arboretum site. If we believe in what we do, it’s important to train those who will become our replacements!!

It’s also important to keep the general public informed about what bird banding tells us about our world. A television story and informative interview was aired on WDTV, Bridgeport, WV and titled “Wild and Wonderful with Alina: Dolly Sods Bird Banding”.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Region III AFR in Fall 2015!

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region III, Fall 2015

	Lewiston, NY		Ruthven Park, ONT		Rock Point, ONT		Long Point, ONT	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	103 PUMA (1)	100%	544 MYWA (2)	98%	382 WTSP (1)	86%	878 RCKI (3)	84%
2.	33 GCKI (3)	91	345 WTSP (3)	94	240 GRCA (2)	88	770 MYWA (2)	94
3.	25 HETH (2)	96	298 AMGO (5)	82	220 SCJU (5)	76	730 GCKI (1)	89
4.	24 SWTH (4)	83	240 CEDW (1)	96	180 AMGO	58	580 SWTH (9)	81
5.	18 BCCH (5)	78	228 SCJU (4)	95	143 RCKI (3)	74	452 MAWA (10)	94
6.	9 RCKI (9)	78	185 RCKI (6)	84	110 MAWA (10)	44	443 WTSP (5)	90
7.	8 WTSP (3)	50	153 ATSP	86	91 SWTH	53	397 SCJU (4)	66
8.	8 MAWA (8)	88	101 REVI	89	81 SOSPI (4)	62	382 AMGO	77
9.	7 GRCA (7)	71	94 GCKI (8)	94	80 REVI	85	342 BLPW (7)	81
10.	6 BLJA	33	79 SWTH	92	77 GCKI (7)	81	326 HETH (8)	88

Table 1. AFR III Fall 2015 Summary

	Lewiston, NY	Ruthven Park, ONT	Rock Point ONT	Long Point ONT	Powdermill, PA	Penn State, PA	Mt Nebo, MD	Allegheny Front, WV
First Day/Last Day	6/24 to 10/19	9/1 to 11/7	7/17 to 11/3	8/15 to 11/15	8/4 to 11/6	9/3 to 10/22	8/17 to 10/31	8/15 to 9/25
Days Operated	10	68	70	92	72	16	26	42
No. Nets Used	15	5 to 21	20	0-50	30 - 69	10	9-14	28-30
Total Net Hrs	705	6,828	6,679	22,621	21,708	475	1,495	4,439
Number of Traps in use	0	up to 7	0	20	0	0	0	0
% Caught in Traps	0	1%	0	13%	0	0	0	0
Lgst Daily Catch	34 on 10/19	161 on 10/6	145 on 10/30	352 on 9/3	271 on 10/24	39 on 9/14	67 on 10/16	392 on 9/2
Most Common Best Day	44% GCKI	36% CEDW	51% SCJU	15% SWTH	24% RCKI	67% GRCA	16% RCKI	19% BTNW
Most Species Diversity	12 sp on 9/14	27 sp on 9/1	31 sp on 9/10	41 sp on 9/13	46 sp on 9/22	12 sp on 9/28	22 sp on 9/12	27 sp on 9/2
No. Banded 2014	291	2,488	2,617	unknown	7,128	308	1,423	3,276
No. Banded 2015	181	3,441	2,772	10,967	6,024	340	780	2,924
No. Forms 2014	36	86	86	-	104	41	77	75
No. Forms 2015	35	88	82	124	101	40	63	66
Birds/100 nh 2014	35.43	28.95	44	-	31.7	106	40	64
Birds/100 nh 2015	25.67	49.3	22	110	27.8	92	52.6	66
% HY 2014	78%	88%	-	-	-	-	-	76%
% HY 2015	83%	96%	-	77%	-	-	-	83%

Lewiston 431-0790
Niagara County, NY 14092
Jerald J. Farrell
jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

The 2015 fall banding season completes the 40th continuous year of fall banding and the LAST for the Lewiston Station. The banding season started on 24 Jun with the start of banding young Purple Martins. This is the eighth year for this project and over this Oct - Dec 2016

period of time 599 Purple Martin young have been banded. At the present time we have three groups of artificial gourds totaling 36 nesting boxes. The last day for banding nestlings was 29 Jul.

The mist netting got started on 11 Sep and ended on 19 Oct with a total of 10 banding days during this time frame. We had a great fall season weather-wise and did not lose any planned banding days to rain or wind and it was very enjoyable to be in the woods. A total of 184

birds banded of 34 total species. As in the past few years the migrant warblers were again absent. There were only 14 species of warblers totaling 31 birds. I have put together a bar graph showing total birds banded for each of the 40 years. It tells the story and reason for the decline at the Lewiston Station. Citizen housing (26 acres) and a golf course (247 acres) within a quarter of a mile of the banding site do not make for good bird numbers.

This fall I had local recaptures of five Black-capped Chickadees and one Blue Jay.

Again this year we had good numbers of kids and adults attend the banding session with the Purple Martins. I did not encourage the visitors to the mist netting because the bird numbers were so low, but two adults who had been to the station in previous years called and were accommodated.

Ruthven Park 425-0795

Haldimand County, ON

Banders:

Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau, Brian Pomfret,
rludkin@hotmail.com

Fall 2015 will be remembered for its good weather: little rain, clear skies, and warm temperatures (right into the first week of November we had highs of 16° on 6 Nov). In fact, we missed only one full day of banding due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, these kinds of conditions do not make for very good banding at Ruthven as migrants tend to “fly over” getting as far as they can, taking advantage of the conditions. Poor weather often results in “fall-outs” migrants (most of which fly at night) come to ground when confronted with bad weather fronts. These can result in large banding numbers. We had no discernible fall-outs this season.

Our fruit crop was mediocre at best; in fact, our wild grape crop was poor (for a second year in a row). So numbers of fruit-eating migrants were down. Despite these two factors we had a fairly good season, banding 3,441 birds of 88 species. This is our sixth highest total going back to 1996. This was achieved through hard work/good coverage. We ran nets whenever we could. Our full complement of nets numbered 21.

Banding highlights included three Golden-winged Warblers, a species that used to be fairly common in the area in the 1980's but has been forced out by Blue-winged Warblers. The last time we even saw Golden-winged was 2001. Another notable bird captured was a male Hooded Warbler.

One of the most popular banding activities is the capture of Northern Saw-whet Owls in October/early November. This is a species whose numbers fluctuate depending on food availability in their northern breeding grounds. We had an “average” season, banding 42 here at Ruthven and another 10 at Taquanyah Conservation Area (about 10 kilometers away).

The most significant event this season was the development of a banding/birding group for young people ranging in age from 11 to 18. We consistently had seven youngsters out on weekends with a membership of nine. Some came from as far away as Kitchener and Toronto. The name of this group was the BAGend Baggers—the significance arising from the first initials of the three most consistent banders (Ben, Alessandra, and Giovanni). Further, it was a fellowship of the Ring(er)s. [Ringer is the term used in Great Britain/Europe for bander.] The group ran their own nets and banded with separate bands (so as not to skew our data) but under my direct supervision. The Baggers banded 343 birds of 43 species but helped out (a lot at times) with the main banding program.

We continue to have a strong base of volunteers with individuals putting in 1,602 hours (this does NOT include paid hours). Last year we had 1,355 volunteer hours so this is a significant increase. The number of visitors was 871; this is down significantly from the 1,140 we had last year. The reason was the greatly decreased number of bookings by school groups due to the labour unrest in the Public School System....something completely out of our hands.

Many thanks to the many volunteers who helped out this season and to Ruthven/Grand River Land Trust for their continuing support in so many ways.

Rock Point Bird Banding Station 425-0793

Dunnville, Haldimand County, ON

James A. Smith

benavis@sympatico.ca

Chief Assistant(s) Kim Christoff, Madelaine Proulx,
Bev Stevenson

Web Site: www.rockpointbirdbanding.com

We changed things a little bit this year with a later start in Jul and not a full start until 1 Aug. This meant that we missed most of the Yellow Warblers. It also meant I could go to Scotland and band Great Skua. Net locations remained the same as in the spring with predictable catch rates for most of the nets. We did not use ground traps this year since I dislike having to get the birds out and what they do to themselves trying to get out.

We had 31 volunteers varying from 1 day to 62 days. Distance volunteers were from Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario. One family from the U.S. volunteered for about a week. Total volunteer hours were 1,417. A dedicated core of local volunteers enabled me to keep the station running.

Weather through Aug varied at start up from 8 to 18 ° Celsius. As is common in Aug we experienced high humidity. As in the past we only band from before sun up until around 10 because of the sun on the nets and the damage this can do to trapped birds. Sep was good with lows on startup of 6 ° Celsius and high of 22 °. Oct had some days with high winds. Startup temperatures were low of minus 1 and high of 12° C. Sep and Oct were standard banding from before sun up until six hours later.

We ran 20 nets of the standard 3 m by 12 m passerine nets. Most were Chinese-made nets. Nets have remained in the same locations except for a couple of moves of one net. The aerial net has proven to be minimally effective producing only 3.5% of our catch. Two other nets contributed only 7.9 % are up for consideration for next year.

Nothing was tremendously unusual in the species that we banded. A higher than normal number of Dark-eyed Junco (220) were banded in Oct. Some normal species like Field Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow were missed. The last two very cold winters seems to have eliminated Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse from the Oct - Dec 2016

park. In fact all wren species were in lower numbers. Two Brewster's Warblers were new for the station. We banded 26 of the normal 31 species of warblers that we have banded in the past. Connecticut and Hooded Warblers are not common for us so it was good to get one of each.

We had 347 birds recaptured and processed during this season. As is normal, most (332) were birds originally banded at Rock Point during this year. Seventeen were first banded in 2014, 14 in 2013, four in 2012, and five in 2011. A Song Sparrow from 2010, an American Goldfinch from 2009 and a Common Grackle from 2004 all were returns. No birds were recovered by us from any other location during the fall season.

Five birds were recovered from some other location: Black-capped Chickadee, banded 26 Oct 2014 recovered 9 Apr 2015 at Ruthven by Nancy Furber; Swainson's Thrush 28 Sep 2012 recovered 12 Oct 2015 in Danese, Fayette County, WV by Curtis Sheets; House Sparrow 13 Dec 2014 recovered 4 Oct 2015 in Dunnville, ON, by Keith Sheppard; Tree Swallow 13 Apr 2013 recovered 10 Jun 2015 east of Long Point Ontario by Bill Read.

A daily web site reports birds banded each day and usually includes pictures of birds from that day. www.rockpointbirdbanding.com This site is also on Facebook.

Thanks to Ontario Parks, T.D. Friends of the Environment, Ontario Power Generation, Niagara Falls Nature Club, Bird Studies Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, and individual donations.

Long Point

Bird Observatory 423-0800, 423-0801, 423-0802

Port Rowan, Norfolk County, ON

Bander: **Mark Conboy**

email address: lpbo@bsc-eoc.org

Chief Assistant: Matt Iles

email address: lpbo@birdscanada.org

In 2015, LPBO banded 26,313 birds of 139 species and forms, bringing the grand total to 972,216 birds banded of 279 species and forms since 1960. The

56th fall season ran from 15 Aug to 15 Nov at Old Cut, Aug 10 to Sept 15 at Breakwater, and Aug 15 to Nov 11 at the Tip. Thirty volunteers, representing five countries, logged over 13,000 hours collecting migration data on over 250 species and banded 10,967 birds of 124 species. Twenty-four volunteer 'Friends' of LPBO helped to serve over 900 visitors and an additional 400 students of all ages who enjoyed banding demonstrations.

Birding Highlights: The fall season was slower than average, with very few big days. Nonetheless, there were some interesting highlights: Long Point's second ever Neotropic Cormorant was photographed off the Tip on 26 Aug. Two Eared Grebes were seen in the Outer Bay on 2 Nov. A Northern Gannet flew past the Tip 16 Oct. There were two Cattle Egrets seen 17 Oct; one flew over Old Cut, and another was seen from Concession Road 1. An American Avocet was seen briefly at the Tip 20 Aug. A Franklin's Gull, part of large irruption into eastern North America, was seen flying off Hastings Drive 14 Nov. Three Sabine's Gulls were seen from the Tip 29 Sep, 12 and 13 Oct. A White-winged Dove was seen by multiple observers at the Tip on 22-23 Oct. A Western Kingbird was at Breakwater 6 Sep. Single Common Ravens were seen at the Tip on 21-28 Sep and 14 Oct. One Loggerhead Shrike was detected in the area by the Motus Wildlife Tracking System at the BSC Headquarters 10 Sep. A Townsend's Solitaire was seen at the Tip 23 Oct. A flock of 10 Bohemian Waxwings flew over Old Cut 14 Nov. A Dickcissel was at the Tip 5 Oct. A Nelson's Sparrow was found at the Tip 18-19 Oct. A Yellow-headed Blackbird flew over Old Cut 5 Sep, while another flew over the Tip 26 Oct.

The Arboretum at Penn State 404-0775
State College, Centre County, PA
Nick T. Kerlin, Bander
bluebird6771@verizon.net
Dr. Margaret Brittingham, Chief Assistant

The banding program is part of the Avian Education Program of The Arboretum at Penn State (main campus at University Park). Banding was first conducted on a trial basis at this location in the fall of 2010.

Weather conditions were generally favorable with just one day cancelled due to rain. There were a total of 39

local recaptures this season, but no foreign recaptures. The five "best captures" (based upon past presence and existing habitat) were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Mourning Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler.

The banding site was open for public visitation during all hours of operation, with organized group tours through prior arrangement. A total of 103 people visited during the period.

A "Bander-in-Training" class was conducted on 10 Sep to acquire new volunteers to help with banding operations. Fourteen people attended, most of whom volunteered time on additional days with hands-on training and assistance to the banding operations.

"Bird Banding at the Arboretum at Penn State – Volunteer Guide," a 33-page guide (prepared by Jill Koren, Elora Grahame, Jackson Martini, Nick Kerlin and Margaret Brittingham) was published by Penn State Extension and made available to banding volunteers. The booklet covers banding program objectives, protocol and procedures.

Seven community volunteers and 21 Penn State students (most from the Wildlife and Fisheries major) contributed 454 hours of time to banding operations and public outreach activities during the season. Major assistance was provided by Dr. Margaret Brittingham (Arboretum Avian Education Program coordinator, Professor of Wildlife Resources), Shari Edelson (Director of Horticulture/Curator of The Arboretum at Penn State), Penn State Operation and Physical Plant employees (trail maintenance/support).

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791
Rector, Westmoreland County, PA
Bander(s)/Compiler: Luke DeGroot
degrootel@carnegiemnh.org
Chief Assistants: Mary Shidel, Nick Glover, Elizabeth Abraham, Laura Gomez Murillo

This Fall we banded 6,024 new birds, which turned out to be the second-lowest capture rate in the last ten years. The pace at the lab did not seem that much slower though, as we made up for it in recaptured birds. Our total of 2,949 recaps made it the *best* season for recaps in those same ten years, bringing the total number of birds caught in our nets to just under 9,000. Although the

early fall was on par for an average season, weather in October brought high winds on many banding days that kept more exposed nets closed and/or forced an early closure. Of the 30 banding days in October and November, we closed early on almost half (14 days) and our notes reference "increasing wind throughout the session" for another eight banding days.

No species were below 2 SD, but several came in significantly above average totals: Carolina Wren (n=18), Eastern Screech Owl (n=3), Hairy Woodpecker (n=8), Northern Flicker (n=7) Warbling Vireo (n=6) and Yellow Palm Warbler (n=4).

An adult male Baltimore Oriole recaptured on 11 Aug was originally banded on 7 May 2011 as an after-second-year bird, which places him at over ten years old this season. It was the first time he had returned to Powdermill since that first encounter.

We had one foreign recovery this fall: on 3 Nov 2015 we recovered a Northern Saw-whet Owl originally banded (and hatched) in 2012. The original encounter was in Garrett County, Maryland. A Lincoln's Sparrow banded at Powdermill on 2 Oct 2015 was recaptured just eight days later on 10 Oct in Cincinnati, Ohio (almost 300 km WSW).

We had 271 visitors at the lab during the fall banding season, including classes from three nearby universities, several local schools and many families and friends. In September, seven people participated in our Advanced Bander Training Workshop.

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

This was the fifteenth season of fall banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 26 days from 17 Aug through 31 Oct. A total of 786 birds were banded of 63 species. The station effort was 1495 net hours with a capture rate of 53 b/100 nhs. American Tree Sparrow was added to the station list this year bringing the station total to 99 species.

A good food supply is one of the reasons why we chose to band in Mt. Nebo WMA. The hedgerow

composition is of invasive nonnative species including multi-flora rose, autumn olive and honeysuckle sp. These species have dependable crops of berries and the hedgerows are low enough that birds attracted to them are often caught in the nets.

In July 2015, we discovered that a section of the invasive species in the banding field had been sprayed with herbicides and was completely dead. Nine of our 17 ½ historic net locations were now completely in the open. We did not re-erect those nets. Instead, we placed 2 ½ nets in a new location in the green part of the field. On one level, we applaud the efforts to rid public areas of invasive species. However, we were distressed that our station, which has operated fifteen years with the same net locations, was so disrupted. Surprisingly, however, this year had the highest number of b/100 nh.

There was a good apple, thornberry, black cherry, and rose hip crop. Several plots adjacent to our nets were planted with millet. This resulted in good sparrow numbers.

The top-ten list had no surprises. Gray Catbirds were number one, as they have been in eight of 15 years. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (16% of the total), Song Sparrow (14%), and White-throated Sparrow (10%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Yellowthroat, Cedar Waxwing, Swamp Sparrow, American Robin, Slate-colored Junco and Purple Finch.

This was a disappointing warbler year. We banded 121 warblers, 15% of the new bandings. Common Yellowthroats comprised 28% of the total warblers. Three warbler species usually make the top ten.

The largest daily catch was 67 birds on 16 Oct with 18 species. Ruby-crowned Kinglets comprised 16% of the total catch that day. On 5 Oct, 54 birds of 19 species were banded. Twelve Sep had the highest species diversity with 49 birds of 22 species banded.

Fran Pope was unable to help most of the fall season. Therefore, we had less than half the net hours that we normally work. Taking that into consideration, it was a banner Gray Catbird year with 127 bandings. In the 15

years we have banded at Mt. Nebo WMA, seven of those years had less than this year's number of 127.

There was one foreign recapture of a Gray Catbird that ConnieSkipper banded on 25 Aug 2014. The bird was captured by a bander at Fry's Landing, Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA on 10 May 2015. This is approximately 225 miles from Mt. Nebo WMA.

The station had 122 recaptures of 100 individuals of 19 species. Fourteen birds banded in prior years were recaptured in 2015.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Species/ #	Species/ #	Species/#	Species/#	Species/#
SOSP 1		SOSP 2	SOSP 1	GRCA 2
		GRCA 1	AMRO 1	COYE 2
		BCCH 1		BCCH 1
		COYE 1		PUFI 1
1		5	2	6

Summary of bird species and number of individuals banded in prior years at Mt. Nebo WMA, that were recaptured in 2015.

The station had 35 visitors. This included a fifth grade class and three chaperones from Crellin Elementary School.

We thank Mike Fazenbaker who helped clear the net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Mike Fazenbaker granting us the privilege of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA.

Allegheny Front,
Dolly Sods, Grant Co, WV,
Migration Observatory
Banding Station and Project Leaders
Joan Bell Pattison and Todd Schnopp
Ralph K. Bell, Founder
pattison914@gmail.com

390-0791

Ralph K. Bell founded AFMO and banded his first bird on 18 Sep 1958. The total species banded since 1958 is 125. The overall percentage of hatch-year birds in 2015 (using known age birds only) was 83.06% compared with 75.84% in 2014 and 78.65% in 2013. There were seven days this fall with over 100 birds

banded, one day over 200 were banded, and one day over 300 were banded.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) is located at Dolly Sods, Grant County, WV. The station was opened on 15 Aug and closed on 25 Sep 2015. AFMO is the oldest, continuous bird banding station in North America. This was our 58th consecutive year of Bird Banding at AFMO. A total of 2924 birds were banded of 66 species with a Station effort of 66 b/100 nhs. A total of 261,336 birds have been banded since the station was founded.

The station was open for 37 days and closed for five days due to bad weather. Just as in 2014 and 2013, there were very few fronts and over half of the days we were open for banding, the winds were from the east. We had a west wind on all of the days we banded 100+ birds. It is known that we do not often catch many birds on days with east winds. East winds, however, can produce good hawk migrations flying over AFMO. We closed a few days early for the fall 2015 season due to the threat of Hurricane Joaquin, which was coming up the east coast of the US.

Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 619 birds banded (52.9% under the 10-year average from 2005 to 2014). Black-throated Green Warbler was 2nd with 519 birds banded (25% under the 10-yr. Avg.). Blackburnian Warbler was 3rd highest with 318 birds banded (70% over the 10-yr. Avg.). Blackpoll Warbler was 4th highest with 280 birds banded (66% under the 10-yr. Avg.). Magnolia Warbler was 5th highest with 194 birds banded (43% under the 10-yr Avg.). The total number of these top five species is 1930 which is 66% of the birds banded this fall.

The next highest numbers of birds banded were Cape May Warbler (155), Common Yellowthroat (156), Tennessee Warbler (85), Bay-breasted Warbler (70), Ovenbird (64), Swainson's Thrush (59) and Chestnut-sided Warbler (54).

One recovery was reported this year. Carol McCullough banded a HY Ovenbird at AFMO this fall on 15 Aug 2015. It was reported to the Banding Lab. as being found dead at a home three blocks from the beach at North Myrtle Beach, SC on 2 Sep 2015.

A White-throated Sparrow was recorded feeding at Dolly Sods Campground site #12 on 10 Aug and it was there for many weeks. There were fewer junco's noted in the campground this fall, possibly because of nest predation due to an increase in chipmunks.

The Fall Flyover Count at AFMO was started by Ralph K. Bell in 1990. Results from the fall 2015 count of selected species, which make up the majority of the Count are as follows:

- 158 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (203 in 2014)
- 159 Blue Jays (60 in 2014)
- 294 American Goldfinches (643 in 2014)
- 145 monarch butterflies (128 in 2014)
- 18 dragonflies (22 in 2014)
- 1650 Broad-winged Hawks (1162 in 2014)

This fall, 776 people signed our AFMO Visitor's book. These visitors came from 10 different states. Several school groups visited AFMO to learn about birds and nature from our experienced banders and volunteers. Some groups that visited were the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, Waynesburg, PA; Canaan Valley Resort Nature Trip; Highland Adventist School, Elkins, WV; Camden HS Science Class, Camden, WV; John Marshall HS, Glen Dale, WV; EMU Conservation Bio Class, Harrisonburg, VA.

On 11 Sep, Alina with WDTV, Bridgeport, WV aired an interesting and informative interview she did with Co-Leader Todd Schnopp and his crew at the AFMO Banding Station this fall. The TV story and interview was entitled "Wild and Wonderful with Alina: Dolly Sods Bird Banding".

Thanks to the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Forest Supervisor, Clyde Thompson; Realty Specialist/ Special Use Manager, Todd Hess; Develop Recreation Manager, Zach Adkins; Forest Technician John Waggy and all others that gave their cooperation and help. Thanks to the West Virginia DNR for the use of their building for storage of the bird banding shed. Thanks to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club and other groups, visitors and volunteers for their financial support, which is our only means of replacing the 30 mist nets we use at AFMO.

The banders who participated were Beth Ritter (Campground Host with Randy Ritter), Todd Schnopp (AFMO Co-Leader), Fred & Carol McCullough, Charles Ziegenfus, Bob Dean, LeJay Graffious, and Jeff & Sheila Berry (AFMO Resident Managers). The scheduled volunteers who tended nets, kept records, and helped in many ways were Tom and Dawn Fox, Maggi Perl, Jose Martins, Tom & Debbie Long, Bill Beatty, Jan Runyan, Jackie Burns and Tim Newlin. Thanks to Tom Fox and his crew for the big job of clearing the net lanes so we could begin banding; LeJay Graffious, Todd Schnopp and their helpers for erecting the banding shed in August and taking it down at the end of the season; and Luke Pattison for contributing his computer 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.



Blackburnian Warbler by
George West