

2016

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2015- Mt Nebo WMA Banding Station

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### Recommended Citation

Skipper, Connie and Pope, Fran (2016) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge) Fall 2015- Mt Nebo WMA Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 41 : Iss. 4 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol41/iss4/16>

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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**  
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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  
Oct - Dec 2016

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 applauded 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

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.