

2018

Atlantic Flyway Review: (Western Ridge) Region III- Fall 2016- Mt Nebo WMA Banding Station

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Recommended Citation

Skipper, Connie and Pope, Fran (2018) "Atlantic Flyway Review: (Western Ridge) Region III- Fall 2016- Mt Nebo WMA Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 43 : Iss. 2 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol43/iss2/8>

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Mt. Nebo WMA. Banding Station 392-0792
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This was the sixteenth season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 47 days from 22 Aug through 8 Nov. A total of 1,163 birds were banded of 70 species. The station effort was 3,132 net hours with a capture rate of 37 birds/100 NH. No new species were added to the station list this year.

The top-ten list had no surprises. White-throated Sparrows were number one. The top three species banded were White-throated Sparrow (9% of the total), Gray Catbird (8%), and Common Yellowthroat (7%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were Song Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush, and Cedar Waxwing.

Warblers are my favorite species to band. Last year was quite disappointing in that only 10% of the new bandings were warblers. This year was much better with 258 warblers, 22% of new bandings. Common Yellowthroats comprised 31% of the total warblers.

The largest daily catch occurred on two days: 45 birds (19 species) on 13 Sep and 45 birds on 7 Oct (17 species). Common Yellowthroats were 16% of the total catch on 13 Sep. White-throated Sparrows were 22% of the total catch on 7 Oct. 26 Sep had the highest species diversity with 21 species banded (42 birds).

There was one foreign recovery of a Gray Catbird that Skipper banded on 28 Aug 2015, as an ATY. On 23 Jun 2016, the bird was found dead by a nonbander or by members of their family or acquaintance seven miles north of Rochester, NY. This is approximately 200 miles from Mt. Nebo WMA.

The station had 189 recaptures of 112 individuals of 25 species. Twenty-two birds banded in prior years were recaptured in 2016. Song Sparrow, #1201-75900, was banded as an after-hatch year

by Fran Pope on 5 Oct 2009, is near the limits of a Song Sparrow life span. It had also been recaptured at Mt. Nebo in 2012 and 2013.

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Haldimand County, ON
Banders: Rick Ludkin, Loretta Mousseau and
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This was one of the poorest fall banding seasons we have had. Our September total of 793 was well below the 15-year average of 969 and October's 1,277 fell well short of the 15-year level of 1,972 banded. And our overall total of 2,328 was almost a thousand birds short of the 15-yr average of 3,297.

We had only one day in which we banded more than 100 birds (which we use to define a "big day").

Some of our "key" species were well down: CEDW: we banded only 44 against a 5-year average of 539, despite having a prolific grape crop. MYWA: we banded 213 against a 5-yr. Average of 452 WTSP: banded 123 vs 276.

I think the main reason was that the weather this fall was unseasonably warm with little precipitation. Birds just flew over on their way south. We are situated about halfway between Lakes Ontario (in the north) and Erie (south of us). In good conditions, I think that migrants north of Toronto fly over both lakes in a night, not making landfall until they reach Ohio/Pennsylvania. One thing for sure we were not getting them. We do best in "unsettled conditions".

