



8 days this fall when over 100 birds were banded, 5 days over 200 were banded, 1 day 395 were banded, one day 406 were banded, 1 day 522 were banded, and one day (on the 24 Sep) 829 were banded. The station was open for 45 days and closed for six days due to rain and/or fog and mist.

1. Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 1082 birds banded (14.7% under the 10-year average from 2006 to 2015, although we banded more of this species than we did on each of the past 3 years).
2. Blackpoll Warbler was second with 858 birds banded (13.3% over the 10-year average).
3. Cape May Warbler was third with 565 birds banded (186.1% over the 10-year average). Note: The last time we banded over 500 Cape May Warblers was in 1991.
4. Black-throated Green was 4th with 457 birds banded (33.9% under the 10-year average).
5. Tennessee Warbler was 5th with 443 birds banded (23.5% over the 10-year average).

The total number of these top five species is 3405, which is 63% of the birds banded this fall. The next highest number of birds banded were Swainson's Thrush (371)-100% over the 10-year average; Blackburnian Warbler (267)-33.5% over the 10-year average, Magnolia Warbler (232), Ovenbird (169), Common Yellowthroat (117), Bay-breasted Warbler (109).

The "Fall Flyover Count" at AFMO was started by Ralph K. Bell in 1990. Some of the results from the 2016 Count are as follows: 197 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (158 in 2015), 27-year average: 364, 347 Blue Jay (159 in 2015), 27-year average: 4,623, 353 American Goldfinch (294 in 2015); 27-year average 2,358 Monarch Butterflies (145 in 2015), 27-year average 893; 211 Broad-winged Hawks (1650 in 2015)

This fall, 748 people signed our AFMO Visitor's Book. These visitors came from 14 different states and Washington, DC. Groups that visited AFMO learned about birds and nature from our experienced volunteers. Some groups that visited were the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, Waynesburg, PA; Canaan Valley Resort Nature Trip; Highland Adventist School, Elkins, WV; Cameron HS Science Classes, Cameron, WV; Allegheny/Garrett Counties Bird Club, MD; and John Marshall High School, Glendale, WV. Thanks to the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest: Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson; Realty Specialist/Special Use Manager, Todd Hess; District Manager, M. Troy Waskey; 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 this fall were Beth Ritter (Campground Host with Randy Ritter), Todd Schmopp (AFMO Co-Leader), Fred and Carol McCullough, Charles Ziegenfus, Bob Dean, LeJay Graffious, Jeff and Sheila Berry (AFMO Resident Managers). The scheduled volunteers who tended nets, kept records, and helped in many ways were Tom and Dawn Fox, Jose Martins, Tom and Debbie Long, Bill Beatty, Jan Runyan, Maggi Per, Jackie Burns, Stephen Sushinski 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 in October; 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 at Dolly Sods, West Virginia.