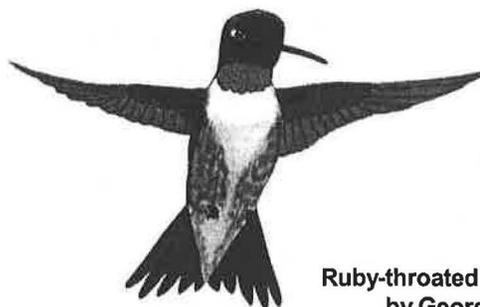

day was 26 Sep, when 53 were counted. The peak day for Monarch Butterflies was 13 Sep, when 2625 were counted, most of them in the afternoon.

This fall, 1193 people signed our visitors' book. Visitors came from 20 states, Washington, DC, and five foreign countries—Australia, Germany, Israel, Japan and New Zealand. As usual, several elementary and middle schools, and colleges visited AFMO, including the Highland Adventist School from Elkins, WV, Pendleton County Middle School from Franklin, WV, Bridgewater College Ecology Class, Eastern Mennonite University, West Virginia University Adventure Program, and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

We thank the personnel of Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson, Cheat/Potomac District Ranger Jeff Hammes, Special Use Manager Laura Hise, Forestry Technicians Ed Lang and John Waggy and all others for their cooperation and help. We also thank the Brooks Bird Club, the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, the Audubon Naturalist

Society, the Nature Conservancy, the WV Highlands Conservancy, and many visitors and volunteers for their financial support which is our only means of replacing mist nets. Everyone's support is much appreciated.

The banders who participated this year were Bob Dean, Ken and Sue Heselton, Fred and Carol McCullough, Randy and Beth Ritter, Charles Ziegenfus and Station Leaders Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison. Bill Agee and Ken Heselton contributed many hours of computer time and expertise. The scheduled volunteers were as follows: Bill Beatty, Kathleen Dullnig, Tom and Dawn Fox, Walter Fye, Kathleen Larken, Jack and Joleene Minear, Tim Newlin, Don Pattison, Maggi Perl, Jan Runyan, Carl and Joan Rowe, Todd and Kim Schnopp and Stephen Sushinski. LeJay Gaffious erected the banding shed with help from Tim Newlin, the Schnopps, Bob Hickory and Robin Dea. We thank all of the above volunteers and the many other interested people who helped in many ways this year.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by George West

Four Banders Earn North American Banding Council (NABC) Certification

An NABC evaluation was held 3-5 Oct 2008 hosted by Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Congratulations are due four individuals who passed their Bander-level certification: **Mark Deutschlander** of Canandaigua, NY; **Richard Joos** of Toronto, ON; **Gretchen Putonen** of S. Dennis, MA; and **Karen Velas** of Emeryville, CA.

Mark Deutschlander and **Richard Joos** also earned their Trainer-level certification, taking advantage of NABC's new policy that allows individuals to take the Trainer-level evaluation the day after they pass their Bander-level certification, provided they have passed the written test with a score of 90% or better.

Participating NABC Trainers were Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Erin Karnatz, Sara Morris, and Hannah Suthers.