

Program by providing banding demonstrations for interested visitors to the botanic gardens.

Bander-in-Charge was Nick Kerlin. Valuable assistance was provided by Dr. Margaret Brittingham and graduate student instructor Andrew Weber. A total of 10 PSU students (WFS 497A) assisted at various times in learning banding, identification, sexing-aging and record keeping techniques under direction of the bander-in-charge. Students also presented impromptu talks and answered questions about banding to site visitors.

Banding occurred on nine days (one additional day was canceled due to high winds) from 10 Sep to 18 Oct 2011. In total, 2-8 mist nets (6-12 meter length) were opened from 7 am to 11 am each day. Some hours were shortened due to weather conditions (rain, wind). In total, 283 birds were banded of 41 different species. Number of birds handled (new banded and recaptures) was 295. Total net hours were 223. Total b/100nhs was 132 for the two sites.

Best day (highest number of birds and species) was 18 Oct, the final day of operation, when 76 birds of 18 species were banded. The "Best birds" species-wise were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm (western) Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Mourning Warbler.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 401-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Andrew C. Vitz, Bander

Mary Shidel, Heather Kraus, Brandon Miller,

Fabian Meijer, Chief Assistants

acvitz@yahoo.com

Although average weather conditions existed throughout the fall, a little over half (48) of our 80 banding days were shortened by weather, including high temperatures, rain and wind and an early November snow. We had a very average August and September, with numerous days affected by Southeast winds. Captures dramatically increased in October, with a high diversity of warblers in early October replaced by exceptionally high numbers of

Yellow-rumped Warblers in the latter half of the month. From 1 Aug through the end of November, we banded 7,266 birds of 109 unique species and processed another 2,613 banded birds. Species captured above 2 standard deviations included: American Bittern, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Wilson's Snipe, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Many of these species were rare captures for Powdermill. Over the course of our 50 year banding effort, we have caught only three other American Bitterns and four other Clay-colored Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows, historically once more abundant at Powdermill (50 captures over 50 years), have only been caught one other time (2008) in the past 15 years.

Other highlights included Pine Warbler, a species which we usually catch only one per year: we banded one Pine Warbler on 3 Oct, and *three* more the following day. As noted above, we had a near-record year for Yellow-rumped Warblers, banding 959 of this species (all but nine of them banded in the month of October).

A Gray Catbird banded on 21 Aug 2011 was recovered in Jun 2012 about 15 miles from this station, near Latrobe, PA, and a Cedar Waxwing banded on 28 Oct 2011 was recovered on 10 May 2012 in Castleton, VT.

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations for 37 individuals and six groups comprised of 95 individuals from local colleges, elementary schools, and scout groups. Additionally, an Advanced Banding Workshop was attended by five participants from 13 through 18 Sep.

Mt Nebo Banding Station 392-0792

Oakland, Garrett County, MD

Fran Pope, Connie Skipper, Banders

connieskipper@hohnet.com

This was the eleventh season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 31 days, from 27 Aug through 2 Nov. In total, 852 birds were banded

of 60 species, with a station effort of 2261 net hours. The capture rate was 38 b/100nh. Eastern Bluebird and Acadian Flycatcher were added to the station's list this year, bringing the station total to 90 species.

A good food supply is one of the reasons why we chose to band in Mt. Nebo WMA. My daily log states, "There is an incredible crop of soft mass." The following species were noted: autumn olive, honeysuckle, apples, winterberry, American silverberry, multiflora rose, thornberries, and ornamental crab apples. Millet was planted in a plot beside several of our nets.

The top-ten list had no surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbird (21% of the total), White-throated Sparrow (10%) and Song Sparrows (9%).

There were no station highs this season. It was a mediocre year in all respects.

The largest daily catch was 53 birds on 6 Oct with 15 species. The second largest daily catch was 50 birds on 29 Aug with 15 species.

The station had 210 recaptures of 139 birds of 17 species. Returns included one Hermit Thrush banded as AHY and two Song Sparrows banded in 2006; one Common Yellowthroat banded in 2007; one Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2008; one Gray Catbird, two Black-capped Chickadees, one Song Sparrow and one Eastern Towhee all banded in 2009; and three Gray Catbirds, two Black-capped Chickadees, two Common Yellowthroats, two Indigo Buntings, one Song Sparrow, one Purple Finch and one Chestnut-sided Warbler, banded as an AHY M, all banded in 2010.

The station had 37 visitors, including a Garrett College class and the Northern High School Envirothon Team.

We thank Mike Fazenbaker who helped clear the net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Mike Fazenbaker for granting us the privilege of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. Thanks to Bill Pope for his help mowing and tending the nets.

Allegheny Front

390-0791

Migration Observatory

Grant County, WV.

Ralph K. Bell and Joan Bell Pattison, AFMO

Banding Leaders

Pattison9@comcast.net

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) is located at Dolly Sods, Grant County, 10 miles southeast of Davis, WV, high on top of the Allegheny Front in the Monongahela National Forest. This fall was the 54th year of continuous banding since Ralph K. Bell founded this bird banding station in the fall of 1958. The success and survival of his project over the 54 years is mainly due to the many volunteers who were invited to band, net tend, and assist in many other ways. Their years of dedication and expertise have been vitally important to maintain this research station. The U. S. Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service, the WV Department of Natural Resources, and others have encouraged and given their cooperation and support, because they believe in the importance of Bell's long-term project. AFMO is believed to be the oldest, continuous running, inland Bird Banding Station in North America.

This fall, banding began on 12 Aug and ended on 15 Oct 2011. A total of 4,610 birds were banded of 69 species with a station effort of 99 b/100nh. A total of 245,451 birds have been banded since 1958. The total species banded for the station is 123, with no new species banded this year. The overall percentage of hatch-year birds (using known age birds only) was 70.37 %, compared with 60.01% in 2010. There were six days this fall when over 100 birds were banded, four days over 200, three days over 300, and two days over 400 birds were banded. The Station was open for 44 days and closed for 21 days due to bad weather, including Hurricane Irene in August, Tropical Storm Lee in September, and approximately 12" of snow on 1 Oct.

The Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 1,074 banded, which is 11.66% under the 10-year average (2001-