

Big Bald Bird Banding Station By Skylin

My class drove to Big Bald Bird Banding Station. We went there to learn about birds and what they do. At the top of Big Bald we watched birds and wrote down their names.

It is important for the birds to be banded because they gather the data to observe the population and how the bird is doing. They gather the data so they can see what birds come through North Carolina. The types of birds they band are Magnolia Warblers, Hawks, Phoebes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and other birds.

Up at Big Bald it is fun and a good hike. You get to touch birds and you learn a lot. It is a really nice place to go to learn about birds.

My favorite part was getting to touch the Magnolia Warbler. The Magnolia Warbler is a little yellow and black bird that they banded. It was soft, cute, and small. That was my favorite part because I like feeling little, soft, and cute birds.

Big Bald Station By Neil

On September twenty-second, we went up to the Big Bald Bird Banding Station. We went there so we could learn how they banded birds, caught them, and observed them. We went there so we could learn about different types of birds.

Up at Big Bald we did the hawk watch. It is where you look around with your binoculars, then whenever you see a bird you identify it and figure out what type of bird it is. Then you record it in your guide.

On Little Bald you get to walk around with Mark and see if a bird has gotten caught in a mist net. If we find one, we bring it back so they can collect the data, band it, and let it go. Our group caught an Eastern Phoebe, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Magnolia Warbler, and two Sharp-shinned Hawks.

It is important for the birds to be banded because the second time they catch the bird they can see how much the bird's weight has improved or how much it has grown. It's very important for the bird to be healthy or it might die on its journey. They use the data to check that the birds are healthy and stay healthy. They use the data so they can figure out how many of the birds that are resting on Little and Big Bald are healthy. They band different kinds of birds from songbirds to hawks, but they only let us release the songbirds.

It feels good to be at Big Bald and Little Bald. You can look down into the fields below and see birds circling in the air. You see trees scattered on the land below you. It feels cold but good, with the mist and air. It tastes dry and cold.

My favorite part of being at Little Bald is getting to see the wild birds up close and seeing them getting released. I think it is cool that we get to see more details of the birds that we didn't know about before. I think this was a really cool field trip!