

2005

## AFR Region 1 (Northeast) - Fall 2004 Report

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**Certificate of Appreciation Committee:** Betsy Brooks had received no names for certificates. Anyone with suggestions should contact her.

**Logo Committee:** Clay Black reported that he has had no success in getting artists to design a new logo. The committee will continue to look for a way to have a new logo designed.

**Communications Committee:** Hannah Suthers verified our entry in the Encyclopedia of Associations.

**Bander Certification Committee (ad hoc):** Betsy Brooks reported that at a certification session at Braddock Bay in October, six trainers were involved, two banders were certified, and two trainers were certified. She indicated that EBBA has done very well as they have certified 22 banders and two trainers from all over the country.

**Abstracts of papers and workshop presentations** were published in *NABB* 30(2).

## NABC CERTIFICATION AT BRADDOCK BAY

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory hosted EBBA's seventh NABC Bander Certification and second Trainer certification on 7-9 Oct 2005. Participating trainers included Tom Bartlett, Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, David Holmes, Erin Karnatz, Hannah Suthers, and Bob Yunick.

Peter Doherty of Sharon Springs, NY, and Annie Lindsay of Ligonier, PA, both passed the Bander certification. Sue Finnegan of Brewster, MA, Anthony Hill of S. Hadley, MA, and David Okines of St. Williams, ON, passed the Trainer certification.

Congratulations to all who participated in the weekend evaluation.

**Betsy Brooks**

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2004 Report

### Tracey Dean, Coordinator

Director of Education  
Huntsman Marine Science Centre  
1 Lower Campus Road  
St. Andrews, NB E5B 2L7

Sunshine and lots of clear blue sky characterized the fall of 2004. The stations that did report results commented on the lack of weather fronts and the predominance of south winds. Yet, birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) were up at 50% of the stations, and in the case of Island Beach State Park numbers were well up over 2003 figures (Table 1).

The top ten most commonly banded species changed dramatically from 2003 to 2004 at St. Andrews and Block Island where late migrant numbers were up, but at Wing Island and Island Beach the top ten species were the same as 2003, just in a different order (Table 2). It is always interesting to look at the top ten numbers and see what other stations catch on a regular basis. While we share many species throughout the northeast

region, there are always some striking differences. For example, Northern Cardinals have been expanding their range into New Brunswick, but I am lucky to catch one a year much less the 25 – 37 reported at other stations. I am also waiting for my first Eastern Towhee, another species uncommon in New Brunswick. I would like to be able to brag about some northern species that are rarely seen farther south, but all I can do at the moment is look with envy at some of the birds caught at other stations.

Thank you again to all contributors for this report. I am passing the "coordinator" reins over this year, as finding time to settle at the computer has become an issue. I will continue to contribute the St. Andrews Bird Banding Station results, if someone reminds me!

**Thank you, Tracey, for 13 years of service  
coordinating the Region I AFR Report!**

**Elizabeth Brooks, AFR Coordinator**

**Table 1. AFR Region I - Northeast Fall 2004 Summary**

	St. Andrews NB	Wing Island	Block Is. RI	Island Beach SP, NJ
First Day	1 Aug	7 Aug	10 Sep	6 Aug
Last Day	1 Nov	19 Nov	10 Nov	21 Nov
Days Oper.	59	22	48	47
No. Nets	6-14	15-28	3-12	2-16.25
Total NH	3326	2063	5105	1949
Birds Banded 2003	1409	1081	1437	2200
<b>Birds Banded 2004</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>1342</b>	<b>2562</b>
Diff Species 2003	58	58	68	77
<b>Diff Species 2004</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>77</b>
B/100NH 2003	38	48	32	92
<b>B/100NH 2004</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>132</b>
Largest Daily Catch	63	178		355
Date of LDC	13 Oct	8 Oct		26 Oct
% HY (***)	87%	91%	na	93%
% HY (**)				76%

(\*\*) - HY% calculated as number of HY/total number of known-age birds.

(\*\*\*) - HY % calculated as number of HY/total number of captures.

**Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region I, Northeast, Fall 2004**

	St. Andrews NB	Wing Island MA	Block Island RI	Isl. Beach SP, NJ
1	130 WTSP(2)	317 GRCA(2)	228 GRCA(1)	604 GCKI(2)
2	126 AMGO(1)	300 MYWA(1)	126 GCKI(3)	242 WTSP(1)
3	98 BTNW	92 SOSP(3)	118 MYWA(4)	222 MYWA(8)
4	97 SOSP(3)	70 BCCH(3)	72 WTSP(7)	198 GRCA(4)
5	72 COYE(5)	57 AMGO(5)	70 BRGR(9)	183 BRGR(10)
6	70 MAWA(8)	49 COYE(7)	52 DEJU(5)	179 SCJU(3)
7	54 GCKI	25 NOCA(9)	43 COYE	150 RCKI(6)
8	50 RCKI	21 SWSP(4)	42 RCKI	95 COYE(5)
9	46 NAWA	13 REVI(10)	42 EATO	88 SOSP(7)
10	40 MYWA(7)	12 HOFI(8)	41 SOSP	71 SWSP(9)

**SW-Laurentian Mountains**  
Wentworth-Nord, Quebec  
**Peter H. Homann (bander)**

**455-0743**

Due to illness there is no report from the Laurentian Mountains this year. Peter hopes to be back banding in 2005.

**St. Andrews Banding Station 450-0670**  
New Brunswick  
**Tracey Dean, Maren Gimpel, Sara Campbell, (banders)**  
Assistant – Mathieu Charette

While we basked in the sunshine and enjoyed a clear calm Indian summer, the weather did little to concentrate flocks of migrating birds in 2004. When the wind did blow, it was usually from the south, again not ideal for stopping migrants. A total of 1,223 birds, representing 57 species were banded in fall 2004. Sixteen individuals banded in previous years were recaptured, and 12 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were caught and released. A Ruffed Grouse was also captured and released unbanded.

The largest daily catch was recorded on 13 Oct when 63 birds were banded, 34 of these were American Goldfinches. Fifty birds were banded two days later on 15 Oct, 22 of which were goldfinches. Other days that kept the crew busy were 21 Sep when 44 birds were banded and 22 Sep when 40 new birds were captured. The highest diversity of species was seen near the end of September when mixed flocks of warblers were moving through. Twenty-one species were recorded on 21 Sep, and 20 on 22 Sep and 19 Sep. On the other hand, we had days of fewer than ten birds. These usually coincided with stretches of clear blue skies



The most commonly banded bird in 2004 was White-throated Sparrow, followed by American Goldfinch (Table 2). Black-throated Green Warbler was back in the top ten after five years of low numbers. This species is a common local breeder and possibly had a good breeding year. Both species of kinglet were back in the top ten after they failed to move through in any numbers last year. Chickadee numbers were well below those seen in 2003.

The highlight of the fall migration-monitoring season was the Station's first Scarlet Tanager, though the individual was green. Other uncommon species captured included two Indigo Buntings and a Yellow-breasted Chat.

Sixteen birds were recaptured. The most interesting recapture was the Brown Creeper (1930-66813), which was originally banded 26 Sep 1998—age unknown. It was recaptured 11 Oct 1999, not seen in 2000, recaptured 6 Sep 2001, not seen in 2002, recaptured 26 Oct 2003, and last seen 28 Oct 2004. This individual is at least six years old and the only Brown Creeper the Station has ever recaptured.

The Station now has three years of fall data when the nets were opened on a daily basis. Before that (2001 and earlier), nets were opened whenever possible or not all nets were open on any given day. The number of birds captured per 100 net hours (b/100nh) of effort had dropped slightly from 38.10 b/100nh in 2003 to 36.77 b/100nh in 2004. This is still above the 30.70 b/100nh recorded in 2002, but well below the previous four-year average of 61.26 b/100nhs.

B/100nh for Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were above the seven-year average. While White-throated Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, and Magnolia Warbler show a recent positive trend, the number of b/100nh in 2004 is still below the seven-year average. The number of Brown Creeper and Yellow Warbler /100nh continue to go down and were also below the seven-year average.

Many thanks to volunteers Maren Gimpel, Sara Campbell, and Mathieu Charette for their enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to the daily operation of the project. Thank you also to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund and New Brunswick Wildlife Council for their financial support.

**Wing Island Banding Station                    414-0700**

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, MA

**Susan Finnegan (bander)**

Chief Assistant: Gretchen Putonen

Assistants: Carolyn Kennedy, Judy Keller, Judith Bruce, Lenny Warren, Peter Brown, Dymrna Moore, and Gwen Shipley.

The Wing Island Banding Station is located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Nets are placed in shrubby thickets and in the salt marsh on a 50-ac parcel of salt marsh and upland habitat. The island abuts Cape Cod Bay to the north with Paines Creek and Stony Brook running by the eastern side and Quivett Creek running to the west.

Our fifth fall season began 7 Aug and continued through until 19 Nov. Winds were mainly from the south in August and October and from the north during September. The summer was on the cool side, and we noticed productivity of young was up from previous years. We banded a total of 1,101 birds of 58 species, 91% of those being HY birds. Our top species was the Gray Catbird—317 in all for the fall. We captured one Ruby-throated Hummingbird that was released unbanded.

Net hours totalled 2,063 for a capture rate of 54 new b/100nh with 15-27 nets being used. Our largest daily catch was on 8 Oct with a total of 178 new birds of 16 species. New species for the station captured in 2004 were Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Merlin, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Bicknell's Thrush. The numbers of warbler species were down with only 16 species this fall: American Redstart, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler (both Yellow and Western), Wilson's Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

A very successful banding demonstration was held on 11 Sep, and many people who were visiting the museum stopped by.

Many thanks to Gretchen Putonen and Carolyn Kennedy for all their time and effort this fall. Many thanks also to those assistants mentioned above for all their help. This station could not be run without the financial support of the French Foundation, EMS, and the helpful support of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

**Block Island Banding Station**      **411-0740**  
Rhode Island  
**Scott Comings, Kim Gaffett, Elise Lapham**  
**(banders)**

Assistants – Erica Anderson, Penny Lapham, Curt Milton, Charlie Schnell

It never ceases to amaze us how different each fall banding season can be. This year was another atypical year as far as regular fall migrants were concerned, which is likely due to the lack of favorable northwest winds during peak migration times. There were only two short duration northwest weather fronts. The first on either side of 6 Oct produced a flurry of activity. The second came through during the evening of 10 Oct before the wind switched to the southwest on 13 Oct, producing our best days for total numbers.

A review of the "Top Ten" list reveals some interesting shifts (Table 2). First Myrtle Warblers made a slight come-back from last year's "low," but numbers are still not what they used to be. It has been several years since we have had more Myrtles than we could handle and have had to release some unbanded. In addition, Red-eyed Vireo and thrush numbers seem low. On the upside, Eastern Phoebe numbers continue to grow with 38 this fall, the most ever. Eastern Towhee also had a strong presence matching 1999 and 2000 with 54 individuals. Another notable increase was in Northern Cardinal with 35 banded, a single season high, 27 of which were after-hatch-year.

In 2004, what we lacked in "normal" migration banding we more than made up for in surprises and unexpected banding opportunities. The first uncommon species was a Rusty Blackbird on 6 Oct, our first since 1993 and 13<sup>th</sup> for the Station. Next came a Cooper's Hawk, caught by one very tangled foot, on 22 Oct. Then on 28 Oct an immature Eastern Meadowlark flew into a net six feet from where we were clearing leaves. Both the Cooper's and Meadowlark were new species for the Block Island Banding Station (BIBS). On 4 Nov we found a Northern Shrike in a net—this is the Station's second record, the first being caught in a ground trap in 1975. Lastly, on 29 Nov DEM officers found a Dovekie on the West Beach. Apparently the bird had been tossed up during a recent storm. The bird appeared healthy, so we

banded and released it into the quiet waters of New Harbor. This is the second Dovekie banded at BIBS, the first being in 1970.

Last year we reported that we netted a banded Northern Saw-whet Owl on 26 Oct 2003. It turns out that this bird was originally banded on 1 Oct 2003 near Ile Rouge in the Province of Quebec.

For all the joys we derive from each banding season—whether it is noting an abundance of cardinals, getting a new species or recapturing a ten-year old bird—none of it would be as great without the opportunity to share the awe and delights with others. Certainly none of it would be possible without the help of many; most notably Scott Comings and our indispensable assistants.

**Island Beach State Park**      **395-0740**  
New Jersey

**Mary Doscher, Robert Pantle, Nick Pulcinella**  
**and Robert Yunick (banders)**

Assistants - Jennifer Hanley, Rebecca Beer, Ted Hicks

During the fall 2004 banding season, four banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island Beach State Park, between 6 Aug and 12 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 47 days during that 107-day period; there were five banding days in August, 14 in September, 21 in October and seven in November. There were three days with three of the stations in operation simultaneously, five days with two stations active and the remaining 39 days with only a single station active. In the discussion that follows, when referring to prior year's data, prior year averages are based on the seventeen-year period 1987-2003.

Our total of 2,562 birds banded was only 45% of the long-term yearly average, while our 1.31 birds per net-hour (b/nh) was 85% of average. The discrepancy between the percentages for captures and b/nh is attributable to a relatively low number of days in which multiple stations were operated—the four individuals banding this year was just over half of our long-term average of seven banders per season. Still, while the results were a marked improvement over the last three years when we averaged between 0.9 and 1.1 b/nh, the long term

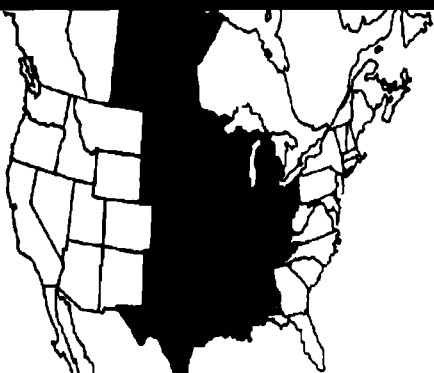
results indicate a rather pronounced downward trend in capture rates at this productive barrier beach banding site, despite little noticeable change in the habitat over that period.

The following table summarizes the best days of the season (either >200 banded, >25 species or b/nh >3.5).

Date (# stations operating)	# Species	# Birds	# B/NH	Comments
Oct 6 (2)	35	308	3.67	highest species total
Oct 11 (1)	22	134	5.36	highest capture rate
Oct 12 (1)	17	90	3.67	
Oct 21 (2)	20	202	2.45	
Oct 26 (2)	18	356	5.11	highest number banded

Birds of note this year included one each of Red-headed Woodpecker, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Kentucky Warbler, and two Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Thanks to Glenn R. Mahler for compiling the Island Beach Report.



## *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1922**

### **Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve Bird Banding – Avian Research Project 2004 Summary of Data**

The year 2004 marks the 21st year of this bird banding/avian research project. Banding was conducted on 33 days during the spring, summer, and fall. There was a total of 1,987 net hours of banding with 2,024 individual birds handled. A total of 1,681 individuals of 80 species of birds were banded this year. This was our most productive year to date. This season we obtained a permit to band hummingbirds. The permit came through at the end of spring migration, but we were able to band 13 individual Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a species newly banded for the marsh. We had captured hummingbirds for many years but had never banded them. We did have one recapture of one of the hummingbirds we had banded. Another

species newly banded for the marsh was a Worm-eating Warbler. This is a very rare migrant for Seneca County and only our third record at the marsh. These two species brought our total to 112 species banded at Springville Marsh. Uncommon species banded at the marsh this year included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (second time), two Northern Mockingbirds (only banded twice before), three Orange-crowned Warblers (only five birds banded previously), and an Orchard Oriole (second time). Sixteen species were banded in record high numbers this year.