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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2005 SW-Laurentian Mountains

Peter H. Homann

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) – Fall 2005 Report

Sue Finnegan
Region I Coordinator
Wing Island Banding Station
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
896 Main St.
Brewster, MA 02631

The regular Northeast Station reports are represented here. We welcome back Laurentian Mountains this year, although netting activities for 2005 had to be curtailed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Weather played a major role at a number of stations, due to the heavy rains and effects of hurricanes during the first two weeks in October. However, the numbers of birds banded as well as b/100nh was up across the region in 2005 from the previous year.

Highlights from the region included a first Pileated Woodpecker for St. Andrews; highest total of Hermit Thrushes ever for both Block Island and Island Beach; returning Fox Sparrows to Wing Island (not seen since 2000), and a first state record of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in November; and Baltimore Orioles and Blue-headed Vireos added to Bon Portage Island's top ten list for the first time. Although Appledore did not handle any new species, a Belted Kingfisher (1) is becoming a common capture each fall. On a dimmer note, Laurentian Mountains reported a steady decline of warblers from 1999 and not one Red-eyed Vireo banded there this year.

SW-Laurentian Mountains **455-0743**
Wentworth-Nord, QC
Peter H. Homann, bander

I could not report any banding results for 2004 because illness had prevented me from visiting our retreat in Canada. I was glad, therefore, to be able to resume my activities in 2005. The weather generally was favorable for netting because the temperatures were moderate and no day was lost

entirely due to rain, but there was more wind than I would have liked. Unfortunately, obligations back home forced us to return home in August, and injuries from a bad fall (unrelated to banding) restricted netting to the shore of the lake at our cottage for two weeks, leaving the lanes in the understory of mixed woods behind the cottage unused.

Because of the greatly curtailed netting activities, I contemplated not submitting a report at all but decided to provide a brief account anyway, mainly to report the unusual scarcity of warblers that was evident from visual observations and from the number of individuals that I banded this year. They comprised only about 28% of the total. For comparison, I extracted from previous years' records the numbers for the same nets used this year and the same days of operation. It turned out that the contribution of warblers to the totals for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 was 67%, 64%, 62%, 52% and 53%, respectively. I hope that this declining trend will not be sustained. As another piece of information, we note that not a single Red-eyed Vireo was banded. The only individual captured of this species was a female that had been banded as an after-hatching-year bird in 2002 and was netted also in 2003. Any attempts to explain my disappointing experience would be mere speculation. However, with regard to the local bird population, I cannot help reporting that feral cats made their debut in the area a few years ago.

Finally, I thank the Gascon and Shelly families for the continuing permission to set up nets on their properties.

St. Andrews Bird Banding Station **450-0670**
New Brunswick, NJ
Tracey Dean, bander
Assistants: Peter Doherty and Joanna Hubbard

The 2005 fall migration-monitoring project started on 24 Aug and the station's 14 mist nets were opened everyday that weather permitted, until 29