

2006

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2005 Bon Portage Island

Trina Fitzgerald

Dennis Brannen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Fitzgerald, Trina and Brannen, Dennis (2006) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2005 Bon Portage Island," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol31/iss2/9>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

Oct. The nets were taken down 5 Nov. Many days were lost to wind and rain this season as the effects of hurricanes (Katrina and Wilma) and tropical storms hit the area.

A total of 1232 birds, representing 55 species, was banded. Eighteen individuals banded in previous years were recaptured, and 117 were retrapped. Twelve Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and an adult Ruffed Grouse were captured and released unbanded.

There were three days when over 50 birds were banded. Blackpoll Warblers made up the majority of the 51 birds banded 18 Sep, as their migration numbers peaked. Black-capped Chickadees were on the move towards the end of September. Of the 53 birds banded 22 Sep, 31 were chickadees, and on 25 Sep, 31 of the 50 were chickadees. The most lopsided day was 29 Sep when 35 of the 42 birds were American Goldfinches.

The highest diversity of species was seen 2 Sep when 20 species were captured as mixed flocks of warblers moved through. In 2004, mixed flocks of warblers moved through at the end of September.

The most commonly banded species for 2005 was the Blackpoll Warbler, followed by the Black-capped Chickadee (Table 2). This is very different from the previous two years, as neither species appeared in top ten for 2004 and they ranked only 4th and 6th in 2003. The 144 Blackpolls were a station record for the species; and while we did not have the huge invasion of Black-capped Chickadees that we saw in 2001, the 135 banded this year was more than the three previous years combined.

The highlights for 2005 included:

1. The station's first Pileated Woodpecker. This was an impressive bird not only in size, but also in lung capacity.
2. The station's first Connecticut Warbler.
3. The station's second Scarlet Tanager—a green hatch-year male.
4. The station's second Gray-cheeked Thrush.
5. The 144 Blackpoll Warblers.

The 144 Blackpolls were twice as many as the previous best year (64 in 2003) and more than the

last seven years combined. Blackpolls started appearing the first week in September, with numbers peaking between the 16th and 18th. They moved through steadily until the middle of October; the last ones were banded and released on 11 Oct. It was interesting to measure the progressive weight changes of the Blackpolls throughout the season. A lean Blackpoll, with a fat score of 1 or 0, usually weighed around 11 to 13 g, and by the end of the fall with a fat score of 4 or 5 the weights were close to 20 g. It was quite a struggle for some of the "butterballs" to clear the bushes upon release!

Banding demonstrations are an important part of the station's mandate and it is closely tied to the HMSC Public Education Department. All students on campus are invited to come and learn about the banding project, and many take advantage of the offer. Apart from learning what information the banding/tagging project collects, the students also learn how they can contribute if they find a banded bird.

The station thanks the New Brunswick Wildlife Council for providing major financial support for the daily operation of the Station, and volunteers Joanna Hubbard and Peter Doherty for their enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to the individual birds as well as the banding protocol.

Bon Portage Island 432-0654
Seal Island 432-0660

Atlantic Bird Observatory (ABO), NS

Trina Fitzgerald and Dennis Brannen, banders

Assistants: Anna Calvert, Bruno Pare, Devan Archibald, Jennifer Baldy, Marika Bourdeaux, Joe Nocera, Wanda Fitzgerald, Emily Turner-Brannen, Dave Shutler, Paula Dodaro,

Overall, 151 species were detected and 1323 individuals were banded comprising 75 species. This year, we had two new species occur on the top ten list—Baltimore Oriole and Blue-headed Vireo. Approximately 100 Baltimore Orioles arrived on 18 Sep. We banded 33 individuals on this day and had a seasonal total of 46.

October was an extremely stormy month. Gale force winds, rain and fog interfered with banding activities on both islands. Gale easterlies shifted to gale southwesterlies on 16 Oct, which coincided

with the arrival of a large number of migrants on Bon Portage Island. White-throated and Chipping sparrows were the most common species of sparrow and Yellow-rumped and Western Palm warblers were the most common warbler species. Also, Blue-headed Vireos were numerous during this period. The winds finally ceased on 18 Oct and we were able to band 119 individuals, representing 24 species. Near the end of October, hurricane Wilma brought Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Blackpoll Warblers, Chimney Swifts, and American Avocets to the island.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703 ME

Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright, banders

Assistants: Amber Bratcher, Kevin Bronson, Liz Burton, Emily Caruana, Cheryl Deane, Lindsay Herlihy, Leslie Latt, Sarah Musilli, Charlotte Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Nick Shungu, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh

Submitted by **Sara Morris**, compier

The fall 2005 season was a good one on Appledore. The 2126 birds banded was higher than the last three years (1892, 1379, and 1565 in 2002, 2003, and 2004 respectively) and slightly higher than our 10-year average of 1897. Likewise, we handled slightly more species this year (83) than our 10-year average of 76. The weather was not a large factor in netting during the fall: bad weather resulted in closing nets on part of nine days, but only four involved opening late, and we were able to band every day. The number of birds handled per day ranged from 6 to 185, with an average of 52 new birds/day. A regular problem on the island during the fall is defoliation due to webworms, but this year there was no sign of caterpillar outbreak close to the nets. As in 2004, the station closed earlier than anticipated because of the date the Shoals Marine Lab closed for the season.

The station did not handle any new species. A few regular but infrequently encountered species were handled in higher-than-average numbers: Connecticut Warbler (8, average is 3) Downy Woodpecker (15, average is 5), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (9, average is 3). The only species that was less frequently encountered than normal was

the Least Flycatcher (5, average is 20). Other notable captures included a Belted Kingfisher (it is becoming common to capture one each fall), an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a White-eyed Vireo, two Yellow-throated Vireos, a Brewster's Warbler (a hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers), three Hooded Warblers, a Kentucky Warbler, and a Worm-eating Warbler.

We recaptured several birds originally banded in previous years that are likely breeders on the island. These birds were primarily from 2004, including a Gray Catbird, two Yellow Warblers, and three Common Yellowthroats. We also captured a Song Sparrow and a Yellow Warbler banded in 2003 and a Common Yellowthroat banded in 2001.

During the fall, we presented some of our banding results at the Inland Bird Banding Association and Michigan Field Ornithologists and Bird Banders meeting at the Kellogg Biological Field Station in Michigan. These papers included a talk on using open population models on songbird banding data entitled "They're staying how long?: Methods of and complications in determining stopover estimates using banding data" and two posters on stopover ecology: "Timing is everything: Seasonal comparison of migratory stopover" and "Location, location, location: Comparison of stopover at two sites."

The station provided banding demonstrations for several adult education classes, visiting classes from nearby universities, Elderhostel groups visiting from Star Island, and other groups visiting the Shoals Marine Lab. We continue to be extremely grateful to the Shoals Marine Lab and Canisius College for their continued support of our banding operations. We are also fortunate to have such a dedicated and generous group of volunteers.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, MA
Susan Finnegan and Gretchen Putonen, banders

Assistants: Carolyn Kennedy, Judy Keller, Judith Bruce, Gwen Shipley.

Our fifth fall season began 12 Aug and continued through 13 Nov. Winds were mainly from the south