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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2005 Wing Island Banding Station

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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

in August and October and from the north during September. Many days were lost from 8 Oct through 15 Oct due to storms. The summer was on the cool side and we noticed productivity of young was up from previous years. We banded a total of 1434 birds of 69 species, 91% of those being HY birds. Our top species was the Gray Catbird—409 in all for the fall. We captured one Ruby-throated Hummingbird that was released unbanded.

Net hours totaled 2,367.87 for a capture rate of 61 new b/100nh. There were 13 to 26 nets used. Our largest daily catch was on 21 Oct for a total of 213 birds of 21 species. We added one new species for the station this fall, an Alder Flycatcher. Twenty-two species of warblers were banded: American Redstart, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blue-winged, Canada, Chestnut-sided, Common Yellowthroat, Connecticut, Magnolia, Myrtle, Nashville, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Pine, Prairie, Palm (both Yellow and Western), Wilson's, Yellow, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

A highlight of the season was capturing a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 4 Nov. That is a first state (Massachusetts) record of a YBFL being reported in November. We banded more kinglets this fall than in any other year. Fox Sparrows also returned to the banding site. Our last record of a Fox Sparrow was in 2000. Some interesting observations included a HY Golden-crowned Kinglet with feather lice with most of its greater coverts eaten, and a Yellow-shafted Flicker with orange coloration on an emerging rectrice as well as orange shafts on emerging primaries. We captured a young catbird numerous times with an unusual molt strategy and an AHY catbird that was still in molt on 5 Nov.

Numerous migrant returns appeared in our nets including Gray Catbirds: 1 at least 5 yrs old, 1 at least 4 yrs old, 5 - 2 yrs old; 1- 2-yr-old Prairie Warbler; and Common Yellowthroats: 1 at least 5 yrs old, 1 at least 4 yrs old, and 3 at least 3 yrs old.

Banding demonstrations were held on Fridays in the summer for the museum campers. Other successful banding demos were held on 24 & 25 Sep, plus many people stopped by that were visiting the museum.

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, and the helpful support of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

Block Island Banding Station 411-0740
Rhode Island

Kim Gaffett, Elise Lapham, banders

Assistants: Penny Lapham, Charlie Schnell, Erica Anderson, Wade Thompson, Curt Milton, Ben Swan, Jessy and Ebben Howarth, Scott Comings, Jameson, Alison Padien

Once again it was an interesting fall banding season, especially if you consider some of the numbers and the fact that there was essentially no banding between 8 and 16 Oct due to an unusual period of rainy northeast storms. But when the rain ended, the prevailing wind direction went northwest and we were inundated with birds.

During the season we had six 100+ bird days. Five of those days occurred between 17 and 21 Oct; during these five days, about half the nets were closed and still we banded 814 birds.

Highlights of the fall analysis include: The 190 Hermit Thrushes banded is the greatest number in a fall season in the history of the station (average number of fall Hermit Thrushes is 47). A rebounding of Myrtle Warblers: the most since 2000. In that year, 812 were banded and 465 were released unbanded. Our first Great Crested Flycatcher since 1994.

Of special note is the unusually high 50 b/100nh which is directly related to the high intensity of banding between 17 and 22 Oct.

As always, Elise and I are thankful and appreciative of the many hours that our friends and family devote to the work at the banding station. Without the assistance of Penny Lapham, Charlie Schnell, Erica Anderson, Wade Thompson, Curt Milton, Ben Swan, Jessy and Ebben Howarth, Scott Comings, Jameson, and especially Alison Padien, we simply could not band as many birds or enjoy it as much.