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

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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.