

2007

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2006 Appledore Island Migration Station

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Recommended Citation

Morris, Sara (2007) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2006 Appledore Island Migration Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 32 : Iss. 2 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol32/iss2/17>

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SW-Laurentian Mountains**455-0743**

Wentworth-Nord, Quebec

Peter H. Homann, bander

After not banding in 2004 and very limited banding activities in 2005, everything was back to normal in 2006. As usual, nets were placed into the shrubbery at the shore of a lake and at the edge of nearby mixed woods along a dirt road. In early August, a violent storm ended a period of unusually hot and humid days and the weather became relatively cool, rainy and, occasionally, windy.

The availability of a good crop of dogwood berries (*Cornus alternifolia*) promised to make the season a good one for Red-eyed Vireos after two very bad years, and it did. American Robins were attracted also, as were Hermit Thrush and Veery. I netted only five Swainson's Thrushes, while in 2002 with an equally good supply of dogwood berries, I banded 18. The number of captured warblers again was disturbingly low, half of them, in fact, having been Myrtle Warblers. Still, there was a surprise. For the first time in 40 years I recorded Western Palm Warblers at this site, where one really would not expect this species to show up. I detected one bird in a cedar at the lake on 6 Sep and, dispelling my suspicion that this was a fluke, I netted two at the shore about two weeks later.

From among the recaptures of birds banded in previous years, I mention a Red-eyed Vireo that I had banded in 1999 as an AHY individual and had not encountered since. I now determined that it was a male. I also recaptured a female banded in 2002, but am not sure whether these two individuals were a breeding pair.

I thank our neighbors, the Gascon and Shelly families, for their interest in my activities and their continuing permission to set up nets on their properties.

St. Andrews**450-0670****Bird Banding Station**

New Brunswick

Tracey Dean, bander

Banding Assistants: Alana Demko, Heidi Murray

Dull is the best way to describe the 2006 fall migration in St. Andrews. The clear blue skies and

calm wind in September were perfect for all kinds of outdoor activities except mist netting birds. Only 469 managed to find their way to our nets. This is well below the 2005 totals of 774 birds and 2004 totals of 596 birds. October was not much better, with only 247 birds banded. This time the weather was not good for any outdoor activities, as the wind blew and the rain fell.

Despite the uncooperative weather, two new species were captured: a Pine Siskin and a Prothonotary Warbler. The Station also recorded its second Connecticut Warbler in two years.

Translating birds banded into birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) showed a very average year. Black-throated Green Warbler was the only commonly captured species that was well below average with 0.47 b/100nh vs an average of 1.58 b/100nh. Otherwise, most numbers were slightly down, but there were no major influxes or major absences.

Banding demonstrations were given to high school and university students staying on the Huntsman Marine Science Centre campus. One group was thrilled to catch a Sharp-shinned Hawk and closely see its array of weapons.

Thank you to volunteers Alana Demko and Heidi Murray who patiently made the rounds of many empty nets. Hopefully 2007 will provide more birds and more interest.

Appledore Island**425-0703****Migration Station**

York County, ME

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

Assistants: Liz Burton, Will Clark, MaryAnn Cluggish, Carol Cohn, Mariel Cohn, Lindsay Herlihy, Leslie Latt, Emily LeGrand, Charlotte Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Martha Stauffer, Carol Tashjian, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh

Submitted by Sara Morris, compiler

During the fall 2006 season, the station marked a major milestone—we banded our 90,000th bird at the Appledore Island Migration Banding Station. However, that was the most historic event of the fall. In general, the 2006 fall migration on Appledore

was low. The total number of birds captured was only 1,492, which is lower than our fall average of $1,873 \pm 509$. So, although we operated for close to our average number of net hours (2006: 4290, average 4391 ± 1006), the number of birds captured per 100 net-hours was a bit low (2006: 34.8; average: 42.9 ± 7.2). Part of this decrease is likely due to closing at the end of the third week in September and missing many of the Neotropical migrants. Weather was not a major influence this year. We did not lose any full days to bad weather and, although we were closed for part of the seven days, nets were closed mostly during afternoons and evenings.

We did not band any new species this year, but the volunteers were excited by a number of species we capture only occasionally, including a Belted Kingfisher, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and a Dickcissel. Four species were caught in numbers higher than normal: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2006: 59; average: 32 ± 11), American Robin (2006: 10; average: 2.4 ± 1.4), Wilson's Warbler (2006: 61; average 33 ± 12), and Lincoln's Sparrow (2006: 8; average: 3.4 ± 1.7). No species were below their normal ranges, but several seemed low. For example, 87 Common Yellowthroats was a bit lower than average (141 ± 28), although still within range. Likewise, several species that are highly variable across years and are generally later migrants were all within their normal ranges, but were lower than average (Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2; Brown Creeper: 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4; and White-throated Sparrow: 6). Also, Yellow Warblers were within their normal range (2006: 20, average: 62 ± 39), but were substantially lower than recent years (61, 101, 166, 57, 60 in 2001-2005 respectively). In addition to birds, we also captured a red bat and silver-haired bat.

A number of groups visited for banding demonstrations, including both credit and non-credit classes at the Shoals Marine Lab, the wildlife techniques class from the University of New Hampshire, several visiting bird clubs, an invertebrates class from Oberlin College, visiting faculty from Rider College, an Earthwatch group, several Seacoast Science Center Camp groups, and several groups from the conferences and

workshops on Star Island. One of our assistants also celebrated her 50th birthday on the island.

We continue to use the data we collect for a number of studies. We continue to work on the issue of open population models in the study of stopover ecology and have published two recent papers using the Appledore data (*Auk* 122:319-328 and *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 118:513-526). The station participated in the avian influenza monitoring program coordinated by LaMMNA and continues to collect ticks for the study of Lyme disease in coordination with Maine Medical Center. Four of the banders from the station attended the North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz in October. Our work could not continue without the faithful and generous support of our volunteers, and financial and logistic support from the Shoals Marine Lab and Canisius College. We are very grateful to have this substantial and continued support.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA 02631

Susan Finnegan (Master Bander)

Bander: **Gretchen Putonen**

Assistants: Carolyn Kennedy, Judy Keller, Judith Bruce, Antonia Stephens, Gwen Shipley, Noe Karlson, Peter Brown

Our sixth fall season began 4 Aug and continued through 11 Nov. Winds were mainly from the north in August and September and south in October and November. The summer was on the cool side and we noticed productivity of young was up from previous years. We banded a total of 1,785 birds of 66 species, 93% of those being HY birds. Our top species was Myrtle Warbler—553 in all for the fall. Our most exciting capture was of an AHY male Black-chinned Hummingbird captured 6 Aug. This is only the second state record of a Black-chinned in Massachusetts. Three Rufous Hummingbirds were banded during the month of November.

Net hours totaled 2,731 for a capture rate of 65 new b/100nh; 11-29 nets were used. Our largest daily catch was on 8 Oct for a total of 201 birds. I had to close the nets early on 4 Oct due to too many birds and not enough help. This definitely would have