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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2006 Wing Island Banding Station

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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

been a 200+ day. The best species diversity of 26 species was on 17 Sep. We added six new species for the station this fall: a Least Sandpiper, captured in one of our marsh nets, and Dickcissel, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl and the Black-chinned and Rufous hummingbirds. Twenty species of warblers were banded: American Redstart, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Common Yellowthroat, Connecticut, Magnolia, Mourning, Myrtle, Nashville, Northern Waterthrush, Orange-crowned, Ovenbird, Pine, Prairie, Palm (both Yellow and Western), Wilson's, Yellow, and Yellow-breasted Chat. We banded only three species of vireos: Red-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Blue-headed. Thrushes banded include Hermit, Gray-cheeked, and Veery.

An advanced bander workshop was held during the week of 20-25 Aug. Five participants sharpened their banding skills. Banding demonstrations were held on occasional Fridays in the summer for the museum campers. Another successful banding demo was held on 16 Sep for the Brookline/Cape Cod bird clubs.

Many thanks to bander Gretchen Putonen and assistant 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 Cape Cod Museum of Natural History allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility.

Island Beach State Park 395-0740
New Jersey

Banders: *Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks, Glenn Mahler, Robert McKinney, Robert Pantle, Robert Yunick*

Assistants: Marge Appleby, Laura Barry, Rebecca Beer Laboy, Chita McKinney, Martha O'Rourke, Alex Tongas

Submitted by Glenn R. Mahler, compiler

During the fall 2006 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 9 Aug and 25 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 64 days during that 108-day period. There were eight banding days in August, 19 in September, 27 in October and 10 in November.

There was one day with five of the stations in operation simultaneously, two days with four stations active, five days with three stations active, 25 days with two stations active and the remaining 31 days with only a single station active. In the discussion that follows, when referring to prior-years' data, prior-year averages are based on the nineteen-year period 1987-2005.

Our total of 5,557 birds banded was 103% of long-term average, the first time we have been above average since 1994. However, our 127.4 b/100nh was 82% of average, reflecting a long-term downward trend in our capture rate.

The following table summarizes the best days of the season (>200 banded, >25 species or bp/100nh >350).

Date (# stations operating)	# Species	# Birds/100nh	# Birds
10 Oct (1)	21	324	304.2
16 Oct (2)	18	238	259.4
22 Oct (5)	32	1,031	450.8*
26 Oct (4)	20	349	337.9
27 Oct (2)	17	224	215.3
3 Nov (2)	13	334	563.7**

* highest species total and highest number banded

** highest capture rate

The season got off to a lackluster start, with no major flight days. Most of the season's migration seemed to be lagging about a week behind usual in the timing of migration. Late October into early November provided the best flights of the season, with the best capture rate for the season actually occurring rather unexpectedly on 3 Nov.

Birds of note this year included a Wilson's Snipe, eight No. Saw-whet Owls, and an incredible 444 Hermit Thrushes. The Hermit Thrush total almost triples last year's all time high of 135; and, in fact, even the 197 of this species captured on 3 Nov alone exceeded the previous season-high total. Also of note (but not banded) was a first year Great Blue Heron that caused a great commotion when it blundered into and knocked down a net that was half filled with small landbirds!