

2008

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2007 St Andrews Bird Banding Station

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### Recommended Citation

Dean, Tracey (2008) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2007 St Andrews Bird Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol33/iss2/13>

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Table 2 (cont'd). Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region I - Northeast, Fall 2007

Joppa Flats, MA			Manomet, MA			Wing Island, MA			Island Beach SP, NJ			
Species	Number		Species	Number	% HY	Species	Number	% HY	Species	Number	% HY for known-age birds	% HY for all birds
1. GRCA	277		GRCA	500	95	GRCA (2)	449	93	GRCA	306	73	72
2. WTSP	145		BCCH	431	31	MYWA (1)	328	93	WTSP	290	75	74
3. GCKI	78		MYWA	222	84	SOSP (3)	165	94	GCKI	265	79	80
4. MYWA	63		ETTI	197	28	AMGO (4)	90	76	SOSP	247	99	91
5. RCKI	61		WTSP	99	84	BCCH (6)	70	90	BRCR	205	94	73
6. BRCR	56		AMRE	66	99	COYE (5)	62	89	RCKI	195	86	73
7. SCJU	55		BLJA	58	79	RTHU	52	54	COYE	163	87	87
8. COYE	49		REVI	53	100	NOCA (8)	45	98	SWSP	153	93	93
9. SOSP	36		RCKI	49	27	SWSP	37	95	MYWA	135	84	84
10. HETH	35		NOCA	46	75	REVI (7)	31	100	BTBW	93	92	90
10.									AMRE	93	95	95

( ) = Top 10 order from previous year.

**SW-Laurentian Mountains****455-0743**

Wentworth-Nord, Quebec

**Peter H. Homann (bander)**

As usual, I operated nets at the shore of a lake between shrubs and young trees and along an unpaved road in the understory of mixed woods. Unfortunately, my contributions to the Atlantic Flyway Review may become increasingly irrelevant because of the small numbers of long-distance migrants I have been able to capture recently. The trend continued in 2007. Thrushes and Red-eyed Vireos were scarce because of a poor berry crop, but warblers were quite rare also: only 59 individuals of 13 species were banded, 25 of these having been Myrtle Warblers. The low numbers of captured warblers I have been concerned about in recent years can only in part be explained with the loss of one netting lane when it had become inaccessible four years ago. Another contributing factor could be a small clearing (approximately 50 m x 50 m) near two of my netting lanes along the road that formed as the result of recent windstorms and subsequent human action. I also have to take into account the bird feeder that my family put up at the cottage in 2003 approximately 12 m from the two netting lanes at the lake. Being assured of this food supply, Black-capped Chickadees have no need to make wide-

ranging foraging excursions, thereby depriving warblers of the opportunity to join them in roving mixed flocks. Consistent with this scenario is that in the nets at the lake and nearby woods I usually captured only single warblers. The exception was the Myrtle Warbler, which typically associates in single-species groups. I must point out, however, that warblers have been a rather rare sight also elsewhere in the area in late summer of recent years.

The situation I have just described is also reflected in the listing of the ten most commonly banded species. The table shows that six of the top seven species were in some way "feeder birds," either directly or as beneficiaries of the scraps that had fallen to the ground.

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

New Brunswick, Canada

**Banders: Tracey Dean (compiler), James Junda, Brian Dalzell**

Assistants: Alain Clavette and Andre Cormier

The 2007 fall migration-monitoring project started on 21 Aug and the Station's 14 mist nets were opened, whenever possible, until 3 Nov. September was mainly sunny with calm winds and only two days were lost to rain. October was stormier and nets were open on 17 days.

In total, 1,094 birds, representing 59 species were banded. Twelve birds banded from previous years were recaptured, and 83 birds that had been banded earlier in 2007 were retrapped. Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and four adult Ruffed Grouse were captured, admired, and released unbanded.

Banding in September was slow, averaging less than 20 birds a day. The best day was 30 Sep with 45 birds of 20 species banded—12 of which were American Goldfinches. The goldfinches continued to feed on the knapweed plants around the net lanes into October and 52 were banded on 1 Oct and another 50 on 8 Oct. The best day of the fall was 8 Oct with 99 birds banded. The highest diversity—20 species were caught 30 Sep.

The most commonly banded species was the American Goldfinch (238), followed distantly by Black-capped Chickadee (144) and White-throated Sparrow (136). Notably absent from the top 10 list is Blackpoll Warbler, with only nine banded.

All warbler species are below the seven-year average. Is this a reflection of declining populations or the clear calm weather of September and the birds didn't stop in St. Andrews? The only long-distant migrant above average was the Red-eyed Vireo.

Birds, as usual, moved through in waves. Flycatchers were gone by early September. Most of the warblers moved through in September with a Nashville and Black-throated Green lingering in October, but numbers were well down from other years. After the warblers came, the sparrows with numbers of White-throated Sparrows peaking on 8 Oct. There was no big movement of thrushes this year. Flocks of chickadees moved through from mid-to-late September, then another wave in mid-October, with a high of 39 banded on 14 Oct. There appears to be a strong movement of Black-capped Chickadees every second year.

The arrival of winter species—Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Tree Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwing, and Pine Grosbeak (observed not caught)—in mid-October was exceptionally early. While American Tree Sparrows regularly winter in the St. Andrews area redpolls, siskins, Bohemian

Waxwings, and Pine Grosbeaks only appear when there are food shortages in their usual winter range.

The last day of banding, 3 Nov, produced an unusual variety, with the Station's first Eastern Towhee, 19 Common Redpolls, and three Bohemian Waxwings.

Thank you to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund and the New Brunswick Wildlife Council for providing financial support for the daily operation of the Station, and to the Huntsman Marine Science Centre for all the in-kind support.

#### **Atlantic Bird Observatory**

**Bon Portage Island (BP)**

**432-0654**

**Seal Island (SI)**

**432-0660**

Shelburne and Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia

**Banders/Staff: Trina Fitzgerald (compiler), Tina Leonard, Kyla Ercit, Lucas Berrigan**

Assistants: Gareth Akerman, Alexandra Schaich-Borg, Stephen Caird, Paula Dodaro, Danielle Ethier, Caleb Fisher, Eloise Girard, Julie Means, Robin Rauch, Josh Sayers, Erika Taketa

Overall, 2,261 individuals were banded (comprising 73 species), 153 species were censused, and a grand total of 186 species were detected (both island sites combined).

On BP, early movements of Traill's Flycatchers (likely all Alder Flycatchers) and Yellow Warblers were observed on 28 Aug. First movements of Black-and-white Warblers and American Redstarts were detected on 6 Sep. Numbers of Black-and-white Warblers peaked on 14 Sep with approximately 80 individuals observed. Blackpoll Warbler numbers peaked on 29 Sep (approximately 100 individuals were observed). Early October was marked by significant migratory movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers (approximately 2,800 were observed on 7 Oct) and Yellow Palm Warblers (approximately 200 individuals were observed between 7 and 9 Oct). Our first wave of Slate-colored Juncos and White-throated Sparrows occurred 8 Oct, with approximately 80 individuals observed for each species. A second wave of Slate-colored Juncos and White-throated Sparrows occurred on 17 Oct, with similar numbers detected. Large numbers of American Pipits were observed during 14 and 19 Oct; approximately