

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2007 Atlantic Bird Observatory

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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

1,300 individuals were observed. Similar species-specific patterns, involving fewer individuals, were observed on SI. However, there were a few exceptions. White-crowned Sparrows were very numerous on 17 Oct, with approximately 120 individuals detected. This species was scarcely detected on BP. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were detected in higher numbers on SI. Approximately 120 individuals were observed, whereas on BP only 40 individuals were detected.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: Sara Morris

Banders: David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright

Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Peggy Buckley, Liz Burton, Carol Cushing, Miyako Fujiwara, PK Martini, Karen Mitchell, Charlotte Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Gwen Shipley, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede

The fall 2007 season was our slowest since 1993. During 2007, we banded only 1,315 birds, which is well below our average since 1990 ($1,841 \pm 509$ birds). Similarly, our number of species captured was low this year, 67, compared to our average of 75 ± 6 . Weather was not a major influence this year, as we did not lose any full days to bad weather and, although we were closed for part of six days, most of the time closed was in the afternoon and evening. Consequently, our number of net-hours (4,412 nh) was very close to our average ($4,392 \pm 1,006$). Our number of birds per net-hour (29.8 birds/nh) was the lowest since we began the expanded fall season in 1990 (average 42.1 ± 7.2). As in 2006, we closed at the end of the third week in September and missed many of the short-distance migrants.

We did not capture any new species during the fall, nor did we capture any species with few total captures at the station. The most unusual bird was a partially albino Magnolia Warbler captured in August. Many of our typical fall migrants were not as common as normal: Red-eyed Vireo (2007: 97; average: 201 ± 96), American Redstart (2007: 67; average: 126 ± 41), Ovenbird (2007: 14; average: 31 ± 12), and Common Yellowthroat (2007: 59; average: 134 ± 30). Three species were much more numerous than normal: Red-breasted Nuthatch (2007: 124; average: 47 ± 49), Baltimore Oriole (2007: 90; average 34 ± 12 , previous high 48),

Purple Finch (2007: 44; average: 14 ± 12). The Baltimore Oriole numbers were particularly impressive because they almost doubled our previous high of 48. Our nets also caught a red bat one evening.

Our banding data were used in a study of the incidence and effects of ticks on migrating birds during stopover that we published in *Northeastern Naturalist*. The Appledore data were also the focus of an invited paper, Monitoring Migration: Lessons learned from Appledore Island, Maine, for the "Lessons from Long-term Monitoring Studies" symposium at the Association of Field Ornithologists meeting in Orono, ME. We are also continuing to collect ticks for our collaboration with the Maine Medical Center on the study of birds and Lyme disease.

The banding station continues to be a popular attraction for students in credit and non-credit classes at the Shoals Marine Lab and for many visitors to the Isles of Shoals. We are pleased to have the opportunity to share our interest in birds with so many visitors to the island. We are extremely grateful to the Shoals Marine Lab for the continued financial and logistic support of the banding station. We also appreciate the continued funding by Canisius College and the many contributions our volunteers, who are extremely generous with their time and financial support.

Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Manomet, MA

**Banders: Trevor Lloyd-Evans (compiler),
Maura Orrell-Charles, Meghan Powell**

Assistants: Kyle Kaminski, Sarah Thomsen, Ian Davies, and many volunteers

Manomet Bird Observatory, located on the western side of Cape Cod Bay, Plymouth Co., MA ($41^{\circ}50'N$, $70^{\circ}30'W$), is characterized by brushy, second-growth deciduous woodland, bordered on the east and south by a steep, eroding coastal bluff and on the west and north by brushy wetlands. Dominant tree species on the 7-ha plot include black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), shadbush (*Amelanchier* sp.), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). Common catbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), bayberry (*Myrica pensyl-*