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

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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  $75 \pm 6$ . 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  $42.1 \pm 7.2$ ). 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:  $201 \pm 96$ ), American Redstart (2007: 67; average:  $126 \pm 41$ ), Ovenbird (2007: 14; average:  $31 \pm 12$ ), and Common Yellowthroat (2007: 59; average:  $134 \pm 30$ ). Three species were much more numerous than normal: Red-breasted Nuthatch (2007: 124; average:  $47 \pm 49$ ), Baltimore Oriole (2007: 90; average  $34 \pm 12$ , previous high 48),

Purple Finch (2007: 44; average:  $14 \pm 12$ ). 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-*

*vanica*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), honey-suckle (*Lonicera morrowi*), arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) are the principal understory species. Habitat succession is, for the most part, unchecked, but the site's location on an exposed coastal bluff results in annual natural "pruning" by harsh winter storms that probably reduce the degree of change in habitat structure over time. Small fields and grassland borders within the study site are mown routinely. Historic photos of the area indicate that during the early 1920s most of the study area consisted of open sheep pastures, but by the time banding operations were begun in 1966 the site had already acquired the brushy, second-growth condition that characterizes it today. An individual black cherry tree was photographed in 1966, with a bander for height comparison, in a net lane about 10 m inland from the ocean bluff. By 2007, the tree had only grown an estimated 25% in height, probably typical for the exposed coastal net lanes.

About 350,000 birds have been banded at Manomet to date. The spring and fall migration banding program started here at the (then) Ernst House porch in the fall of 1966. We are thus in our 42<sup>nd</sup> year of data collection and education programs at this site. This fall we continued to run 50 mist nets on the same dates and in the same locations as the previous years, giving us an unparalleled comparison of range expansions and contractions, yearly variation of migration, survival, and long-term population change.

Formal education programs at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and conservation biology. Onsite programs for schools were below average this year, as school and parent concerns about exposure to mosquito-transmitted diseases persisted. Visiting groups included members, scouts, schools, universities, and adults from the local community. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walk in!

The numbers: New Bandings	2,352
Repeat Captures	1,411
TOTAL HANDLED - 3,763 of 80 species	

This autumn, an above-average number of birds was banded, more than in seven years of the previous decade. August was busy with catbirds and other dispersing local birds, most of September hot and slow, then a peak in the last week of September through October. After three poor falls for berry, nut, and seed production, 2007 was a productive year for migrant food. Perhaps the three previous years of defoliation by caterpillars had ended just as northeastern Canada reported a very poor seed crop, but the result was plenty of natural food for stopover migrants here in 2007. Our busiest days were 09 Oct (161 captures), 17 Oct (114), 04 Sep (105), 15 Oct (101) and 24 Sep (100). It was encouraging that 12 species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last ten years; these included dispersing species like White-breasted Nuthatch, short-distance migrants (incl. Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee) and nine Neotropical migrants (incl. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, American Redstart, Ovenbird). The two 10-year lows were Black-throated Blue Warbler (only 11 banded) and a rare zero for Winter Wren. New bandings were led by Gray Catbirds, as usual, despite a significant dispersal movement of Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice.

We normally band few non-passerines, so single Red-shouldered (a handsome adult) and Broad-winged hawks, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Red-bellied Woodpecker were noteworthy. A single Bay-breasted Warbler was the first since 2000, while three Connecticut and two Hooded warblers were more than usual.

Notable recaptures this fall (71 from previous seasons) included: a Blue Jay first banded 07 May 2003 (5 years old); 4-year-old singles of chickadee, Blue Jay, catbird and cardinal; nine 3-year-olds and 57 banded birds between 1 and 2 years old.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2007 such a success. We are also greatly indebted to Manomet members and to several foundations for financial support of these programs.