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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2007 Wing Island Banding Station

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Wing Island

414-0700

Banding Station

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA

Banders: *Susan Finnegan (compiler), Gretchen Putonen, Carolyn Kennedy, Gwen Shipley*

Assistants: Judith Bruce, Judy Keller, Leah Finity, Tom Burgess, Peter Brown, Bill Finnegan, and Kalina Desseaux.

Our seventh fall season began 9 Aug and continued through 14 Nov. Northerly winds prevailed in August and September and more southerly winds in October. We banded a total of 1,711 birds of 77 species, 90% of those were HY birds. Our top species vacillates every year between Myrtle Warbler and Gray Catbird, with Gray Catbird winning out this year—449 in all for the fall. Our most exciting capture was a HY MacGillivray's Warbler captured 22 Oct. This is the fourteenth state record of a MacGillivray's in Massachusetts. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded at a home on Martha's Vineyard and three Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at nearby homes.

Net hours totaled 3,978 for a capture rate of 43 new birds/100nh. This is lower than in previous years, but we were able to open our nets more often this year. Nets used were 13 to 34. Our largest daily catch was on 14 Oct, for a total of 135 birds. The best species diversity of 23 species was on 1 Oct. We added four new species and one new race for the station this fall: a beautiful immature female Northern Harrier, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler (finally!), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, and the MacGillivray's Warbler. Twenty-five species of warblers were banded. We rarely band Purple Finches and capturing one on 30 Aug seemed especially early. Numerous other Purple Finches were captured during September and October, along with another rarely captured species, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Other nearby banding stations were reporting increased numbers of these species also.

We had 27 returns from birds banded in previous years. This does not include returns we may have captured in the spring or summer and again in fall. Five catbirds returned with one at least 5 yr old and one 2 yr old. We had 18 Song Sparrow returns, with two at least 3 yr old. Three Black-capped Chickadee returns included one 3 yr old and one 2 yr old.

A special return was that of an American Goldfinch first banded as a HY on 6 Sep 2002 and was not recaptured until this year. Instances of hippoboscids were down, with only two individuals found infested—a first-year male Common Yellowthroat and a young Northern Cardinal. We had one Common Yellowthroat infected with a minor case of avian pox. Bill deformities were found on five first-year individuals; a deformed upper mandible on both a Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow, a deformed lower mandible that extended far beyond the upper on a House Sparrow, and crossed bills found on a Myrtle Warbler and Gray Catbird.

We continue to pull ticks from birds in cooperation with the Cape Cod Extension Service, as we have since 2001, and are currently writing a paper on our findings.

Many thanks to banders Gretchen Putonen and Carolyn Kennedy and assistant Judith Bruce for all their time and effort this fall, despite their busy schedules. Many thanks also to those banders and assistants mentioned above for all their help. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility and the banding station could not be run without the financial support of the French Foundation.

Island Beach State Park

395-0740

Seaside Park, New Jersey

Banders: *Bruce Adams, Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks, Glenn Mahler (compiler), Robert McKinney, and Robert Yunick*

Assistants: Chita McKinney and Alex Tongas

During the fall 2007 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 18 Aug and 25 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 56 days during that 100-day period. There were four banding days in August, 18 in September, 23 in October and 11 in November. There was one day with five of the stations in operation simultaneously, two days with four stations active, three days with three stations active, thirteen days with two stations active, and the remaining 33 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 20-year period 1987-2006. Our