

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Wing Island Banding Station

Susan Finnegan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Finnegan, Susan (2008) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2007 Wing Island Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 1 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol33/iss1/17>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

- Black-capped Chickadees (11) at 4 (6), 4+, 5, 5+ (2) and 8 years old
- American Robins at 4 and 4+ years old
- Gray Catbird at 4 years old
- Yellow Warblers (7) at 4 (2), 4+, 5, 5+, 6+, and 7+ years old
- Common Yellowthroat at 4 years old
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak at 4 years old
- Chipping Sparrow at 4 years old
- Song Sparrows (2) at 4 years old
- White-throated Sparrow at 4 years old
- Red-winged Blackbird at 4+ years old
- Common Grackle at 6+ years old
- Baltimore Orioles (2) at 4 years old
- Purple Finches (2) at 4 and 7+ years old
- American Goldfinches (15) at 4 (4), 4+ (4), and 5 (7) years old.

We did not continue participation in the LaMNA cooperative study taking DNA samples and cloacal swabs for virus study as UCLA and Los Alamos failed to report results from last spring and fall. It appears this migration monitoring group study was poorly designed, funded and executed and hardly supportive of the larger USGS sampling effort.

We thank Bob and Judy Cosgriff, David Guaspari, Barlow Rhodes, Jay Schissel and the Painted Post Breakfast Group for their support as well as Stillman's Greenhouse, Herzog Printing and Pine Tree Farms for their advice, assistance, and generous support.

Wing Island Banding Station **414-0700**
 Brewster, Barnstable County, MA
Bander: Susan Finnegan
 sfinnegan@wingisland.org
 Chief Assistant: Gretchen Putonen

This was another disappointing year for our seventh spring season at the Wing Island Banding Station located on the grounds of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. The spring season began on 27 Mar and ended on 16 Jun for a total of 24 days of operation. Strong winds, mainly from the NW, continued to blow throughout the spring. Many rainy days coincided with days we planned to band. Number of birds recaptured also exceeded new birds banded for the first time! A total of 292 birds of 35 species were banded. Number of nets used ranged from one to 31. Net hours totaled 2,095, for a capture rate of 30 b/100nh. Our poor showing of birds may be a combination of weather, as last year was bad too,

and the fact that the western half of Wing Island was cleared a couple of years ago to restore a meadow that had reverted back to woods. Our largest daily catch was a total of 58 birds on both 17 and 22 May; 26 & 27 May brought the most species diversity, a pitiful 11 species.

On a brighter note, we banded our first American Woodcock. This species showed up immediately after the clearing was done. On 9 May we were honored to watch their display flights for the first time this spring in early evening. While walking between net lanes one day, an American Woodcock performed a distraction display pretending a broken wing, so I must have been close to a nest.

Two week-long intensive banding courses were held with five students attending. A group of high school students attended a banding demo on 17 May, visitors joined us on many days, and a banding demonstration was held for the Cape Cod Bird Club on 12 May.

We recaptured numerous birds with previous bandings (2006 and earlier), too many to mention, but we had a chickadee originally banded in 2000 and a Common Yellowthroat that has showed up in the same net year after year since we originally banded him in 2003. For foreign retraps, we captured a Gray Catbird that was originally banded by Bob McKinney at Island Beach in 2003 as a HY. We first captured her in 2005 and continue to catch her often during the season, documenting her breeding and molting conditions. Manomet Center for Conservation Science caught two of our birds this spring. One, a Gray Catbird we banded as a HY the previous summer, and a Northern Cardinal we banded this spring. We were surprised a cardinal would migrate 24 miles over water as the crow flies.

We continue to pull ticks from birds, with results showing that not only are birds hosting Lyme disease, but Anaplasmosis as well.

Thanks very much to banders Gretchen Putonen and Carolyn Kennedy and assistants Judith Bruce, Tom Burgess, Amber Carr, Kalina Desseaux, Judy Keller, Antonia Stephens, and Kate Yard for helping out this spring. A big thank-you to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for the use of one of their buildings as a banding lab. I also thank Susan Putonen for making the best bird bags ever and Bill Otis for helping out with the website.