

2009

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2008 St Andrews Bird Banding Station

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Table 1. AFR Region 1 (Northeast) - Fall 2008 Summary

	St. Andrews, NB	Appledore Isl. ME	Monomet, MA	Wing Isl, MA	Isl. Beach SP, NJ
First Day	7 Aug	15 Aug	15 Aug	4 Aug	9 Aug
Last Day	8 Nov	21 Sep	15 Nov	10 Nov	21 Nov
Days Operated	56	38	60	40	56
No. Nets Used	6-14	9-10	14-50	9-34	2-36
Total Net Hours	3132	4399	24,126	4505	3306
# Traps Use	0	0	0	1	0
% of Total Caught in Traps	0	0	0	1%	0
No. Birds Banded 2007	1094	1315	2352	1711	2952
No. Birds Banded 2008	927	1208	1942	1926	2668
Different Species 2007	59	67	80	77	83
Different Species 2008	58	67	76	80	84
Largest Daily Catch	45	111	94	214	278
Largest Daily Catch Date	12 Oct	19 Sep	7 Oct	13 Oct	17 Oct
Most Common Species Best Day	WTSP	CEDW	BLJA	MYWA	GCKI
Which was What % Total on Best Day	27%	14%	16%	51%	41%
Date with Most Species Diversity	7 Aug	19 Sep	7 Oct	5 & 8 Oct	4 Oct
# of Species on that Day	21	30	28	28	31
Birds/100nh 2007	37	30	7.5	43	79
Birds/100nh 2008	30	28	8.1	43	81
Overall % Hatch Year (***) 2007	84%	91%	71%	90%	82%
Overall % Hatch Year (***) 2008	82%	95%	88%	91%	94%
% Hatch Year (**)					90%

(**) HY % calculated as number of HY/total # of known-age birds.

(***) HY% calculated as number of HY/total # of birds banded.

St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670

New Brunswick

Banders: Tracey Dean (compiler), Luke Rosier, Catherine Pohl

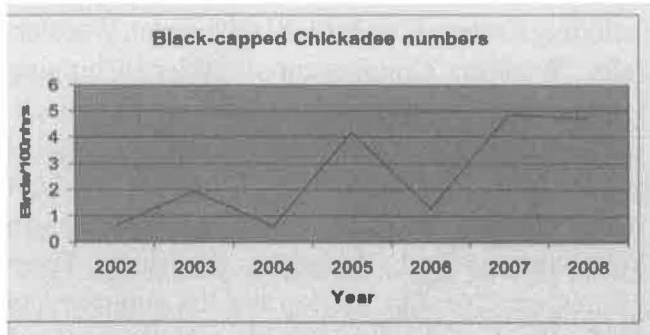
The 2008 fall migration-monitoring season started on 7 Aug and 14 mist nets were opened, whenever possible, until 8 Nov. The weather in September was mainly dry, calm and clear; four days were lost to rain. October was, as usual, stormier, but there were still birds in the woods at the beginning of November.

A total of 927 birds, representing 58 species, were banded. Thirteen banded from previous years were recaptured. One Mourning Dove, one Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and one Ruffed Grouse were captured and released unbanded.

Banding was slow in the calm, dry days of September with 330 birds banded over 27 days—an average of 12 birds a day. The best days were 19 and 22 Sep, each with 31 birds and 19 species. In October, 365 birds were banded over 19 days for an average of just under 20 birds a day. The best days were 11 and 12 Oct, with 35 and 45 birds respectively.

The most commonly banded species was Black-capped Chickadee (Table 2). Notably absent from the top 10 list is American Goldfinch, with only 19 banded in 2008. A new addition to the list is American Robin, with a total of 35 banded, which is twice the usual fall catch, as birds hung around the banding site well into November feeding in the various berry trees.

After the major movement of Black-capped Chickadee in 2007, large numbers were not expected in 2008 as previous data had indicated a two-year cycle (see graph below). This did not prove to be the case. After only nine chickadees were banded in September, small flocks started to move through towards the end of October. One hundred and twenty-seven chickadees were banded between 22 Oct and 8 Nov.



The Station banded three new species in 2008: Hooded Warbler (21 Sep), Tufted Titmouse (12 Oct) and White-winged Crossbill (24 and 25 Oct). A pair of Tufted Titmice had been visiting a feeder in St. Andrews during the summer and one had been seen picking up nesting material. The capture of the HY Tufted Titmouse at the Station helped confirm the first breeding record of titmice in New Brunswick.

Downy Woodpecker 1461-16285 was banded on 19 Jun 1999 and recaptured 26 Sep 2008. This male bird was an adult when banded and is now over 10 years old. The 30 b/100nh for 2008 is well below the seven-year average of 34 b/100nh. Most of the long-distance migrant warbler species were below average in 2007 and are still below average in 2008. Since 2004, the number of Nashville, Northern Parula, Myrtle, and Blackpoll warblers caught has declined steadily.

Table 2. Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2008

	St. Andrews, NB		Appledore Island, ME		Manomet, MA			Wing Island, MA			Island Beach SP, NJ			
		# Birds		# Birds	% HY		# Birds	% HY		# Birds	% HY		# Birds	% HY aged
1. BCCCH (2)	148	NOWA (1)	175	92%	GRCA	483	96%	MYWA (2)	555	94%	GCKI (3)	499	98%	95%
2. WTSP (3)	72	REVI (3)	113	96%	BLJA	152	84%	GRCA (1)	363	95%	GRCA (1)	265	98%	98%
3. SOSP (6)	53	GRCA (7)	97	98%	ETTI	142	92%	SOSP (3)	157	93%	WTSP (2)	219	89%	89%
4. COYE	50	COYE (8)	94	98%	AMRO	135	86%	COYE (6)	96	92%	BRCR (5)	209	97%	80%
5. GCKI	40	BAWW	73	99%	MYWA	107	92%	SWSP (9)	69	99%	MYWA (9)	206	84%	82%
6. MAWA	44	AMRE (6)	63	97%	WTSP	105	82%	AMGO (4)	63	92%	COYE (7)	180	94%	93%
7. REVI	39	YBFL	46	93%	BCCCH	93	92%	BCCH (5)	58	98%	SCJU	101	97%	96%
8. HETH (10)	37	CEDW (4)	41	76%	BLPW	66	44%	REVI (10)	48	98%	RCKI (6)	91	93%	71%
9. AMRO	35	SOSP (9)	41	95%	NOCA	64	83%	BAOR	43	86%	SWSP (8)	89	92%	92%
10. AMRE	32	WIWA	40	95%	SOSP	54	83%	PAWA	42	98%	HETH	66	87%	87%

Sparrow numbers were more erratic. While White-throated and Song sparrow numbers are down, juncos are close to average and Swamp Sparrows are above the seven-year average.

The two regularly caught species of finch were down in 2008. After a record high of 238 or 4.58 b/100nh for American Goldfinch in 2007, only 19 or 0.61 b/100nh were captured in 2008. Purple Finches were also scarce with just one, or 0.03 b/100nh. Over the summer, there were many reports of sick finches (Austin 2008¹) and disease may well be the factor in the low numbers captured.

Thrush numbers were up, with the Swainson's and Hermit thrushes, along with American Robin, well above the seven-year average.

Thank you NEW BRUNSWICK WILDLIFE TRUST FUND for providing financial support and the HUNTSMAN MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE for all the in-kind support which allowed the Station to complete its seventh full fall migration-monitoring season successfully.

¹Austin, Ivy. 2008. What's happening to our finches? *Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter* Issue 5, Fall 2008.

Appledore

425-0703

Island Migration Station

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: **Sara Morris**

Banders: **David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright**

Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Liz Burton, Bill Clark, Susan Coppola, Carol Cushing, Kyle Horton, Charlotte Ott, Erica Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Brynne Stumpe, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh, Lynn Zeltman

Fall on Appledore is a beautiful time of year, which is good because the fall 2008 banding season was terrible. The total of 1208 birds banded was well below average (average 1808 ± 518) and was the second lowest fall total since 1983, only fall 1993 was worse (1045 birds that year). The 67 species banded was the same as in 2007 but was well below

the fall average of 74.4 ± 6.6 species. These low numbers were not due to a decrease in effort, as the 4399 net-hours in the fall were almost exactly at our fall average of 4393 ± 949 . The 27.5 b/100nh was our lowest on record. Weather did not appear to be a major factor in these numbers this year. We did not lose any full days of banding to bad weather, and most of the six days that included some weather-related net closing were open for most of the morning. Part of the reason for the low numbers may have been having to close on 21 Sep, rather than a few days later when more of the short-distance migrants would be expected to be present.

Although no species were captured in numbers outside the "normal" range, many were at the lower end of the normal numbers. Several species captured in most fall seasons were absent, including Eastern Kingbird, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. The top ten species captured were generally typical of fall birds, including the perennial Northern Waterthrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart. Three species were new to the top ten list compared to 2007: Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Wilson's Warbler. The three species that were on the top ten list in 2007 but not in 2008 were Red-breasted Nuthatch (only 10 in 2008 compared to 124 in 2007), Baltimore Oriole (26 in 2008, compared to 90 in 2007), and Purple Finch (one in 2008 compared to 44 in 2007). We did not handle any new species this season. The most exciting captures were Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hooded Warbler, and red bat.

We would like to congratulate one of our banders, Kristen Covino, who successfully defended her Master's thesis at the University of Maine at Orono. Her thesis included a chapter that investigated migratory decisions and energetic condition of spring migrants on Appledore.

We encourage visitors to Appledore to visit the banding station and continue to talk to people who