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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2010 Appledore Island Migration Station

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St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670

New Brunswick, Canada

Bander: *Tracey Dean* (compiler)

Assistants: Tracy Anderson, Joanna Klima

In 2010, the weather constantly changed throughout the fall and many days were lost due to wind and rain. Between the start date of 5 Aug and the end of the season 29 Oct, the nets were open on 40 days for a total of 2498 net-hours. This is lower than most years, yet the 29 birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh) captured is just below the average for the last five years. A total of 716 birds of 55 species were banded. Fifteen birds from previous years were recaptured, including one of only four Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at the station. Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were examined and released unbanded; one Ruffed Grouse was caught and released at the net.

The best day was 15 Sep with 51 birds banded, of which 27 were Black-capped Chickadees. This coincided with a small movement of chickadees in mid-September. Black-capped Chickadee was also the most commonly banded bird of the fall.

Rare birds and unusual captures included: three Sharp-shinned Hawks; an Eastern Wood-Pewee, 16 Sep, the first in the fall; a Tennessee Warbler, 16 Sep, the first in three years; a Yellow-breasted Chat, 19 Sep, also the first in three years; a Gray-cheeked Thrush, 28 Sep, the first in a couple of years.

The Station continues to follow the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network protocol and is a long-term fall monitoring site which now has ten years' data. Even though the picture changes yearly, comparisons are starting to show some trends.

A comparison made between the number of b/100nh recorded in 2010 to the average from the last five years and the last 10 years showed the following results.*

Species **above** the five- and 10-year averages: Downy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Cedar Waxwing, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin.

Species **below** the five- and 10-year averages: Slate-colored Junco; Song, Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows; Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos; Nashville, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green warblers; Common Yellowthroat; American Redstart; Gray Catbird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Swainson's and Hermit thrushes. This is a very mixed diversity of species that are showing declines, with a combination of short- and long-distance migrants; seed and insect eaters.

The St. Andrews Bird Banding Station is closely tied to the Huntsman Education Department and students attending courses on campus are invited to see the birds and learn about the banding process. This year, over 65 students visited the Station to learn about banding, mark/recapture programs, and bird migration.

*note - this comparison was only made for species that have been recorded every year and mostly have a sample size of over 50 birds.

Thank you, as usual, to the volunteers, this year Joanna Klima and Tracy Anderson, for their dedication to the banding process, commitment to the Station's protocol, and their care of each individual bird. Thank you to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund for providing financial support which allowed the Station to successfully complete another fall migration-monitoring season. Thank you to the Huntsman Marine Science Centre for all the in-kind support.

Appledore Island

425-0703

Migration Station

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: *Sara Morris*

Banders: *Liz Burton, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Stella Walsh*

Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Bill Clark, Laura Deming, Jeffrey Johnson, Charlotte Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Cynthia Vanaria, Kathy Whittier

Our fall season was typical of recent years, but lower than historic averages. Overall, we banded 1,259 birds; several hundred below our average of 1,763

(± 543). Despite lower-than-average numbers, the 72 species captured was exactly our long-term average. We were able to stay on the island for more than a week longer than in 2009, which resulted in an almost 40% increase in the number of birds captured compared to that year. Unfortunately, because of logistics of working on the island, we are not able to run the station as long as we would like. It is clear that much of the fall migration occurs after we leave the island. Additionally, our numbers are lower than our historic average, a further reflection of the impact of our early departure. Weather was not a major factor this season. The station was closed for only one day and part of seven others due to bad weather, but most closings were only an hour or two and were in the afternoons or evenings.

Although the numbers of most species of birds were within their historic ranges, several species were lower than usual, often close to the lower limit of the 95% confidence intervals. For example, we captured only 54 American Redstarts (average 120 ± 45), 21 Black-and-white Warblers (average 57 ± 22), 61 Common Yellowthroats (average 128 ± 37), 110 Northern Waterthrushes (average 178 ± 49), 8 Ovenbirds (average 29 ± 12), and 24 Song Sparrows (average 60 ± 22). For most of these species, these capture numbers are the lowest since the station started operating regularly, and in the Common Yellowthroat they were the second lowest, and the Northern Waterthrush were the third lowest since 1990. Several species that are normally captured in the fall, albeit in low numbers, were absent, including Brown Thrashers, Chipping Sparrows, and Scarlet Tanagers. In contrast to this, the 193 Gray Catbirds captured was much higher than normal and was the highest number captured since 2001. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also a bit higher than normal. We also recorded the highest ever season total for White-breasted Nuthatch (3) and White-eyed Vireo (2). Perhaps our most interesting capture was a Northern Waterthrush that was banded on 20 Aug 2006 and was recaptured on 1 Sep 2010.

The station gave banding demonstrations for numerous visitors from the Shoals Marine Lab's
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credit and non-credit classes, Star Island's conferences, Massachusetts's Audubon, and other groups visiting the island. The Appledore Island Migration Station benefits greatly from the time, energy, and financial support of our dedicated volunteers. The Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and several anonymous donors have been critical to our logistics.

Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Manomet, MA

Banders: Trevor Lloyd-Evans(compiler), Meghan Powell, Evan Dalton

Assistants: Dan Albrecht-Mallinger, Jessica Johnson, and many volunteers



Photograph by Evan Dalton, Manomet staff
Gray Catbird one of 715 handled

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2010 we have banded 156,357 landbirds. We are in our 45th 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. Recent Manomet data have documented an earlier arrival of spring migrants which correlates with global warming, but this change in arrival is not detected in fall migration timing to date.

Formal education programs at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and