

2011

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2010 Manomet Bird Observatory

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( $\pm 543$ ). 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  $120 \pm 45$ ), 21 Black-and-white Warblers (average  $57 \pm 22$ ), 61 Common Yellowthroats (average  $128 \pm 37$ ), 110 Northern Waterthrushes (average  $178 \pm 49$ ), 8 Ovenbirds (average  $29 \pm 12$ ), and 24 Song Sparrows (average  $60 \pm 22$ ). 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  
Jul - Sep 2011

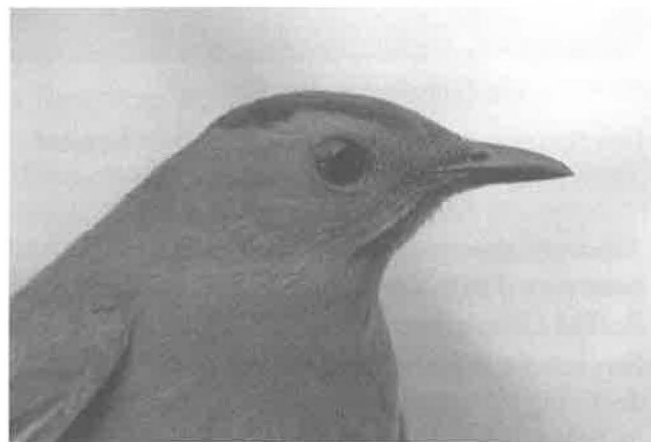
credit and non-credit classes, Star Island's conferences, Massachusetts's Audubon, and other groups visiting the island. The Appledore Island Migration Station benefits greatly from the time, energy, and financial support of our dedicated volunteers. The Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and several 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 Albreccht-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

conservation biology. Visiting groups included members, scouts, schools, school teachers, universities, and adults from the local community. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walked in!



*Photograph by Evan Dalton, Manomet staff*

*Fox Sparrow a first basic plumage bird banded 28 Oct., the only one of the season*

The only species banded this fall, which had not been netted in the previous decade, was a stalwart Ruffed Grouse, our fourth at the Observatory and the first since 30 Sep 1983. This species is rapidly declining in eastern Massachusetts, possibly related to fewer released stock for hunting. Surely only Manomet can say that we have banded twice as many Bell's Vireos as Ruffed Grouse in the last decade!

The Numbers: New Bandings	1,663
Repeat Captures	812

### **TOTAL HANDLED 2,475 of 69 species**

This autumn, we banded the second highest number of birds per net hour in the last decade. Individual numbers banded were about average due to the weather. A wet and windy spring was followed by a wet and windy fall. The wind was seldom from the NW, the direction which drifts nocturnal landbird migrants to the New England coast; thus the usual September Neotropical migrants were notably few. Peak migration was in mid-Oct and featured chickadees and short-distance migrants. Local seed and berry production seemed plentiful, especially

acorns and white pine cones. Our busiest days were 18 Oct (148 captures), 8 Oct (95), 7 Oct (92), 14 Oct (88), 19 Oct (87) and 21 Sep (84). Six species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years; these included Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and Blackpoll Warbler, the latter up from an all-time low of 14 in 2009. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, 11 species were below average; much better than the 39 last fall. New bandings were (just) led by chickadees:

Black-capped Chickadee	(350)
Gray Catbird	( 337)
Myrtle Warbler	( 184)
American Robin	( 166)
Blackpoll Warbler	( 76)
Northern Cardinal	( 59)
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	( 58)
White-throated Sparrow	( 55)

A dawn Northern Saw-whet Owl surprised participants in the NE Bird Conservation Conference field trip of 19 Oct. Five Brown Thrashers continue a recent upward trend after a long decline of this and other scrub/shrub nesting species. A fall White-crowned Sparrow is now unusual at Manomet, while welcome singles of Tennessee and Connecticut warblers come under the heading of "barely hanging on."

Notable recaptures this fall (57 from previous seasons) included: a titmouse first banded as a hatch-year on 19 Oct 2005 (five years old); two four-year-old Black-capped Chickadees and a Song Sparrow; three-year-old Black-capped Chickadee (1), Carolina Wrens (2), Downy Woodpeckers (2), Gray Catbirds (3), and Song Sparrows (2); 14 two-year-olds and 29 banded the previous fall or spring. A migrant Blackpoll Warbler was banded fall 2008 and recaptured fall 2010.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2010 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who

responded to our special banding request this year. Financial support also came from the following:

Charles Stanhope Adams Nature Research Foundation  
Rosalie Cheney Fiske & John Fiske Educational Fund  
William Drury Memorial Fund  
Helen Haber Memorial Fund  
Burr Hardon Intern Fund  
Melita Seipp Howland Conservation Science Endowment  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Dorothy Stebbins Bowles and Chester Bowles Endowment  
Brewster Research Endowment Fund  
Jean K. Colvin Endowment Fund  
Ruth Graves Ernst Memorial Fund  
John P. Droege Scholarship Fund  
Malcolm Oakes Memorial Fund  
Makepeace Neighborhood Fund

Evan Dalton (MA, IN) and Meghan Powell (CT, NH, ME) were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Dan Albrecht-Mallinger (IN) and Jessica Johnson (MA). We will miss this skillful, enthusiastic and hard-working team.

**Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700**

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
Brewster, MA

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

Assistants: Jo-Anna Ghaban, Peter Brown, Jessica Rempel, Mary Bassing, Judith Bruce, and Judy Keller

We had our best fall season ever this year with numbers of birds exceeding all years since opening the station in 2000, even with a wet and windy fall. Our season began 2 Aug and continued through 15 Nov. November proved cold, windy and rainy so we were open only four days that month. We banded a total of 2,780 birds of 81 species, 90% of those were HY birds. For the third year in a row, Myrtle Warbler (828 birds) topped the charts as our most numerous bird for the fall.

Net hours totaled 5,841 for a capture rate of 48 new b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 24 Oct for a total of 225 birds. The best species diversity of 24 species was on 9 Oct. We added five new species this fall including Swainson's Warbler, a fourth state record for Massachusetts, banded on 6 Sep; Least

Flycatcher on 21 Aug; Prothonotary Warbler on 7 Oct; Grasshopper Sparrow on 19 Oct; American Crow on 15 Nov. We banded our fourth Scarlet Tanager and Gray-cheeked Thrush.



*Photograph by Sue Finnegan*

*Swainson's Warbler*

*(Limnothlypis swansonii) banded on 6 Sep.*

Thirty-two birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included a seven- and six-year-old Common Yellowthroat, a six- year-old chickadee, and five-year-old American Goldfinch and Song Sparrow. A Gray Catbird of ours was recovered on 26 Sep in Silver Spring, MD, as well as a Myrtle Warbler on 24 Nov from Ocracoke, NC.

A 34% increase in chickadees took place this fall over previous years, with a small migration on 21 Oct.

For a second year in a row, we recaptured the same adult male American Goldfinch in August, with both an enlarged cloacal protuberance and a vascularized, endometous brood patch. A few birds were captured with pox, including a Veery, Black-capped Chickadee, and Common Yellowthroat. The American Crow we banded was found with numerous tumors on the face and wings. Five HY Black-capped Chickadees presented with leucism.

Ticks were pulled from birds again this year for Yale University's research project.

Numerous visitors came to the banding station and two very successful banding demonstrations were held in September.