

2011

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2010 Wing Island Banding Station

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

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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.