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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2011 St Andrews Bird Banding Station

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# *Eastern Regional News*

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***Eastern Bird Banding Association***

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## **Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) – Fall 2011 Report**

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**Wing Island Banding Station**  
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Five banding stations reported their results for the 2011 fall season.

Wind and bad weather seemed to be a factor affecting some of the banding stations this season, including a hurricane. Appledore, St. Andrews, and Dam Pond all reported a large decrease in number of birds banded for various reasons. Manomet reported a healthy increase in their numbers and Wing Island remained similar to last year.

Highlights this year included a Field Sparrow for St. Andrews, a first in ten years; three Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Appledore, and an exciting Golden-winged Warbler for Manomet, a species not banded there for 13 years. A Cooper's Hawk was banded for the first time at Wing Island and Dam Pond added two new species: Belted Kingfisher and Northern Mockingbird.

Thanks to all who took the time to contribute to this report!

**St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670**  
New Brunswick  
Bander: **Tracey Dean** (compiler)  
Assistant: Kim Pastirik

In 2011, we were only able to open one set of nets on a regular basis due to road construction and vehicle noise. The fall banding season started later than usual on 24 Aug and ended 27 Oct. Nets were opened 31 days for a total of 1,049 net hours, which is much lower than previous years. In total, 227 birds of 37 species were banded. Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were examined and released unbanded; one Mourning Dove and one Ruffed Grouse were caught and released at the net site. Two Common Yellowthroats banded in previous years were recaptured.

The best day was 25 Aug, with 23 birds banded; six were Black-capped Chickadees and five were Ovenbirds. This is the highest number of Ovenbirds in many years and 12 were caught over a five-day period.

Rare birds and unusual captures included: a Yellow-breasted Chat, 12 Sep; a Field Sparrow, 19 Oct - the first in 10 years; an Orange-crowned Warbler, 19 Oct - a species not caught in three years; and two Northern Cardinals on 27 Oct.

**Table 1. AFR Region 1 - Northeast Fall 2011 Summary**

	St. Andrews, NB	Appledore Is, ME	Manomet, MA	Wing Is, MA	Dam Pond Res, NY
First Day	24 Aug	13 Aug	16 Aug	03 Aug	01 Sep
Last Day	27 Oct	16 Sep	15 Nov	26 Nov	04 Dec
Days Operated	31	34	61	55	51
# Nets Used	6 to 14	9 to 10	10 to 50	19 to 34	1 to 3
Total Net Hours	1,049	3,640	27,131	7,690	120
# of Traps Used	0	0	0	1	0
# Caught in Traps	0	0	0	<1/5	0
# Birds Banded 2010	710	1,259	1,663	2,780	889
<b># Birds Banded 2011</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>443</b>
Different Species 2010	55	72	69	81	33
" " <b>2011</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>39</b>
Largest Daily Catch	23	112	323	155	18
Lrgst Daily Catch Date	25 Aug	01 Sep	06 Oct	18 Oct	05 Nov
Most Common Species on Best Day	BCCH	NOWA	WTSP	MYWA	GRCA
Which was What % Total on Best Day	53%	22%	25%	35%	50%
Date Most Diversity	19 Oct	01 Sep	16 Oct	26 Sep	10 Oct
# Species on that day	10	26	32	26	13
Birds/100nh 2010	29	27	9.1	45	610
<b>Birds/100nh 2011</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>368</b>
Overall % HY 2010	78%	92%	81%	90%	80%
<b>Overall % HY 2011</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>78%</b>

**Table 2. Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region 1 - Northeast, Fall 2011**

	St. Andrews, NB			Appledore Island, ME			Manome, MA			Wing Island, MA			Dam Pond Reserve, NY		
		#		#	% HY		#	% HY		#	% HY		#	% HY	
1.	WTSP (2)	29	NOWA (3)	144	93%	GRCA (2)	572	95%	GRCA (2)	497	92%	GRCA (6)	57	61%	
2.	SOSP (8)	26	GRCA (1)	137	97%	TUTI (7)	268	90%	MYWA (1)	496	95%	MYWA	33	85%	
3.	COYE (7)	16	COYE (5)	92	98%	AMRO (4)	180	65%	SOSP (4)	202	97%	BCCH (4)	28	61%	
4.	OVEN <sup>1</sup>	14	AMRE (7)	69	94%	MYWA (3)	173	82%	COYE (6)	139	89%	RCKI (9)	26	30%	
5.	BAWW	11	REVI	65	92%	WTSP (8)	161	84%	BLPW	91	86%	NOCA (5)	24	71%	
6.	GRCA	11	CEDW (6)	53	66%	BLPW (5)	127	78%	SWSP (9)	78	99%	WTSP (3)	19	100%	
7.	BLPW	10	YEWA	38	90%	REVI	110	100%	BCCH (3)	70	100%	SWSP (7)	17	94%	
8.	AMRE	9	BAOR	29	100%	NOCA (6)	80	79%	NOCA (7)	69	96%	TUTI (8)	13	54%	
9.	BTNW	8	BAWW	29	90%	HETH	47	87%	WTSP	57	95%	AMGO (2)	10	60%	
10.	GCKI (10)	8	BLPW (8)	28	86%	BCCH (1)	47	62%	AMRO	57	86%	SOSP (10)	10	90%	
									REVI	50	100%				

( ) = Top 10 order from previous year

The Station continues to follow the Canadian data. Even though the picture changes yearly, the general number of birds/100 nh is going down.

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. Many took advantage of the offer to learn about banding, mark/recapture programs and bird migration.

Thank you to volunteer Kim Pastirik, for her dedication to the banding process and commitment to the Station through a slow year. Thanks to the **New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund** for providing financial support which allowed the Station to complete another fall migration-monitoring season successfully. Thank you to the **Huntsman Marine Science Centre** for all the inkind support.

#### **Appledore Island Migration Station**

**425-0703**

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: *Sara Morris*

Banders: Liz Burton, Lindsay Herlihy, David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Bill Clark, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Laura Hetrick, Jan Lathrop, Jeff Ott, Andy Thiede, Kathy Whittier, Zoey Zullo

Like most recent years, fall migration on Appledore was very slow. Because the island "closes" earlier than when we began studying fall migration, our annual numbers are much lower than average. The fall 2011 season was particularly slow. The total of 983 birds was the second lowest since 1983 (only 2009 was lower with 907 birds) and was well below the average of 1,705. Likewise, the 53 species banded this fall was the lowest since 1983 and was almost twenty species below our average of 72.5 species! Part of this was a result of the lower-than-normal number of net hours (3,640 in 2011 compared to our average of 4,359). However, even our number of birds/100 nh was lower than average (26.9 in 2011 compared to the average of 40.5). We

lost only one full day to the weather (28 Aug due to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene), although we lost part of the day before and after because we took down all the nets prior to the storm. An additional six days were also interrupted by rain showers, so weather was a bigger factor this fall than most.

Only one species of bird (American Robin) was outside the normal range of captures; the 13 captured in 2011 was much higher than the  $3.0 \pm 1.9$  average. Other birds were within their historic ranges, but several common species were lower than usual, including Red-eyed Vireo (2011: 65; average:  $171 \pm 88$ ), American Redstart (2011: 69; average:  $127 \pm 59$ ), and Black-and-white Warbler (2011: 29; average:  $51 \pm 24$ ). Gray Catbirds were a bit higher than normal (2011: 136; average:  $89 \pm 57$ ), although many of these birds are likely to be local young as there are numerous territories both on Appledore and on adjacent islands. Notable for their absence this fall were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Swainson's Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Bay-breasted Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, many of which are among the later migrants that we miss by closing early. The most exciting captures were three Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a White-eyed Vireo, two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (often absent in the fall), two Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two Connecticut Warblers, and three red bats.

The banding station continues to benefit from the generous financial and logistic support of numerous volunteers, the Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and several anonymous donors. Our efforts could not continue without their assistance and backing. We are pleased to provide banding demonstrations for groups visiting the island (or talking about banding when we do not have birds during a visit).

#### **Manomet Bird Observatory**

**415-0703**

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences  
Manomet, MA

Banders: *Trevor Lloyd-Evans*(compiler), Nathan Marcy and Ashley Daniels