

2012

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2011 Wing Island Banding Station

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seed and berry production seemed plentiful. Our busiest days were: 6 Oct (323 captures), 7 Oct (163), 3 Oct (155), 30 Sep (147) and 9 Sep (133). Twenty species were banded in greater or equal numbers this fall when compared with the last 10 years: these included Red-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat and Northern Cardinal. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, only Blue Jay was lowest this autumn. New bandings were led by catbirds due to a very sparse chickadee movement:

Gray Catbird	(572)
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	(268)
American Robin	(180)
Myrtle Warbler	(173)
White-throated Sparrow	(161)
Blackpoll Warbler	(127)
Red-eyed Vireo	(110)
Northern Cardinal	(80)

Three Philadelphia Vireos arrived on 9 Sep and less usual warblers this fall included a single Worm-eating and a female Hooded, plus three Connecticut Warblers, which included a very early 23 Aug record.

Notable recaptures this fall (68 from previous seasons) included: a Blue Jay first banded as a second year on 7 May 2003 (9 years old); a goldfinch at least 8 years old and a 6-year-old titmouse; four 5-year-old catbirds and a White-throated Sparrow; eight 4-year-olds; six 3-year-olds; thirteen 2-year-olds and 33 banded the previous fall or spring. An Eastern Phoebe banded this fall has already been recaptured in Maryland.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2011 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who supported the Bird-a-Thon 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*

*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*

*Burr Hardon Intern Fund*

*John P. Droege Scholarship Fund*

*Malcolm Oakes Memorial Fund*

*Makepeace Neighborhood Fund*

Nathan Marcy and Ashley Daniels were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Alan Kneidel, Megan Shave and Laura Koloski. We will miss this skillful, enthusiastic and hard-working team.

## **Wing Island**

**414-0700**

### **Banding Station**

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Brewster, MA

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

Assistants: Jo-Anna Ghabban, Juliet Lamb, Judith Bruce, Becca Miller, Jessica Rempel, Judy Keller and other assistants

This was our second best fall season as far as numbers of birds go with only last year slightly better. We began the season on 3 Aug and continued through 26 Nov. We banded a total of 2,364 birds of 78 species, 90% of those were HY birds. This year, Gray Catbird won out over Myrtle Warblers by one bird; however, we banded only half the number of Myrtle Warblers from last year. This may have been due to the release on 2 Oct of ~30 Northern Bobwhite who gobbled up all the bayberries, a favorite food of Myrtle Warblers. They were also very late to arrive, most coming through towards the end of October.

Net hours totaled 7,690 for a capture rate of 31 new birds/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 18 Oct for a total of 155 birds. The best species diversity of 26 species was on 26 Sep. We added one new species this fall: a HY male Cooper's Hawk.



Sixty-one birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included a nine-year-old Blue Jay (banded 4 May 2002 as HY), an eight-year-old American Goldfinch (7 May 2004 as SY) and Song Sparrow (25 Oct 2003 as HY), 7- and 5-year-old Northern Cardinals, seven 4 year olds, nine 3 year olds, twenty 2 year olds, and the rest were banded the previous year. The Banding Lab sent us reports of two of our Gray Catbirds that were found dead, one in a neighboring town and the other in a town in Massachusetts approximately 73 miles away.

Compared to previous years, high numbers of American Robins were captured this year, 57 compared to the  $19.3 \pm 14.6$  average. Also on that list were 134 Common Yellowthroats ( $55.8 \pm 33.9$  average), 91 Blackpoll Warblers ( $23.1 \pm 23.8$  average), 43 Tufted Titmice ( $18.4 \pm 15.7$  average), and 57 White-throated Sparrows ( $13.0 \pm 16.2$  average). Low numbers of Northern Mockingbirds continue with only one captured this fall. A very late Baltimore Oriole was banded on 2 Nov, a species typically gone by the end of August in our area.

Numerous birds were captured with pox, including four catbirds, three Hermit Thrushes, and two Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows, all HY birds.

We spent the season collecting 739 ticks for the Barnstable County Extension Service to test for pathogens, who then decided they did not want them after all. A great deal of effort for nothing!

We always enjoy visiting banders and had quite a few this fall at the banding station. On 11 Sep we held a banding demonstration for approximately 50 individuals. Luckily it was a very productive day with numerous species, including our earliest ever Brown Creeper.

A big thank you to all who helped to make this a successful banding season this fall: Jo-Anna Ghadban, Gretchen Putonen, Juliet Lamb, Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, Becca Miller, Jessica Rempel, and Judy Keller. Thanks also to the many people who helped out for a day or two.

We appreciate the support we get from the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and the town of Brewster for allowing us to run our station on town-owned land.

**Dam Pond  
Maritime Reserve**

Orient Point, NY

Bander: *George Rowsom*

**410-0722**

As Pete Seeger sang, "Where have all the warblers gone?" 2011 saw Gray Catbirds taking over the catbird seat from Myrtle Warblers, which dropped from 232 in 2010 to 33. Overall captures dropped from 889 to 443 and captures per 100net hrs fell from 610 to 369. I attribute the decline to weather, as we had only five days with winds from the NW quadrant. Predominant winds were from NE to SE. As my nets are exposed directly to the east, it cut down on the number of days they could be open.