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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2011 Wing Island Banding Station

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either cancelled or ended early. In spite of that, we captured the highest number of birds of the last four spring seasons. In total, 1,542 birds, of 80 different species, were processed over the course of 27 netting days. Of these birds, 1,394 were new captures and 148 were recaptures. Five of our recaptures were foreign re-encounters. Frye's Landing proved to be the most successful banding location, with the largest net numbers (583) and species diversity (64). Niagara Boat Launch, the original banding site, had strong net numbers (553) and species diversity (54). Erie Bluffs State Park also had good net captures (406) and species diversity (47) and has slightly different habitat (edge), and thus species composition, from the other two.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	White-throated Sparrow	231	39	19	42
2.	Yellow Warbler	178	42	55	3
3.	Gray Catbird	175	24	41	35
4.	Magnolia Warbler	63	49	46	5
5.	Blue Jay	55	94	2	4
6.	Common Yellowthroat	54	20	39	41
7.	Blackpoll Warbler	51	51	27	22
8.	Myrtle Warbler	43	70	21	9
9.	American Redstart	37	38	49	13
10.	Black-throated Blue Warbler	35	60	40	0

An active effort was made to check birds for ticks in connection with an ongoing Yale University study. We also observed two notable, unique injuries. One Wood Thrush was captured with its upper mandible forced down through its lower mandible and protruding from its chin. It was unable to feed and was emaciated and died two days later. We also recaptured a Gray Catbird that had a large (1.5") thorn thrust thru its band, resulting in a crushed leg and swollen foot. We removed the thorn and the bird flew away strong. We did not remove the band, as it was providing support for the injured leg.

Despite the short season, this banding site drew in 47 volunteers and 162 visitors. We presented a number of educational programs to elementary school groups, college groups and bird watching groups. In addition, we were featured on the local news after a television news team visited the banding station.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

Susan Finnegan, Compiler

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Gretchen Putonen, Bander

Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, and others who helped for a day, Assistants

Weather was poor this spring with our usual wind and rain, certainly not like the very unusual and gorgeous spring we had last year.

Banding began on 21 Apr and ended on 16 Jun, for a total of 20 days of operation. Nets used ranged from 17-32. Net hours totaled 2,092 for a capture rate of 24 b/100nh (netted birds). In total, 265 birds of 37 species were banded and 242 were recaptured. Forty-nine of those were returns from spring-banded birds. We had two 9-year olds, an American Robin and a Blue Jay; three 8-year olds, two Blue Jays and an Eastern Towhee; four 7-year olds; a Blue Jay, a Northern Cardinal, and two Song Sparrows; three 5-year olds, all Song Sparrows; seven 4-year olds; nine 3-year olds; and the rest were younger.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY	%HY
1.	Gray Catbird	59	66	32	2	
2.	Black-capped Chickadee	48	77	19	4	
3.	American Goldfinch	37	81	19		
4.	Common Yellowthroat	27	74	26		
5.	Song Sparrow	18	50	6	38	6
6.	Prarie Warbler	13	54	31		15
7.	Yellow Warbler	10	90	10		
8.	American Robin	6	83	17		
9.	Tufted Titmouse	4	100			
10.	Northern Cardinal	4	25		75	

Our best day proved was 14 May with 49 birds of 15 species. We saw low numbers of Gray Catbirds (59) compared to our average of 84 ± 28.47 , though still in range and Northern Cardinals (4) compared to an average of 12 ± 5.07 . We had a small invasion of Black-capped Chickadees on 21 Apr, which boosted our numbers for the spring season to 45, normally an average of 23 ± 16.01 . Prairie Warblers were a touch high, too (13) compared to our average of 7 ± 4.14 . Other than that, our numbers were in range.

An unexpected species this spring was a bird we rarely get in our nets, a Brown Thrasher captured on 6 May, only the seventh bird of this species captured in eleven years and the second in spring. We had an interesting Song Sparrow with yellow legs and feet, not the typical pink color seen. We also captured a species in severe decline on Cape Cod, a beautifully colored female Northern Bobwhite released unbanded. For the past two years we have been documenting breeding Saltmarsh Sparrows with enlarged cloacal protuberances and brood patches that seemed to coincide with marsh restoration nearby. A female Pine Warbler first banded on 3 May was recaptured on 21 May and found to have cloacal flukes not seen on the 3rd. On a happier note, a SY Common Yellowthroat first banded as a hatch year on 2 Aug 2010 and found with avian pox on his lower mandible showed up 21 May with it completely healed, so his immune system was able to get rid of the virus.

A group of students from Provincetown joined me on 3 May for a banding demonstration. They came too late to see the handsome male Northern Parula, but still enjoyed releasing other species.

I heard from the banding lab that an American Goldfinch we first banded as a SY in 2010 was found dead approximately a mile from the banding site in the backyard of a homeowner on 21 May.

Ticks were pulled this spring for the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension.

Thanks very much to Gretchen Putonen, Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, Suzanne Faith, Judy Keller, Jessica Rempel and others who helped out for a day and to the French Foundation for their monetary support.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

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Average weather conditions existed throughout the spring, with the exception of lower-than-average temperatures during the last week of March. Poor weather in the latter half of April (mostly rain) resulted in a reduced banding effort on approximately 50% of the banding days. We recorded record-early capture dates for several species, including Black-throated Blue Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Gray Catbird, and Least Flycatcher. We saw the return of most of the breeding species to our area through the first two weeks of May, and then we had a dip in numbers of birds banded during the 3rd week of May, as east winds likely pushed a lot of birds to our west.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	216	49	26	25
2.	Cedar Waxwing	215	53	47	0
3.	Magnolia Warbler	153	38	52	10
4.	Dark-eyed Junco	132	48	50	2
5.	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	118	2	0	98
6.	American Goldfinch	106	72	23	6
7.	Gray Catbird	102	72	20	8
8.	Red-eyed Vireo	81	1	0	99
9.	Nashville Warbler	75	41	47	12
10.	American Redstart	62	55	40	5
10.	Song Sparrow	62	31	10	60

From 1 Mar through the end of May, we banded 2,340 birds of 98 unique species and processed another 1,043 banded birds. Species captured in