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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2012 St Andrews Bird Banding Station

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# Atlantic Flyway Review:

## Region 1 (Northeast) – Fall 2012 Report

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Five banding stations reported their results for the 2012 fall season, including a new station located on the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge in Chatham, MA.

Weather did not appear to be a negative factor this fall, except St. Andrews had a number of rainy days in October. All five banding stations had higher numbers of birds banded compared to the previous year, although St. Andrews and Appledore continue to have lower-than-average numbers.

The highest daily catch date varied widely among stations—with 2 Sep being the best day for Appledore to 23 Oct for Monomoy. The greatest species diversity occurred 29 Aug for Appledore, 16 and 17 Sep for Monomoy and St Andrews, and 4 and 12 Oct for Manomet and Wing Island. The numbers of different species for those days ranged from 12 to 30. Banders contributed to over 40,000 net-hours of effort this season.

St. Andrews reported that a once rare species in their area, the Northern Cardinal, has become quite common. Appledore banded its first ever Northern Harrier. Manomet banded their second Golden-winged Warbler in 14 years; record numbers of Eastern Phoebes, Gray Catbirds, and Myrtle Warblers were banded at Wing Island; and two rare east coast species were netted and banded at Monomoy—a Black-throated Gray Warbler and a Townsend's Solitaire. Warblers appeared to be on the decline at all stations.

Many thanks to the Region I compilers who took time to contribute to this report during their busy schedules!

### **St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670**

New Brunswick, Canada

Banders: **Tracey Dean** (complier), Todd Alleger, Dominique Biondi

Last year, the construction of "Marine Science Drive" disrupted the banding with truck noise and disturbed the habitat beside net area HMa. This year, the impact of the new road was felt as it was cut through a hedgerow corridor along which birds used to travel. Weather was very changeable throughout the fall which can be good for bird movement, but many days were lost to wind and rain, especially in October. Catches would be good for a couple of days then drop right off.

The fall migration monitoring started on 2 Sep and there was daily coverage until 3 Oct, when the volunteers left. After that, nets were open sporadically with the last day being 22 Oct. Nets were open on 27 days and 298 birds of 39 species were banded. The best day was 21 Sep, when 25 birds were banded, 14 of which were goldfinches. The highest diversity was recorded on 17 Sep with 12 species. The Northern Cardinal used to be a rare bird in St. Andrews, but now is quite common in the town. A few individuals have even moved out into the woods and one was captured on 15 Sep.

The 19.28 birds/100 net hours (b/100nh) is the lowest in the 12 yrs of the project. Some species which had been caught regularly were not captured in 2012: e.g. Nashville Warbler, Canada Warbler and Veery. The graph at (top of pg. 116) shows that the number of b/100nh continues to decline. Is this an adjustment to changes in local habitat or a more far reaching question?

**Table 1. AFR Region 1 - Northeast Fall 2012 Summary**

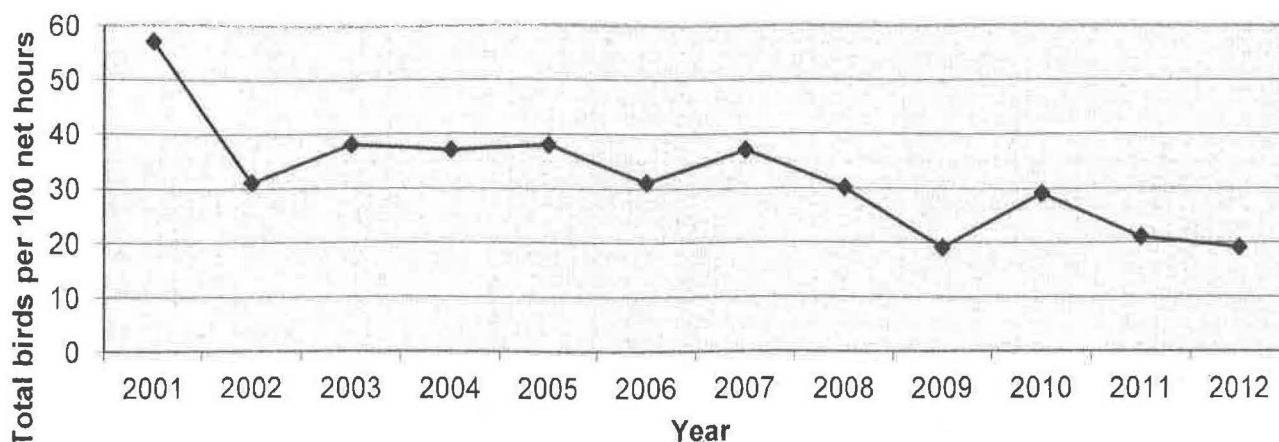
|                                       | St. Andrews, NB | Appledore Isl., ME | Manomet, MA  | Wing Island, MA | Monomoy, MA  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| First Day                             | 2 Sep           | 16 Aug             | 15 Aug       | 1 Aug           | 30 Aug       |
| Last Day                              | 22 Oct          | 14 Sep             | 15 Nov       | 17 Nov          | 4 Nov        |
| Days Operated                         | 27              | 30                 | 60           | 50              | 40           |
| No. Nets Used                         | 6 to 14         | 7 to 10            | 10 to 50     | 14 to 35        | 8 to 18      |
| Total Net Hours                       | 1,546           | 3,317              | 27,583       | 5,236           | 2,558        |
| # of Traps Used                       | 0               | 0                  | 0            | 1               | 0            |
| % Caught in Traps                     | N/A             | N/A                | N/A          | <1%             | N/A          |
| # Birds Banded 2011                   | 227             | 980                | 2,382        | 2,364           | 872          |
| <b># Birds Banded 2012</b>            | <b>298</b>      | <b>1,045</b>       | <b>2,401</b> | <b>3,019</b>    | <b>1,776</b> |
| Different Species 2011                | 37              | 53                 | 81           | 78              | 70           |
| <b>Different Species 2012</b>         | <b>39</b>       | <b>57</b>          | <b>75</b>    | <b>73</b>       | <b>79</b>    |
| Largest Daily Catch                   | 25              | 88                 | 203          | 231             | 138          |
| Lrgst Daily Catch Date                | 21 Sep          | 2 Sep              | 4 Oct        | 17 Oct          | 23 Oct       |
| Most Common Species on Best Day       | AMGO            | REVI               | MYWA         | MYWA            | MYWA         |
| Which was What % of Total on Best Day | 56%             | 23%                | 30%          | 73%             | 27%          |
| Date Most Diversity                   | 17 Sep          | 29 Agu             | 4 Oct        | 12 Oct          | 16 Sep       |
| # Species on That Day                 | 12              | 24                 | 30           | 25              | 28           |
| Birds/100nh 2011                      | 22              | 27                 | 8.8          | 31              | 107          |
| <b>Birds/100nh 2012</b>               | <b>19</b>       | <b>32</b>          | <b>8.7</b>   | <b>58</b>       | <b>82</b>    |
| Overall % HY 2011                     | N/A             | 92%                | 81%          | 90%             | 89%          |
| <b>Overall % HY 2012</b>              | <b>70%</b>      | <b>94%</b>         | <b>82%</b>   | <b>92%</b>      | <b>91%</b>   |

**Table 2. Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region 1 - Northeast, Fall 2012**

|     | St. Andrews, NB |    |      | Appledore Island, ME |     |      | Manomet, MA |     |      | Wing Island, MA |     |      | Monomoy, MA |     |      |
|-----|-----------------|----|------|----------------------|-----|------|-------------|-----|------|-----------------|-----|------|-------------|-----|------|
|     |                 | #  | % HY |                      | #   | % HY |             | #   | % HY |                 | #   | % HY |             | #   | % HY |
| 1.  | AMGO            | 47 | N/A  | GRCA (2)             | 225 | 100% | GRCA (1)    | 473 | 93%  | MYWA (2)        | 935 | 92%  | MYWA        | 360 | 95%  |
| 2.  | BCCH            | 30 | N/A  | NOWA (1)             | 147 | 91%  | MYWA (4)    | 281 | 86%  | GRCA (1)        | 850 | 95%  | TRES        | 286 | 100% |
| 3.  | WTSP (1)        | 18 | N/A  | RBNU                 | 75  | 84%  | TUTI (2)    | 176 | 80%  | SOSP (3)        | 194 | 97%  | RBNU        | 162 | 92%  |
| 4.  | SOSP (2)        | 16 | N/A  | REVI (5)             | 63  | 100% | BLPW (6)    | 175 | 53%  | COYE (4)        | 99  | 89%  | SAVS        | 83  | 96%  |
| 5.  | GCKI (10)       | 16 | N/A  | COYE (3)             | 58  | 95%  | BCCH (10)   | 117 | 79%  | BCCH (7)        | 84  | 86%  | SCJU        | 75  | 94%  |
| 6.  | REVI            | 15 | N/A  | BAWW (9)             | 36  | 94%  | AMRO (3)    | 113 | 74%  | AMGO            | 79  | 99%  | GCKI        | 72  | 05%  |
| 7.  | COYE (3)        | 14 | N/A  | BAOR (8)             | 33  | 100% | WTSP (5)    | 112 | 70%  | SWSP (6)        | 71  | 100% | SOSP        | 51  | 86%  |
| 8.  | SWTH            | 13 | N/A  | YBFL                 | 29  | 100% | NOCA (8)    | 92  | 86%  | NOCA (8)        | 69  | 96%  | PISI        | 49  | 92%  |
| 9.  | NOWA            | 11 | N/A  | AMRE (4)             | 29  | 97%  | BLJA        | 66  | 97%  | REVI (10)       | 65  | 95%  | COYE        | 47  | 72%  |
| 10. | AMRO            | 11 | N/A  | SOSP                 | 28  | 96%  | REVI (7)    | 59  | 100% | EAPH            | 63  | 86%  | PAWA        | 46  | 96%  |

( ) = TOP 10 ORDER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR.

St. Andrews Station--b/100nh from the years 2001 thru 2012.



Thank-you to the **New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund** and the **New Brunswick Wildlife Council** for providing financial support for the daily operation of the Station, without which the Station would not be able to operate. Thank-you to the **Huntsman Marine Science Centre** for all the in-kind support which allowed the Station to successfully complete another fall migration-monitoring season.

**Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703**

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: **Sara Morris**

Banders: Liz Burton, Lindsay Herlihy, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Laura Hetrick, Lauren Kras, Jan Lathrop, Susan Lee, Fay Melendy, Joan Stoner, Andy Thiede, Kathy Whittier

Fall banding on Appledore was unremarkable. Our total numbers continue to be low, due largely to the early closing date – a problem with working at a seasonal field station that closes in mid-September. Our total number of birds was only 1045, which is over 600 lower than our average since 1990 (average =  $1676 \pm 556$ ), but is similar to our averages for the last five years ( $1134 \pm 180$  birds). Our 57 species banded was also much lower than our historical average ( $71.8 \pm 8.8$ ). Our net hours (3317 net hours) were also a good bit lower than both our historical (average since 1990:  $4294 \pm 909$ ) and five-year ( $4157 \pm 442$ ) averages. While part of this reflects our shortened season, the loss of a normal net location as vegetation was cleared from one of our net lanes had a greater impact.

Because of the tremendous amount of annual variation, few species were outside their normal

ranges (and most of these were high). For example, we had higher than normal numbers of Northern Cardinals (7 in 2012, average  $2.7 \pm 2.0$ ), Carolina Wrens (11 in 2012, average  $3.8 \pm 3.4$ ), and Gray Catbirds (225 in 2012, average  $109.2 \pm 54.3$ ), although these were all island breeders and many of those captured appeared to be local. While not out of their “normal” ranges, many of the migrant species were well below average. For example, the 29 American Redstarts banded was the lowest total at the station ever and was only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the historical average ( $114.4 \pm 46.0$ ). Other species whose captures were less than half of the historical average included Red-eyed Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Song Sparrow, and many of these species are among our top 10 species in most years. Our excitement for the station came with the capture of our first ever Northern Harrier. We captured (but did not band) five Herring Gulls.

One of the Northern Waterthrushes we banded on 5 Sep 2009 was captured and released from the Brier Island Bird Migration Research Station in Nova Scotia, Canada, on 25 Aug 2012. It was originally banded as a hatch-year (HY) bird, so it was beginning its fourth southward migration.