

2013

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2012 Appledore Island Migration Station

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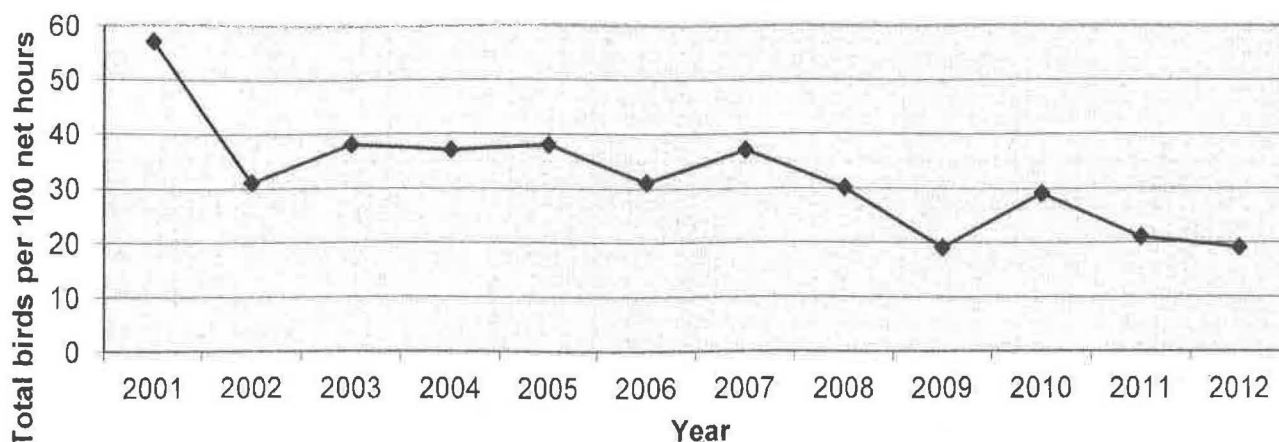
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St. Andrews Station--b/100nh from the years 2001 thru 2012.



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 ± 556), but is similar to our averages for the last five years (1134 ± 180 birds). Our 57 species banded was also much lower than our historical average (71.8 ± 8.8). Our net hours (3317 net hours) were also a good bit lower than both our historical (average since 1990: 4294 ± 909) and five-year (4157 ± 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 ± 2.0), Carolina Wrens (11 in 2012, average 3.8 ± 3.4), and Gray Catbirds (225 in 2012, average 109.2 ± 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 ± 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.

The station gave banding demonstrations to students taking classes at the Shoals Marine Lab, visiting groups including scouts and docents, and many other visitors to the island. Data from work at our station was presented by Kristen Covino at the North American Ornithological Conference in British Columbia in August. Our volunteers and donors continue to provide the time, energy, and financial resources needed to run the station. We are grateful to the staff of the Shoals Marine Lab who facilitate our work on the island and who make the slow fall banding season much more pleasant.

Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Manomet, MA

Banders: *Trevor Lloyd-Evans* (compiler)

Assistants: Alan Kneidel, Laura Koloski, Patrick Roberts, Zephyr Mohr-Felsen

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2012 we have banded 161,363 land birds. We are in our 47th year of data collection and education programs at Manomet. This fall, we again ran 50 mist nets on the same dates and in the same locations as the previous years, giving us an unparalleled comparison of range expansions and contractions, yearly variation of migration, survival and long-term population change. Recent Manomet data have documented an earlier arrival of spring migrants which correlates with global warming, but this change in arrival is not yet detected in fall migration timing (we are checking).

Formal education programs for 620 visitors at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and conservation biology. Visiting groups included members, scouts, schools, universities and adults from the local community. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walked in!

A Golden-winged Warbler (HY female) on 1 Oct was the second consecutive fall record for this vanishing rare species in New England. The last three autumns we have exceeded recent numbers of

birds per net hour. Overall, both spring and fall numbers have remained steady since the year 2000, a welcome relief from the ca. -2% /yr declines from 1970-1995.

The Numbers:

New Bandings	2,401
Repeat Captures	1,775
Total Handled	4,176 of 75 species

Both individual numbers banded and species captured were above average for the previous ten years. A warm winter last year was followed by a long, hot summer with few NW winds until early Oct. Traditionally, NW winds and a cold front drift more nocturnal migrants south and east to the southern New England coast. Thus, August and September Neotropical migrants were notably few. That all changed on 4 Oct and the bulk of our migration occurred in the next two weeks. Our busiest fall days were: 4 Oct (251 total captures), 5 Oct (248), 9 Oct (183), 10 Oct (153) and 15 Oct (152). Eighteen species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years. These included residents; e.g., Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal. And also short- and long-distance migrants; e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Swainson's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, four species were lowest, all Neotropical migrants (Ruby-crowned Kinglet and three warblers).

In the last decade we banded only six fall Yellow Palm Warblers and more Western Palm Warblers (the opposite of spring migration). This fall an unprecedented 16 Yellow Palm Warblers were all captured on 4 Oct, but no others. Blown in from their normal westerly route?

Notable recaptures this fall (64 from previous seasons) included: a Tufted Titmouse first banded as a HY on 19 Oct 2005 (seven years old); a six-year-old catbird, cardinal, grackle and Brown Thrasher; five five-year-old birds; two four-year-olds; nine three-year-olds; fourteen two-year-olds and 29 banded the previous fall or spring. A Myrtle