

2013

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2012 Manomet Bird Observatory

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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 47<sup>th</sup> 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

Warbler we caught this fall was banded as a HY bird in Brewster, MA, on 21 Oct 2007 by Sue Finnegan.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2012 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who supported the Bird-a-Thon this year.

Alan Kneidel and Laura Koloski were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Zephyr Mohr-Felsen and Patrick Roberts. We will greatly miss their experience and enthusiasm. "*Per ardua ad astra*" as we say in the world of bird migration.

#### **Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700**

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
Brewster, MA

Banders: **Susan Finnegan** (compiler), Gretchen Putonen, Carolyn Kennedy, and visiting banders Keegan Tranquillo and James Junta

Assistants: Ben Lagasse, Judy Keller, Judith Bruce, Jessica Rempel, the Johnson family Sheryl, Lauren & Kristen and others who helped out for a day.

Our season began 1 Aug and continued through 17 Nov. This was our best fall season in the past 13 years with a total of 3,017 birds banded of 78 species and 92% of those were HY birds.

Net hours totaled 5,236 for a capture rate of 58 b/100nh. Our highest daily catch was 231 birds on 17 Oct. The species diversity of 25 species was on 12 Oct. We added no new species this fall. Five Rufous Hummingbirds were captured in traps and banded in numerous areas, and at least three other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were seen but the homeowners did not want them banded. We saw lower numbers of House Wren (1) compared to our average of  $5.4 \pm 3.1$ , but higher numbers in numerous species: Eastern Kingbird (21) with an average of  $5.6 \pm 5.9$ ; Eastern Phoebe (63) with an average of  $13.9 \pm 18.9$ ; Gray Catbird (850) with an average of  $439.8 \pm 160.5$ ; Myrtle Warbler (935) with an average of  $462.5 \pm 252.2$ ; Red-Eyed Vireo

(65), average  $36 \pm 19.2$ , and Palm Warblers (40), average  $21.6 \pm 7.1$ .

Eighty-seven birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included a seven-year-old Song Sparrow, a six-year-old Black-capped Chickadee; a Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and Gray Catbird all five years old, and the following birds were four years old: three Gray Catbirds, two Black-capped Chickadees, a Common Yellowthroat and a Song Sparrow. The rest were three years and younger.

A Common Yellowthroat we banded on 13 Aug 2011 was recaptured by Trevor Lloyd-Evans at Manomet Bird Observatory during their spring banding season and a Myrtle Warbler first banded by us as a HY bird on 21 Oct 2007 was recaptured by Trevor on 10 Oct 2012. A Gray Catbird we banded as a HY bird in the fall of 2010 was found dead in a nearby town this June.

Pox was noted on only four HY birds this fall and a seven-year-old Song Sparrow noted to have pox on its lower mandible in the spring had totally cleared the virus by 10 Oct.

Two banding demonstrations were held this fall—one on 8 Sep and again on 15 Sep.

As always, a big thank-you to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for allowing us to house our banding lab at its facility and the Town of Brewster for allowing us to band on their land.

#### **Monomoy Refuge Banding Station 413-0699**

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge  
Chatham, MA

Banders: **James Junda** (compiler), Keegan Tranquillo, Jessie Reese, Ayla Rimon, Aviad Tarab

Monomoy Refuge Banding Station (MRBS) located (41.559 N, 69.995 W) was founded in 2011 by James Junda with cooperation and assistance of