

2013

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2012 Monomoy Refuge Banding Station

James Junda

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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 ± 3.1 , but higher numbers in numerous species: Eastern Kingbird (21) with an average of 5.6 ± 5.9 ; Eastern Phoebe (63) with an average of 13.9 ± 18.9 ; Gray Catbird (850) with an average of 439.8 ± 160.5 ; Myrtle Warbler (935) with an average of 462.5 ± 252.2 ; Red-Eyed Vireo

(65), average 36 ± 19.2 , and Palm Warblers (40), average 21.6 ± 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

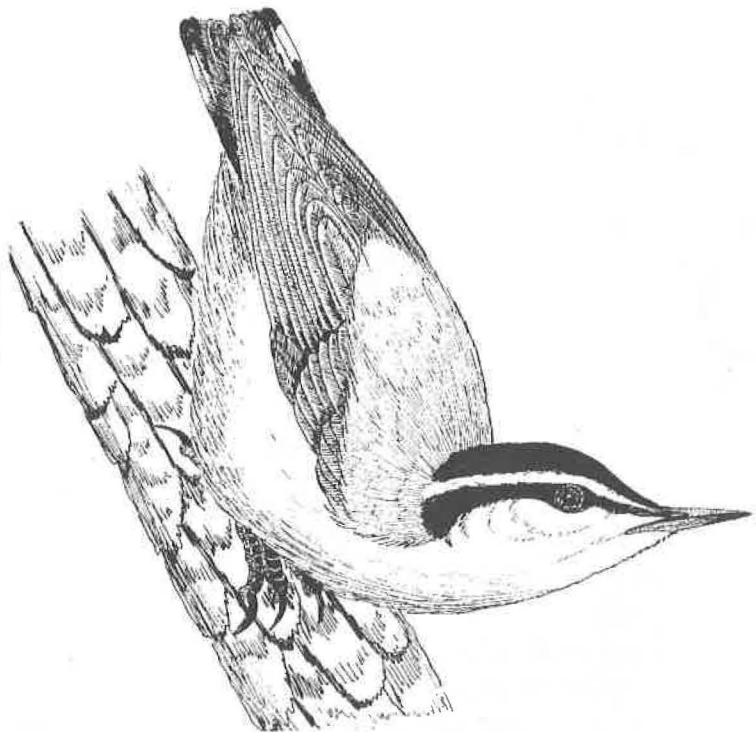
staff at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). MRBS is operated by both volunteers and highly trained professional banders. It is a valuable addition to the collection of banding stations on Cape Cod, being the most easterly and only station located on a barrier island. The two closest stations are Wing Island Banding Station in Brewster (30 km to the NE) and Manomet Bird Observatory (70 km to the ENE). Operations are based upon the protocols of other constant-effort banding stations in the United States and Canada, with an emphasis on standardized research protocols. In addition to collecting and analyzing scientific data to assist in management decisions, MRBS serves to increase public interest in Monomoy NWR.

Migration peaked in mid October with consistent catches until the end of banding in early November. The busiest day was 23 Oct with 138 birds banded which is lower than 2011's busiest day at 168 birds banded on 10 Oct and only slightly more than 134 birds banded on 30 Aug 2011. There were three days between 18-24 Oct with at least 100 captures. The primary cause of the busy days in October were large numbers of Myrtle Warblers, while the busy days in August are due to large flocks of HY Tree Swallows. The second half of September was surprising slow with only one day with over 50 birds banded (58 on 16 Sep) and a daily average of 39 birds per day. Overall, 2012 was 20% slower than 2011, with a daily average of 44.4 in 2012 and 54.5 in 2011.

Of the 10 most common species captured, two were not captured in 2011: Red-breasted Nuthatch (0 in 2011 to 162 in 2012) and Pine Siskin (0 in 2011 to 49 in 2012). Both of the pine nut eating species must have encountered ideal conditions on the breeding grounds, a hypothesis further supported by the occurrence of White-winged Crossbills and Purple Finches in surprising numbers. On the other end of the spectrum were the two rare birds captured (Black-throated Gray Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire), both of these birds are rare in the East during the fall. These continue the pattern of rare birds captured at MRBS.

There were 12 returns (banded at MRBS before 2012) and all of these were species that breed on site: five Savannah Sparrows, three Song Sparrows, three Common Yellowthroats, and one Gray Catbird. There are a number of explanations for the lack of migratory returns; e.g., the lack of a full season of daily banding data could explain possible gaps; a second likely factor is the Monomoy location being out of the primary migration pathway. Birds end up on Monomoy when something unusual happens during migration. This brings in very interesting birds, but South Monomoy does not appear to be a regular stopover location for non-coastal species.

Finally, we acknowledge the assistance of Kate Iaquinto and all the staff at Monomoy NWR and Sue Finnegan for helping to keep us trained and help with assistants on days off the island. Lastly, we thank all of our donors without whom none of this would be possible.



Red-breasted Nuthatch by George West