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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2013 Manomet Bird Observatory

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### **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, Mary Wright

**Assistants:** Peg Ackerson, Bill Clark, Sara Eisenhauer, Jenny Howard, Jenny Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, Lauren Kras, Jan Lathrop, Peggy Maslow, Mary Messerli, Joan Stoner, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Mary Thorne, Stella Walsh, Kathy Whittier, Lynn Zeltman, Zooey Zullo

Our fall was a typical, slow one that we have come to expect. The 1,174 birds captured is better than the last two years, but still well below our historic average of  $1,655 \pm 554$  birds/season. Likewise, the 62 species was lower than our historic average of  $71.4 \pm 8.9$  species. Weather was not a major factor this year, as we did not lose any whole days of banding, but lost parts of several days due to rain. We did have the highest number of b/100nh since 2006 (33.1), but this was also lower than our historic average  $38.7 \pm 9.1$ . The earlier fall shut-down of the Shoals Marine Lab has made this season typical of our new normal for fall migration.

Because of our shorter seasons, most species have highly variable numbers of captures across years. Thus, most species are well within their normal ranges. Most of the species that were captured in higher-than-average numbers were species that breed on the island. These included 12 Eastern Kingbirds (average:  $4.5 \pm 2.8$ ), 16 Carolina Wrens (average:  $5.3 \pm 3.0$ ), Northern Cardinal (average:  $3.5 \pm 1.9$ ), and six Common Grackles (average:  $2.0 \pm 2.0$ ). The only migrant species that we captured in higher-than-average numbers was Traill's Flycatcher (2013: 63, average:  $32.5 \pm 14.6$ ). No birds were captured in below-average numbers, but our one Yellow-rumped Warbler, one White-throated Sparrow, one Golden-crowned Kinglet, and no Ruby-crowned Kinglets reflect our early closure. Our most exciting captures were a Hooded Warbler, a Kentucky Warbler, a Least Sandpiper, and a Spotted Sandpiper. The latter two were firsts for our station. Birds are not the only migrants we saw/captured. We also captured (and released) two red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*), three silver-haired

bats (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), and numerous green darner dragonflies (*Anax junius*).

We had a number of groups visit the station, including students from the Shoals Marine Lab classes, Girl Scouts, groups from the Star Island conference center, Woods Hole, local schools, and other visitors to Appledore Island.

We continue to be supported by a group of fantastic volunteers who generously give of their time and financial support. We are also fortunate to have substantial financial support from the Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and an anonymous donor.

### **Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703**

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

Manomet, MA

**Banders:** Sam and Patrick Roberts, *Trevor Lloyd-Evans* (compiler)

**Assistants:** Grace Alloy-Relihan and Danielle Aubé

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2013 we have banded 163,481 landbirds. We are in our 48<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; some fall migrants pass through earlier, some (mostly single-brooded short-distance migrants) later.

Formal education programs for 517 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 (hatching-year male) on 9 Oct was our third consecutive fall banding record

for this vanishingly rare species in New England. For the last four 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 2,118  
Repeat Captures 1,428  
TOTAL HANDLED: 3,546 of 79 species

Both individual numbers banded and species captured were above average for the previous ten years. A snowy late winter last year was followed by a wet spring and hot summer. Late summer and fall seeds and berries were unusually abundant. Traditionally, NW winds and a cold front drift more nocturnal migrants south and east to the southern New England coast. Although there were no days of overwhelming migration, migration was mostly steady from mid-Aug through Oct. Our busiest fall days were: 16 Sep (130 total captures), 21 Oct (123), 5 Sep (112), 20 Sep (101) and 15 Oct (98). Twenty species were banded in greater or greater to equal numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years and, most unusually, no species hit the 10-year low mark. The "up" numbers included resident breeding Cooper's and Red-shouldered hawks, some were short distance migrants (e.g., Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler), but most were long-distance Neotropical migrants (e.g., Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and eight species of warblers).

Unusual birds were a Yellow-throated Vireo, uncommon on the coast and the first since 1997; also a Cape May Warbler, the first since 1999 and never frequent since the last really extensive Spruce Budworm outbreak in the Northeast from 1974-1979.

Notable recaptures this fall (69 from previous seasons) included: a Gray Catbird first banded as a hatching year on 20 Sep 2004 (9 years old); a 5-year-old Common Grackle; four 4-year-olds; six 3-year-olds; twelve 2-year-olds and 45 banded the previous fall or spring.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education

season of 2013 such a success. We are also greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who supported the Bird-a-Thon this year.

Sam and Patrick Roberts were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Grace Alloy-Relihan and Danielle Aubé. We will miss their experience and enthusiasm greatly. "*Per ardua ad astra*" as we sometimes 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

**Assistants:** Ron Kielb, Jo-Anna Ghadban, Keenan Yakola, Carolyn Kennedy, Pat Kemple, Ben Lagasse, Yianni Laskaris, Carly Congdon, Karly Rogers, Alex Mueller, Judith Bruce, Corey Accardo, Ellison Orcutt, Dominique Biondi, Sheryl Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Kristen Johnson, and others

Our season began 3 Aug and continued through 16 Nov. Our fall season this year was even better than last and all the past 14 years of banding at this site. A total of 3,057 birds were banded of 80 species and 94% of those were HY birds. We had a large group of volunteers, so we were able to keep more nets open for a longer period of time.

Net hours totaled 6,662 for a capture rate of 45 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 19 Oct with a total of 216 birds. The best species diversity of 26 species was on 4 Oct. We were excited to finally get a Bobolink in our nets this fall—a new species for this site. Only one Rufous Hummingbird was banded this fall and it just happened to be at my own home! We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Goldfinch (140) with an average of  $70 \pm 30.5$ ; Blackpoll Warbler (73) – average of  $31 \pm 26$ ; Black-throated Blue Warbler (8) – average  $4 \pm 2.5$ ; Common Yellowthroat (127) – average  $69 \pm 37$ ; Marsh Wren (8) – average  $2 \pm 2.2$ ; Myrtle Warbler (1,317) – average  $528 \pm 338.3$ ; Nashville Warbler (16) – average  $6 \pm 4.7$ ; Northern Waterthrush (10) – average  $3 \pm 2.5$ ; Prairie Warbler (14) – average  $7 \pm 4.3$ , and Palm Warblers (50), average  $24 \pm 13.5$ .