

2014

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2013 Wing Island Banding Station

Susan Finnegan

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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 ± 30.5 ; Blackpoll Warbler (73) – average of 31 ± 26 ; Black-throated Blue Warbler (8) – average 4 ± 2.5 ; Common Yellowthroat (127) – average 69 ± 37 ; Marsh Wren (8) – average 2 ± 2.2 ; Myrtle Warbler (1,317) – average 528 ± 338.3 ; Nashville Warbler (16) – average 6 ± 4.7 ; Northern Waterthrush (10) – average 3 ± 2.5 ; Prairie Warbler (14) – average 7 ± 4.3 , and Palm Warblers (50), average 24 ± 13.5 .

Fifty-seven birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included a seven-year-old Gray Catbird, a six-year-old Song Sparrow; a Myrtle Warbler and a Gray Catbird at least six years old; a five-year-old Gray Catbird and three others at least five years old, and a Song Sparrow and Gray Catbird both four years old. All other birds were three years old or younger.

A Gray Catbird we banded as a SY in 2010 was found dead Aug 2013 in Brewster. A Blue Jay first banded as a SY in 2004 was found killed by a cat in Nov 2013. One of our Myrtle Warblers banded as a HY in Oct was found hit by a vehicle in Feb 2014 in Beaufort, NC, and an American Goldfinch first banded as HY in Nov was found killed by a cat in Feb 2014 in a nearby town.

Two new species for the station were added during the fall migration season: a Red-tailed Hawk and a Bobolink.

Pox was noted on eleven birds this fall: a Northern Cardinal, a Song Sparrow, four Gray Catbirds, and five Common Yellowthroats. All were HY birds except for one Common Yellowthroat and most of the pox was noted on the feet/legs with three on the mandible.

Two banding demonstrations were held this fall, one on 24 Aug and another one on 15 Sep.

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

Monomoy Refuge Banding Station 413-0699

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Chatham, MA

Banders: *James Junda* (compiler),

Assistants: Kevin Mortensen, Melanie Mancuso, Michael Novak, Valerie Boudeau, Elizabeth Baldwin

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.

Fall migration monitoring is a standardized study undertaken annually. It provides the basis for long-term trend analysis of migrating birds using the refuge. It is designed to be comparable with the methodology of other fall migration banding stations. The protocol involves regular monitoring including standardized census, banding, and incidental observations taken each day staff is present at the station. The fall migration season extends from 15 Aug - 15 Nov. This period encompasses the majority of fall passerine migration, giving a thorough view of the process.

The banding season started on 15 Aug and ended on 10 Nov. We operated a maximum of 13 nets on 49 days, for a total of 3087.02 hours. We conducted censuses a total of 58 times, 23 at Powder Hole, 20 at Lighthouse Beach and 15 at Big Station Pond. Coverage of MRBS in 2013 was very high until 29 Sep. Out of 44 days in this time period, we performed censuses on 38 (86%) and banded on 31 (70%). The 19-day shutdown of the federal government suspended operations from 20 Sep to 18 Oct; during this time no data was collected. From 19 Oct to 11 Nov, coverage was lower due to less-stable weather associated with late fall in coastal New England. Out of 24 days, we performed censuses on 21 (88%) and banded on 13 (54%).