

2013

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Wing Island Banding Station

Susan Finnegan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

Finnegan, Susan (2013) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2012 Wing Island Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 38 : Iss. 4 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol38/iss4/16>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

We banded at three locations within the greater Erie area—two sites at Presque Isle State Park (Niagara boat launch and Fry's Landing) and one at Erie Bluffs State Park. In contrast to 2011, it was a fairly dry spring. We canceled only five days due to weather, but did close early on at least three occasions due to rain or high winds. Bird numbers were lower than in 2011. We processed 1,005 birds of 67 different species over the course of 35 netting days. Of these birds, 923 were new captures and 82 were recaptures from previous years. We did not encounter any foreign recaptures, but a Swainson's Thrush banded at Erie Bluffs S.P. in 2009 was recaptured in Veracruz, Mexico, on 21 Apr 2012. We caught the largest number of birds (461) at Niagara Boat Launch, followed by Fry's Landing (345) and Erie Bluffs S.P. (308). The latter totals include birds banded in 2012 and subsequently recaptured.

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
Gray Catbird	161	46	39	15
Yellow Warbler	122	64	32	4
White-throated Sparrow	82	57	9	34
Blackpoll Warbler	41	51	46	3
Western Palm Warbler	39	20	3	77
Magnolia Warbler	36	50	47	3
Myrtle Warbler	31	87	13	0
American Redstart	29	48	45	7
Blue Jay	25	12	24	64
Common Yellowthroat	23	69	22	9

Bird numbers were down significantly when compared to 2011, but comparable to 2009 (945) and 2010 (915). The extremely warm weather in late March may have been responsible for the lower numbers of early migrants caught in 2012 compared to 2011, as many of them may have already departed before banding commenced; e.g., 82 White-throated Sparrows were caught in 2012 compared to 231 in 2011). The windy and dry conditions in April and May probably allowed

many migrants to cross Lake Erie during the early morning hours rather than stop over on its south shore.

We were helped greatly by 55 volunteers who contributed 244 hours assisting at the sites. We had at least 200 visitors, including close to 100 people during the Presque Isle Festival of Birds during 12-13 May. We provided banding demonstrations to elementary school groups, college groups, park visitors and several birding groups. In addition, we were featured on local TV and in the newspaper.

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

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

**Susan Finnegan, Compiler**

Gretchen Putonen, Bander

suefinnegan@comcast.net

Assistants: Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, and others who helped for a day

The spring season this year was a rather dismal one for migrants, but not the worst we have had. Wind and rain prevented us from opening or closing early many days. Banding began on 13 Apr and ended on 16 Jun, for a total of 24 days of operation. A range of 15-35 nets were used. Net hours totaled 2301 for a capture rate of 24 b/100 nh. A total of 260 birds of 44 species were banded and 267 were recaptured. We had 27 returns of spring-banded birds including an eight-year-old Common Yellowthroat; a seven-year-old American Goldfinch; two five-year old Song Sparrows and American Goldfinch; two four-year-old Common Yellowthroats and American Goldfinch; seven three-year-olds, 13 two-year-olds, and a Carolina Wren banded the previous late spring as HY.

Our best day proved to be 14 May with 57 birds of 18 species captured. We saw lower numbers of American Goldfinch (28), compared to our average of  $52 \pm 18.35$ ; Black-capped Chickadees (5) with an average of  $23 \pm 16.01$ ; Blue Jay (1) with an average of  $4 \pm 2.22$  and Song Sparrows (7) with average of  $18 \pm 5.31$ . Higher-than-average captures include Brown Thrasher (2) with 0 average  $\pm 0.58$ ; Hermit Thrush (5) with 1 average  $\pm 2.83$ ; Swamp Sparrow (9) with an average of  $3 \pm 3.11$  and Yellow Palm Warblers (6) with an average of  $1 \pm 1.72$ .

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
Gray Catbird	78	82	18	-
American Goldfinch	28	93	7	-
Common Yellowthroat	24	50	46	4
White-throated Sparrow	14	7	-	93
Swamp Sparrow	9	56	11	33
Northern Cardinal	9	22	-	78
Prairie Warbler	7	71	-	29
Song Sparrow	7	71	-	29
Yellow Palm Warbler	6	66	17	17
Myrtle Warbler	5	60	49	-
Hermit Thrush	5	100	-	-
Eastern Towhee	5	80	20	-

We held two banding demonstrations this spring on 5 and 19 May. We had good numbers and diversity both days. A cute story is of a young girl, perhaps 7, who came to the first banding demonstration and her mother told us she promptly went home and banded all her stuffed animals! They wanted to come back and see more birds of course, but her daughter was also intent on building a mist net (indoors) in order to catch her 'birds'.

An exciting capture for us was our first ever Wood Thrush, a bird rarely seen on lower Cape Cod. We also had three species never captured before in spring: Veery, Brown Creeper and Field Sparrow. Our second ever spring Swainson's Thrush was captured on 5 May, a real treat for participants in our banding demo! In March, I banded our fourth state record for Allen's Hummingbird at a home in Dennis, MA.

A report from the Banding Lab was received in May concerning a Gray Catbird banded by us on 8 Oct 2011 that was found dead by window strike on 5 Jan 2012 in a nearby town. We do have some catbirds that winter on Cape Cod.

Many thanks to Gretchen Putonen, Jo-Anna Ghadband, Alice Wynn, Jessica Rempel, Ben Lagasse, Carolyn Kennedy, and Judy Keller for helping with the banding this spring!

#### **Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791**

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

**Bander: Luke DeGroot\***

email: DeGrootL@CarnegieMNH.org

Chief Assistant(s): Mary Shidel, Blaine Carnes

After an unusually mild winter, we thought we might have an early spring but we were still surprised to find a very early arrival; an Eastern Phoebe who flew into our nets on 1 Mar. A full nine days earlier than the previous 'early arrival record' for this species, set 36 years ago on 10 Mar 1976.

	Banded	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
Cedar Waxwing	372	53	47	0
Magnolia Warbler	123	56.9	34.1	8.9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	120	45.8	19.2	35
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	73	0	0	100
Gray Catbird	72	70.8	29.2	0
American Goldfinch	63	69.8	14.3	15.9
Common Yellowthroat	52	44.2	23.1	32.7
Song Sparrow	46	34.8	15.2	50
Dark-eyed Junco	46	54.3	43.5	2.2
Red-eyed Vireo	43	16.3	2.3	81.4

Other record-early captures occurred this spring for several species, listed with the previous early arrival date and this year's arrival date: Louisiana Waterthrush (1/Apr/2000, 28/Mar/2012), Wood Thrush (21/Apr/2002, 17/Apr/2012), Blue-headed Vireo (18/Apr/2006, 15/Apr/2012), and Philadelphia Vireo (4/May/2008, 2/May/2012).

Species above 2 S.D. included Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Cedar Waxwing, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren. However, our capture rates were well below average (16.9 b/100nh, mean = 26.7, SD = 7.4) continuing our trend of decreasing capture rates over time.