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Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2013- Appledore Island Migration Station

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Rock Point Banding Station **425-0793**
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Banding, number-wise for 2013, was almost average compared with the past 12 years. We had 20 volunteers with three of them distance volunteers: Martino Guerre came from Italy, Rebecca Gouge from Quebec, and Anna Wittmer from Ohio. The remaining volunteers were local or from a near distance and gave a day or two a week. We have four licensed banders: Jim Smith, Jason Lymburner, Kim Christoff, and Roswitha Matuschek.

| | Species | # Banded | % SY | % ASY | % AHY |
|-----|------------------------|----------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. | White-throated Sparrow | 130 | 52 | 44 | 4 |
| 2. | Yellow Warbler | 118 | 87 | 13 | - |
| 3. | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 98 | 43 | 53 | 4 |
| 4. | Slate-colored Junco | 79 | 59 | 38 | 3 |
| 5. | Common Grackle | 79 | 48 | 11 | 41 |
| 6. | Red-winged Blackbird | 74 | 72 | 28 | - |
| 7. | Gray Catbird | 61 | 66 | 33 | 1 |
| 8. | Swamp Sparrow | 56 | 80 | 20 | - |
| 9. | Song Sparrow | 55 | 86 | 4 | 10 |
| 10. | American Goldfinch | 53 | 68 | 32 | - |

April was wet with quite a bit of flooding early in the month. We lost days to the weather and managed to band on only 18 of the possible 26 days, as we take Sundays off. Catch-wise, the month was good with 575 birds banded and 225 recaptured. We had a Northern Waterthrush on 20 Apr and Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow by the 18th. Two White-eyed Vireos were caught: one on 23 Apr and another on 29 Apr. This species is not common for us. All-in-all, April was a good month for us.

During May we banded only 660 birds and the b/100nh was the lowest in 12 years. A Pine Siskin on 14 May was unusual. Warblers were in lower numbers than expected and some species were missed. Magnolia Warblers were particularly low in numbers in comparison to previous years. In contrast, Yellow Warbler numbers were the highest in five years.

Tree Swallows were banded from nest boxes and 124 were banded. Four Eastern Bluebirds were also banded.

Recovered Birds:

2571-11242 – a White-throated Sparrow banded 27 Sep 2012 found dead 16 Nov 2012 by Angela Owens of Gatonia, NC, 850 km South of Rock Point.

2401-66856 – a Purple Finch banded 18 Oct 2012 and found dead on 25 Apr 2013 by Carl Moningstar of Simpsonville, Greenville County, SC, 923 km SW of Rock Point.

Foreign Recaptures:

2700-89659 – an American Goldfinch banded at Cayuga, NY, on 5 Feb 2013 and recaptured at Rock Point 7 Apr 2013.

As part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, we submit data on bandings, recoveries, and casual observations to Bird Studies Canada from which trend analysis is calculated over the long term. These data have been published and is available on line for each station of the network.

We acknowledge the support of Ontario Parks, TD Friends of the Environment, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Niagara Falls Nature Club, Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Studies Canada and the Baillie Fund for continued support.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703
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Chief Assistant(s): Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Kristin Cantele, Bill Clark, Jill Fleming, Lindsay Herlihy, Tracy Holmes, Jason Jacobs, Karen Mitchell, Darlene Moore, William Nichols, Jeff Ott, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kathy Whittier, Zooey Zullo.

The spring 2013 season was a welcome change to recent years. The 3324 birds banded was our highest spring banding total since 1995 and well above our 2456 average spring banding total. This is particularly notable because our 3217 total net-hours was below our average of 3334. Consequently, our 103 b/100nh was well above our average of 75.9 b/100 nh. We banded birds of 79 different species, which is slightly higher than normal (average 71.7) but still within our normal range.

| | Species | # Banded | % SY | % ASY | % AHY |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Common Yellowthroat | 726 | 57.3 | 20.7 | 22.0 |
| 2. | Magnolia Warbler | 323 | 66.0 | 27.6 | 6.4 |
| 3. | Red-eyed Vireo | 207 | 1.4 | 5.3 | 93.2 |
| 4. | American Redstart | 197 | 53.4 | 18.2 | 23.4 |
| 5. | Black-and-white Warbler | 164 | 62.8 | 34.2 | 3.0 |
| 6. | White-throated Sparrow | 152 | 26.3 | 32.2 | 39.5 |
| 7. | Trail's Flycatcher | 141 | 0.7 | - | 99.3 |
| 8. | Northern Parula | 110 | 44.5 | 51.8 | 3.7 |
| 9. | Gray Catbird | 106 | 64.1 | 25.5 | 10.4 |
| 10. | Ovenbird | 95 | 45.3 | 38.9 | 15.8 |

During this season, we recorded our highest spring total bandings for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (53), Traill's Flycatcher (141), Red-eyed Vireo (207), Black-and-white Warbler (207), Mourning Warbler (46), and Savannah Sparrow (11). We also banded our first ever Semipalmated Plover and our first spring Clay-colored Sparrow. We continue to see some birds that are more typical further south, like two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a Kentucky Warbler, a Hooded Warbler, and a Summer Tanager. Other birds of note included a Bicknell's Thrush, a Hairy Woodpecker, and a Merlin. No birds were below normal numbers.

We hosted several research projects at the station. Kristen Covino is working on her PhD thesis and we serve as her northern field site in her study of testosterone in migration. The Canisius College Laboratory of Avian Biology brought one of its Mobile Avian Recording Studios to the island this spring to work on flight calling behavior during migration. It was quite a production to bring the trailer on to the island, but fun to ride on the boat with it and watch the engineers puzzling through the logistics.

We are extremely grateful to the staff of the Shoals Marine Lab, who are very generous with their support of the banding station – arranging boat schedules, planning logistics runs, and even keeping meals warm when the birds prevented us from getting to meals on time. The lab also provides financial support to the station. We could not run without the generosity of our many volunteers, who donate their time each year to keeping this project going. Additionally, we have financial support from several anonymous donors and from the Canisius College Department of Biology.

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