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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast)- Fall 2014

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# Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) – Fall 2014 Report

## ***Sue Finnegan, Coordinator***

Wing Island Banding Station  
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Five banding stations reported their results for the 2014 fall season. We were sorry to miss the report from St. Andrews, but did add a new report from the Austin Banding Station in Wellfleet, MA.

Weather was not a negative factor this fall. Appledore had a disappointing season with lower numbers of birds banded than ever before due to their early closure. Manomet, on the other hand, has had good numbers for the past five years. Wing Island had good numbers, but would have done much better if many of their nets did not have to be closed due to the presence of foxes. This was the last year running the banding station at Monomoy and the first year for Austin.

Appledore and Austin had their highest daily catch on 4 and 20 Sep, respectively, with the more southerly stations capturing more birds on 20 Oct

for Manomet, 25 Oct for Wing Island and 10 Oct for Monomoy. Last year they had identical days with the highest capture rate. Surprisingly for Wing Island the best day was 31 Aug when typically it is also in Oct. The most species diversity occurred 5 and 26 Sep for Appledore and Austin, respectively, 5 and 28 Sep for Manomet and Monomoy, respectively, and 4 Oct for Wing Island. Numbers of different species for those days ranged from 22 to 33. Banders contributed to over 42,000 net-hours of effort this season.

Appledore had an exciting capture of both a Hooded and Kentucky warbler. Austin had the pleasure of banding a Dickcissel and two Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Notable bandings for Manomet were a Nelson's Sparrow, American Woodcock, and Bicknell's Thrush. Wing Island had no new species to report but three Acadian Flycatchers and a higher number than average of Blue-headed Vireos were banded. Interesting captures for Monomoy were Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Hooded Warbler.

Thanks so much to the Region I compilers for taking time out of their busy schedules to put these reports together.



**Hooded Warbler Photo R. Pantle**

Table 1. AFR Region 1 - Northeast Fall 2014 Summary					
	Appledore Isl. ME	Austin MA	Manomet MA	Wing Island MA	Monomoy MA
First Day	14 Aug	20 Sep	15 Aug	1 Aug	15 Aug
Last Day	11 Sep	15 Nov	15 Nov	13 Nov	30 Oct
Days Operated	29	46	61	53	55
#. Nets Used	9 to 10	7 to 16	25 to 50	11 to 35	7 to 15
Total Net Hours	3,537	2,763	26,367	6,171	3,710
No. of Traps Used	0	0	0	1	0
% of Total Caught in Traps	N/A	N/A	N/A	<1%	N/A
# Birds Banded 2013	1173	N/A	2118	3057	2481
# Birds Banded 2014	765	1091	2089	2678	2775
Different Species 2013	62	N/A	79	80	85
Different Species 2014	57	67	77	75	87
Largest Daily Catch	68	60	139	148	303
Largest Daily Catch Date	4 Sep	20 Sep	27 Oct	31 Aug	28 Oct
Most Common Species on Best Day	COYE	BCCH	MYWA	GRCA	MYWA
Which was What % Total on Best Day	21%	48%	36%	61%	46%
Date with Most Species Diversity	5 Sep	26 Sep	20 Oct	25 Oct	10 Oct
# of Species on that Day	23	26	22	22	33
Birds/100nh 2013	33	N/A	7.2	62	80
Birds/100nh 2014	22	39	7.9	64	75
Overall % Hatch Year (***) 2013	95%	N/A	88%	94%	92%
Overall % Hatch Year (***) 2014	95%	85%	91%	95%	92%
(***) HY% calculated as number of HY/total # of birds banded.					

Table 2. Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, AFR Region 1 - Northeast, Fall 2014															
	Appledore Island ME	#	% HY	Austin Wellfleet Bay MA	#	% HY	Manomet MA	#	% HY	Wing Island MA	#	% HY	Monomoy MA	#	% HY
1.	NOWA (2)	114	93%	BCCH	136	85%	GRCA (1)	473	96%	GRCA (2)	713	94%	MYWA (1)	977	97%
2.	GRCA (1)	112	96%	YRWA	132	64%	MYWA (2)	361	96%	MYWA (1)	551	96%	TRES (2)	362	100%
3.	COYE (3)	96	97%	GRCA	88	88%	BCCH	171	96%	SOSP (3)	219	98%	COYE (3)	279	76%
4.	AMRE (4)	43	95%	NOCA	68	81%	WTSP (8)	139	86%	AMGO (4)	157	87%	SCJU (7)	182	93%
5.	YEWA (8)	42	95%	SOSP	58	90%	NOCA (7)	95	66%	BCCH (9)	154	97%	GRCA	125	88%
6.	REVI (5)	35	100%	AMGO	48	100%	TUTI (6)	88	88%	COYE (5)	109	87%	CEDW (6)	116	82%
7.	RBNU	33	97%	SCJU	48	92%	HETH (10)	86	97%	SWSP (6)	72	100%	GCKI (8)	94	89%
8.	BAWW (7)	25	100%	CHSP	47	81%	REVI (3)	61	100%	NOCA (10)	63	95%	SOSP (5)	92	79%
9.	CEDW (10)	23	74%	WTSP	45	84%	SOSP (9)	45	96%	TUTI	52	96%	PAWA	80	94%
10.	CARW	20	95%	PIWA	33	82%	AMRE	43	95%	RTHU (7)	44	93%	SAVS (4)	70	95%
(# ) - Top 10 order from previous year.															

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME  
Coordinator: *Sara Morris*  
Banders: Lindsay Herlihy, Anthony Hill, David Holmes  
Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Solomon Bixby, Eleanor Bolker, Kathryn Gunther, Mark Hopey, Lauren Kras, Jan Lathrop, Susan Lee, Peggy Maslow, Fay Melendy, Jeff Ott, Shelby Southworth, Andy Thiede, and Kathy Whittier,

We had another disappointing fall season, even worse than we have come to expect. The 765 birds banded was well below our average of 1620 ± 479 birds/season and was our lowest total since 1982! Likewise, the 57 species we captured was lower than our historic average of 70.8 ± 9.2 species. Weather was not a major factor in our captures this year as we did not lose any whole days of banding, and only lost an hour or two on four days due to rain. The early fall shut down of the Shoals Marine Lab continues to have the biggest impact on our fall statistics, and this season was our earliest close yet. The early closure resulted in the lowest number of birds per 100 net-hours (21.6 b/100 nh) in our history, well below our 38.0 ± 9.5 b/100nh on average.

With more than 30 years of banding and with recent shorter seasons, most species have highly variable numbers of captures across years, so most of our captures were within normal ranges. Our higher-than-typical numbers came from local breeding species. The 21 Carolina Wrens that were captured was well above our typical 5.2 ± 5.4 and was our highest total ever, an indication of the recent mild winters. Likewise, we had higher-than-typical Downy Woodpeckers (2014: 13; average 5.5 ± 4.5, Northern Cardinals (2014: 6; average: 3.2 ± 2.5), and Common Grackles (2014: 8; average: 2.0 ± 2.4). The two species of birds that were below normal ranges were Least Flycatcher (2014: 5; average: 18.8 ± 7.0) and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2014: 8; average: 31.9 ± 12.4). Many of our migrant species were within normal ranges, but were captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Traill’s Flycatcher (2014: 7; average: Jul. - Sep.

32.4 ± 16.0), Red-eyed Vireo (2014: 35; average: 164.5 ± 102.6), Cedar Waxwing (2014: 22; average: 55.4 ± 33.0), Nashville Warbler (2014: 2; average: 20.8 ± 14.6), Black-and-white Warbler (2014: 25; average: 52.1 ± 22.3), American Redstart (2014: 43; average: 106.4 ± 48.8), Blackpoll Warbler (2014: 5; average: 41.2 ± 29.0), Magnolia Warbler (2014: 14; average: 30.0 ± 15.3), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2014: 4; average: 23.8 ± 23.7), and Baltimore Oriole (2014: 11; average: 32.6 ± 17.7). Our most exciting captures were a Hooded Warbler and a Kentucky Warbler.

We had a number of groups visit the station including Marine Immersion students from the Shoals Marine Lab, a group from the University of New Hampshire, groups from the Star Island conference center, and other visitors to Appledore Island.

We are extremely grateful to our team of dedicated 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.

Austin Banding Station 415-0695

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary  
Wellfleet, MA  
Banders: *James Junda* (compiler),  
Assitants: Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso, Michael Novak

In fall 2014 we were very proud to reopen the Austin Banding Station on Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and operate the first ever modern organized constant-effort migration station on the grounds. Weather was good with only a few storms in the fall preventing us from opening the majority of nets. Our most noteworthy bandings were a Dickcissel and two Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Our station is around the nature center at the main sanctuary. Nets are in a mix of dense mature riparian forest (7), beach side heath and open field (5), dense black-locust/black cherry forest (3) and saltmarsh edge (2). The station was run by a team of dedicated banders: James Junda, Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso and Michael Novak.

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

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences  
Manomet, MA

Compiler: **Trevor Lloyd-Evans**

Banders: Ian Davies, Grace Alloy-Relihan,  
Assistants: Lauren diBiccari, Ben Lagassé

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2014 we have banded 165,570 land birds. We are in our 49<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 some 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 436 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! This year, banding was also videotaped for the *Sentinelles de la Nature* program of the French Ushuaïa TV Station.

An unambiguous (by plumage and measurement) hatching-year Bicknell's Thrush on 21 Oct was the first fall record this century. For the last five autumns, we have exceeded recent numbers of birds per effort (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 2,089

Repeat Captures 1,246

TOTAL HANDLED 3,335 of 77 species

Both individual numbers banded and species captured were slightly above average for the previous ten years. Another snowy winter last year

was followed by a wet spring and average summer plus a July hurricane. Late summer and fall seeds and berries were plentiful. There were no days of overwhelming migration from mid-Aug. through mid-Oct., but we were rescued from mediocrity by a flurry of migrants starting on 20 Oct. Our busiest fall days were: 27 Oct (162 total captures), 20 Oct (144), 24 Oct (139), 28 Oct (110) and 29 Oct (93). Fifteen species were banded in greater or greater-to-equal numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years and six species lower or lower to equal. The "up" numbers included short-distance migrants; e.g., Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hermit Thrush and Myrtle Warbler, plus an all-time Northern Cardinal record. Ten-year low Neotropical migrants included Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Green and Blackpoll warblers. New bandings were led by Gray Catbirds, as usual.

Unusual species not banded in the last decade of fall migrations were American Woodcock, Bicknell's Thrush and a "way out of habitat" Nelson's Sparrow. A single Intergrade Flicker with a pinkish primary among the yellow shafts was a first since 2006.

Notable recaptures this fall (69 from previous seasons) included: a Common Yellowthroat first banded as an adult male on 20 May 2008 (at least 7 years old); a 6-year-old Gray Catbird; a 5-year-old Northern Cardinal; a 4-year-old Hairy Woodpecker; ten 3-year-olds; nine 2-year-olds and 33 banded the previous spring or fall. All are residents or short-distance migrants, except possibly some of the catbirds or the old yellowthroat. The latter has been missing a couple of claws on one foot since before 2008 and is fondly known to the staff as "old nubby toes".

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2014 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who supported the Bird-a-Thon this year.

Ian Davies and Grace Alloy-Relihan were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Lauren diBiccari and Ben Lagassé. We will greatly miss their experience and enthusiasm. "*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 02631

Banders: **Susan Finnegan** (also compiler),  
Gretchen Putonen

Assistants: Jo-Anna Ghadban, Ron Kielb, Rose Scavotto, Megan Nepshinsky, Katie Cadoret, Catie Porro, Judith Bruce, Claire Revekant and others who came for a day or two

Our 15<sup>th</sup> fall season began 1 Aug and continued through 13 Nov. A total of 2,678 birds were banded of 75 species and 95% of those were HY birds. Sadly, many nets had to be closed due to the presence of foxes and some net areas had to remain closed for the majority of the season because the other nets had to be monitored constantly.

Net hours totaled 6,171 for a capture rate of 64 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 31 Aug with a total of 148 birds. The best species diversity of 22 species was on 25 Oct. No new species were added this year. Four Rufous Hummingbirds were captured and banded during Oct and Nov in various towns in eastern Massachusetts, one being in the city of Boston! We had record numbers of House Sparrows (40) this year due to the loss of monitors at our Tree Swallow boxes. We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Goldfinch (157) with an average of 76 ±37.5; Black-capped Chickadee (154) -- average of 86±48; Downy Woodpecker (19) -- average 9 ±5.1; Tufted Titmouse (52) -- average 24 ±16; Orange-crowned Warbler (8) -- average 3 ±2.6 and Prairie Warbler (14) -- average 8 ±4.5.

Sixty-three birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included an 8-yr Gray Catbird, 7-yr Song Sparrow, 6-yr Black-capped Chickadee 3, A5Y: 3 Gray Catbirds, 5-yr Song Sparrow, A 4-yr Gray Catbird, 4-yr: 5 Gray Catbirds, 5 Song Sparrows, 2 Common Yellowthroats, and 1 White-throated Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse, ATY: Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, and American Goldfinch and the rest were in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year or younger.

An American Goldfinch that we first banded as a HY on 9 Oct 2013 was found dead on 17 Sep 2014 in Plympton, MA. A Gray Catbird banded as a HY on 29 Sep 2007 was found dead in Old Saybrook, CT, on 12 Oct 2014.

Pox was noted on the feet of four birds this fall, all HY: Northern Cardinal, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird and a Blackpoll Warbler.

A banding demonstration was held on 23 Aug for an ornithology class.

Thanks very much to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above who 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: Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso,  
Michael Novak, Valerie Boudeau

2014 was the final year of operation at MRBS and our most complete. We banded on 55 days, which is the largest total in four years of operation. The weather in 2014 at MRBS was quite good until the end of September, allowing for banding on most days. However, high winds and a series of storms in October limited banding to only 15 days that month. Our most interesting captures were Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (our 5<sup>th</sup> at the station) and Hooded Warbler, each rare on Cape Cod in the fall. Species present in larger-than-normal numbers were Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler and Common Yellowthroats which were all present in numbers equal to the three previous seasons combined. Numbers of Savannah Sparrows were way down; captured at 50% of the rate in previous seasons. Pine nut specialists were up again similar to 2012 with large captures of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches, the first two being completely absent in 2013, but present in 2012 and 2014.