

2016

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2015-St Andrews Bird Banding Station

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St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670

New Brunswick, Canada

Bander: **Tracey Dean** (complier)

Assistants: Willow English, Sebastian Orue Herrera

The St. Andrews Bird Banding Station continues to follow the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) protocol and open the mist nets daily during the fall migration. The 2015 fall banding season started on 27 Aug and ended 17 Oct. Few full days were lost to rain or wind.

The vegetation in both banding areas continues to fill in and create a thick understory. The grassy open areas in HMa are almost gone, shaded out by mature spruce trees. The willow, alder, buckthorn and aspen around the HMb area are now taller than the nets. There have also been major human-made changes that have fragmented and isolated the banding areas. A road now cuts right through the old hedgerow that funneled the birds into the HMa and the forest behind HMb has been cleared. Deer are a huge and expensive problem! Most of the nets have holes in the bottom shelf due to a deer passing through.

Warbler numbers were well down from 2014 and few made the top ten. Only 9 Black and white, 9 Magnolia, and 10 Black-throated Green Warblers, 3 Ovenbird and 7 Northern Waterthrushes were banded. Large active flocks of goldfinch took advantage of the good knapweed seed crop and 99 were captured. Extending the banding into October increased the number of late migrants captured, such as the kinglets (see top ten list).

Here are some highlights and lowlights from 2015:

- A total of 468 birds of 46 species were banded – highest since 2010.
- The 19.3 b/100nh - highest since 2011!
- A Nelson's Sparrow captured on 4 Oct was a surprise new species for the station. This species is not expected in the net area habitat.
- Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were also unusual catches.
- Ten Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded. This is the most since 2004. Usually they are at the tops of the trees, but this year they seemed active lower than usual.

- After a couple of year's absence, Cedar Waxwings were present in and around the nets. One pair still had young in the nest in mid-September!
- No Northern Cardinals were banded for the first time in nine years. This species was rarely heard in the banding area this year. In previous years males could be heard singing most days in both net areas.
- There were neither Purple Finches nor Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Thank you to volunteers Willow English and Sebastian Orue for their dedication to the banding process and commitment to the Station's protocol, and to the **Huntsman Marine Science Centre** for all the in-kind support. Thank you to the **New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund** for providing financial support without which the Station would not be able to operate.

Appledore Island Migration Station 425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: **Sara Morris**

Banders: Peg Ackerson, Liz Burton, Lindsay Herlihy, Anthony Hill, David Holmes

Assistants: Solomon Bixby, Eleanor Bolker, Bill Clark, Kathryn Gunther, Mark Hopey, Lauren Kras, Jan Lathrop, Rebecca Loeb, Sally Mack, Peggy Maslow, Jeff Ott, Cora Payne, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kiah Walker, Kathy Whittier, Ninfa Yong, Zooey Zullo

The number of birds banded this fall rebounded a bit to 854 from last fall's 765, but is still well below our average of 1590 ± 579 birds/season and is the second lowest total since 1982. Similarly, the number of species rebounded slightly (from 57 to 59) but is also well below the average of 70.3 ± 9.3 . Finally, we recorded the second-lowest number of birds per hundred net-hours in our history: 22.0 b/100nh (second only to last fall's 21.6 b/100nh). This value is well below our average of 37.4 ± 9.8 b/100nh. Weather was not a major factor in our captures this year, as we did not lose any whole days of banding, and only lost a few hours on two days due to rain. The early fall shutdown of the Shoals Marine Lab continues to have the biggest impact on our fall statistics.

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