

2016

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2015-Wing Island Banding Station

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### Recommended Citation

Finnegan, Susan (2016) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2015-Wing Island Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 41 : Iss. 2 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol41/iss2/13>

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captures were within normal ranges. Exceptions included a much higher-than-normal number of Downy Woodpeckers (2015: 18; average  $5.5 \pm 4.5$ ) and a higher-than-normal-number of Swamp Sparrows (2015: 8; average  $2.6 \pm 2.5$ ). There were no species with numbers below normal ranges, but there was a large number captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Red-eyed Vireo (2015: 68; average:  $164.5 \pm 102.6$ ), Common Yellowthroat (2015: 59; average:  $119.2 \pm 38.9$ ), Yellow Warbler (2015: 21; average:  $53.2 \pm 34.8$ ), Red-breasted Nuthatch (2015: 5; average:  $42.2 \pm 46.8$ ), Blackpoll Warbler (2015: 12; average:  $41.2 \pm 29.0$ ), Traill's Flycatcher (2015: 14; average:  $32.4 \pm 16.0$ ), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2015: 9; average:  $31.9 \pm 12.4$ ), Wilson's Warbler (2015: 9; average:  $31.6 \pm 13.1$ ), Magnolia Warbler (2015: 6; average:  $30.0 \pm 15.3$ ), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2015: 5; average:  $23.8 \pm 23.7$ ), Nashville Warbler (2015: 8; average:  $20.8 \pm 14.6$ ), Philadelphia Vireo (2015: 5; average:  $19.7 \pm 11.2$ ), Least Flycatcher (2015: 7; average:  $18.8 \pm 7.0$ ), and Canada Warbler (2015: ; average:  $15.4 \pm 7.9$ ). Finally, no Carolina Wrens (average:  $5.2 \pm 5.4$ ) were banded this fall. Though within normal ranges, this represents a major change from recent fall seasons and no doubt reflects the severe 2014-15 winter. Our most exciting captures were a Brewster's Warbler, a Dickcissel, and the station's first fall record for Field Sparrow.

We had a number of groups visit the station including Marine Immersion students from the Shoals Marine Lab, groups from the University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts, and Cornell University, 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 a very generous anonymous donor.

**Austin Banding Station**  
Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary  
Wellfleet, MA  
Bander: **James Junda** (compiler)  
Assistant: Daniel Lipp

**415-0695**

The fall of 2015 was the second year of the reopening of Austin Banding Station on Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Weather was good with only a few storms in the fall preventing us from opening the majority of nets. The biggest change was the number of Blue Jays, with our total of 47 far out pacing the fall 2014 total of 16. We had one single foreign recapture: a Song Sparrow banded as a HY several weeks earlier by Sue Finnegan at Wing Island. 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 (7), dense black-locust/black cherry forest (3) and saltmarsh edge (2). The Station was run by two dedicated banders: James Junda and Daniel Lipp.

**Wing Island Banding Station** **414-0700**  
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
Brewster, MA  
Bander: **Susan Finnegan** (compiler)  
Assistants: Col Lazeau, Donna Kucia, Gretchen Putonen, Claire Revekant, Alex Cook, Matt Rothrock, Judith Bruce, Bradford Bower, Ronald Kielb, Christina Baal, Carrie Hisaoka, Keenan Yakola, Maddie Nobili, and others who came for a day

Our 16<sup>th</sup> fall season began 1 Aug and continued through 12 Nov. A total of 2,576 birds were banded of 73 species and 91% of those were HY birds. We were fortunate this year to no longer have a fox issue, but due to our issues last year and not knowing the situation ahead of time, I opted for using fewer nets this fall.

Net hours totaled 5,600 for a capture rate of 68 b/100nh (netted birds). Our largest daily catch was on 21 Oct with a total of 192 birds. The highest species diversity of 28 species was on 7 Oct. No new species were added this year. We captured no Rufous Hummingbirds this year for the first time since monitoring hummingbirds in 2006, but it was exciting to band a Black-chinned Hummingbird in December. We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Goldfinch (242) with an average of  $86.9 \pm 112.17$ ; Blue-headed Vireo (12) – average of  $4.1 \pm 6.27$ ; Blue Jay (23) – average  $8.1 \pm 11.7$ ; Downy Woodpecker (25) – average  $10.6 \pm 12.75$ ; Ovenbird (18) – average  $4.8 \pm 9.66$  and Tufted Titmouse (77) – average  $27.6 \pm 42$ .

Seventy-eight birds returned to us from previous years. Oldest birds included a 9Y Black-and-white Warbler; 9Y Gray Catbird and Eastern Towhee; a 7Y Gray Catbird; 7Y: Black-capped Chickadee; 6Y: Northern Cardinal and Black-capped Chickadee; a 5Y Gray Catbird; 5Y: Gray Catbird (2), Song Sparrow (5), White-throated Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat; a 4Y: Gray Catbird (2) a Song Sparrow; 4Y: Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow (4), Black-capped Chickadee (4), Common Yellowthroat (2); A TY House Sparrow, and the rest were in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year or younger. We also had 2 foreign recaptures: a Myrtle Warbler and a Song Sparrow.

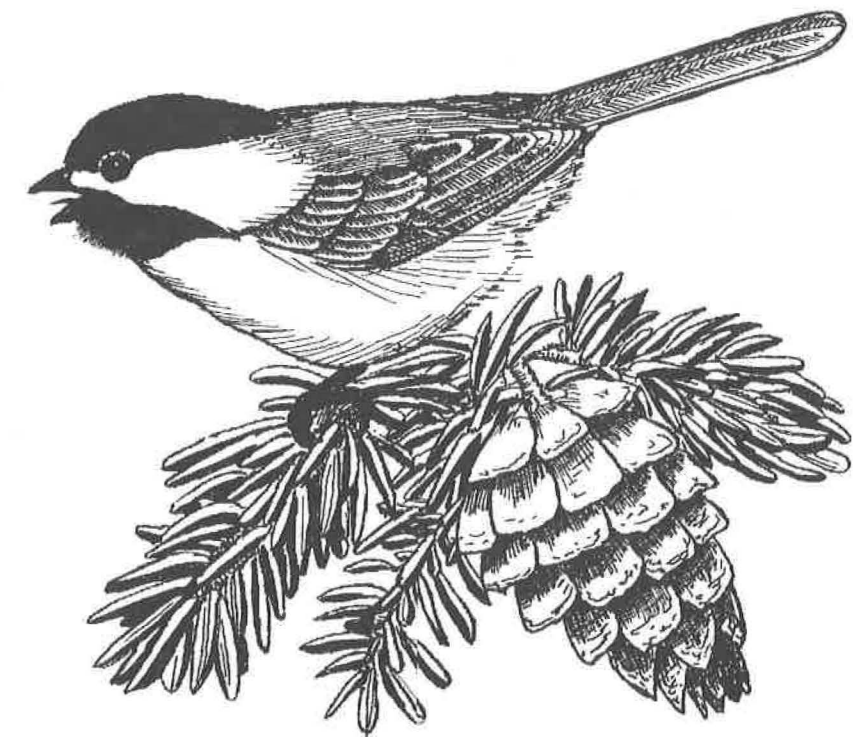
A Gray Catbird that we first banded as a HY on 18 Sep 2015 was found dead on 11 Oct in Oak Island, NC. Another Gray Catbird banded as a HY in fall of 2015 was found alive and released in Delaware on 8 May 2016. A Myrtle Warbler banded 30 Oct 2015 was

found dead on 18 Apr 2016 in Brewster and a Gray Catbird banded fall of 2015 was found dead in Eastham the following June.

A Gray Catbird, American Goldfinch and Black-capped Chickadee showed evidence of conjunctivitis. Pox was noted on the feet of three birds this fall and on the lower mandible of a Gray Catbird, all HY birds.

A banding demonstration was held on 20 Sep as part of the Cape Cod Bird Festival.

Thanks very much to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. Thanks to the French Foundation, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History 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 allowing us to band on their land.



Black-capped Chickadee  
by George West