

2017

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2016- Appledore Island Migration Station

Sara Morris

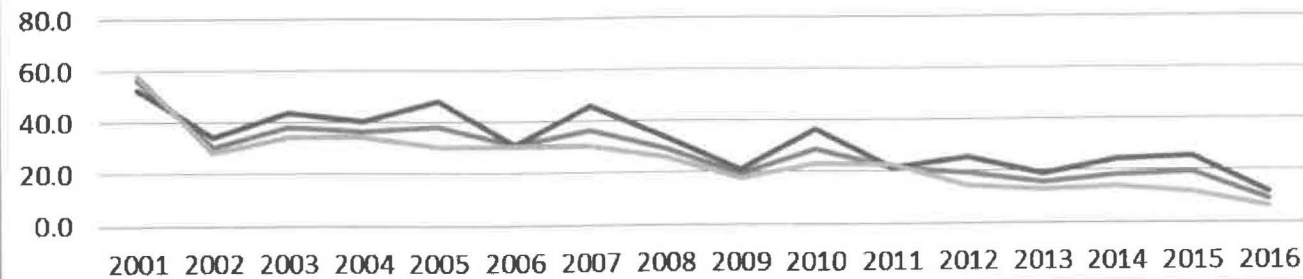
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Birds per 100 net hours



- A total of 236 birds were banded – lowest since 2011.
- The birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh) – lowest ever!
- A diversity of 45 species was good – all the regular common species were represented.
- A Summer Tanager captured on 25 Sep was most unexpected. This is a very rare bird in New Brunswick. We have a photo record to document this bird.
- Five Northern Cardinals were banded as this species continues to expand its range out of the town and into the woods.
- The two Chipping Sparrows were the first since 2004.
- All the regular wood warbler species were captured; just in very low numbers.
- A Sharp-shinned Hawk was banded; the first since 2010.
- Downy was the only woodpecker species captured.
- There were no Alder Flycatchers, Swamp Sparrows, or Lincoln's Sparrows.

It was a hot dry summer and fall, with almost drought conditions which led to a poor berry crop and low insect numbers. Jackhammering and noise from more road construction was ongoing throughout the entire banding season. These, combined with habitat changes and fragmentation, all probably played a role in the low amount of bird activity. The only bonus was that the noise also kept the deer away. The construction should be over by next banding season and hopefully the outlook will be a little brighter.

The only species with a positive trend from 2015 to 2016 was American Robin. The number of Black-and-White Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and

Black-capped Chickadee b/100nh did not change much; otherwise, all other species /100nh were lower than 2015.

Thank you to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund for providing major financial support for the daily operation of the Station, without which the Station would not be able to operate. Thank you to volunteers Sebastian Orue and Kylli Morgan for their dedication and patience in this very slow banding year. Lastly, thank you to the **Huntsman Marine Science Centre** for the in-kind support.

Appledore Island Migration Station

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: Sara Morris

Banders: Peg Ackerson, Liz Burton (compiler), Lindsay Herlihy, David Holmes

Assistants: Jan Lathrop, Susan Lee, Sally Mack, Betsy Moll, Jeff Ott, Cora Payne, Shelby Southworth, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kathy Thompson, Susan Tiholiz, Kiah Walker, Ninfa Yong

The fall 2016 season was the worst on record with only 745 birds banded, well below our average of 1559 ± 590 birds/season. The number of species was also the lowest ever (tied with Fall 2011) with 53 species, well below the average of 69.7 ± 9.7 . Finally, the number of birds per hundred net-hours dropped below 20 for the first time in our history: 19.5 b/100 nh, compared to our fall average of 36.8 ± 10.3 b/100nh. Weather may have had a minor effect on captures this season. While we did not lose any full days of banding, there were rain closures of up to several hours on six days out of 32. 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 captures were within normal ranges. Exceptions included a much-higher-than normal number of Common Grackles (2016: 10; average 2 ± 2.3) and a much lower than normal number of Common Yellowthroats (2016: 33; average 116.9 ± 39.9). Though within normal ranges, there were modest irruptions of Purple Finches (2016: 24; average: 7.3 ± 12.1) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (2016: 79; average: 40.8 ± 46.4). In contrast, there were a large number of species captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2016: 7; average: 31.0 ± 12.9), Traill's Flycatcher (2016: 9; average: 31.7 ± 16.1), Least Flycatcher (2016: 9; average: 18.3 ± 7.2), Red-eyed Vireo (2016: 38; average: 160.8 ± 102.3), Ovenbird (2016: 5; average: 26.1 ± 12.9), Northern Waterthrush (2016: 67; average: 164.8 ± 50.0), Black-and-White Warbler (2016: 20; average: 51.8 ± 21.9), Nashville Warbler (2016: 2; average: 20.3 ± 14.5), Mourning Warbler (2016: 4; average: 14.3 ± 5.9), American Redstart (2016: 33; average: 104.5 ± 48.8), Magnolia Warbler (2016: 6; average: 29.1 ± 15.7), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2016: 4; average: 11.2 ± 4.8), Blackpoll Warbler (2016: 10; average: 40.0 ± 29.0), Canada Warbler (2016: 4; average: 15.1 ± 8.0), Wilson's Warbler (2016: 4; average: 30.7 ± 13.6), Song Sparrow (2016: 19; average: 52.0 ± 24.3), and Baltimore Oriole (2016: 9; average: 33.5 ± 17.8). In addition, several species were not captured that are generally reliable in the fall: Veery (average: 9.2 ± 6.3), Swainson's Thrush (average: 7.5 ± 6.8), and Tennessee Warbler (average: 4.9 ± 2.9). Finally, no Carolina Wrens (average: 5.2 ± 5.4) were banded for the second fall in a row. 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 of the season were a Worm-eating Warbler and a Gray Catbird that were originally banded at Braddock Bay, NY, and were recaptured in both spring and fall at Appledore.

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, groups from the Star Island conference center and other visitors to Appledore Island. The fall 2016 season was also memorable for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Shoals Marine Lab, which serves as the host of the station and supports us in many ways. We had the pleasure of visits from many of the guests who were on the island for the anniversary celebration.

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 415-0695

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Wellfleet, MA

Bander: James Junda (compiler),
Assistant: Elora Grahame

Fall 2016 was the third year of the reopening of Austin Banding Station on Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The weather was good with only a few storms in the fall preventing us from opening the majority of nets. The big shifts were observed in Pine Warblers, with our total of 138, far outpacing the fall 2014 total of 32. This was observed in Palm Warblers as well; 18 in 2016 versus only 3 in 2015. Our station is around the nature center at the main sanctuary. Nets are in a mix of dense mature riparian forest (9), beach side heath and open field (10), dense black-locust/black cherry forest (3) and saltmarsh edge (2).

Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Manomet, MA

Compiler: Trevor Lloyd-Evans

Banders: Alex Bartolo and Alan Kneidel

Assistants: Emily Renaud and Sarah Groendyk

Fall 2016: New Bandings: 2,128; Repeat Captures: 1,283; TOTAL HANDLED: 3,411 birds of 74 species.

On 15 Nov we wrapped up our 51st fall banding season at Manomet. Over those autumns we have banded 169,659 landbirds. Starting on 15 Aug, we again erected 50 mist nets in the same