

2017

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2016- Manomet Bird Observatory

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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  $2 \pm 2.3$ ) and a much lower than normal number of Common Yellowthroats (2016: 33; average  $116.9 \pm 39.9$ ). Though within normal ranges, there were modest irruptions of Purple Finches (2016: 24; average:  $7.3 \pm 12.1$ ) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (2016: 79; average:  $40.8 \pm 46.4$ ). In contrast, there were a large number of species captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2016: 7; average:  $31.0 \pm 12.9$ ), Traill's Flycatcher (2016: 9; average:  $31.7 \pm 16.1$ ), Least Flycatcher (2016: 9; average:  $18.3 \pm 7.2$ ), Red-eyed Vireo (2016: 38; average:  $160.8 \pm 102.3$ ), Ovenbird (2016: 5; average:  $26.1 \pm 12.9$ ), Northern Waterthrush (2016: 67; average:  $164.8 \pm 50.0$ ), Black-and-White Warbler (2016: 20; average:  $51.8 \pm 21.9$ ), Nashville Warbler (2016: 2; average:  $20.3 \pm 14.5$ ), Mourning Warbler (2016: 4; average:  $14.3 \pm 5.9$ ), American Redstart (2016: 33; average:  $104.5 \pm 48.8$ ), Magnolia Warbler (2016: 6; average:  $29.1 \pm 15.7$ ), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2016: 4; average:  $11.2 \pm 4.8$ ), Blackpoll Warbler (2016: 10; average:  $40.0 \pm 29.0$ ), Canada Warbler (2016: 4; average:  $15.1 \pm 8.0$ ), Wilson's Warbler (2016: 4; average:  $30.7 \pm 13.6$ ), Song Sparrow (2016: 19; average:  $52.0 \pm 24.3$ ), and Baltimore Oriole (2016: 9; average:  $33.5 \pm 17.8$ ). In addition, several species were not captured that are generally reliable in the fall: Veery (average:  $9.2 \pm 6.3$ ), Swainson's Thrush (average:  $7.5 \pm 6.8$ ), and Tennessee Warbler (average:  $4.9 \pm 2.9$ ). Finally, no Carolina Wrens (average:  $5.2 \pm 5.4$ ) 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

locations as previous years, giving an unparalleled comparison of range expansions and contractions, yearly variation of migrations, survival and long-term population change. Recently, Manomet data have documented an earlier arrival of some spring migrants, which correlates with warming temperatures. In the fall, some migrants are passing through later, and others (mostly single-brooded, short-distance migrants) earlier in warmer years.

We held formal education programs (focusing on migration banding, local ecology and conservation) for 483 visitors this fall, bringing our yearly total to 1,043 students, scientists, boy scouts, girl scouts, birders and photographers from the local community and beyond!

Banding highlights included yet another Eastern Bell's Vireo for the Banding Lab. This species has been recorded less than a dozen times in the state (starting with Manomet capturing one in 2005)! This is our second fall Bell's Vireo in a row now and a rash of sightings along the east coast this fall suggests a shift in range and/or migratory pattern for this species of the US interior. We banded our 250,000th bird (a Gray Catbird, of course) on 26 Sep.

This fall followed a cold, late spring. Local trees and shrubs were hit hard by gypsy moth outbreaks and a significant drought. Although the local cuckoo populations benefitted from the first of these afflictions (due to their ability to ingest the hairy beasts), fall migrants encountered fewer berries due to the drought. As a result, we were capturing lingering late-season migrants well into November. Our 319 Blackpoll Warblers were the most since 1979. A general lack of early Neotropical migrants could also have been the result of birds leaving earlier than normal and bypassing our banding station. Our only days with 100+ birds came in October: 122 captures on the 3rd, 120 captures on the 11th, 130 captures on the 17th and 131 captures (90 new bandings) on the 18th. Fall 2016 saw a record low number of 30 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, the lowest total in all our years of complete fall coverage. Perhaps due to drought-induced limits on their favored coastal berry foods?

Recaptures from previous seasons (65) this fall include an 8-year-old Gray Catbird and a 7-year-old Northern Cardinal. We also recaptured a 5-year-old catbird and four 4-year-old birds (Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird and Song Sparrow). A Gray Catbird recaptured this fall had previously been banded in fall 2015 at Cape May Point, New Jersey. A different hatch-year catbird we banded on 3 Oct this fall was recaptured on 24 Oct in Tampa, Hillsborough Co., Florida.

When compared with the previous ten falls, 10 species met or exceeded the highest totals including 34 Nashville and four Connecticut warblers. The four record low species in the same comparison were Veery, Hermit Thrush, and Myrtle and Wilson's Warblers.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall 2016 migration banding and education season such a success. We are also greatly indebted for recent financial support from Manomet members. Alex Bartolo and Alan Kneidel were the indefatigable staff banders and teachers this fall, with timely assistance from Emily Renaud and Sarah Groendyk.

**Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700**

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
Brewster, MA

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

Assistants: Bradford Bower, Jo-Anna Ghadban, Donna Kucia (data entry), Judith Bruce, Jane Wing, Devan Blazey, Alex Cook, Corey Accardo, Eric Russell (net lane maintenance), Jetta Cook, and others who helped for a day.

The Wing Island Banding Station was opened in the fall of 2000 by Master Bander Susan Finnegan and has been a long-term spring and fall migration station as well as a once/week breeding monitoring station since that time. Wing Island is an upland nine-acre area surrounded by a huge saltmarsh on three sides and Cape Cod Bay on the northerly border.

Our season began on 3 Aug and continued through 19 Nov. Our fall season this year was even better than last and all the past 16 years of banding at