

2017

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2016- Kingston Wildlife Research Station

Julie Shieldcastle

Peter Paton

Scott McWilliams

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this site. A total of 2,236 birds were banded of 70 species and 91% of those were HY birds. I was fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer intern this fall so did not have to cancel days due to a lack of volunteers.

Net hours totaled 5,954 for a capture rate of 56 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 27 Oct with a total of 206 birds. The best species diversity of 26 species was on 12 Oct. Vagrant hummingbirds included our first ever Calliope Hummingbird at a private home in October and one Rufous Hummingbird in December. We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Redstart (13) with an average of 5.7 ± 6.13 ; Black-capped Chickadee (248) - average of 91.7 ± 120.5 ; Eastern Towhee (40) - average 16 ± 22.5 and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (58) - average 20.3 ± 30 ;

We originally banded 106 birds in the fall that returned to us from previous years. The oldest birds included: A8Y Common Yellowthroat; 9Y Song Sparrow; 2 8Y Black-capped Chickadees; A7Y Gray Catbird; 7Y- 2 Song Sparrows, 1 of each Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Black-capped Chickadee; A6Y American Goldfinch: 6Y- 3 Song Sparrows, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, 1 Tufted Titmouse; A5Y- 2 Gray Catbird and a Song Sparrow; 5Y- 4 chickadees, 3 catbirds and 3 Song Sparrows; A4Y- 2 Common Yellowthroats and a Song Sparrow; 4Y- 4 catbirds, 3 chickadees, 2 Song Sparrow, 1 Myrtle Warbler and 1 Common Yellowthroat. All other birds were 3 years old or younger.

A House Finch we banded as a HY in Oct 2015 was killed by a cat in a nearby town in Jun 2016.

Pox was noted on six birds this fall, all HY birds: a Northern Mockingbird, a Blue Jay, 3 Gray Catbirds, and 1 Eastern Towhee. The majority of pox cases were noted on the feet/legs with one on the mandible.

As always, a big thank you to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. We appreciate the monetary support from the French Foundation, 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.

Kingston Wildlife Research Station 413-0713

Kingston, Washington County, RI

Banders: Julie Shieldcastle (compiler),

Peter Paton, Scott McWilliams

Assistants: Talvi Ansel, Gina Celeste, Jackie Claver, Megan Gray, Valerie Perkins, Joanne Riccitelli, and Shelby Southworth.

Kingston Wildlife Research Station is a long-term fall migration station started by Dr. Doug Kraus in 1958. Doug operated four mist nets daily by himself during fall migration from 1958-1994. Peter Paton and Scott McWilliams, faculty at the University of Rhode Island, took over operations in 1998 and now coordinate the operation of 10 mist nets daily every fall. The station is located on 82 acres owned by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on land that was a farm in the 1930s, but reverted to deciduous forest, with a small (0.4 ha) restored old field/grassland near five nets.

Capture rates were much higher when the station was initially opened, averaging 132.8 and 110.6 b/100nh in the 1960s and in the 1970s, respectively. The capture rates have since steadily declined over the 58 years the station has been in operation, with only an average of 26.5 b/100nh captured from 2000 - 2010. Thus, although capture rates during fall 2016 (28.0 b/100nh) were much lower than in the 1960s, they were higher than five years during the past decade. During the fall of 2016, two hurricanes, Hermine and Karl, in September affected the wind direction, producing high winds, and heavy precipitation. Earlier in the season, the winds were not favorable for a southerly migration, with 71% of days having calm winds, or a southerly or northeasterly winds, which appeared to reduce the number of migrants passing through southern Rhode Island. Later in October, the number of nights with northerly winds increased, which resulted in increased the capture rates. Twenty-three days out of 80 days had winds from the north or northwesterly direction. This is the value of having multiple banding stations to determine if the migration behavior is similar among other stations.

Birds captured at Kingston represented a variety of migration strategies. Three long-distance migrants, the American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Blackpoll Warbler were among the top ten most captured species. Gray Catbirds, a species with individuals that are either long distance migrants or some wintering in Florida, and the Myrtle Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and American Robin were short-distance migrants that made it to the top ten species banded. Resident species, Northern Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse, were also relatively common in 2016.

A highlight for the season was capturing 24 species of warblers, of which the most uncommon was a Kentucky Warbler that is a rare species in Rhode Island. Five Connecticut Warblers was the highest number captured of the species in many years. Finally, it is always a pleasure to see a Golden-winged Warbler in our nets, since the species is now so scarce it is rarely seen on coastal Rhode Island during migration.

Many thanks for the assistance provided by the great volunteers. The station was visited twice by the University of Rhode Island Ornithology class.

Birdcraft Banding Station 410-0731

Fairfield, Fairfield County, CT

Bander: Judy Fay Richardson

Assistants - Tim Andric, Michael Corcoran, Jan Hollerbach, Janet Messick, Darlene Moore (compiler), Linda Morgens, Peg North, Kit Rohn, Patty Scott, Fred Schroder, Kathy Van Der Aue, Judy Wilkinson

Connecticut Audubon's Birdcraft Banding Station hosts the longest continually operating passerine banding program in the state, having been open since 1977. We currently band only the spring and fall migrations at the visitor center located at 314 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, the site of the original Connecticut Audubon Society Sanctuary. The area is surrounded by residential areas, I-95, and a Junior High School, but this seven-acre oasis has and still is a vest pocket refuge for migrant birds as Carl Trichka stated back in his first submission to the AFR in 1979. Although Carl is no longer with us, having passed on in the fall of 2001, his mission for the station remains unchanged: training of new banders, presentations to the public

about bird banding, and monitoring the spring and fall migrations. Those he trained did so well that they continue to carry on his legacy. Current Master Bander Judy Fay Richardson keeps her team of volunteers busy by providing education to the public, to all school group levels to include High School AP Environmental Classes, banding demonstrations for International Migratory Bird Day, training new banders, participating in research studies by obtaining feather, blood samples for researchers and of course banding at least 3 times a week in migration in both spring and fall. As a matter of fact, since the banding station opened we have banded 37,721 passerines of 128 species and 43% of those were HY birds. All of the data (which used to be on paper) is now safely stored electronically at the BBL on their newest version of Bandit 4.0 (including 16 years of our recapture data).

Although we have taken a rather long hiatus from publishing our data from fall and spring migration to the AFR report, we are glad to have returned and are happy to be able to share our data with a larger audience. We opened this the fall on 8 Sep, banding 344 birds over 29 days. Fall banding does not have the big migratory push we get in the spring when every bird is rushing to get the best territory. Fall brings rather a steadier pace although we did have one big bird day on 5 Oct in which we had both the most birds banded and the most diversity of species banded. This occurred three days before the major hurricane Matthew made landfall in the southeastern US. Our first Fox Sparrow (the last to migrate at our sanctuary), happened on 10 Nov this year which is the last day we banded this fall season. Thanks so much to all the banders and volunteers and, of course, to Master Bander Judy Fay Richardson who has done a great job keeping the station running.



Fox Sparrow

by George West