

2017

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2016- Birdcraft Banding Station

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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