

**Appledore Island
Migration Station**

425-0703

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: *Sara Morris*

Banders: *Liz Burton, David Holmes, Becky Suomala*

Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Catherine Alsford, Colleen Cassidy, Bill Clark, Dorothy Fatunmbi, Lindsay Herlihy, Charlotte Ott, Jeff Ott, Stephanie Parkinson, Jim Ries, Brynne Stumpe, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh

The banding during fall 2009 was abysmal on Appledore. The total of 908 birds banded was well below average (average 1808 ± 518) and was the lowest fall total since 1983, when the banding station began regular fall banding. Likewise, the 56 species banded and the 24.4 b/100nh were the lowest since 1983. Part of the reason for these numbers was the shortened banding season. The Shoals Marine Lab closed earlier than usual, resulting in closing the banding station on 14 Sep, which was a week later than the originally scheduled closure on 7 Sep. This resulted in our lowest number of net-hours since 1994, the year we expanded to the current netting locations. Weather did not appear to be a major factor in these numbers this year. We lost only one full day and four partial days of banding to bad weather, and most of the partial days were open for most of the morning.

Not surprisingly, there were a number of species with numbers lower than expected. The only species outside the normal range was Mourning Warbler (2009: 3; average: 16.8 ± 4.5). Although not outside of the normal range, numbers were low for Red-eyed Vireo (2009: 35; average: 196.4 ± 96.3), American Redstart (2009: 60; average: 122.8 ± 43.7), Black-and-white Warbler (2009: 33; average: 57.9 ± 21.6), Common Yellowthroat (2009: 66; average: 131.4 ± 35.1), Wilson's Warbler (2009: 15; average: 35.2 ± 12.6), and White-throated Sparrow (2009: 4; average: 37.1 ± 42.6). Species that were absent this fall included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler,

and Dark-eyed Junco, many of which are later migrants that normally pass through after we had to close. Interestingly, numbers were high this year for Gray Catbird (2009: 115; average: 103.0 ± 54.4) and Baltimore Oriole (2009: 61; average: 33.7 ± 18.0). A Kentucky Warbler and a possible hybrid of an American Redstart and a Yellow Warbler provided the only real excitement of the season.

The station provides opportunities for Shoals Marine Lab students and visitors to see birds and bird banding. We have a fantastic group of volunteers who are generous with their time and their financial support of the station. The station continues to benefit from significant financial support from the Shoals Marine Lab, Canisius College, and an anonymous donor.

Manomet Bird Observatory

415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

Manomet, MA

Banders: *Trevor Lloyd-Evans (compiler), Ian Davies, Evan Dalton*

Assistants: Jessica Johnson, Eric Fishel & many volunteers

About 350,000 birds have been banded at Manomet to date. The spring and fall migration banding program started here at the (then) Ernst House porch in the fall of 1966. We are thus in our 44th year of data collection and education programs at this site. This fall we continued to run 50 mist nets on the same dates and in the same locations as the previous years, giving us an unparalleled comparison of range expansions and contractions, yearly variation of migration, survival and long-term population change. Recent Manomet data have documented an earlier arrival of spring migrants which correlates with global warming, but this change in arrival is not reflected in fall migration timing to date.

Formal education programs at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and conservation biology. Visiting groups included members, scouts, schools, universities and adults from the local community. Informal presentations

included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walk in! Forty migrants were swabbed for H5N1 Avian Influenza virus testing and samples were sent to UCLA and government labs at Madison, WI, all negative to date.

The six White-eyed Vireos banded this fall exceed any total for the previous decade, although we have been unable to confirm breeding in recent years. In the 1960s and 1970s, as many as nine pairs bred on 40 acres of Manomet property in coastal Plymouth.

The Numbers: New Bandings = 1,137; Repeat Captures = 903; TOTAL = 2,040 of 69 species.

This autumn, a below-average number of birds per net hour were banded. Individual bandings were the second lowest recorded, partly caused by closed nets during adverse weather. A wet and windy spring was followed by a hot, wet summer and early fall. The flurry of captures at the end of August were mostly local breeders. The rest of the season featured rain and wind, but seldom from the NW, the direction which drifts nocturnal landbird migrants to the New England coast. The only notable migration peak was in mid-October and was led by white-throats, Myrtle Warblers and kinglets. Local seed and berry production seemed plentiful for the reduced numbers of migrants through November. Our busiest days were 28 Aug (114 captures), 14 Oct (94), 24 Aug. (86), 31 Aug (81), 27 Aug (78) and 9 Oct (70). A discouraging two species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years: these were American Redstart and Swainson's Thrush. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, 39 species were below average, including short-distance and Neotropical migrants. Such diverse species as chickadees, Blackpoll Warbler and Northern Waterthrush reached all-time lows. New bandings were led by catbirds, as usual.

Two immature Rusty Blackbirds were the first banded since 17 Oct 1994, 15 years ago. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is most unusual at Manomet recently, while three Yellow (Eastern) Palm Warblers are much less frequent than the more

usual Western race in fall. A Red-shouldered and a Broad-winged hawk were unexpected because they are a bit big for the nets and usually "bounce out." Sparse but regular warblers banded included two each of Orange-crowned, Blackburnian, and Hooded. Notable recaptures this fall (62 from previous seasons) included: a titmouse first banded as a hatch year on 19 Oct 2005 (4 years old); three-year-old House Wren, chickadee, cardinal and seven catbirds; fifteen two-year-olds; and 36 banded birds one year old.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2009 such a success. We are also greatly indebted to Manomet members and to several foundations for financial support of these programs.

Wing Island Banding Station

414-0700

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA

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

Assistants: Peter Brown, Judith Bruce, Sheryl & Lauren Johnson, Judy Keller, Ben Porter, and Michelle Stantial

Our season began 7 Aug and continued through 21 Nov. Northerly winds prevailed on banding days for Aug/Sep and turned southerly in Oct/Nov. We banded a total of 1,954 birds of 73 species, 80% of those were HY birds. Myrtle Warbler topped the charts again this year as our most numerous bird for the fall— 621 birds.

Net hours totaled 5,370 for a capture rate of 36 new b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 11 Oct for a total of 229 birds. The best species diversity of 24 species was on both 9 and 21 Oct. New species added this fall included a second state record for Massachusetts: an Allen's Hummingbird captured in Scituate, MA on 29 Oct, a Townsend's Warbler on 7 Nov, and a Seaside Sparrow on 16 Nov. We banded another Rose-breasted Grosbeak for only the second time since 2006.