
After a brief 6-year hiatus from publishing the Atlantic Flyway Review (AFR), EBBA is happy to announce that the AFR is back! The AFR was revised to include new formatting templates for the summary table and the narrative section. We had a backlog of past reports from 2017-2020 that we are publishing in the next two issues of NABB. In this issue, fall reports from 2017 and 2018 are included. Due to the paucity of spring reports received during this time frame, we will not be able to publish spring reports for 2017 and 2018. The next issue will include reports from 2019 and 2020. We plan to implement the new formatting guidelines starting with the 2021 AFR. Please bear with us while we get back on track in publishing this important information from banding stations across eastern North America.

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 Fall 2017 Report

Appledore Island Migration Station
Appledore Island, York County, Maine
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Banders: *Peg Ackerson, Liz Burton, Lindsay Herlihy, Anthony Hill, David Holmes*

The fall 2017 season rebounded a bit from 2016 but was still the third worst on record with only 829 birds banded, well below our average of 1533 ± 595 birds/season. The number of species was the third lowest ever with 55 species, well below the average of 69.2 ± 9.9 . Finally, the number of birds per hundred net-hours was 23.1, which was a bit higher than the previous three seasons but still well below the fall average of 36.3 ± 10.4 birds/100 net-hours. Weather may have had a minor effect on captures this season. While we didn't lose any whole days of banding, there were rain closures of up to several hours on 4 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. The two exceptions were a lower than normal number of Common Yellowthroats (2017: 25; average 113.8 ± 42.3) and a higher than normal number of Bay-breasted Warblers (2017: 15; average 5.3 ± 4.1). Though within normal ranges, there were a large number of species captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Eastern Wood-Pewee (2017:

2; average: 8.3 ± 6.1), Red-eyed Vireo (2017: 41; average: 156.3 ± 103.1), Veery (2017: 3; average: 8.9 ± 6.4), Ovenbird (2017: 6; average: 25.3 ± 13.3), Mourning Warbler (2017: 6; average: 14.0 ± 6.1), American Redstart (2017: 43; average: 101.8 ± 49.8), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2017: 5; average: 10.9 ± 4.9), Blackpoll Warbler (2017: 7; average: 38.9 ± 29.0), Black-throated Green Warbler (2017: 2; average: 9.2 ± 6.2), Wilson's Warbler (2017: 9; average: 29.7 ± 14.3), and Song Sparrow (2017: 13; average: 50.8 ± 24.6). In addition, for the third fall in a row, no Carolina Wrens were captured (average: 4.9 ± 5.3). Though within normal ranges, this demonstrates the effect of the severe 2014-15 winter on the Carolina Wren population on the island: capture numbers were in the double digits for several fall seasons prior to that winter and have been 0 since. Our most exciting captures of the season were a Golden-winged Warbler and a Gray-checked Thrush. Another highlight was a BBL report of a sighting of a banded Gray Catbird from nearby Star Island. The bird, which was observed alive, was banded on Appledore as a hatch-year bird on 8/17/2015.

We had a number of groups visit the station including Shoals Marine Lab Alumni, groups from the University of New Hampshire and Cornell, groups from the Star Island conference center and other visitors to Appledore Island.

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.

Birdcraft Banding Station

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No written report. See Tables

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Banders: Jackie Claver, Megan Gray, Valerie Perkins, Ryan Healey, Emma Wilkinson, Talvi Ansel, Joanne Riccitelli

No written report, See Tables

Manomet Bird Observatory

Manomet, Plymouth County, Massachusetts

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Manomet

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Banders: Evan Dalton, Alex Bartolo, Kayla Baker, Elsa Chen, Sarah Duff

On November 15th we wrapped up our 52nd fall banding season at Manomet. Over those autumns we have banded 171,358 landbirds. Starting on August 15th, 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 552 visitors this fall, highlighting our programs to students, scientists, boy scouts, girl scouts, birders and photographers from the local community and far beyond!

Banding highlights included a female Golden-winged Warbler on 4th October and a decidedly out-of-habitat Saltmarsh Sparrow on 1st September still in (very) juvenal plumage showing fault bars that aligned across all the tail feathers. A Merlin on 6th October was the first since autumn 1998, while an early Cape May Warbler on 1st September was only the 2nd fall record this century (compare with 107 Cape Mays banded in 1976 alone, at the height of an outbreak of Spruce Budworm in the boreal forests to our north).

New Bandings 1,699

Repeat Captures 1,216

TOTAL HANDLED 2,915 birds of 79 species

Spring 2017 was cold and late. But temperatures during June, July and August were about normal, leading into a hot fall. More often than usual, some exposed nets were closed to avoid heat exposure or strong winds. Rainfall was low, but a big bonus for fruit and berry-eating fall migrants was a much better fruiting season than the last two years due to a local absence of gypsy moths this year. There were fewer late fall migrants in 2017 than last year and birds per net hour were the 2nd lowest for the past decade. Our only days with 80+ birds handled were 96 on 2nd October, 89 on 6th October, 87 on 21st August (including 50 catbirds) and 83 on 29th September.

The great Black-capped Chickadee irruptions of the 1970's and 1980's seem to have dwindled radically in recent years. Over the last decade we have banded about 160 Black-capped Chickadees and the same number of Tufted Titmice each fall. This tale-of-two-parids was quite different back in fall 1971 when we banded 4,552 Black-capped and 11 Boreal Chickadees, but only 61 Tufted Titmice – the latter a fairly recent southern addition to our state bird fauna before 1970.

The 68 recaptures this fall from previous seasons included an 8-year-old Northern Cardinal and a 5-year-old Blue Jay, chickadee and catbird. We also recaptured a 4-year-old catbird and six 3-year-old birds, fifteen 2-year-olds and forty-two 1-year-olds. A Myrtle Warbler recaptured at Manomet this fall (26th October) had previously been banded on 1st November 2016 by Sue Finnegan at Wing Is., Brewster, MA.

When compared with the previous ten falls, an unusually high 21 species met or exceeded the highest totals, including 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 15 flickers (2 with some berry-induced red flight feathers), 34 phoebes, 19 Veery, 10 Orange-crowned Warblers and 50 goldfinches (46 of them on 9th November). The only 3 record low species in the same decade comparison were Downy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper and Mourning Warbler.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall 2017 migration banding and education season such a success. We are also greatly indebted for recent financial support from Manomet members. Alex Bartolo and Kayla Baker were the indefatigable staff banders and teachers this fall, with timely assistance from Elsa Chen and Sarah Duff.

St. Andrews Bird Banding Station

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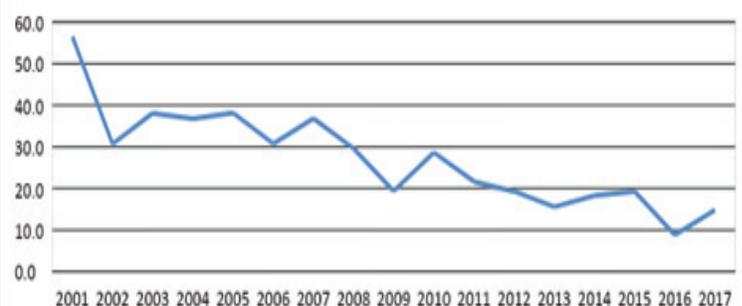
The 2017 Fall migration monitoring season started on 26 August and there was almost daily coverage until 20 October. This year the schedule for the two banders was staggered and they only overlapped for three weeks. This allowed the banding season to extend well into October and nets were open on 53 days. The cool and dry summer weather pattern extended in September with clear skies, little wind and no rain. October was much the same, but even cooler. Noise and road construction around the Huntsman is still interfering with the banding

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operation, especially net area HMa. Some highlights from 2017.

- A total of 438 birds were banded
- The 2954 net hours was the highest since 2008, in part to the new strategy
- The 14.83 birds/100nhrs was higher than 2016, but still well below the 10-year average (graph below)
- A diversity of 50 species was good – all the regular common species were captured
- The best day was 27 August with 22 birds banded and a diversity of 14 species
- A House Wren captured on 12 October was a first for the Station. This species is a rare but annual migrant in New Brunswick. We have a photo record to document this bird.
- Two Connecticut Warblers were a surprise. A hatch-year bird on 19 September and an adult female on 22 September. This doubled the number caught in the history of the Station! Both birds were photographed
- A Yellow-shafted Flicker was the first in six years
- Two Eastern Phoebe were the first in seven years
- A Blackburnian Warbler was the first in eight years
- All the regular wood warbler species were captured; just in very low numbers
- Nine Hairy Woodpecker were banded, two of which were very trap-happy being recaptured many times
- Flycatchers numbers continue to be low with only two Alder Flycatcher, along with the Phoebes

Birds per 100 net hours



REGION II

Braddock Bay

Bird Observatory

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station
Robert G. McKinney Banding Lab
Monroe County

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The 32nd consecutive year of fall migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 82 days beginning 27 Jul and ending on 28 Oct 2017. Two days in October were entirely lost to inclement weather. One day in August and one day in September were lost due to lack of a bander-in-charge.

3602 birds of 85 species were banded, falling short of Fall 2016's total by 1629 birds. 9 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the total of banded birds, and an additional 31 were captured and released unbanded. Wilson's Snipe was a new species for the fall; the fall cumulative total now stands at 126 species, with two additional hybrid forms and one intergrade form.

We recaptured 736 individual birds a total of 1209 times; 633 of these were captured after their initial banding day. Of these recaptures, 71 returned from a previous season, including three Blackpoll Warblers originally banded in Fall 2016. Rarely do our pass-through migrants return; of those that have, almost all have been Blackpoll Warblers.

49.3% of the returning birds had originally been banded as hatch year birds. The oldest of the returning birds were a Red-eyed Vireo in its 7th year; an American Robin, a Common Yellowthroat, two Gray Catbirds, and two Yellow Warblers each in their 5th year; and an additional 11 birds in their 4th year.

Constant effort-mist netting was carried out using from 32 to 40 nets. Included in the total were six double-high assemblies. A total of 13,894 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 25.9 birds per 100 net hours, compared with 36.5 birds per 100 net hours in Fall 2016 and 26.9 birds per 100 net hours in Fall 2015.

The busiest day was 16 Oct when 281 birds of 14 species were banded in 192 net hours (146.4 b/100nh). On that day, 55.5% of the birds banded were Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 18.5% were Golden-crowned Kinglets. The second busiest day was 10 Oct when 153 birds of 19 species were banded. The predominant species on that day was White-throated Sparrow at 65 bands, representing 42.3% of the birds banded. There were a total of 5 days on which 100+ birds were banded. The greatest species diversity occurred on 6 and 10 Sep when 22 species were banded. 95.4% of the newly banded birds were able to be aged; of those, 84.6% were hatch-year birds. We saw record-high numbers of Brown Thrashers and Cape May Warblers. On the negative side, Field Sparrow and Purple Finch were missing for the first time in 20 years.

Many thanks to our fantastic crew of volunteers and to our partners - the Genesee Land Trust and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

McGill Bird Observatory

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McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) in Montreal is a full member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, and the only station in Quebec to conduct standardized spring and fall migration banding programs. MBO is operated by the Migration Research Foundation (MRF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of wildlife movements, especially as they relate to population monitoring and conservation.

In 2017, MBO operated its thirteenth full Fall Migration Monitoring Program, covering the 14-week period from 1 August through 6 November. A one-hour census trail was walked daily, and nets were open for five hours beginning at sunrise except when limited by inclement weather; 11

days were lost and 12 days of banding were partly shortened due to rain and/or high winds. As a result, the banding effort of 6546 net hours was just above average. Typically all 16 nets were operated daily this fall. All nets are 12 m Manomet passerine nets, on standard 3 m poles. This fall, bander-in-charge duties were primarily handled by Simon Duval and Gay Gruner.

The total of 2824 individuals banded during FMMP 2017 was well below the long-term average of 3773 for the season, and just above the lowest ever fall season- 2792 individuals banded in 2011. The 76 species banded was below average while the 151 species observed ties the record set in 2005 and is above the eleven-year fall mean of 146.

For the first time since 2013, White-throated Sparrow did not take the first place this fall, it's the Ruby-crowned Kinglet with 301 individuals banded that finished first. White-throated Sparrow took the second place with 282 individuals banded while Magnolia Warbler closed the top 3 with 248 individuals banded. No new species were banded this fall, the site total still stands at 121 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at <http://www.oommbo.org/results/banding-totals/>

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-September to mid-October, and our ninth week (Sep 26 - Oct 2) was the busiest, with 399 individuals banded including 87 White-throated Sparrows and 76 Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Overall, we observed and counted over 67 000 birds. Once again, diversity was on the menu; on 34 days the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including 9 days with more than 60, one day with over 70 species and even one day with over 80 species. That special day came on September 9, when we observed 85 species, shattering the previous fall record of 76 species, and even breaking the spring record of 83 species. No new species were seen this fall; the site total still stands at 214 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program, during which we banded 211 Northern Saw-whet Owls

and two Eastern Screech-Owl. We also caught 7 foreign saw-whet owls, from stations in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Quebec. Nicolas Bernier was the bander-in-charge for this program once again.

As always, other research activities and education programs were integrated with the banding program. We provided ongoing training to more than 50 volunteers this fall and collected more photos to augment the ever-growing Piranga online photo library (<http://www.natureinstruct.org/piranga/>).

REGION III

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory

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Banders: Charles Ziegenfus, Fred & Carol McCullough, Bob Dean, LeJay Graffious, Jeff and Sheila Berry, Dawn Fox.

Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) is located at Dolly Sods, Grant County, West Virginia. AFMO is 10 miles southeast of Davis, WV, high on top of the Allegheny Front in the Monongahela National Forest. This Fall, AFMO opened on August 19 and closed on October 6, 2018. AFMO is the oldest, continuous Bird Banding Station in North America. This was our 61st consecutive year of Bird Banding at AFMO. A total of 3259 birds were banded (3,506 in 2017) of 74 species (71 in 2017) with a Station effort of 77 birds per 100 net hours. A total of 273,524 birds have been banded since Ralph K. Bell founded AFMO and banded his first bird on September 18, 1958. The total species banded at AFMO since 1958 is 125.

The overall percentage of hatch year birds banded this year (using known age birds only) was 70.5% compared with 79.9% in 2017 and 69.8% in 2016. There were 6 days this fall when over 100 birds were banded, 1 day 239 were banded, 1 day 438 were banded and 1 day 656 were banded. The

station was open for 37 days and closed for 12 days due to rain. Of note, 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were banded. Only 14 Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been banded in the previous 60 years at AFMO.

Black-throated Blue Warbler was the most numerous species this year with 892 birds banded (20.14% under the 10-year average from 2008-2017) Black-throated Green Warbler was 2nd with 348 birds banded (42.37% under 10-year avg.) Blackpoll Warbler was 3rd with 259 birds banded (61.78% under 10-year avg.) Blackburnian Warbler was 4th with 245 birds banded (18.59% OVER 10-year avg.) Cape May Warbler was 5th with 225 birds banded (10.18% under 10-year avg.) The total number of these top 5 species is 1969, which is 60% of the birds banded. The next highest numbers of birds banded this season were Tennessee Warbler (213), Swainson's Thrush (150), Magnolia Warbler (125), Common Yellowthroat (116), Chestnut-sided Warbler (78), and Ovenbird (76).

This fall, 612 people signed our AFMO Visitor's book. The visitors came from 11 states and Washington DC. AFMO also had visitors from Cologne, Germany; Kiryat Ono, Israel; and Paris, France. Groups that visited learned about birds and nature from our experienced volunteers. Some of the groups that visited were the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club, Waynesburg, PA; Virginia Teen Bird Club, Oakton, VA; Highland Adventist School, Elkins, Thanks to the USDA Forest Service and the personnel of the Monongahela National Forest for helping to make this research possible in so many ways. Some of their names are as follows:

Forest Supervisor, Clyde Thompson Realty Specialist/Special Use Manager, Todd Hess District Manager, M. Troy Waskey Forest Technician, John Waggy Develop Recreation Manager, Zach Adkins, and all others that gave their cooperation and help. Thanks to the West Virginia DNR for the use of their building for storage of the Bird Banding Shed.

Thanks to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club and other groups, visitors and volunteers for their financial support, which is our only means of replacing the 30 mist nets we use at AFMO.

The Bird Banders this fall were Todd Schnopp (AFMO Co-Leader), Charles Ziegenfus, Fred & Carol McCullough, Bob Dean, LeJay Graffious, Jeff and Sheila Berry (AFMO Resident Managers) and Dawn Fox. Campground Hosts this year were Jeff & Sheila Berry, Tom and Dawn Fox, and Bob Dean. The scheduled volunteers who tended nets, kept records, and helped in many ways were Tom & Dawn Fox, Jose Martins, Tom & Debbie Long, Bill Beatty, Jan Runyan, Maggi Perl, Jackie Burns, and Grace Shultz. Thanks to Tom Fox and his crew for the big job of clearing the net lanes so we could begin banding; LeJay Graffious, Todd Schnopp and their helpers for erecting the banding shed in August and taking it down in October; and Luke Pattison for contributing his computer expertise to his grandfather's AFMO Research Project. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and expertise to help continue the research Ralph K. Bell envisioned for AFMO.

The Arboretum at Penn State

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Banders: Margaret Brittingham

The banding program is part of the Avian Education Program of The Arboretum at Penn State (main campus at University Park). Banding was first conducted on a trial basis at this location in the fall of 2010. Weather conditions were generally mediocre for banding due to lack of any significant weather influence. Scheduled banding days fell too soon or too late to be affected by northerly winds and weather fronts resulting in lower capture rates. Two days were shortened by one to two hours due to rain.

The "five best birds" (based upon past presence and volunteers' preference) were Eastern Wood Pewee (first time in eight years), Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Black-billed Cuckoo

There were two reports of foreign encounters, both Gray Catbirds, reported this fall. One bird banded

at the Arboretum on 9/12/2016 was found dead from “hitting a stationary object” in Pleasant Gap, PA eight miles NE of the banding site on 5/14/2017. A second Gray Catbird banded at the Arboretum on 5/9/2016 was caught at a banding station operated by the University of Toronto Scarborough and released on 7/21/2017 in Stouffville, Ontario, Canada, 217 miles from the original banding site.

Thirty-two birds were recaptured on one or more days after being banded at the Arboretum. The only local recapture of note was a Blue Jay banded 9/13/2012 as a HY bird and recaptured on 9/11/2017.

The banding program assisted with the Genoscape Project of the Center for Tropical Research of the University of California Los Angeles by collecting feather samples from 100 birds (spring and fall combined) via the project protocol.

The banding site was open for public visitation during all hours of operation with organized group programs through prior arrangement. A total of 70 people visited during the period. Daily summaries were posted on the local State College Bird Club listserv.

Six community volunteers and 28 Penn State students (most from the Wildlife and Fisheries major) contributed 431 hours of time to banding operations and public outreach activities during the season. The annual “Bander-in-Training” program had 17 participants with five continuing to assist beyond the minimum required three days. Special thanks to Dr. Margaret Brittingham (Avian Education Program coordinator, Professor of Wildlife Resources), Shari Edelson (Director of Horticulture/Curator of The Arboretum at Penn State), Penn State Operation and Physical Plant employees (trail maintenance/support).

Long Point Bird Observatory

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LPBO’s 57th fall migration monitoring season ran at Old Cut from August 6 to November 14 (101 days), at Breakwater from August 25 to September 18 (24 days), and at the Tip from August 16 to November 12 (88 days). As in usual, Breakwater closed before Old Cut and the Tip because of Long Point Company land use restrictions associated with waterfowl hunting near the field station.

The 47 volunteers who helped run operations during the fall season came from Canada, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Staff and volunteers logged 3,831 person-hours collecting migration data on 170 species and forms. About 20 volunteer Friends of LPBO helped to welcome 2,335 visitors to Old Cut.

In total, 14,010 birds of 119 species and forms were banded. LPBO had 213 station-days of coverage, yielding 12,429 net-hours.

Long Point is recognized as one of three International Monarch Butterfly Reserves in Canada due to its large concentrations of butterflies during fall migration. In 2017, daily afternoon Monarch censuses were conducted at Breakwater from August 25 to September 17, and at the Tip from August 16 to November 12. The total count of Monarchs was 4,337, with only 75 at Breakwater and 4,254 at the Tip. The largest single-day count at the Tip with 2,057 on September 14. One of the few Cloudless Sulphurs found in Ontario in 2017 was at the Tip in early September.

Mt. Nebo WMA Banding Station

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This was the seventeenth season of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA. The station was open 23 days from August 26 through November 4. A total of 677 birds were banded of 66 species. The station effort was 1,737 net hours with a capture rate of 39 birds/100 NH. No new species were added to the station list this year.

The top-ten list had no surprises. The top three species banded were Gray Catbirds (19% of the total), Common Yellowthroat (11%), and Song Sparrow (10%). The remaining top ten species in descending order were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Slate-colored Junco, Magnolia Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, White-throated Sparrow. Five species vied for tenth place with 14 individuals banded of each species: Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee and Swamp Sparrow.

Warblers are my favorite species to band. Last year 22% of the new bandings were warblers. This year was some better with 193 warblers, 29% of new bandings. Common Yellowthroats comprised 38% of the total warblers.

The largest daily catch occurred on September 26 with 45 birds of 21 species. Tennessee Warblers were 15% of the total catch that day. We banded 42 new birds of 8 species on November 4th, 60% of the catch being Slate-colored Juncos.

White-throated Sparrows (17/102) and Black-throated Blue Warblers (6/35) seemed to be well below the average. The first number is the number caught in 2017 and the second number is the average over 17 years. I'm not sure how meaningful this is since we were open less days.

The station had 100 recaptures of 80 individuals of 13 species. Twenty-one birds banded in prior years were recaptured in 2017. None approached longevity records. Gray Catbird #8001-36854 had been recaptured seven times since it was banded on August 30, 2012, captured each year except for 2015.

The station had 13 visitors.

Many people contribute to a successful banding station. We thank Rob Mulligan for his help setting up and tending nets. Thanks to Beau Emerson and the Mt. Nebo WMA staff who helped clear the net lanes. We appreciate Rick Latshaw and Beau Emerson granting us the privilege of banding at Mt. Nebo WMA.

Powdermill Avian Research Center

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Banders: Eugene Hood, Josh Lefever, Patti Rodrigues

Capture totals this Fall for both new (6,571) and recaptured birds (2,724) were very close to our 10-year averages (6,559 and 2,619 respectively). No foreign recaptures were reported during this period.

While field work is always affected by the weather, it did not seem to have a major impact on this season. We did close early on 14 days due to high temperatures, but most of these closures were within an hour of our normal closing time, and no early closures due to heat occurred after September 27. On four days our banding was impacted by high winds and on six days by rain.

No species were below 2 s.d., but several were above: Baltimore Oriole (n=10), Black-and-white Warbler (n=42), Blackburnian Warbler (n=21), Carolina Wren (n=24), Cooper's Hawk (n=1), Northern Parula (n=18), Red-bellied Woodpecker (n=6), Winter Wren (n=73). Three species came in at particularly high numbers, but not above our highest-ever fall captures: Black-throated Green Warbler (n=154, \bar{x} =62), Chestnut-sided Warbler (n=116, \bar{x} =48) and Swainson's Thrush (n=608, \bar{x} =229). Black-and-white Warblers did break our Fall high for this species, which stood at 39 (\bar{x} =14); this year we had 42!

We hosted 179 visitors at the Banding Lab this Fall, including classes from three nearby universities, several community groups and many local families and friends. From September 20-24, seven people participated in our Extraction Workshop. We'd like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our seasonal staff and our cadre of faithful volunteers, all of whom had an invaluable role this season. Many thanks to all of you!

REGION IV

Eden Mill

Pylesville, Hartford County, Maryland

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Nothing remarkable occurred in the fall of 2017; the number of birds captured per net hour and number banded was fairly consistent with previous years. We were delighted with a SSHA and some busy sparrow days.

Naturally this is anecdotal, but GRCA's were far fewer than previous years and numbers of WTSPs were notably higher. Some sparrow species that were formally more common continue to be rare or not encountered (e.g., LISP, FOSP). This may be due to changes in habitat over the years.

Fewer warbler species were encountered (four relative to eleven the previous year). Best days tended to be consistent with the previous year.

We continue to leverage this opportunity to conduct field research with training new field biologists. Cole Ettenhofer joined us for a third year studying field techniques from a local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) school and Kaylie MacDonald (from another STEM school) is learning and using these data to look at trends in abundance relative to local habitat changes to investigate possible linkages as her high school capstone project. We continue to host a Wildlife Methods course tour from the University of Maryland in the spring and engage those interested in conservation when we can.

This year we have combined the volunteer teams from Eden Mill with the team from Harford Glen and hope to combine data sets to enable us to take on more of a regional approach to investigating abundance data.

As always, many thanks go out to our regular volunteers: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Dr.'s Bob Werrlein and Dennis Kirkwood and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center. We also thank the Harford Glen team who also participates and are mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Kiawah Island Banding Station (KIBS)

Captain Sams Site

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Town of Kiawah Island

4475 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy, Kiawah Island, SC 29455

www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com

Banders: *Aaron Given, Mattie VandenBoom, Michael Gamble, Kristen Oliver, Brandon Connare, Hannah Conley, and Paul Carroll*

This was the 9th fall banding season on Kiawah Island at the Captain Sams site and the 6th in which banding occurred daily. Kiawah Island is an 8,000-acre barrier island and residential/resort community located approximately 20 miles southeast of Charleston, South Carolina. The banding site is situated at the extreme western end of the island in secondary dune scrub/shrub and high marsh with wax-myrtle, sea ox-eye, and marsh-elder being the dominant plant species.

We operated 26-27 nets daily for 102 days from 15 August – 30 November resulting in 13,173.5 net-hours (nh). Nets were generally opened 30 minutes before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hours later. Hurricane Irma, which was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it reached Charleston, shut us down for 4 consecutive days from 9 - 12 September. A total of 4,795 new individuals were banded and 1,210 birds were recaptured of 83 different species. The capture rate for new birds was 36.4 birds/100 nh with an additional 9.2 birds/100 nh as recaptures for a total capture rate of 45.6 birds/100 nh.

Because we were open for four additional days than last year, our effort increased from 12,582.5 to 13,173.5 net-hr. We banded 927 more birds this year compared to last year but only 200 birds more than the average for the previous 5 years. The capture rate also increased compared to last year but was still 10.4 birds/100 nh lower than the 5-year average of 56.2 birds/100 nh. Our capture rate has decreased every year starting in 2012 with the exception to this year however it was still

lower than 2015. The capture rate of recaptures is very consistent from year to year; therefore, all decreases in the total capture rate can be attributed to new birds.

There were 12 days when over 100 birds were banded with 3 of those with over 200 birds banded. The best day of the season was on 16 September when we banded 237 and had 4 recaptures. That was closely followed by 28 September when 236 birds were banded along with 16 recaptures. Interestingly, 8 of the 12 busiest days occurred during the last two weeks of September. Usually, early October is the busiest time of the season, but October was kind of a "dud" this year.

We banded two species that have never been banded at the Captain Sam's site during the fall: Yellow-throated Vireo and Saltmarsh Sparrow. Some other rare and notable species that were banded this fall include: Eastern Whip-poor-will, Philadelphia Vireo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

I would like to thank all those that made this season such a great success: a stellar team of banding assistants (listed above); the Town of Kiawah Island for proving funding for equipment and banding assistant stipends; the Kiawah Island Conservancy for providing funding for the housing of the banding assistants; Kiawah Partners and the Bear Island Holding Trust for allowing access to their property; and finally to all the volunteers that donated their time to help or just to observe.

Kiawah Island Banding Station (KIBS)

Little Bear Banding Site
Kiawah Island, Charleston County, SC

Aaron Given

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Town of Kiawah Island

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This was the 3rd season of banding at the Little Bear site. Little Bear is located on the far eastern end of Kiawah Island and is located about 8 miles from the Captain Sams site. Nets were opened for a total of 75 days from 22 August - 14 November. We had 10 days canceled due to weather including a 6 day stretch from 9-14 September for Hurricane Irma. Wind also caused Little Bear to shut down for a few days scattered throughout the season. After two years in a row of tropical storms and hurricanes, the Little Bear site has suffered from saltwater intrusion which has killed many of the wax myrtles around the site. Wax myrtles are the dominant plant at Little Bear and the reduced cover around the nets have caused the nets to become much more exposed to the elements - wind and heat being the biggest threats. Because of this, Little Bear had to close early many days when the temperature got too hot to safely capture birds. Additionally, winds with a northerly component to them affected the nets considerably. The predominant winds in the fall are usually from the north (especially following a cold front) therefore the wind seemed to be a constant factor at Little Bear this season.

We banded 3,597 new birds and had 625 recaptures of 75 different species. The most commonly banded species were Common Yellowthroats (948), Gray Catbirds (624), and Palm Warblers (326). Those three species combined made up 53% of all the birds banded this season! We logged 7,037.5 net-hours out at Little Bear this fall - an increase from the 6,011.8 net-hours in 2016. The increase in effort this year was primary due to the fact that overall, the nets were open a little longer on average each day compared to last year.

Little Bear had a capture rate of 60.0 birds/100 net-hours. This was higher than at Captain Sam's but substantially lower compared to 2015 and 2016 when we had a capture rate of 78.2 and 74.4 birds/100 net-hours, respectively. Little Bear experienced a large decrease in the number of recaptures this year compared to last year (1,035

in 2016 and 629 in 2017). The only thing I can think of to explain this is that the decrease in cover caused by the wax myrtles dying reduced the quality of the habitat enough to negatively affect the bird's stopover time.

There were 10 days when over 100 birds were banded and no days with over 200 birds banded. The best day was on 29 September when we banded 180 birds and had 4 recaptures. The next best day was the previous day (28 September) when 167 birds were banded along with 9 recaptures.

We banded 2 species that have never been captured at KIBS during the fall at Little Bear: Belted Kingfisher and Eastern Bluebird. This was the first Belted Kingfisher ever banded on Kiawah Island! Some other rare and notable species banded include: Black-billed Cuckoo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Bobolink, Mourning Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

We would like to thank all those that made this season such a great success: a stellar team of banding assistants (listed above); the Town of Kiawah Island for providing funding for equipment and banding assistant stipends; the Kiawah Island Conservancy for providing funding for the housing of the banding assistants; Kiawah Partners and the Bear Island Holding Trust for allowing access to their property; and finally to all the volunteers that donated their time to help or just to observe.

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

Kingstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

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Banders: Nancy Raginski, Vicki Morgan, Sara Groendyk

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory has been a part of the Center for Environment and Society at Washington College since 2011. 2017 was FBBO's 20th fall banding season. Numbers of new birds banded and days of operation were up significantly

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from 2016 but overall production was down 30%. Weather fronts from the northwest this year were again, for the most part weak, and did not produce many heavy migration days. Heat (upper 80's and 90+ degree days) during August and September also kept bird activity down below normal. We continued to collaborate with researchers, Dr. Jeff Buler and graduate student Sergio Cabrera, at the University of Delaware on the effects of light pollution on bird migration. Notable catches for the season were Semipalmated Sandpiper on September 6th, Barred Owl on August 11th, and the banding of our 250,000 bird- a Common Yellowthroat. We also had one new species for the station, a Great Blue Heron, on September 8th. Groups attending demonstrations were Gunston School, Kingstown Horticultural Club, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, two local chapters of the Maryland Ornithological Society (Anne Arundel and Caroline County Bird Clubs) and a professional development group from Audubon's Pickering Creek Environmental Center. We had over 1000 hours of volunteer help. We would like to thank the following people for their support and aid to FBBO: Dr. Harry Sears, Dr. John Seidel, Michael Hardesty, Patricia Gruber, Greg Cole, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleagle, Dr. Jennie Carr, Janet Christensen, Anne and Brennan O'Connor, Daniel and Jonathan Irons, Mike Hudson, Danielle and Nathan Simmons, Erin Betancourt, Chrissy Barton and Kai Clark. We would also like to extend special thanks to our Washington College fall intern Kayla Lauer for all of her long hours of hard work.

Jekyll Island Banding Station

Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia

Evan Pittman

No written report. See Table sections.



BANDING STATISTICS TABLE Regions 1 & 2 Fall 2017							
Summary Statistics	Appledore Island	Birdcraft	Kingston	Manomet	St. Andrews	Braddock Bay	McGill
# of Birds Banded	829	459	932	1,699	438	3,602	2,824
# of Species	55	42	67	79	50	85	76
Effort (net-hours)	3,583.00	1,718.00	3,850.00	25,720.00	2,954.00	13,894.00	6,547.00
Capture Rate (birds/100 net-hours)	23.1	26.7	24.2	6.61	15	25.9	43.1
# of Nets	9-10	15-17	10	20-50	6-13	32-40	16
Dates of Operation	8/14-9/14	8/15-11/14	8/7-10/31	8/15-11/15	8/26-10/20	7/27 - 10/28	8/1-11/6
# of Days Operated	32	34	77	60	53	82	98

Top 10 Species Banded Table Regions 1 & 2 Fall 2017							
Rank	Appledore Island	Birdcraft	Kingston	Manomet	St. Andrews	Braddock Bay	McGill
1	GRCA (162)	WTSP (73)	GRCA (130)	GRCA (526)	SOSP (57)	RCKI (441)	RCKI (301)
2	NOWA (112)	GRCA (64)	MYWA (124)	TUTI (147)	GCKI (37)	WTSP (429)	WTSP (282)
3	CEDW (65)	AMRO (44)	COYE (81)	MYWA (97)	COYE (32)	GCKI (293)	MAWA (248)
4	BAWW (49)	EAPH (29)	AMRE (55)	AMRO (71)	WTSP (29)	GRCA (240)	AMRE (237)
5	AMRE (43)	NOWA (27)	TUTI (46)	BCCH (64)	AMGO (24)	MAWA (196)	MYWA (145)
6	REVI (41)	COYE (27)	BAWW (42)	WTSP (56)	HETH (24)	SWTH (186)	SOSP (139)
7	YEWA (32)	HETH (22)	GCKI (29)	SOSP (56)	BAWW (22)	BLPW (125)	SWTH (99)
8	COYE (25)	AMRE (20)	RTHU (29)	NOCA (52)	COYE (18)	AMRE (119)	GRCA (92)
9	CMWA (25)	SOSP (19)	HOWR (26)	AMGO (50)	BCCH (18)	COYE (113)	COYE (91)
10	MAWA (21)	RCKI (17)	OVEN (24)	AMRE (37)	RCKI (16)	HETH (102)	GCKI (85)

BANDING STATISTICS TABLE Regions 3 & 4 Fall 2017										
Summary Statistics	Allegheny Front	Long Point	Mt. Nebo	Penn State	Powder mill	Eden Mill	Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory	Jekyll Island	Kiawah Island (Captain Sams)	Kiawah Island (Little Bear)
# of Birds Banded	3,506	14,010	677	328	6,571	226	9,147	1,066	4,795	3,597
# of Species	71	119	66	41	98	36	120	43	83	75
Effort (net-hours + trap hours)	6,415.00	12,429.00	1,737.00	482	22,558.00	397	43,061.00	1,210.00	13,173.50	7,037.50
Capture Rate (birds/100 net-hours)	55	113	39	68	29.1	56.9	30.8	88.08	45.6	60
# of Nets	10-30	14	16	3-10	30-67	13	10-92	17	27	20
Dates of Operation	8/19-10/7	8/6-11/14	8/26-11/4	9/5-10/18	8/3-11/5	9/2-11/5	8/1-11/30	9/25-10/22	8/15-11/30	8/22-11/14
# of Days Operated	46	101	23	16	72	9	103	27	102	75

Top 10 Species Banded Table Regions 3 & 4 Fall 2017										
Rank	Allegheny Front	Long point Bird Observa tory	Mt. Nebo	Penn State	Powder mill	Eden Mill	Foreman's Branch Bird Observa tory	Jekyll Island	Kiawah Island (Captain Sams)	Kiawah Island (Little Bear)
1	BTBW (813)	RCKI (1711)	GRCA (129)	GRCA (122)	SWTH (607)	WTSP (83)	WTSP (1463)	COYE (269)	COYE (1313)	COYE (948)
2	BTNW (393)	GCKI (1172)	COYE (74)	HOFI (34)	MAWA (495)	COYE (16)	SOSP (1036)	WPWA (220)	MYWA (704)	GRCA (624)
3	BLBW (260)	WTSP (1105)	SOSP (68)	WTSP (33)	RCKI (446)	SWSP (16)	GRCA (551)	GRCA (206)	GRCA (685)	WPWA (326)
4	CMWA (256)	BLPW (1086)	RCKI (67)	NOCA (23)	AMGO (375)	GRCA (11)	COYE (550)	PABU (75)	REVI (265)	MYWA (273)
5	BLPW (240)	MYWA (1050)	SCJU (25)	AMGO (11)	SOSP (277)	NOCA (11)	RCKI (495)	AMRE (39)	AMRE (229)	NOWA (132)
6	MAWA (227)	SWTH (575)	MAWA (22)	BCCH (10)	GRCA (264)	SOSP (8)	SWSP (395)	MYWA (38)	WPWA (192)	PABU (119)
7	TEWA (199)	MAWA (519)	SWTH (19)	EATO (9)	RTHU (242)	CARW (9)	INBU (288)	BTBW (31)	NOWA (146)	PRAW (114)
8	SWTH (182)	NSWO (393)	OVEN (17)	OVEN (7)	REVI (211)	TUTI (6)	SCJU (262)	REVI (23)	PABU (127)	REVI (113)
9	SCJU (180)	SCJU (383)	WTSP (17)	HETH (6)	AMRE (207)	MYWA (4)	MYWA (246)	WEVI (22)	RCKI (125)	AMRE (108)
10	COYE (138)	AMRE (355)	TEWA (14)	TUTI (6)	COYE (206)	GCTH (3)	HETH (242)	NOCA/PR AW (17)	PRAW (121)	HOWR (83)