
Atlantic Flyway Review: Northeast Region (Spring Migration) 2020

Wing Island Banding Station

Brewster, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Sue Finnegan

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Wing Island Banding Station,

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Facebook : Wing Island Bird Banding Station

Instagram: wing_banders

Banders: *Sue Finnegan, Gretchen Putonen*

The Wing Island Bird Banding station is affiliated with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. It is located on a tidal island located behind the museum. Wing Island consists of 122 acres with 12 acres of Cape Cod Bay beach, 32.5 acres of upland (mainly shrubs, pitch pine and oak trees and a 10-acre meadow), and 78 acres of tidal saltwater marshland. The banding station was opened in 2000 by Master Bander Sue Finnegan.

Our 20th spring season began on 20 Apr and ended on 14 Jun. We operated nets for only 10 days, due to the pandemic. A range of 21-32 nets were used culminating in a total of 928.08 net hours for a capture rate of 25 birds/100net-hours (netted birds). We banded 119 new birds, recaptured 95 birds and had 65 returns of the following species: 10Y- Gray Catbird (1); A9Y- Common Yellowthroat (1); 8Y- 1 each of Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow; 7Y- Black-capped Chickadee (1); A6Y- 1 each of Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler; 6Y- Common Yellowthroat (1); A5Y- Gray Catbird (2), Northern Cardinal (1); 5Y- American Goldfinch(1); A4Y- Common Yellowthroat (2); 4Y: Song Sparrow (3), American Goldfinch (2), Yellow Warbler (2), 1 each of Yellow-shafted Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, White-throated Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie Warbler; ATY- Common Yellowthroat (1). The rest of the birds were three years or younger. The 8Y Black-capped Chickadee we recaptured had been recaptured every year except for one and the 8Y Song Sparrow hadn't been recaptured since the initial banding in 2013.

Jul. - Sep. 2022

We added no new species for this season. Our best day was 18 May with 50 birds of 12 species netted. We banded a Downy Woodpecker with a case of healed pox on the upper mandible and a Black-capped Chickadee with a deformed left leg from an old injury, but otherwise was functioning well.

Many thanks to the French Foundation and the Cape Cod Bird Club for monetary support. A big thank-you to Catherine Werth and Josh Maloney who helped out for this spring season.

Mid-Atlantic Region S Foreman's Branch

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland

<https://www.washcoll.edu/learn-by-doing/ces/fbbo.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/ForemansBranch>

<https://www.instagram.com/foremansbranch/>

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Banders: *Jim Gruber, Maren Gimpel,*

Melissa Simon

Spring 2020 marked FBBO's 23rd year of banding. The station has nets in a mix of habitats including fallow fields, second growth forests, mature woodlands and over a lake. The habitat has remained mostly the same over the years.

We were extraordinarily lucky to run our spring 2020 season despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Since staff live on site, they could band and still comply with the state mandated stay at home order. The banders formed an isolation pod allowing them to work together, so while we cancelled our internships, hosted no visitors and had no volunteers, the skeleton crew of three managed to eke out a season.

The season was our lowest ever in terms of captures, and the worst ever birds per 100nh, so the low numbers were not a function of reduced effort due to the pandemic. It was a cold spring with late frost and unfavorable winds. We also dealt with a menacing Barred Owl that required some net closures. Species diversity was average.

We had high spring counts for several species including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Eastern Wood-pewee, Northern Cardinal, Barn Swallow, and Hermit Thrush. The numbers for Northern Cardinal, Yellow Palm Warbler and Hermit Thrush were 2SD above our long-term average. We had near record low numbers of American Goldfinch and White-throated Sparrows.

Among our returns of note was a Red-winged Blackbird banded in March of 2011 who was 10 years and 11 months old in May 2020. We had no foreign recaptures and only run of the mill recoveries.

We deployed radio tags on behalf of Luke DeGroot of Powdermill Avian Research Center who is studying effects of glass collisions on birds. We collected ticks for Dr. Holly Gaff at Old Dominion University and fecal samples of Blackpoll Warblers from Dr. Brian Trevelline of Cornell University.

We are most grateful to Dr. Henry F. Sears for his years of support.

Meadowlands Bird Banding Station

Lyndhurst, Bergen County, New Jersey

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Banders: *Cailin O'Connor (Master Bander),*

Drew McQuade, Erica Mueller

The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station historically operated under a different Master Bander from 2008-2015. The station was reopened in the fall of 2019 as a migratory and MAPS banding station on about half of the footprint of the original banding site. The banding site contains saltmarsh, mudflat, and mid-successional shrub/scrub habitats. It follows a narrow strip of land between a tidal marsh and an impoundment. The site has undergone restoration efforts in the past.

The Meadowlands Bird Banding Station operated 10 mist nets over 13 banding days from April 23 – May 25, 2020, during spring migration. In total, 419 individuals of 28 species were banded for the season. The top 10 species were: Yellow-rumped Warbler (n=180), Common Yellowthroat

(n=57), Red-winged Blackbird (n=34), Palm Warbler (n=20), Song Sparrow (n=18), Yellow Warbler (n=15), American Goldfinch (n=15), Gray Catbird (n=15), American Robin (n=9), and Traill's Flycatcher (n=8). There were five recaptures during the season, three of which had been banded by the previous station operating on the grounds, so those birds – an American Robin, a Red-winged Blackbird, and a Yellow Warbler, all male – were at least 4 years old at the time of recapture.

Thank you to New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority for use of their land on which the banding station is situated, and to our volunteers and interns for the season, especially Joe Affinito.

Powdermill Avian Research Center

Rector, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

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Facebook: @PowdermillNatureReserve

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Annie Lindsay

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Banders: *Annie Lindsay, Mary Shidel,*

Luke DeGroot

Powdermill's banding station opened in 1961, and has been running continuously year-round since then. The spring season usually begins on April first and continues through May 31. Powdermill Avian Research Center (PARC) is a long-term bird monitoring station operated and supported by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Powdermill operates 65 nets in the fall. The nets are grouped together into various net lanes, and they're spread across a 10-hectare banding area. The habitat is mostly early successional or transitional, and is quite shrubby. There are four ponds in the net lane area – one usually dries during late summer and into fall, and two are relatively shallow, but the biggest one remains full and is roughly 15 feet deep. The banding area is surrounded forest and sits at the foot of the Laurel Ridge, bordering Forbes State Forest.

The spring 2020 banding season was effectively cancelled due to covid. Annie Lindsay ran the nets alone for a specific project, releasing all non-focal

species at the nets, but processed all recaptures. Early May had unseasonably cold days with some frost and snow.

Powdermill's bird banding operation is funded through the generosity of the Colcom Foundation, the Laurel Foundation, and numerous private donors who have supported Powdermill Avian Research Center since its inception.

Southeast Region Spring 2020

No reports received.

Canada Region

No reports received.

Atlantic Flyway Review: Northeast Region (Fall Migration) 2020

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory

Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station

Rochester, Monroe County, New York

Andrea J. Patterson, Station Director

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Braddock Bay Bird Observatory is situated on the south shore of Lake Ontario midway between the eastern and western ends of the lake. The early successional site is dominated by fruiting woody plants – primarily dogwood, viburnum, and honeysuckle – along with a mixed wet forest until recently dominated by ash, and a field of grasses and goldenrod. The 35th consecutive year of fall migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station was carried out for 69 days beginning 15 Aug and ending on 31 Oct 2019. Nine days were entirely lost to inclement weather.

4479 birds of 84 species were banded, exceeding Fall 2019's total by 1926 birds; however, note that these numbers do not include our late July banding during the Yellow Warbler migration. Prothonotary Warbler was new for the fall season; our fall cumulative total stands at 128 species, with two additional hybrid forms and one intergrade form.

Constant effort-mist netting was carried out using 32 nets. Included in the total were six double-high assemblies. A total of 10,972.75 net hours of banding resulted in a capture rate of 40.8 birds/100 net-hours, compared with 22.3 birds/100 net-hours in Fall 2019 and 28.1 birds/100 net-hours in Fall 2018.

We recaptured 1117 individual birds a total of 1890 times; 829 birds were captured after their initial banding day. Of these recaptures, 29 returned from a previous season.

62.1% of the returning birds had originally been banded as hatch-year birds. There were no particularly old birds, with just one Downy Woodpecker, one White-breasted Nuthatch, one Gray Catbird, and one American Goldfinch attaining their fourth year.

There were three foreign recaps this season. On 19 Sep we recaptured a White-throated Sparrow that had been banded four days earlier at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, located 60 miles to the northeast across Lake Ontario. On 14 Oct we recaptured a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that had been banded the day before near Toronto, located 80 miles to the WNW across Lake Ontario. On 12 Oct we recaptured a Sharp-shinned Hawk that had been banded in April 2020 at a station located five miles to our SSE.

We also received reports that four of our banded birds were found elsewhere. A Traill's Flycatcher was found dead a few miles from the banding station, a second Traill's Flycatcher was found dead in Maine, and a Gray Catbird and a Blue Jay were found dead in Ontario. In addition, a Red-tailed Hawk banded under our permit in May 1992 was found dead in September in a neighboring county. Banded as a second-year bird, it was just a year and five months short of being the eldest known wild Red-tailed Hawk when it perished.