

**Appledore Island  
Migration Station**

**425-0703**

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: *Sara Morris*

Banders: Lindsay Herlihy, Anthony Hill, David Holmes

Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Solomon Bixby, Eleanor Bolker, Kathryn Gunther, Mark Hopey, Lauren Kras, Jan Lathrop, Susan Lee, Peggy Maslow, Fay Melendy, Jeff Ott, Shelby Southworth, Andy Thiede, and Kathy Whittier,

We had another disappointing fall season, even worse than we have come to expect. The 765 birds banded was well below our average of  $1620 \pm 479$  birds/season and was our lowest total since 1982! Likewise, the 57 species we captured was lower than our historic average of  $70.8 \pm 9.2$  species. Weather was not a major factor in our captures this year as we did not lose any whole days of banding, and only lost an hour or two on four days due to rain. The early fall shut down of the Shoals Marine Lab continues to have the biggest impact on our fall statistics, and this season was our earliest close yet. The early closure resulted in the lowest number of birds per 100 net-hours ( $21.6 \text{ b}/100 \text{ nh}$ ) in our history, well below our  $38.0 \pm 9.5 \text{ b}/100\text{nh}$  on average.

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. Our higher-than-typical numbers came from local breeding species. The 21 Carolina Wrens that were captured was well above our typical  $5.2 \pm 5.4$  and was our highest total ever, an indication of the recent mild winters. Likewise, we had higher-than-typical Downy Woodpeckers (2014: 13; average  $5.5 \pm 4.5$ ), Northern Cardinals (2014: 6; average:  $3.2 \pm 2.5$ ), and Common Grackles (2014: 8; average:  $2.0 \pm 2.4$ ). The two species of birds that were below normal ranges were Least Flycatcher (2014: 5; average:  $18.8 \pm 7.0$ ) and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2014: 8; average:  $31.9 \pm 12.4$ ). Many of our migrant species were within normal ranges, but were captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Traill's Flycatcher (2014: 7; average: Jul. - Sep.

$32.4 \pm 16.0$ ), Red-eyed Vireo (2014: 35; average:  $164.5 \pm 102.6$ ), Cedar Waxwing (2014: 22; average:  $55.4 \pm 33.0$ ), Nashville Warbler (2014: 2; average:  $20.8 \pm 14.6$ ), Black-and-white Warbler (2014: 25; average:  $52.1 \pm 22.3$ ), American Redstart (2014: 43; average:  $106.4 \pm 48.8$ ), Blackpoll Warbler (2014: 5; average:  $41.2 \pm 29.0$ ), Magnolia Warbler (2014: 14; average:  $30.0 \pm 15.3$ ), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2014: 4; average:  $23.8 \pm 23.7$ ), and Baltimore Oriole (2014: 11; average:  $32.6 \pm 17.7$ ). Our most exciting captures were a Hooded Warbler and a Kentucky Warbler.

We had a number of groups visit the station including Marine Immersion students from the Shoals Marine Lab, a group from the University of New Hampshire, 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 an anonymous donor.

**Austin Banding Station**

**415-0695**

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Wellfleet, MA

Banders: *James Junda* (compiler),

Assistants: Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso, Michael Novak

In fall 2014 we were very proud to reopen the Austin Banding Station on Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and operate the first ever modern organized constant-effort migration station on the grounds. Weather was good with only a few storms in the fall preventing us from opening the majority of nets. Our most noteworthy bandings were a Dickcissel and two Gray-checked Thrushes. Our station is around the nature center at the main sanctuary. Nets are in a mix of dense mature riparian forest (7), beach side heath and open field (5), dense black-locust/black cherry forest (3) and saltmarsh edge (2). The station was run by a team of dedicated banders: James Junda, Catie Porro, Melanie Mancuso and Michael Novak.