



Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association

Founded 1923

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region 1 (Northeast) Fall 2016 Report

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Seven banding stations reported their results for the 2016 fall season. We welcome reports from two new stations, Kingston Wildlife Research Station from Rhode Island and Birdcraft Banding Station from Connecticut.

It was a cold, wet spring this year with a prolonged period of dry conditions during summer and fall leading to a poor berry crop. The gypsy moth outbreak in the Northeast did not help. Both St. Andrews and Appledore had their lowest record of birds banded; whereas, Wing Island had its best season ever. Manomet had the lowest record of Myrtle Warblers, probably, due to the poor berry crop.

The highest daily catch for most of the stations was later in the season, October and November. Appledore had the biggest catch on 10 Sep, probably because they are closing earlier than years before. The greatest species diversity occurred on 23 Aug for St. Andrews, 10 Sep for Appledore, 11 Oct for Austin, 17 Oct for Wing Island, 12 Oct for Manomet, 5 and 29 Oct for Kingston, and 4 Oct for Birdcraft. Numbers of different species for those

days ranged from 16 at Kingston to 26 at Wing Island. Banders contributed over 47,000 net-hours of effort this season.

Highlights of the season included a very rare Summer Tanager at St. Andrews, a Worm-eating Warbler for Appledore, and large numbers of both Pine and Palm warblers at Austin. Manomet banded another Bell's Vireo; their first was banded last year. Wing Island had a much larger average of Black-capped Chickadees this season and banded their first ever Calliope Hummingbird at a private residence on 26 Oct. Kingston banded a rarity for their state, a Kentucky Warbler; Birdcraft banded a Fox Sparrow on 10 Nov., its last day of banding.

As always, thanks so much to the Region I compilers for taking time out of their busy schedules to put these reports together.

St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670
New Brunswick, Canada

Bander: Tracey Dean (complier)
Assistants: Sebastian Orue, Kylli Morgan

The 2016 fall migration monitoring season started on 26 Aug and there was almost daily coverage until 6 Oct, when the second volunteer left. After that the nets were only opened on two days; altogether the station was active on 36 days. The weather barely changed during September, with few fronts to concentrate birds or move them along. Here are some summary points from 2016:

St	Andrews NB	Appledore ME	Austin, Wellfleet Bay MA	Manomet MA	Wing Island MA	Kingston MA	Birdcraft CT												
1	AMGO (1)	GRCA (1)	142	97%	AMGO (3)	161	70%	GRCA (1)	544	95%	GRCA (1)	461	91%	MYWA	158	66%	WTSP	78	92%
2	BCCH (3)	RBNJ	79	76%	BCCH (2)	150	94%	BCCH (5)	331	83%	MYWA (2)	402	89%	GRCA	153	87%	GRCA	37	86%
3	AMRE (6)	CEDW (7)	69	90%	PWA (9)	138	85%	BLPW (10)	319	77%	BCCH (5)	251	94%	COYE	68	90%	EAPH	22	90%
4	COYE (5)	NOVA (2)	67	70%	GRCA (1)	133	95%	TUTT (8)	187	88%	SOSP (4)	138	88%	BCCH	67	69%	NOCA	20	60%
5	GCKI (9)	REV (3)	38	97%	MYWA (5)	102	95%	WTSP	61	80%	NOCA (7)	97	92%	BLPW	65	55%	AMRO	19	94%
6	AMRO	COYE (4)	33	94%	BLA (6)	62	75%	NOCA (7)	55	76%	BLPW (10)	88	92%	NOCA	56	68%	HEH	17	100%
7	BAWW	AMRE (5)	33	88%	NOCA (10)	51	91%	AMRO	48	69%	TUTT (8)	78	99%	WTSP	53	53%	TUTT	15	73%
8	SWTH	PUFI	24	92%	RCKI	51	86%	BLA	42	93%	RCKI	58	95%	AMRE	44	75%	COYE	13	76%
9	WTSP (4)	EAPH	21	95%	EABL	46	80%	SOSP (4)	41	93%	COYE (6)	56	84%	AMRO	42	64%	SOSP	10	70%
10	REV (8)	BAWW (8)	20	100%	SOSP (4)	46	93%	NAWA	34	100%	PWA	49	98%	TUTT	35	87%	SWTH	9	44%

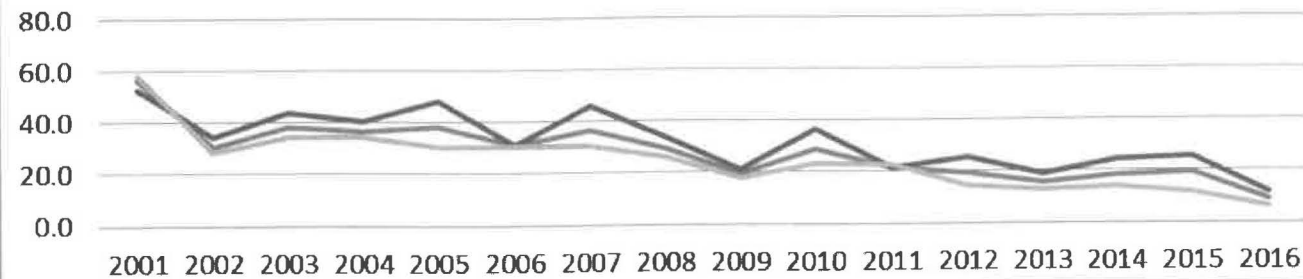
(1)-Top 10 order from previous year

Table 1. AFR Region I - Northeast Fall 2016 Summary

First Day	26-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Aug	3-Aug	7-Aug	8-Sep
Last Day	27-Oct	15-Sep	14-Nov	15-Nov	19-Nov	31-Oct	10-Nov
Days Operated	36	32	59	67	45	80	29
No. Nets Used	7 to 15	9 to 10	10 to 22	18 to 50	20 to 35	10	17
Total Nets Hours	2,680	3,817	5,352	26,888	3,323	3,966	1,229
# of Traps Used	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
% of Total Caught in Traps	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<1%	N/A	N/A
# Birds Banded 2015	468	854	1,168	1,961	2,576	1,112	334
# Birds Banded 2016	236	745	1,432	2,128	2,236	1,112	339
Different Species 2015	46	59	69	72	73	64	36
Different Species 2016	45	53	73	74	72	68	41
Largest Daily Catch	24	68	71	90	206	61	46
Largest Daily Catch Date	26 Oct	10 Sep	10 Nov	18 Oct	27 Oct	25 Oct	4 Oct
Most Common Species on Best Day	BCCH	REVI	AMGO	BLPW	MYWA	MYWA	EAPH
Which was What % Total on Best Day	54%	25%	59%	29%	65%	61%	17%
Date with Most Species Diversity	23 Aug	10 Sep	11 Oct	17 Oct	12 Oct	5 Oct/29 Oct	4 Oct
# of Species on that Day	18	20	20	20	26	16	20
Birds/100nh 2015	19	22	39	7	68	32	27
Birds/100nh 2016	9	20	38	8	56	28	28
Overall % Hatch Year (****) 2015	74%	96%	90%	93%	91%	83%	74%
Overall % Hatch Year (****) 2016	76%	89%	82%	86%	91%	73%	75%

(****) HY% calculated as number of HY/total # of birds banded.

Birds per 100 net hours



- A total of 236 birds were banded – lowest since 2011.
- The birds/100 net-hours (b/100nh) – lowest ever!
- A diversity of 45 species was good – all the regular common species were represented.
- A Summer Tanager captured on 25 Sep was most unexpected. This is a very rare bird in New Brunswick. We have a photo record to document this bird.
- Five Northern Cardinals were banded as this species continues to expand its range out of the town and into the woods.
- The two Chipping Sparrows were the first since 2004.
- All the regular wood warbler species were captured; just in very low numbers.
- A Sharp-shinned Hawk was banded; the first since 2010.
- Downy was the only woodpecker species captured.
- There were no Alder Flycatchers, Swamp Sparrows, or Lincoln's Sparrows.

It was a hot dry summer and fall, with almost drought conditions which led to a poor berry crop and low insect numbers. Jackhammering and noise from more road construction was ongoing throughout the entire banding season. These, combined with habitat changes and fragmentation, all probably played a role in the low amount of bird activity. The only bonus was that the noise also kept the deer away. The construction should be over by next banding season and hopefully the outlook will be a little brighter.

The only species with a positive trend from 2015 to 2016 was American Robin. The number of Black-and-White Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and

Black-capped Chickadee b/100nh did not change much; otherwise, all other species /100nh were lower than 2015.

Thank you to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund for providing major financial support for the daily operation of the Station, without which the Station would not be able to operate. Thank you to volunteers Sebastian Orue and Kylli Morgan for their dedication and patience in this very slow banding year. Lastly, thank you to the **Huntsman Marine Science Centre** for the in-kind support.

Appledore Island 425-0703
Migration Station

Appledore Island, York County, ME

Coordinator: Sara Morris

Banders: Peg Ackerson, Liz Burton (compiler), Lindsay Herlihy, David Holmes

Assistants: Jan Lathrop, Susan Lee, Sally Mack, Betsy Moll, Jeff Ott, Cora Payne, Shelby Southworth, Martha Stauffer, Andy Thiede, Kathy Thompson, Susan Tiholiz, Kiah Walker, Ninfa Yong

The fall 2016 season was the worst on record with only 745 birds banded, well below our average of 1559 ± 590 birds/season. The number of species was also the lowest ever (tied with Fall 2011) with 53 species, well below the average of 69.7 ± 9.7 . Finally, the number of birds per hundred net-hours dropped below 20 for the first time in our history: 19.5 b/100 nh, compared to our fall average of 36.8 ± 10.3 b/100nh. Weather may have had a minor effect on captures this season. While we did not lose any full days of banding, there were rain closures of up to several hours on six 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. Exceptions included a much-higher-than normal number of Common Grackles (2016: 10; average 2 ± 2.3) and a much lower than normal number of Common Yellowthroats (2016: 33; average 116.9 ± 39.9). Though within normal ranges, there were modest irruptions of Purple Finches (2016: 24; average: 7.3 ± 12.1) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (2016: 79; average: 40.8 ± 46.4). In contrast, there were a large number of species captured in numbers less than half of their averages: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2016: 7; average: 31.0 ± 12.9), Traill's Flycatcher (2016: 9; average: 31.7 ± 16.1), Least Flycatcher (2016: 9; average: 18.3 ± 7.2), Red-eyed Vireo (2016: 38; average: 160.8 ± 102.3), Ovenbird (2016: 5; average: 26.1 ± 12.9), Northern Waterthrush (2016: 67; average: 164.8 ± 50.0), Black-and-White Warbler (2016: 20; average: 51.8 ± 21.9), Nashville Warbler (2016: 2; average: 20.3 ± 14.5), Mourning Warbler (2016: 4; average: 14.3 ± 5.9), American Redstart (2016: 33; average: 104.5 ± 48.8), Magnolia Warbler (2016: 6; average: 29.1 ± 15.7), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2016: 4; average: 11.2 ± 4.8), Blackpoll Warbler (2016: 10; average: 40.0 ± 29.0), Canada Warbler (2016: 4; average: 15.1 ± 8.0), Wilson's Warbler (2016: 4; average: 30.7 ± 13.6), Song Sparrow (2016: 19; average: 52.0 ± 24.3), and Baltimore Oriole (2016: 9; average: 33.5 ± 17.8). In addition, several species were not captured that are generally reliable in the fall: Veery (average: 9.2 ± 6.3), Swainson's Thrush (average: 7.5 ± 6.8), and Tennessee Warbler (average: 4.9 ± 2.9). Finally, no Carolina Wrens (average: 5.2 ± 5.4) were banded for the second fall in a row. Though within normal ranges, this represents a major change from recent Fall seasons and no doubt reflects the severe 2014-15 winter. Our most exciting captures of the season were a Worm-eating Warbler and a Gray Catbird that were originally banded at Braddock Bay, NY, and were recaptured in both spring and fall at Appledore.

We had a number of groups visit the station including Marine Immersion students from the Shoals Marine Lab, groups from the University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts, and

Cornell, groups from the Star Island conference center and other visitors to Appledore Island. The fall 2016 season was also memorable for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Shoals Marine Lab, which serves as the host of the station and supports us in many ways. We had the pleasure of visits from many of the guests who were on the island for the anniversary celebration.

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.

Austin Banding Station 415-0695

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Wellfleet, MA

Bander: James Junda (compiler),
Assistant: Elora Grahame

Fall 2016 was the third year of the reopening of Austin Banding Station on Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The weather was good with only a few storms in the fall preventing us from opening the majority of nets. The big shifts were observed in Pine Warblers, with our total of 138, far outpacing the fall 2014 total of 32. This was observed in Palm Warblers as well; 18 in 2016 versus only 3 in 2015. Our station is around the nature center at the main sanctuary. Nets are in a mix of dense mature riparian forest (9), beach side heath and open field (10), dense black-locust/black cherry forest (3) and saltmarsh edge (2).

Manomet Bird Observatory 415-0703

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
Manomet, MA

Compiler: Trevor Lloyd-Evans

Banders: Alex Bartolo and Alan Kneidel

Assistants: Emily Renaud and Sarah Groendyk

Fall 2016: New Bandings: 2,128; Repeat Captures: 1,283; TOTAL HANDLED: 3,411 birds of 74 species.

On 15 Nov we wrapped up our 51st fall banding season at Manomet. Over those autumns we have banded 169,659 landbirds. Starting on 15 Aug, 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 483 visitors this fall, bringing our yearly total to 1,043 students, scientists, boy scouts, girl scouts, birders and photographers from the local community and beyond!

Banding highlights included yet another Eastern Bell's Vireo for the Banding Lab. This species has been recorded less than a dozen times in the state (starting with Manomet capturing one in 2005)! This is our second fall Bell's Vireo in a row now and a rash of sightings along the east coast this fall suggests a shift in range and/or migratory pattern for this species of the US interior. We banded our 250,000th bird (a Gray Catbird, of course) on 26 Sep.

This fall followed a cold, late spring. Local trees and shrubs were hit hard by gypsy moth outbreaks and a significant drought. Although the local cuckoo populations benefitted from the first of these afflictions (due to their ability to ingest the hairy beasts), fall migrants encountered fewer berries due to the drought. As a result, we were capturing lingering late-season migrants well into November. Our 319 Blackpoll Warblers were the most since 1979. A general lack of early Neotropical migrants could also have been the result of birds leaving earlier than normal and bypassing our banding station. Our only days with 100+ birds came in October: 122 captures on the 3rd, 120 captures on the 11th, 130 captures on the 17th and 131 captures (90 new bandings) on the 18th. Fall 2016 saw a record low number of 30 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, the lowest total in all our years of complete fall coverage. Perhaps due to drought-induced limits on their favored coastal berry foods?

Recaptures from previous seasons (65) this fall include an 8-year-old Gray Catbird and a 7-year-old Northern Cardinal. We also recaptured a 5-year-old catbird and four 4-year-old birds (Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Gray Catbird and Song Sparrow). A Gray Catbird recaptured this fall had previously been banded in fall 2015 at Cape May Point, New Jersey. A different hatch-year catbird we banded on 3 Oct this fall was recaptured on 24 Oct in Tampa, Hillsborough Co., Florida.

When compared with the previous ten falls, 10 species met or exceeded the highest totals including 34 Nashville and four Connecticut warblers. The four record low species in the same comparison were Veery, Hermit Thrush, and Myrtle and Wilson's Warblers.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall 2016 migration banding and education season such a success. We are also greatly indebted for recent financial support from Manomet members. Alex Bartolo and Alan Kneidel were the indefatigable staff banders and teachers this fall, with timely assistance from Emily Renaud and Sarah Groendyk.

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Brewster, MA

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

Assistants: Bradford Bower, Jo-Anna Ghaban, Donna Kucia (data entry), Judith Bruce, Jane Wing, Devan Blazey, Alex Cook, Corey Accardo, Eric Russell (net lane maintenance), Jetta Cook, and others who helped for a day.

The Wing Island Banding Station was opened in the fall of 2000 by Master Bander Susan Finnegan and has been a long-term spring and fall migration station as well as a once/week breeding monitoring station since that time. Wing Island is an upland nine-acre area surrounded by a huge saltmarsh on three sides and Cape Cod Bay on the northerly border.

Our season began on 3 Aug and continued through 19 Nov. Our fall season this year was even better than last and all the past 16 years of banding at

this site. A total of 2,236 birds were banded of 70 species and 91% of those were HY birds. I was fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer intern this fall so did not have to cancel days due to a lack of volunteers.

Net hours totaled 5,954 for a capture rate of 56 b/100nh. Our largest daily catch was on 27 Oct with a total of 206 birds. The best species diversity of 26 species was on 12 Oct. Vagrant hummingbirds included our first ever Calliope Hummingbird at a private home in October and one Rufous Hummingbird in December. We had no lower numbers of species compared to our average, but had higher numbers in numerous species: American Redstart (13) with an average of 5.7 ± 6.13 ; Black-capped Chickadee (248) - average of 91.7 ± 120.5 ; Eastern Towhee (40) - average 16 ± 22.5 and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (58) - average 20.3 ± 30 ;

We originally banded 106 birds in the fall that returned to us from previous years. The oldest birds included: A8Y Common Yellowthroat; 9Y Song Sparrow; 2 8Y Black-capped Chickadees; A7Y Gray Catbird; 7Y- 2 Song Sparrows, 1 of each Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Black-capped Chickadee; A6Y American Goldfinch: 6Y- 3 Song Sparrows, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, 1 Tufted Titmouse; A5Y- 2 Gray Catbird and a Song Sparrow; 5Y- 4 chickadees, 3 catbirds and 3 Song Sparrows; A4Y- 2 Common Yellowthroats and a Song Sparrow; 4Y- 4 catbirds, 3 chickadees, 2 Song Sparrow, 1 Myrtle Warbler and 1 Common Yellowthroat. All other birds were 3 years old or younger.

A House Finch we banded as a HY in Oct 2015 was killed by a cat in a nearby town in Jun 2016.

Pox was noted on six birds this fall, all HY birds: a Northern Mockingbird, a Blue Jay, 3 Gray Catbirds, and 1 Eastern Towhee. The majority of pox cases were noted on the feet/legs with one on the mandible.

As always, a big thank you to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. We appreciate the monetary support from the French Foundation, the

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility, and the Town of Brewster for banding on their land.

Kingston Wildlife Research Station 413-0713

Kingston, Washington County, RI

**Banders: Julie Shieldcastle (compiler),
Peter Paton, Scott McWilliams**

Assistants: Talvi Ansel, Gina Celeste, Jackie Claver, Megan Gray, Valerie Perkins, Joanne Riccitelli, and Shelby Southworth.

Kingston Wildlife Research Station is a long-term fall migration station started by Dr. Doug Kraus in 1958. Doug operated four mist nets daily by himself during fall migration from 1958-1994. Peter Paton and Scott McWilliams, faculty at the University of Rhode Island, took over operations in 1998 and now coordinate the operation of 10 mist nets daily every fall. The station is located on 82 acres owned by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on land that was a farm in the 1930s, but reverted to deciduous forest, with a small (0.4 ha) restored old field/grassland near five nets.

Capture rates were much higher when the station was initially opened, averaging 132.8 and 110.6 b/100nh in the 1960s and in the 1970s, respectively. The capture rates have since steadily declined over the 58 years the station has been in operation, with only an average of 26.5 b/100nh captured from 2000 - 2010. Thus, although capture rates during fall 2016 (28.0 b/100nh) were much lower than in the 1960s, they were higher than five years during the past decade. During the fall of 2016, two hurricanes, Hermine and Karl, in September affected the wind direction, producing high winds, and heavy precipitation. Earlier in the season, the winds were not favorable for a southerly migration, with 71% of days having calm winds, or a southerly or northeasterly winds, which appeared to reduce the number of migrants passing through southern Rhode Island. Later in October, the number of nights with northerly winds increased, which resulted in increased the capture rates. Twenty-three days out of 80 days had winds from the north or northwesterly direction. This is the value of having multiple banding stations to determine if the migration behavior is similar among other stations.

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