Sparrow numbers were more erratic. While White-throated and Song sparrow numbers are down, juncos are close to average and Swamp Sparrows are above the seven-year average.

The two regularly caught species of finch were down in 2008. After a record high of 238 or 4.58 b/100nh for American Goldfinch in 2007, only 19 or 0.61 b/100nh were captured in 2008. Purple Finches were also scarce with just one, or 0.03 b/100nh. Over the summer, there were many reports of sick finches (Austin 2008[1]) and disease may well be the factor in the low numbers captured.

Thrush numbers were up, with the Swainson's and Hermit thrushes, along with American Robin, well above the seven-year average.

Thank you NEW BRUNSWICK WILDLIFE TRUST FUND for providing financial support and the HUNTSMAN MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE for all the in-kind support which allowed the Station to complete its seventh full fall migration-monitoring season successfully.

[1]Austin, Ivy. 2008. What's happening to our finches? *Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter* Issue 5, Fall 2008.

Appledore **425-0703**
Island Migration Station
Appledore Island, York County, ME
Coordinator: ***Sara Morris***
Banders: ***David Holmes, Becky Suomala, Mary Wright***
Assistants: Peg Ackerson, Marygrace Barber, Liz Burton, Bill Clark, Susan Coppola, Carol Cushing, Kyle Horton, Charlotte Ott, Erica Ott, Jeffrey Ott, Jim Reis, Martha Stauffer, Brynne Stumpe, Andy Thiede, Stella Walsh, Lynn Zeltman

Fall on Appledore is a beautiful time of year, which is good because the fall 2008 banding season was terrible. The total of 1208 birds banded was well below average (average 1808 ± 518) and was the second lowest fall total since 1983, only fall 1993 was worse (1045 birds that year). The 67 species banded was the same as in 2007 but was well below the fall average of 74.4 ± 6.6 species. These low numbers were not due to a decrease in effort, as the 4399 net-hours in the fall were almost exactly at our fall average of 4393 ± 949. The 27.5 b/100nh was our lowest on record. Weather did not appear to be a major factor in these numbers this year. We did not lose any full days of banding to bad weather, and most of the six days that included some weather-related net closing were open for most of the morning. Part of the reason for the low numbers may have been having to close on 21 Sep, rather than a few days later when more of the short-distance migrants would be expected to be present.

Although no species were captured in numbers outside the "normal" range, many were at the lower end of the normal numbers. Several species captured in most fall seasons were absent, including Eastern Kingbird, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. The top ten species captured were generally typical of fall birds, including the perennial Northern Waterthrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart. Three species were new to the top ten list compared to 2007: Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Wilson's Warbler. The three species that were on the top ten list in 2007 but not in 2008 were Red-breasted Nuthatch (only 10 in 2008 compared to 124 in 2007), Baltimore Oriole (26 in 2008, compared to 90 in 2007), and Purple Finch (one in 2008 compared to 44 in 2007). We did not handle any new species this season. The most exciting captures were Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hooded Warbler, and red bat.

We would like to congratulate one of our banders, Kristen Covino, who successfully defended her Master's thesis at the University of Maine at Orono. Her thesis included a chapter that investigated migratory decisions and energetic condition of spring migrants on Appledore.

We encourage visitors to Appledore to visit the banding station and continue to talk to people who

come to the island, including students in Shoals credit and non-credit classes, visiting school classes, and a variety of groups who visit the island. Many of our volunteers have been introduced to the station during similar visits to the island. Our volunteers are generous with their time and their financial support of the station, and we could not operate without them. The station has been fortunate to receive 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), Mark Thomas, Ian Davies***
Assistants: Evan Dalton, Linnea Rowse, and 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 43rd 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.

A White-winged Crossbill banded 12 Sep was in almost complete juvenal plumage, with just enough red feathers emerging on the head to indicate a male; although he did not look as if he was capable of having flown any great distance, but with crossbills, who knows? In the same vein, we banded a very early Slate-colored Junco on 20 Aug, also in predominantly juvenal plumage. At the tail of the fall migration, a Blackpoll Warbler recaptured on 12 Nov may be the latest Manomet record for that species.

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. On 17 Sep, we combined a banding demonstration with a Manomet Garden Workshop by Garden Coordinator Kim Goggin, emphasizing the relationship among birds, insects, pollination, and fruit dispersal. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walk in! Fifty 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 Numbers: New Bandings 1,942
Repeat Captures 1,135
TOTAL HANDLED 3,077 of 76 species

This autumn, an above-average number of b/100nh was banded, although we were slightly below the average of the previous decade in individual bandings. August featured catbirds and Baltimore Orioles plus flycatchers and other early migrants. Most of September was hot and slow; October had most of our busy days, and November was generally windy and wetter. Local seed and berry production was even better than last year, with abundant food supplies for migrants at least through Oct. Our busiest days were 7 Oct (128 captures), 14 Oct (114), 8 Oct (109), 21 Oct (102), 30 Sep (90), and 24 Aug (90). An encouraging 14 species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years, These included the expanding Red-bellied Woodpecker and the irruptive White-winged Crossbill, also eight Neotropical migrants (including hummingbird, Willow and Least flycatchers, Blue-winged Warbler) and four short-distance migrants (including many Blue Jays and American Robins). The four ten-year lows included Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Gray-cheeked Thrush. New bandings were led by Gray Catbirds, as usual, and the biggest Blue Jay flight for a long time.