

Wing Island Banding Station 414-0700

Brewster, Barnstable County, MA

Susan Finnegan, (Compiler) Gretchen Putonen, Banders

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Assistants Carolyn Kennedy, Judith Bruce, and others who helped for a day

Banding began on 23 Apr and ended on 15 Jun for a total of 30 days of operation. A range of 19-32 nets were used. Net hours totaled 3,589 for a capture rate of 22 b/100nh. A total of 380 birds of 43 species were banded and 372 were recaptured. Thirty-eight percent of those were returns from previous years. Older birds of interest were a nine-year-old Blue Jay; two Common Yellowthroats, a Black-capped Chickadee, and an eight-year-old Northern Cardinal; a Gray Catbird (whom we had not recaptured since 2003), Northern Cardinal, and a seven-year-old Prairie Warbler; and two American Goldfinches, a Common Yellowthroat, a Gray Catbird, and a Northern Cardinal all 6 years old. We had 12 birds returning as five-year-olds and 25 in their fourth year. The remaining were three years and younger.

The first of May proved to be our best day with 55 birds captured of 16 species. We also had an unexpected find while walking in the meadow to one of our nets—a Northern Gannet! It was injured, unfortunately, but what fun to see it up close. An exciting find for us was banding a Kentucky Warbler on 22 May, a new species for the station.

Since I started banding on Wing Island, this year proved to be the earliest ever for HY birds. We started capturing them on 12 Jun, our last day for spring migration banding, and we usually do not begin seeing them until the end of June/beginning of July. There seemed to be no lull between migrating birds and emerging hatching year birds.

We had some interesting captures this spring. A Common Yellowthroat banded last fall and called a HY male because of its partial black mask, actually turned out to be a female this spring with male characteristics and a brood patch. Our returning seven-year-old Northern Cardinal had leucistic

No.	Species	%SY	%ASY	%AHY	%HY
102	Gray Catbird	78	24		
70	Am. Goldfinch	55	15		
45	Com. Yellowthroat	29	16		
25	Song Sparrow	8		84	8
12	Prairie Warbler	42	58		
10	Yellow Warbler	50	50		
9	Bl-cap. Chickadee	100			
8	Ruby-thr. Hummingbird			100	
8	Magnolia Warbler	87.5	12.5		
8	Northern Cardinal	12.5		87.5	

feathers around both her eyes never noted before in our notes. Maybe it is just old age! A female Golden-crowned Kinglet had a growth that totally obliterated her right eye and one Yellow Warbler had scaly leg and another pox on its lower mandible.

Forty hearty souls from a walking group joined us for a banding demonstration on 10 May. It was a chilly day but we had numerous birds plus the highlight—a Ruby-throated Hummingbird they watched me band.

Foreign recaptures included a Ruby-throated Hummingbird banded as a HY female in 2007 and found dead in Dec 2009 a few miles away from the capture site. Mary Doscher captured one of our catbirds on 11 May 2009 that we first banded as a HY in 2008. A Gray Catbird, that we originally banded as a HY in 2009, was found dead in Freeport, FL on 2 Mar 2010. And on 12 Jun, an American Robin was found dead in Eastham, MA—15 miles from where it was banded as a HY in 2007. We continued to pull ticks for Yale University.

I started a blog this spring to document our findings at <http://www.capecodbander.blogspot.com>. Thanks very much to Gretchen Putonen, Carolyn Kennedy, and Judith Bruce for helping with the banding this spring and others who helped out for a day.