

St. Andrews Bird Banding Station 450-0670

New Brunswick, Canada

Banders: *Tracey Dean (compiler)*, John Pulliam, Lauren Smith

The St. Andrews Bird Banding Station completed its 13th full fall migration-monitoring season with assistance from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund.

Weather is always the major factor affecting the bird migration through St. Andrews. This fall was clear and calm, lovely for whale watching, but not bird banding. Migrants, as usual, followed the fronts which moved through about once a week. Net area Hma is especially quiet when the skies are clear. Hmb down by the St. Croix River seems to hold the birds better. The impact of the access road continues to be felt at Hma with increased noise and traffic and also the lack of hedgerow corridor.

The 2013 fall migration monitoring season started on 19 Aug and there was daily coverage until 22 Sep, when the two volunteers left. After that, nets were open sporadically, with the last day being 11 Oct. The nets were open on 31 days and few full days were lost to rain or wind. A total of 286 birds of 35 species were banded. The best day was 20 Aug, when 33 birds were banded, including a good diversity of warblers. The highest diversity was recorded on 28 Aug with 16 species. The station recorded its 100th banded species when a Northern Mockingbird was caught on 7 Sep. This species is

listed as an occasional visitor to St. Andrews according to the town checklist. The number of Northern Cardinal continues to increase with three banded. This species was regularly sighted and recorded in the daily estimated totals. The 15.59 birds/100 net hours (b/100nh) is the lowest in the 13 years of the project.

While the number of b/100 nh continues to decline, (see graph below) there is also a change in diversity as the open grassy areas grow in and the low scrubby vegetation around the nets becomes thicker. Captures of species such as Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush, have been increasing, along with gleaners, like the Black-and-white Warbler and vireos. Other notes: flocks of hatch-year American Goldfinch were common in the net areas, but avoided getting caught most days; Nashville, Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were caught for the first time in a number of years; Myrtle and Blackpoll warblers were totally absent.

Thank-you to volunteer John Pulliam and Lauren Smith for their dedication to the banding process and commitment to the Station's protocol. Thank-you to the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund and the New Brunswick Wildlife Council 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 the Huntsman Marine Science Centre for all the in-kind support which allowed the Station to successfully complete another fall migration-monitoring season.

