



Reflections on a Season of Banding Fall 2015 (15 Aug. – 15 Nov.) at Manomet

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2015 we have banded 167,531 landbirds. We are in our 50th year of data collection and education programs at Manomet. This fall, we again ran 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 some spring migrants which correlates with global warming; some fall migrants pass through earlier, some (mostly single-brooded short-distance migrants) later.



Formal education programs for 457 visitors 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. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walked in!



Above – Eastern Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)
 Photograph by Lauren diBiccari, Manomet Staff

Right – Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) male showing ruff and complete black sub-terminal band on tail
 Photograph by Kristen Oliver, Manomet Staff

We banded 6 species of vireo this fall, highlighted by our 3rd Eastern Bell's Vireo - the others in 2005 and 2006. Numbers of birds per effort (birds per net per hour) were slightly below the last five autumns, but overall, both spring and fall numbers have remained steady since the year 2000, a welcome relief from the ca. -2% /year declines from 1970-1995.



The Numbers:	New Bandings	1,961
	Repeat Captures	1,036
	TOTAL HANDLED	2,997 of 72 species



Both individual numbers banded, and species captured, were slightly below average for the previous ten years. A literally record-breaking snowy and cold winter was followed by a rather dry, windy early spring which warmed up here after 4th May. Leaf damage by both Winter and Gypsy Moth larvae was patchy, but well above average. Late summer and fall seed and berry crops were below normal. After a flurry of migrants and residents (think catbirds) in late August, Neotropicals were few in September but numbers of later migrants picked up from 29 Sep. through October. Our busiest fall days were: 6 Oct. (112 total captures), 7 Oct. (97), 9 Oct. (96), 10 Oct. (96) and 31 Aug. (91). Eleven species were banded in greater or greater= numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years; eleven species lower or lower=. The “up” numbers included Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker and Warbling Vireo, plus 391 Tufted Titmice for a 2nd all-time record. “Low” numbers included Carolina Wren and Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, perhaps reflecting increased mortality last winter. New bandings were led by catbirds as usual:

Gray Catbird	(473)	Blackpoll Warbler	(100)
Tufted Titmouse	(391)	Northern Cardinal	(71)
Black-capped Chickadee	(134)	American Robin	(66)
Myrtle Warbler	(102)	Blue Jay	(57)

Apart from the Bell’s Vireo, unusual species for Manomet were a single Ruffed Grouse and an Eastern Whip-poor-will (recent taxonomic split from Mexican Whip-poor-will).

Notable recaptures this fall (only 46 from previous seasons) included: a 9-year-old N. Cardinal female; a Common Yellowthroat first banded as an adult male on 20th May 2008 (at least 8 years old); a 5-year-old Gray Catbird; a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old Black-capped Chickadee; nine 2-year-olds and 32 banded the previous spring or fall. Most unusually, no Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco or American Tree Sparrow returned this fall from before winter 2014/15. A titmouse netted in October was recently banded on Cape Cod.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2015 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who supported the Bird-a-Thon this year. Financial support also came from:

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Lauren diBiccari and Alex Bartolo were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Kristen Oliver, Mikayla Thistle and Kayla Baker. We will greatly miss their experience and enthusiasm. Thanks also to Evan Dalton for teaching assistance.

Trevor Lloyd-Evans