

# Reflections on a Season of Banding: Fall 2007 (15 Aug. – 15 Nov.) at Manomet

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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*)

15<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Photo by Kyle Kaminski

## Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

14<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Photo by Kyle Kaminski

Formal education programs at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and conservation biology. Onsite programs for schools were below average this year as school and parent concerns about exposure to mosquito-transmitted diseases persisted. 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 walk in!

The Numbers:	New Bandings	2,352
	Repeat Captures	1,411
	TOTAL HANDLED	3,763 of 80 species

This autumn, an above-average number of birds was banded, more than in seven years of the previous decade. August was busy with catbirds and other dispersing local birds, most of Sep. hot and slow, then a peak in the last week of Sep. through Oct. After three poor falls for berry, nut and seed production, 2007 was a productive year for migrant food. Perhaps the three previous years of defoliation by caterpillars had ended just as NE Canada reported a very poor seed crop, but the result was plenty of natural food for stopover migrants here in 2007. Our busiest days were 09 Oct. (161 captures), 17 Oct. (114), 04 Sep. (105), 15 Oct. (101) and 24 Sep. (100). It was encouraging that 12 species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years; these included dispersing species like White-breasted Nuthatch, short-distance migrants (incl. Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee) and 9 Neotropical migrants (incl. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird). The two 10-year lows were Black-throated Blue Warbler (only 11 banded) and a rare zero for Winter Wren. New bandings were led by catbirds, as usual, despite a significant dispersal movement of chickadees and titmice:

Gray Catbird (500)	White-throated Sparrow (99)
Black-capped Chickadee (431)	American Redstart (66)
Myrtle Warbler (222)	Blue Jay (58)
Eastern Tufted Titmouse (197)	Red-eyed Vireo (53)

We normally band few non-passerines, so single Red-shouldered (a handsome adult) and Broad-winged Hawks, Eastern Screech-Owl and Red-bellied Woodpecker were noteworthy. A single Bay-breasted Warbler was the first since 2000, while 3 Connecticut and 2 Hooded Warblers were more than usual.

Notable recaptures this fall (71 from previous seasons) included: a Blue Jay first banded 07 May 2003 (5 years old); 4-year-old singles of chickadee, Blue Jay, catbird and cardinal; nine 3-year-olds and 57 banded birds between 1 and 2 years old.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2007 such a success. We are also greatly indebted to Manomet members and to the following foundations for financial support of these programs:

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Maura Orrell-Charles (CT, VT, MA) and Meghan Powell (CT, ME) were the lead banders this fall (and last spring too!), assisted by Kyle Kaminski (IN) and Sarah Thomsen (MN, MA) with help from Ian Davies (MA). We will miss this skillful, enthusiastic and hard-working team.

Trevor Lloyd-Evans.