

## Reflections on a Season of Banding: Fall 2010 (15 Aug. – 15 Nov.) at Manomet

During the fall seasons from 1966 – 2010 we have banded 156,357 landbirds. We are in our 45<sup>th</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. Recent Manomet data have documented an earlier arrival of spring migrants which correlates with global warming, but this change in arrival is not detected in fall migration timing to date.



Photograph by Evan Dalton, Manomet staff

Formal education programs at Manomet were based on migration banding, local ecology and conservation biology. Visiting groups included members, scouts, schools, school teachers, 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: Gray Catbird  
(Dumetella carolinensis) one of  
715 handled*

*Right: Fox Sparrow  
(Passerella iliaca) a first basic  
plumage bird banded 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.,  
the only one of the season*



Photograph by Evan Dalton, Manomet staff

The only species banded this fall, which had not been netted in the previous decade, was a stalwart Ruffed Grouse, our 4<sup>th</sup> at the Observatory and the first since 30<sup>th</sup> September 1983. This species is rapidly declining in Eastern Massachusetts, possibly related to fewer released stock for hunting. Surely only Manomet can say that we have banded twice as many Bell's Vireos as Ruffed Grouse in the last decade!

The Numbers:	New Bandings	1,663
	Repeat Captures	812

TOTAL HANDLED 2,475 of 69 species



Manomet Bird Observatory

This autumn, we banded the second highest number of birds per net hour in the last decade. Individual numbers banded were about average due to the weather. A wet and windy spring was followed by a wet and windy fall. The wind was seldom from the NW, the direction which drifts nocturnal landbird migrants to the New England coast, thus the usual September neotropical migrants were notably few. Peak migration was in mid-Oct. and featured chickadees and short-distance migrants. Local seed and berry production seemed plentiful, especially acorns and White Pine cones. Our busiest days were 18 Oct. (148 captures), 8 Oct. (95), 7 Oct. (92), 14 Oct. (88), 19 Oct. (87) and 21 Sep. (84). Six species were banded in greater numbers this fall, when compared with the last 10 years; these included Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, robin and Blackpoll Warbler, the latter up from an all time low of 14 in 2009. When compared with the same previous 10-year period, 11 species were below average; much better than the 39 last fall. New bandings were (just) led by chickadees:

Black-capped Chickadee	(350)	Blackpoll Warbler	(76)
Gray Catbird	(337)	Northern Cardinal	(59)
Myrtle Warbler	(184)	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	(58)
American Robin	(166)	White-throated Sparrow	(55)

A dawn Saw-whet Owl surprised participants in the NE Bird Conservation Conference field trip of 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Five Brown Thrashers continue a recent upward trend after a long decline of this and other scrub/shrub nesting species. A fall White-crowned Sparrow is now unusual at Manomet, while welcome singles of Tennessee and Connecticut Warblers come under the heading of “barely hanging on.”

Notable recaptures this fall (57 from previous seasons) included: a titmouse first banded as a hatch year on 19 Oct. 2005 (5 years old); two 4-year-old chickadees and a Song Sparrow; 3-year-old chickadee (1), Carolina Wrens (2), Downy Woodpeckers (2), catbirds (3) and Song Sparrows (2); fourteen 2-year-olds and 29 banded the previous fall or spring. A migrant Blackpoll Warbler was banded fall 2008 and recaptured fall 2010.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the fall migration banding and education season of 2010 such a success. We are greatly indebted to Manomet members and those who responded to our special banding request this year. Financial support also came from the following:

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Evan Dalton (MA, IN) and Meghan Powell (CT, NH, ME) were the lead banders this fall, assisted by Dan Albrecht-Mallinger (IN) and Jessica Johnson (MA). We will miss this skillful, enthusiastic and hard-working team.

Trevor Lloyd-Evans.