



### SPRING 2012 BANDING SUMMARY (15 April - 15 June)

About 357,000 migrant landbirds have been handled at Manomet to date. The spring and fall migration banding program commenced here at the (then) Ernst House porch in the fall of 1966. We are thus in our 47<sup>th</sup> year of data collection and education programs at this site. This spring 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, and long-term population change. We have also detected an earlier arrival (by 0.78 days per decade) in all migrants since 1970, a trend which correlates closely with measures of climate change. South American wintering migrants do not show this trend towards earlier arrival, perhaps indicating that they use internal “clock” cues to initiate migration in spring, not variations in temperature or day length.

*Right: Saltmarsh Sparrow showing long bill and orange malar brighter than the breast*

*Below: Adult male Eastern Bluebird, the first at Manomet since 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1988*



Photograph by Meghan Powell - Manomet Staff



Photograph by Kim Goggin - Manomet Staff

Onsite education programs based on birds in the hand have had a wide diversity of audiences this spring. Recent groups included members, schools, universities, bird clubs, digital photographers, and scouts and guides. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, a PBS film crew, the press, visiting birders, and people who just walk in! We also tested (very successfully) an internet-based live banding demonstration in Spanish to a school group in San Antonio Oèste, Southern Argentina (thank you Noemí Salazar and Meredith Gutowski for teaching in Spanish).

New Bandings	929
Repeat Captures	399

**TOTAL HANDLED** 1,328 birds of 66 species.



Manomet Bird Observatory

Spring 2012 followed a rather warm winter with minimal precipitation, then a coolish and wet early spring through most of April and early May, as in 2011. Migrants peaked in mid-May, but then decreased rapidly through mid-June as the hot weather settled in. Consequently, we captured a slightly below-average number of birds per net hour (a measure of comparative effort), while species were at 10-year lows. Underlying this year's weather effects is a significant long term decline in all migrant birds, spring and fall, since we started to band in 1970. However, the trend stopped in the mid-1990's and totals for both seasons have held steady for the last 15+ years.

Our busiest days were 14<sup>th</sup> May (121 captures, 114 new bandings), 17<sup>th</sup> May (122 captures) and 2<sup>nd</sup> May (86). When compared with the previous 10 springs, 6 species were banded in record high or high equal numbers; 13 record lows (or low =). Unusual captures were an intergrade (red & yellow-shafted) flicker, Eastern Bluebird and Saltmarsh Sparrow. We had high numbers of Carolina Wrens (12) which have increased slowly for over 40 years. The most abundant new bandings in spring 2012 were:

Gray Catbird	(158)	Myrtle Warbler	(44)
White-throated Sparrow	(135)	Black-and-white Warbler	(42)
Magnolia Warbler	(81)	Hermit Thrush	(39)
Common Yellowthroat	(51)	Blue Jay	(33)

Notable recaptures this spring (98 from previous seasons) included an 8-year-old catbird and a Song Sparrow, plus two 7-year-olds (goldfinch and titmouse). Six 6-year-olds, five 5-year-olds and twelve 4-year-olds were mostly residents or short-distance migrants. Two Yellow Warblers were at least 3 years old and breed on the property. Singles of Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher successfully overwintered and were recaptured this spring.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the spring migration banding and education season of 2012 such a success. We are also greatly indebted for recent financial support of these programs to Manomet members and the following sources:

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Trevor Lloyd-Evans