



**SPRING 2014 BANDING SUMMARY (15 April - 15 June)**

About 78,800 spring migrant landbirds have been banded 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 49<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 spring 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.



*Left: Hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Slate-colored Junco. Photograph by – Sasha Munters, Manomet Staff*  
*Below: An unusual spring record of Orange-crowned Warbler. Photograph by – Sasha Munters, Manomet Staff*



Onsite education programs based on birds in the hand have had a wide diversity of audiences this spring. Recent groups included Manomet members, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, schools, universities, bird clubs, digital photographers, and scouts. Informal presentations included those given to members, visiting scientists, visiting birders, and people who just walk in. We also tested a Climate Lab program in partnership with the Wildlands Trust and TERC, the latter a planning and curriculum partner from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Students were introduced to birds, climate and vegetation; learning to record data of long-term value while interpreting variability.

New Bandings	1,180
Repeat Captures	786
<b>TOTAL HANDLED</b>	<b>1,966 birds of 72 species</b>



## Manomet Bird Observatory

Spring 2014 followed an unprepossessingly cold and snowy winter. It was a rather wet, windy spring, signally lacking in the warm SW winds, laden with migrants. Numbers peaked in early May and again at the end of the month. Thanks (mostly) to three significant migration days, we captured slightly above-average numbers of birds per net hour (a measure of comparative effort), while numbers of species handled were also a little above average for the decade. Underlying this year's weather effects is a significant long term decline in all migrant birds, spring and fall, since we started standardized banding in 1970. However, that trend stopped in the mid-1990s and totals for both seasons have held steady for the last 15+ years.

Our busiest days were 8<sup>th</sup> May (184 captures, 131 new bandings), 27<sup>th</sup> May (175 captures) and 12<sup>th</sup> May (154 captures). When compared with the previous ten springs, 11 species were banded in record high or high equal numbers; five record lows (or low =). Unusual captures were the first spring Summer Tanager since 4<sup>th</sup> June 1992, the second and third spring Orange-crowned Warblers since 1970, one Kentucky Warbler and our first hybrid White-throated Sparrow x Slate-colored Junco. The most abundant new bandings in spring 2014 were:

Gray Catbird	(214)	Common Grackle	(56)
White-throated Sparrow	(110)	Red-winged Blackbird	(51)
Magnolia Warbler	(107)	Swamp Sparrow	(49)
Common Yellowthroat	(88)	American Redstart	(48)

Notable recaptures this spring (123 from previous seasons) included a 7-year-old Song Sparrow and a Common Yellowthroat. We also recaptured one 6-year-old catbird, eight 5-year-olds (Common Grackle, Yellow Warbler and catbirds), and two 4-year-olds. We have yet to hear who banded two foreign recoveries (catbirds), but did hear that a catbird (of course) that we banded 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 was found in Smoaks, Colleton County, South Carolina on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the spring 2014 migration banding and education season 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*