

FOREMAN'S BRANCH BIRD OBSERVATORY

FALL MIGRATION

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2024



SEASON TOTAL: 11,488 INDIVIDUAL BIRDS BANDED OF 117 SPECIES

Since 1998, Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory (FBBO) has used banding to monitor bird movement through our area during spring and fall migration. Our high-volume station contributes to the federal Bird Banding Lab dataset while collaborating with outside organizations on more specific research projects, and educating students and community members on all things birds!

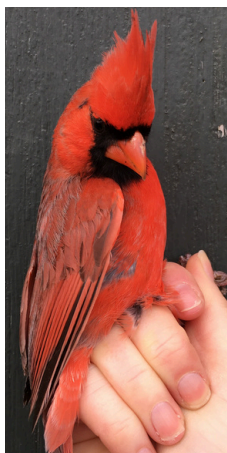
THE CREW



From left to right: Natalie Donofrio (bander), Phillip Mercier (bander), Gabe Urso (glass technician), Maren Gimpel (associate director, FBBO), Jackie Kuznicki (glass technician), Meghan McHenry '21 (avian field technician), Connor O'Hea (bander).

RECAPTURE DATA

We recapture thousands of birds previously banded at the station. Some are "repeats" that have been caught recently. Others are "returns," that have not been captured in at least three months. Many of these birds left the area and flew great distances to breed or winter elsewhere, and have come back. FBBO had 589 return and 4,127 repeat birds this fall.



STANDOUT CAPTURES



Eastern Whip-poor-will (left) - first since 2021, banded on August 31st. American Tree Sparrow (center) - first since 2018, banded on November 27th. Hooded Merganser (right) first one ever captured at FBBO - banded on November 15th.

TOP 10 SPECIES WITH TOTALS

- 1 White-Throated Sparrow: 2,613
- 2 Song Sparrow: 1,273
- 3 Swamp Sparrow: 645
- 4 Ruby-Crowned Kinglet: 637
- 5 Gray Catbird: 611
- 6 Common Yellowthroat: 588
- 7 Hermit Thrush: 462
- 8 Indigo Bunting: 358
- 9 Field Sparrow: 258
- 10 Savannah Spar. Slate-colored junco: 224



FOREIGN RECAPTURES

This fall, we captured two individuals banded previously at other stations. A male Common Yellowthroat (top) was banded in Massapequa, NY in August 2023, and was captured at FBBO in September 2024. Later in the season, we captured a female American Redstart (bottom) in October which was banded just 2 weeks prior in Foster Lake, NY.



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RADIO-TAGGING

We continued our collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to attach radio transmitters to Wood Thrush to understand their migratory connectivity. This range-wide study aims to better define the conservation needs of the species.



BY THE NUMBERS

2	DAYS MISSED DUE TO WEATHER
8	AGE IN YEARS OF THE OLDEST BIRD Banded
27	YEARS OF FALL BANDING AT FBBO
223	VISITORS HOSTED THIS SEASON
237	HOURS STAFF SPENT IN THE BANDING LAB

GLASS-COLLISION RESEARCH



We collaborate with the American Bird Conservancy

to test the effectiveness of bird-friendly glass designs from manufacturers all around the world to reduce bird collisions.

We would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who helped make the fall banding season possible, as well as The Mill of Kingstown for always keeping our birdfeeders full. We would like to extend a very special thanks to Dr. Harry Sears for his unwavering support since we banded our first bird in 1998.



OUR FALL INTERNS

Lauren Albert '26 (top), and Morgan Carlson '25 (bottom) returned to us this fall. Both previously interned at FBBO. They wasted no time getting back into the banding swing of things, helping us extract birds from mist nets and record countless sheets of data.



STAY CONNECTED WITH FBBO!



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