

**Bird Banding 2015 Season
Sugarloaf Cove Summary
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The 2015 season was the fourth year for banding at Sugarloaf Cove. For the first time this year, we did banded during the month of March to catch some of the winter Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin traffic at the feeders. The regular banding season began May 23rd and continued with banding happening weekly through the end of October for a total of 28 banding days. All banding was conducted using the standards set forth by the US Banding Laboratory. Peter Pyle, Volume One was used for aging and sexing all captured birds.

A total of 917 birds were captured, and 765 banded, with 65 species represented, the greatest diversity exhibited at Sugarloaf, an increase of 10 species over previous high counts. 152 birds were recaptured during the season, and some numerous times through the season for a total of 95 individual birds recaptured from previous year's banding efforts. This year we captured 8 new species for Sugarloaf with early season species like Common and Hoary Redpolls as a result of some March banding, some new summer captures including Golden-winged Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Broad-winged Hawk, and a couple of late season species: Harris's Sparrow and Lapland Longspur. Although we have captured a Savannah Sparrow before, this was the first year that we banded Savannah Sparrows. The ongoing list of bird species captured at Sugarloaf jumped to 77 species this year. (See appendix list). Figure one shows Monthly summaries of birds interacting with the banding operation.

Figure 1: Monthly Summary of Numbers of Captured, Banded and Recaptured Birds

Month	Year	Year	Year	Year
March	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	0	0	0	78
Birds Banded	0	0	0	75
Birds Recaptured	0	0	0	3
Species	0	0	0	6
May	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	0	34	54	86
Birds Banded	0	28	46	64
Birds Recaptured	0	6	11	22
Species	0	12	23	27
June	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	5	200	44	74
Birds Banded	5	68	30	41
Birds Recaptured	2	132	11	33
Species	3	27	19	21
July	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	79	67	174	208
Birds Banded	75	39	137	180
Birds Recaptured	4	28	34	28

Species	16	18	25	29
August	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	179	263	256	209
Birds Banded	158	242	250	182
Birds Recaptured	21	21	5	27
Species	23	30	25	38
September	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	125	150	74	136
Birds Banded	82	135	64	120
Birds Recaptured	43	15	8	16
Species	34	32	24	39
October	2012	2013	2014	2015
Birds Captured	136	58	53	130
Birds Banded	107	39	35	103
Birds Recaptured	29	19	19	27
Species	19	9	13	15

In general, the 2015 banding season was a very successful season. All months of banding had good numbers in comparison to past month totals, with the trend showing generally higher numbers in the early to mid-summer season and good numbers through the fall. Fall 2015 was a slow steady season with no exceptionally high number days with migration fallout conditions, but a steady stream of birds throughout the season. Species diversity in each month was good and generally higher than previous year's effort. Some March banding (at the feeder traps, by the Nature Center- not part of the SNA) was done for the first time, which added Common and Hoary Redpolls to the species list of birds banded at Sugarloaf. Winter banding will likely vary from year to year based on opportunities and bander availability.

Figure 2- Approximate totals for all birds captured, both new birds and recaptures

Week of the Month	Number of Birds Caught	Number of Species
March-First Week	73	5
March-Fourth Week	5	2
May-Third week*	74	23
May-Fourth week*	22	9
June- First week*	25	13
June- Second week	12	8
June-Third week	12	7
June-Fourth week	26	12
July- First week	25	11
July- Second week	31	15
July- Third week	40	13
July- Fourth week	56	18
July-Fifth week	54	15
August- First week	62	18
Aug.- Second week*	58	21

Aug.- Third week*	46	15
Aug.- Fourth week	43	20
September -First week	18	10
Sept. -Second week*	45	18
Sept. -Third week	31	20
Sept. -Fourth week*	43	18
October -First week	19 (feeder traps only- wind)	5
Oct. -Second week*	22	7
Oct. -Third week*	53	7
Oct.- Fourth week*	18	6
Oct.- Fifth week*	18	5

* Nets and feeder traps both used.

The 2015 banding season was a steady season with generally a nice number of birds per banding session. This nice steady traffic is like at least partially responsible to the larger than past year's totals for both the number of birds banded and the recaptured birds. Often, especially during migration season we will have a day where the traffic of birds is just too large to handle with the available banding personnel, so nets and traps need to be shut down for catch up purposes often for the day. This year we had no huge numbers days which from the banding perspective is perfect.

Figure 3: Species Caught by Families (Italicized birds captured in the SNA)

Species	Number caught	During Breeding Season?
Hawks- 1 Species		
<i>Broad-winged Hawk</i>	1	Yes
Woodpecker- 3 Species		
<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>	4	No
<i>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</i>	2	No
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	No
Flycatchers -4 species		
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	3	Yes
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>	11	Yes
<i>Traill's Flycatcher*</i>	12	Yes
<i>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</i>	6	Yes
Vireos – 2 species		
<i>Philadelphia Vireo</i>	3	No
<i>Red-eyed Vireo</i>	17	Yes
Jays- 1 specie		
<i>Blue Jay</i>	14	No
Chickadees -1 specie		
<i>Black-capped Chickadee</i>	32	Yes
Creepers/Nuthatches 1-species		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	Yes
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	No
Wrens		
<i>House Wren</i>	1	No

Kinglets -2 species		
<i>Golden Crowned Kinglet</i>	3	Yes
<i>Ruby Crowned Kinglet</i>	3	No
Thrushes -4 species		
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>	17	No
<i>Veery</i>	2	Yes
<i>Hermit Thrush</i>	2	No
<i>Gray-cheeked Thrush</i>	2	No
<i>American Robin</i>	2	Yes
Thrashers – 1 specie		
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	2	No
Waxwings -1 specie		
<i>Cedar Waxwings</i>	24	Yes
Warblers -15 species		
<i>American Redstart</i>	51	Yes
<i>Black and White Warbler</i>	5	Yes
<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>	1	Yes
<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>	4	No
<i>Black-throated Green Warbler</i>	7	Yes
<i>Canada Warbler</i>	3	No
<i>Cape May Warbler</i>	7	Yes
<i>Common Yellowthroat</i>	24	Yes
<i>Chestnut-Sided Warbler</i>	12	Yes
<i>Golden-winged Warbler</i>	1	Yes
<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>	6	Yes
<i>Mourning Warbler</i>	16	Yes
<i>Myrtle Warbler</i> [#]	4	No
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	55	Yes
<i>Northern Parula</i>	1	Yes
<i>Ovenbird</i>	14	Yes
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>	37	Yes
<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>	5	Yes
<i>Western Palm Warbler</i>	2	No
<i>Yellow Warbler</i>	4	Yes
Sparrows -7 species		
<i>American Tree Sparrow</i>	7	No
Chipping Sparrow	9	Yes
<i>Clay-colored Sparrow</i>	1	Yes
Fox Sparrow	3	No
Harris's Sparrow	1	No
Lapland Longspur	5	No
<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>	9	No
<i>Savannah Sparrow</i>	2	No
<i>Slate-colored Junco</i>	47	No
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	42	Yes
<i>Swamp Sparrow</i>	5	No

White-crowned Sparrow	23	No
<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>	35	Yes
Blackbirds		
Red-winged Blackbird	1	No
Cardinals -1 species		
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	3	No
Finches – 5 species		
<i>American Goldfinch</i>	20	Yes
Common Redpoll	34	No
Hoary Redpoll	1	No
Pine Siskin	44	No
<i>Purple Finch</i>	42	Yes
Other species		
<i>Cedar Waxing</i>	24	Yes
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	2	No
<i>House Wren</i>	1	No
<i>Scarlet Tanager</i>	1	No

Notes

* Traill’s Flycatcher is a designation used by banders because Epidomax flycatchers, Alder and Willow, can be difficult to determine species unless the song is heard. Banders are not permitted by the Banding Laboratory to use Alder Flycatcher as a species designation past the breeding season. Sugarloaf is out of the normal range for Willow Flycatchers so they are unlikely to have flown through the area even during migration, hence the Traill’s are more than likely Alder Flycatchers.

#Myrtle Warbler is a regional speciation used by the Bird Banding Laboratory to differentiate between subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Figure 4- Sugarloaf Top Ten- Numbers reflect cumulative totals of birds banded.

2013 Species	2013 Total Banded	2014 Species	2014 Total Banded	2015 Species	2015 Total Banded
1. American Redstart	160	1. Nashville Warbler	231	1. Nashville Warbler	286
2. Nashville Warbler	90	2. American Redstart	207	2. American Redstart	258
3. Alder Flycatcher	87	3. Tennessee Warbler	124	3. Tennessee Warbler	161
4. Black-capped Chickadee	85	4. Alder Flycatcher	113	4. Song Sparrow	145
5. Song Sparrow	75	5. Black-capped Chickadee	102	5. Black-capped Chickadee	134
6. Tennessee Warbler	62	6. Song Sparrow	99	6. Alder Flycatcher	128
7. Least Flycatcher	45	7. Least Flycatcher	59	7. White-throated Sparrow	91

8. White-throated Sparrow	43	8. White-throated Sparrow	56	8. Least Flycatcher	70
9. Red-breasted Nuthatch	32	9. Chestnut-sided Warbler	43	9. Purple Finch	69
10. American Goldfinch	29	10. American Goldfinch	42	10. Slate-colored Junco	69

Figure 5- Recaptures

Species and Number Recaptured	Banded 2012 Season	Banded 2013 Season	Banded 2014 Season	Banded 2015 Season
Alder Flycatcher- 1 recaptured				
Recaptured 2 times			1 bird	
American Goldfinch- 5 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				4 birds
Recaptured 3 times		1 bird		
American Redstart- 16 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time		1 bird	3 birds	5 birds
Recaptured 2 times		1 bird	2 birds	2 birds
Recaptured 4 times			2 birds	
Black-capped Chickadees- 25 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time	2 birds	3 birds	1 bird	7 birds
Recaptured 2 times			2 birds	3 birds
Recaptured 3 times	1 bird		1 bird	2 birds
Recaptured 4 times				1 bird
Recaptured 5 times				1 bird
Recaptured 7 times				1 bird
Black-throated Green Warbler 3 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time			1 bird	1 bird
Recaptured 2 times				1 bird
Cedar Waxwing- 3 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				3 birds
Chestnut-sided Warbler- 1 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time			1 bird	
Chipping Sparrow- 2 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				2 birds
Common Yellowthroat- 2 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time			1 bird	2 birds
Mourning Warbler- 1 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				1 bird

Nashville Warbler- 3 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				2 birds
Recaptured 2 times				1 bird
Ovenbird- 1 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				1 bird
Purple Finch- 1 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time			1 bird	
Red-breasted Nuthatch- 3 recaptured				
Recaptured 2 times		1 bird		1 bird
Recaptured 3 times				1 bird
Red-eyed vireo- 5 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time				4 birds
Recaptured 2 times			1 bird	
Song Sparrow- 12 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time		1 bird	2 birds	6 birds
Recaptured 2 times		1 bird		
Recaptured 3 times			1 bird	
Recaptured 4 times			1 bird	
Veery- 3 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time		1 bird	2 birds	
White-throated Sparrow- 7 recaptured				
Recaptured 1 time		1 birds		6 birds
95 individual birds recaptured in 2015	2012 birds- 3 total	2013 birds- 11 total	2014 birds- 23 total	2015 birds- 58 total