

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird Banding Summary Fall 2022



1710 birds captured

27 for every 100 net hours

Including station first captures like Grasshopper Sparrow and Yellow-throated Vireo.



452 local birds recaptured

and 60 returns from previous years

Including a Black-capped Chickadee from 2015 and a Blue Jay and Carolina Wren from 2017.



Observation

39 eBird checklists | 112 species seen and reported

Including rare birds like Connecticut Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler, drawing visiting birders to the sanctuary. Keep an eye on the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay hotspot page on [eBird](#).

Biggest Changes

Purple Finch

2022

9

2021

1

% change

+900%

A great year for conifer seed specialists like Red-breasted Nuthatches and other finches.

Chipping Sparrow

18

90

-80%

Must have been a hard breeding season to see so few in fall, hope for a rebound next year.



Oldest birds

Blue Jay – at least 6 years

Carolina Wren – at least 6 and breeding at WBWS dorms

Black-capped Chickadee – 7 years old, first caught in 2015



Outreach

250+ visitors including 6 public demos, 4 school visits and 3 private programs



Mass Audubon

massaudubon.org/wellfleet

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (formerly the Austin Ornithological Research Station) was the first site in North America where mist netting and bird banding were conducted for scientific purposes. Since 2014, the banding station managed by James Junda has recorded the passage of migrant and local songbirds on the sanctuary, providing valuable data on habitat use as well as rich outreach opportunities.



Thanks to volunteers Valerie Bourdeau, Lois Bartels, Teresa Corcoran, Peggy Sagan, Warren Mumford, Frank Mockler, and Michele Burnat who contributed a total of 580 volunteer hours!