

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Bird Banding Summary - Fall 2025



2379 birds captured
35 for every 100 net hours

Including the station's first Townsend's Warbler, only the 29th state record



572 local birds recaptured,
83 returns from previous years,
1 foreign recapture

A Blue-headed Vireo originally captured on Oct 14, banded 10 days earlier in Ontario



Observation

53 eBird checklists | 136 species seen and reported

Including rare birds like: Yellow-throated Vireo, Rusty Blackbird, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Biggest Changes

Chipping Sparrow

A good breeding season led to near record numbers in the sanctuary fields.

Pine Warbler

Down to typical levels after a record 2024.

2024

2025

% change

64

171

+264%

473

165

-65%



Oldest birds

Black-capped Chickadee –

5 years old, banded in Fall 2020

Two Northern Cardinals –

4 years old, banded in Fall 2021



Outreach

225+ visitors including: 7 public demos, 3 school visits, 3 specialized programs (Cape Abilities, Youth Climate Summit, statewide camp leaders) and a feature in the **Boston Globe!**



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, Tod Christie, Grace Carew, Michele Burnat and Jeannette Bragger, who contributed a total of 768 **volunteer hours!**