

# Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

## Bird Banding Summary Spring 2023



**1071 birds captured**  
**26 for every 100 net hours**  
Including station first capture and only the 10<sup>th</sup> state record of Swainson's Warbler.



**459 local birds recaptured,**  
**106 returns from previous years,**  
**and 2 foreign recaptures.**  
A Yellow Warbler and Northern Cardinal banded in Brewster in 2022.



**Observation**  
**39 eBird checklists | 129 species seen and reported**  
Including rare birds like, Yellow-throated Warbler, Red Crossbill and Sandhill Crane, drawing birders to the Sanctuary. Keep an eye on the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay hotspot on [eBird](#).

### Biggest Changes

	2022	2021	% change
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>	71	4	<b>-94%</b>
Fallout event in 2022 led to record captures, early migration in 2023 before nets opened			
<b>Yellow Palm Warbler</b>	6	17	<b>+180%</b>
Good weather from late April to early-May resulted in higher than normal spring captures			



**Oldest birds**  
**Gray Catbird** – 9 years old, banded in spring 2015  
**Carolina Wren** – at least 7 and breeding at WBWS dorms  
**Black-capped Chickadee** – 8 years old, first caught in fall 2015



**Outreach**  
**125+ visitors including:** 6 public demos, 2 school visits, 5 private programs, and 1 front page article in The Cape Cod Times.



**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, and Michele Burnat who contributed a total of 498 **volunteer hours!**