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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2006 Island Beach State Park

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Ornithology to Powdermill and PARC for their annual meeting over the weekend of 20 May.

A special thanks also to Margaret Hahn, a visiting bander from Michigan, who became an indispensable part of the Powdermill banding team the week she was here "on vacation." For regular help with banding, we also thank volunteers: Pam Ferkett, Lauren Schneider, Molly McDermott, Matt Shumar, Jessica Scopel (Bluebird Box Trail Monitor) and Emma DeLeon. Last, but not least, we are incredibly fortunate to have a highly skilled data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier. Thank you!

**Island Beach State Park 395-0740**

Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ

**Glenn R. Mahler, compiler**

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**Banders: Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks (first season banding as a new sub-permittee—congratulations!), Glenn Mahler, Robert Pantle, Robert Yunist**

Assistants: Rebecca Beer, Martha O'Rourke and Alex Tongas.

	<u>% SY</u>	<u>% ASY</u>	<u>% AHY</u>
803 Gray Catbird	79.4	14.1	6.5
453 Com. Yellowthr.	56.1	17.9	26.0
128 Wh.-thr. Sparrow	64.3	7.0	28.7
110 Magnolia Warb.	90.9	4.5	4.5
85 BI & Wh Warbler	65.9	28.2	5.9
83 Ovenbird	71.1	8.4	20.5
71 Myrtle Warbler	70.0	12.9	17.1
68 BI-thr. Blue Warb.	85.3	10.3	4.4
68 No. Waterthrush	39.7	29.4	30.9
60 Blackpoll Warb.	76.7	10.0	13.3

During the spring 2006 banding season, six banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 7 Mar and 13 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 51 days during that 98-day period; there were five banding days in March, 14 in April, 26 in May and six in June. There were three days on which four of the stations were in operation, nine days with three stations, and 12 days with two; on all remaining banding days only a single station was active.

The 2,648 birds banded for the season was well above our average of 2,025. However, this number is an artifact of nearly double the number of net-hour effort compared to the average effort from previous years. The season's 77.9 b/100nh was once again well below our average of 121.4. Looking at the major species groups, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers all had capture rates that were about 50% of average. It is purely a speculation, but could this possibly be a reflection of an unusually high mortality rate for Neotropical migrants during the record-breaking severe hurricane season of fall 2005? Thrushes fared a bit better with a capture rate that was 80% of average. Sparrows at 114% were the only group to be captured at better than their long-term average capture rate.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<u>Date</u> <u>(# stations</u> <u>Operating)</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u># Species</u>	<u># B/nh</u>
May 5 (3)	277	32	128.5
May 6 (2)	124	18	145.9
May 13 (4)	291	32	187.1
May 17 (4)	273	29	142.9
May 18 (3)	257	28	371.8
May 24 (1)	93	19	379.6
May 25 (1)	114	19	330.4

One new species was banded this spring—an American Kestrel, netted on 2 Apr—was the 123<sup>rd</sup> species banded since the start of spring banding in 1987. Other notable species were:

- 1 American Woodcock (only the second spring capture)
- 10 Mourning Doves (a new spring high)
- 10 Brown Creepers (a new spring high)
- 9 House Wrens (a new spring high)
- 68 Black-throated Blue Warbler (a new spring high - previous was 58)
- 42 Eastern Towhee (a new spring high - previous was 27)