

2008

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast) Fall 2007 Island Beach State Park

Glenn R. Mahler

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## Wing Island

414-0700

### Banding Station

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
Brewster, MA

**Banders:** *Susan Finnegan (compiler), Gretchen Putonen, Carolyn Kennedy, Gwen Shipley*

Assistants: Judith Bruce, Judy Keller, Leah Finity, Tom Burgess, Peter Brown, Bill Finnegan, and Kalina Desseaux.

Our seventh fall season began 9 Aug and continued through 14 Nov. Northerly winds prevailed in August and September and more southerly winds in October. We banded a total of 1,711 birds of 77 species, 90% of those were HY birds. Our top species vacillates every year between Myrtle Warbler and Gray Catbird, with Gray Catbird winning out this year—449 in all for the fall. Our most exciting capture was a HY MacGillivray's Warbler captured 22 Oct. This is the fourteenth state record of a MacGillivray's in Massachusetts. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded at a home on Martha's Vineyard and three Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at nearby homes.

Net hours totaled 3,978 for a capture rate of 43 new birds/100nh. This is lower than in previous years, but we were able to open our nets more often this year. Nets used were 13 to 34. Our largest daily catch was on 14 Oct, for a total of 135 birds. The best species diversity of 23 species was on 1 Oct. We added four new species and one new race for the station this fall: a beautiful immature female Northern Harrier, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler (finally!), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, and the MacGillivray's Warbler. Twenty-five species of warblers were banded. We rarely band Purple Finches and capturing one on 30 Aug seemed especially early. Numerous other Purple Finches were captured during September and October, along with another rarely captured species, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Other nearby banding stations were reporting increased numbers of these species also.

We had 27 returns from birds banded in previous years. This does not include returns we may have captured in the spring or summer and again in fall. Five catbirds returned with one at least 5 yr old and one 2 yr old. We had 18 Song Sparrow returns, with two at least 3 yr old. Three Black-capped Chickadee returns included one 3 yr old and one 2 yr old.

A special return was that of an American Goldfinch first banded as a HY on 6 Sep 2002 and was not recaptured until this year. Instances of hippoboscids flies were down, with only two individuals found infested—a first-year male Common Yellowthroat and a young Northern Cardinal. We had one Common Yellowthroat infected with a minor case of avian pox. Bill deformities were found on five first-year individuals; a deformed upper mandible on both a Song Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow, a deformed lower mandible that extended far beyond the upper on a House Sparrow, and crossed bills found on a Myrtle Warbler and Gray Catbird.

We continue to pull ticks from birds in cooperation with the Cape Cod Extension Service, as we have since 2001, and are currently writing a paper on our findings.

Many thanks to banders Gretchen Putonen and Carolyn Kennedy and assistant Judith Bruce for all their time and effort this fall, despite their busy schedules. Many thanks also to those banders and assistants mentioned above for all their help. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility and the banding station could not be run without the financial support of the French Foundation.

## Island Beach State Park

395-0740

Seaside Park, New Jersey

**Banders:** *Bruce Adams, Mary Doscher, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks, Glenn Mahler (compiler), Robert McKinney, and Robert Yunick*

Assistants: Chita McKinney and Alex Tongas

During the fall 2007 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 18 Aug and 25 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 56 days during that 100-day period. There were four banding days in August, 18 in September, 23 in October and 11 in November. There was one day with five of the stations in operation simultaneously, two days with four stations active, three days with three stations active, thirteen days with two stations active, and the remaining 33 days with only a single station active. In the discussion that follows, when referring to prior years' data, prior year averages are based on the 20-year period 1987-2006. Our

total of 2,952 birds banded was only 52% of long term average, and our 79.2 b/100nh was a dismal 52% of average, reflecting a continuing long-term downward trend in our capture rate.

The following table summarizes the best days of the season (>200 banded, >30 species or b/100nh >350).

Date (1)	# Species	# B/100nh	# Birds
29 Sep (2)	35	183	203.9
8 Oct (1)	30	207	193.5
13 Oct (4)	42	449	198.6 <sup>2</sup>
22 Oct (4)	34	412	242.8
16 Oct (1)	12	99	352.6 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> # stations operating.

<sup>2</sup> Highest species total and highest number banded.

<sup>3</sup> Highest capture rate.

Birds of note this year included a Blue Grosbeak (second occurrence in 20 years) and 28 Northern Saw-whet Owls (as the result of more nighttime netting in late Oct to Nov). Among the 29 species with average capture rates at Island Beach in the fall that are above 0.5 b/100nh, only two had above-average capture rates this season: Northern Waterthrush (128% of avg) and Swamp Sparrow (116%). Of the 27 below-average species, 10 species were below 50%: Ovenbird (49%), Winter Wren (47%), Yellow-shafted Flicker (37%), Hermit Thrush (3%), Blackpoll Warbler (33%), Red-eyed Vireo (26%) Golden-crowned Kinglet (23%), Myrtle Warbler (23%), Slate-colored Junco (23%) and Field Sparrow (18%). Of particular note, three of these species with the worst showings this fall are among the top five most banded species at Island Beach— Golden-crowned Kinglet (#1), Myrtle Warbler (#2) and Slate-colored Junco (#5)!



## *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1922**

### **IBBA Annual Report of Birds Banded, 2007**

Summary of bandings reported from the IBBA region for 2007:

This is the sixth consecutive year of this report. More effort was put into recruiting reports this season, and this resulted in 86 banders reporting banding a record 123,000 birds and 349 species/forms. Most states doubled the reports of banded birds; Arkansas, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas were exceptions in being essentially the same. No reports were received from the Dakotas. Reports of banded birds in Canada declined. Texas and Ohio banding represented 26% and 19% of the birds, respectively.

The most frequently banded bird was again one of the smallest with 13,387 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Increased efforts by state game agencies to band doves resulted in 8872 banded White-wings and 3705 banded Mourning Doves. American Goldfinch was third with 5984 and was followed by the much larger in size Canada Goose with 5339. White-throated Sparrow was fifth with 3728, Black-chinned Hummingbird seventh with 3563, Tennessee Warbler eighth with 3316, Swainson's Thrush ninth with 3247 and Northern Cardinal tenth with 3156.

***Brent Ortego***

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600B  
Victoria, TX 77901**

**[Brent.ortego@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Brent.ortego@tpwd.state.tx.us)**