

2010

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2009 Dam Pond Maritime Reserve

George Rowsom

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Birds that returned to us from previous years totaled 26. This does not include returns we may have captured in the spring or summer and again in fall. A Common Yellowthroat and an American Goldfinch were five years old and two goldfinches were four years old. Two Northern Cardinals and a Pine Warbler were three years old.

From 2000 through 2004, we had consistent numbers of American Tree Sparrows, but have not captured any in the past five years. There has also been a troublesome decline in Northern Mockingbirds during the past two years. I used to see them breeding all over the island but have not observed any breeding behavior lately. We saw an increase in the 10-year average of a number of our breeders, including American Robin, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Towhee, and Northern Cardinal, as well as an above-average number of migrants—Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and Myrtle and Orange-crowned warblers. Below-average numbers were recorded for Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Kingbird and Yellow and Prairie warblers. Lower-than-average numbers of migrants included Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat, both Western and Yellow Palm warblers, and White-throated Sparrow.

An interesting capture on 25 Aug was an adult male American Goldfinch with both an enlarged cloacal protuberance and a vascularized, endometrous brood patch with fluid. Numerous birds were captured with deformed mandibles, including four catbirds, three chickadees, a cardinal, a Myrtle Warbler and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. A first-year catbird was found to have symmetrical molt of the ss 5-6 and a hatching-year Myrtle Warbler presented with extensive streaking on the breast apparently still in juvenal body plumage.

We lost our funding for the Cape and Islands tick study, so this year ticks were pulled from birds for Yale University's research project.

Visitors to the banding station included banders from the UK and Seattle, WA, and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club, plus many drop-ins!

Thank-you to all the dedicated banders and assistants mentioned above whom graciously volunteer their time. We appreciate the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for allowing us to house our banding lab at their facility.

**Dam Pond Maritime Reserve 410-0722**

Orient Point, NY

Bander: **George Rowsom**

Assistants: Jody Levin, Edward Leary

This is the first report from Dam Pond Maritime Reserve, located about five miles west of Orient Point, NY. It is a 36-ac parcel between Long Island Sound and a shallow tidal salt pond flowing into and out of Orient Harbor. Old field succession, mixed hardwood forest and salt marsh are its main habitat types. Nets are at the west end of the pond where the dominant vegetation is Atlantic red cedar, autumn olive, groundsel-tree, bayberry, and phragmites.

We used one to three 12-m nets, depending on flight activity. Our highest capture rate was during the period Oct 11th through Oct 20th. Sixty three birds were captured in five net hours. We should have increased effort for the busy October period in 2010.

The banding lab questioned the Nashville Warbler we banded on 7 Nov, because of the late date. We were able to provide them with dated digital images. I was hoping we would capture some birds banded on Block Island, but no such luck.

**Island Beach State Park 395-0740**

Seaside Park, NJ

Compiler: **Glenn Mahler**

Banders: **Mary Doscher, Thomas Greg, Jennifer Hanley, Ted Hicks, Robert McKinney, and Robert Yunick.**

Assistants: Marge Appleby, Chita McKinney, Martha O'Rourke, Ann Pitchell, Bev Schilling and Alex Tongas

During the fall 2009 banding season, six banders operated banding stations at four locations at Island