

2010

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2009 Island Beach State Park

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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

Beach State Park, between 24 Aug and 11 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 47 days during that 90-day period. There were three banding days in August, 16 in September, 19 in October and nine in November. There was one day with three of the stations in operation simultaneously, 14 days with two stations active, and the remaining 32 days had only a single station active. In the discussion that follows, when referring to prior years' data, prior-year averages are based on the 22-year period 1987-2008.

Our total of 2248 birds banded was the second lowest season total, and our 94.2 b/100nh, a dismal 64.7% of average, reflects a continuing long-term downward trend in our capture rate.

The table below summarizes the best days of the season.

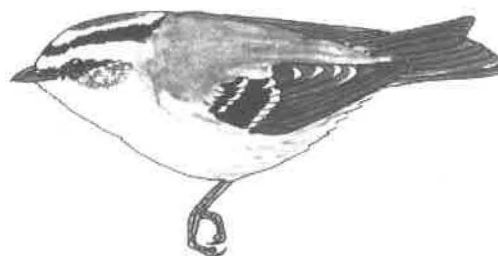
Birds of note this year included 26 Tree Swallows and a Purple Martin, which is a new species for the IB banding station. Next to the Purple Martin in the net was a Merlin. Since the martin had a few scratches on the side of its face, the Merlin was apparently chasing it when they both flew into the net.

Of the species that have not been missed during the 22 prior years, only two had capture rates above average: Winter Wren (20 individuals -129% of average capture rate) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (273 individuals -157% of average capture rate). In addition, one species, the Philadelphia Vireo was missed for the first time. Of the 14 species that have been missed only once previously, five were missed again this season: Yellow, Pine, Prairie, Mourning and Canada warblers. Three usually common species, Slate-colored Junco (23% of average), Northern Cardinal (31%), and White-throated Sparrow (36.5%) were exceedingly scarce this season.

Date	# Stations Operating	# Species	# Birds	# Birds/ 100nh	Comments
1 Oct	2	26	74	34.3	highest species total
11 Oct	3	21	238	174.5	
14 Oct	2	24	445	372.1	highest number banded and highest capture rate



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
by George West



Golden-crowned Kinglet
by George West