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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Spring 2009 Island Beach State Park

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level banders.

**Island Beach State Park**

**395-0740**

Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ

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The spring 2009 banding season was the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of springtime operation for the Island Beach State Park Banding project. Five banders operated banding stations at five locations at the park between 13 Apr and 13 Jun. One or more of those stations was in operation on 33 days during that 62-day period; there were eight banding days in Apr, 20 in May and five in Jun. There was one day on which five of the stations were in operation, three days with four stations, two days with three stations and three days with two; on all remaining banding days, only a single station was active.

No.	Species	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
578	Gray Catbird	82	9.5	9.5
364	Common Yellowthroat	47.5	12.9	39.6
119	Magnolia Warbler	80.7	17.6	1.7
53	American Redstart	58.5	22.6	18.9
47	Yellow Warbler	63.8	25.5	10.7
40	Blackpoll Warbler	77.5	12.5	10
27	Black-throated Blue Warbler	92.6	3.7	3.7
27	Northern Waterthrush	55.5	29.7	14.8
26	Black-and-white Warbler	65.4	26.9	7.7
21	Northern Parula	85.7	9.5	4.8

The 1644 birds banded for the season was about 80% our average of 2067, while the season's 77.5 b/100nh was 76% of our average of 117.5. Lower-than-average capture rates were experienced by all five of the major migrant groups: flycatchers (88% of average), vireos (46%), thrushes (55%), warblers (55%), and sparrows (58%). Our data show a

steady downward trend in capture rates over time, which is ominous. Since the coastal dune habitat at Island Beach SP has not changed noticeably over the 23 years, it is highly suggestive of either serious declines in passerine populations or major changes in migration routes/strategies in response to widespread urbanization of east coast areas.

Peak flights occurred as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>(# Stations Operating)</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u># Species</u>	<u># Birds/100 net hours</u>
May 8 (1)	65	11	273.7 (highest capture rate)	
May 15 (4)	318	31	153.2 (highest species and individuals)	
May 17 (4)	133	21	187.3	

Notable species were an Orange-crowned Warbler (first spring banding record for IBSP) and one Willow Flycatcher (most Traill's Flycatchers at IBSP are probably Willow, but one individual this year "sang" from the holding cage, allowing it to be recorded as a Willow). Notable misses were Blue-winged Warbler (only second time this species was missed) and Baltimore Oriole (first time this species was missed).



**Blackburian Warbler**  
Photo by R.Pantle