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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region I (Northeast)- Fall 2010 Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory

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Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory 411-0744

Branchville, Sussex County, NJ

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The banding station opened for the fall season on 27 Aug, operating 17 nets and one trap, whenever possible, for 24 banding days. The station operated for three days in Aug, 11 days in Sep, and 10 days in Oct. We closed for the season on 29 Oct, having banded 412 individuals and recaptured 36, about 100 more birds than the previous fall. We banded a total of 57 species, including 14 species of warblers. Warblers banded included Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Canada, Connecticut, Wilson's, and Mourning. We also captured several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, which we do not band.

Gray Catbirds were the most common species captured, with 83 banded and 10 recaptured. For the first time, American Robins made the top five species banded, coming in second with 31 individuals banded. Black-capped Chickadees (27 banded, 9 recaptured), White-throated Sparrows (28 banded), and Dark-eyed Juncos (17 banded) round out our top five most common species of the season. Also common ($n > 10$) were Chipping Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, Northern Cardinals, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes, Blue Jays, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. We were thrilled to band a male Sharp-shinned Hawk on 26 Sep.

Most individuals in a day were captured on 11 Oct with 31 birds banded and two recaptured. Of the birds banded that day, the most common species was White-throated Sparrow (seven banded). The day with highest species diversity was also 11 Oct with 18 species banded and only two additional species recaptured.

Dam Pond Maritime Reserve**410-0722**

Orient Point, NY

Bander: George Rowsom

Assistant: Edward Leary

This is our third year of fall banding at Dam Pond Maritime Reserve and second year reporting in the Atlantic Flyway Review. The increases in 2010 look dramatic, but with only three years of results, they may not be significant.

A 26% increase in net hours resulted in a 132% increase in captures. Banded in 2010 were 889 birds and 50 species vs 383 birds and 32 species in 2009. The biggest increases were in Myrtle Warblers (232 vs 35) and American Goldfinches (133 vs 18). On 10 Oct, I opened only one net and had 32 birds in 30 minutes. That was the extent of the effort on those two days as I realized I had to be close to my capacity to process the birds safely in a reasonable amount of time. Most of the birds on those two October days were Myrtle Warblers. American Goldfinches peaked in mid to late November. Big days were all on NNW and NNE winds. Other big increases were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 33 vs. 9; Hermit Thrushes, 17 vs. 7; White-throated Sparrows, 66 vs. 28; and Northern Cardinals, 50 vs. 12.

Gray Catbirds decreased from 105 to 44, which somewhat mirrors results at my MAPS banding station that has seen a steady decrease since 1995. The MAPS station is about five miles (8km) from Dam Pond Reserve.

There were six recaptures from previous years; four of these were birds that breed here; two were White-throated Sparrows that do not breed here. They were both HY birds originally banded in Nov 2009, one of which was captured 364 days after original capture date. Highlights for the season were first time captures of Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-throated Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Pine Siskin.

We held a banding demonstration for Peconic Land Trust. The Trust was instrumental in getting Southold Town and Suffolk County to purchase the property for Dam Pond Maritime Reserve. A demonstration was held for the North Fork Audubon Society as part of their natural science program.