

Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory 411-0744

Branchville, Sussex Co., NJ

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The banding station opened for the year on 9 Mar, operating 14 nets and one trap, whenever possible, for 34 banding days. The station operated for seven days in Mar, 10 days in Apr, 12 days in May, and five days in Jun. We closed for the summer on 23 Jun, having banded 363 individuals and recaptured 106. We banded a total of 64 species, but handled 67 species, as we recaptured previously banded Downy Woodpeckers and an Eastern Towhee but banded no new individuals of those species. Additionally, we captured several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on various dates, which we do not band. New species and hybrids for the station this spring included Sharp-shinned Hawk (13 Mar), Brewster's Warbler backcross (30 Apr), Orange-crowned Warbler (3 May), American Woodcock (26 May), and Yellow-Breasted Chat (2 Jun). Other species of note included Hairy Woodpecker (14 Apr), Nashville Warbler (8 May), Canada Warbler (10 May), Prairie Warbler (16 May), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (6 Jun), Brown Thrasher (6 Jun), and Hooded Warbler (23 Jun).

As expected, Gray Catbirds were the most common species banded/captured with 43 individuals banded and 15 recaptured. Slate-colored Juncos were the second most common species banded with 38 banded and two recaptured. Chipping Sparrows (26 banded, one recaptured), Song Sparrows (18 banded, five recaptured), and Yellow Warblers (15 banded, four recaptured) round out our top five species for individuals banded. It should be noted that our second most common species captured was Black-capped Chickadees, but as only 12 of the 42 captured were banded this spring (the rest were recaptures), they do not make the top five banded species list.

Most individuals in a day were captured on 8 May with 33 birds banded, 11 of which were Gray Catbirds. Our greatest species diversity was on 16 May with 19 species captured, 17 of which were banded that day (the remaining two species were recaptures). We banded 22 species of warblers this spring.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

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Weather conditions during spring 2009 were typical for the area. Species captured in numbers above 2 standard deviations (SD) only included the Cedar Waxwing, and no species were captured >2 SD less than their long-term mean. No foreign recoveries or encounters have been reported from birds banded during spring 2009. Interesting captures included three Worm-eating Warblers, three Golden-winged Warblers, and two Brewster's Warblers.

No.	Species	% SY	% ASY	% AHY
218	Cedar Waxwing	72	26	1
147	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	37	27	3
138	Magnolia Warbler	44	54	2
121	American Goldfinch	68	30	2
101	Dark-eyed Junco	27	73	0
91	Gray Catbird	69	25	6
82	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13	7	80
75	Song Sparrow	41	15	44
59	Hooded Warbler	71	27	0
• 59	Swainson's Thrush	64	36	0

During this period, we provided banding demonstrations to over 15 groups of approximately 500 individuals. In addition, we hosted two bird banding workshops with one of them geared towards beginners and the other for intermediate

level banders.

Island Beach State Park 395-0740

Seaside Park, Ocean County, NJ

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The spring 2009 banding season was the 23rd 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:

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