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Lastly, congratulations go to Gretchen Putonen for successfully passing her NABC Bander certification in October at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory!

Island Beach State Park **395-0740**
Seaside Park, NJ

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During the fall 2008 banding season, seven banders operated banding stations at five locations at Island Beach State Park, between 9 Aug and 21 Nov. One or more of those stations was in operation on 54 days during that 105 day period. There were six banding days in August, 13 in September, 25 in October and 10 in November. There was one day with five of the stations in operation simultaneously, two days with four stations active, two days with three stations active, nine days with two stations active and the remaining 40 days with only a single station active.

In the discussion that follows, when referring to prior years' data, prior year averages are based on the 21-year period 1987-2007.

Our total of 2668 birds banded was only 53% of the long-term average, and our 80.7 b/100nh was a similar 54% of average, reflecting a continuing long-term downward trend in our capture rate.

The following table summarizes the best days of the season (> 150 banded, > 25 species or b/100nh > 2000).

Date () = number stations operating	Number of Species	Number of Birds	Number of b/100nh
October 4 (2)	31 ¹	120	80.7
October 5 (2)	29	96	85.1
October 7 (1)	26	278 ²	280.8
October 8 (1)	29	178	174.5
October 11 (2)	19	200	372.1 ³
October 17 (1)	14	81	238.62

¹ highest species total
² highest number banded
³ highest capture rate

Birds of note this year included two species not previously banded in the fall in prior years: Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Hairy Woodpecker. It was only the third time for an Eastern Tufted Titmouse in the 21-year period, despite the fact that it is a common species just across the bay on the mainland. Four Orange-crowned Warblers was a new season high, and two Yellow-throated Vireos tied with the previous high count.

Among the 30 species with average capture rates at Island Beach in the fall that are above 0.5 b/100nh, only two had above-average capture rates this season: Blackpoll Warbler (121% of av.) and Northern Cardinal (130%). Of the 27 below-average species, 13 species were below 50%. Of particular note, three of these species with the worst showings this fall are among the top five most banded species at Island Beach: Myrtle Warbler (#2), White-throated Sparrow (#3) and Slate-colored Junco (#5)!

