

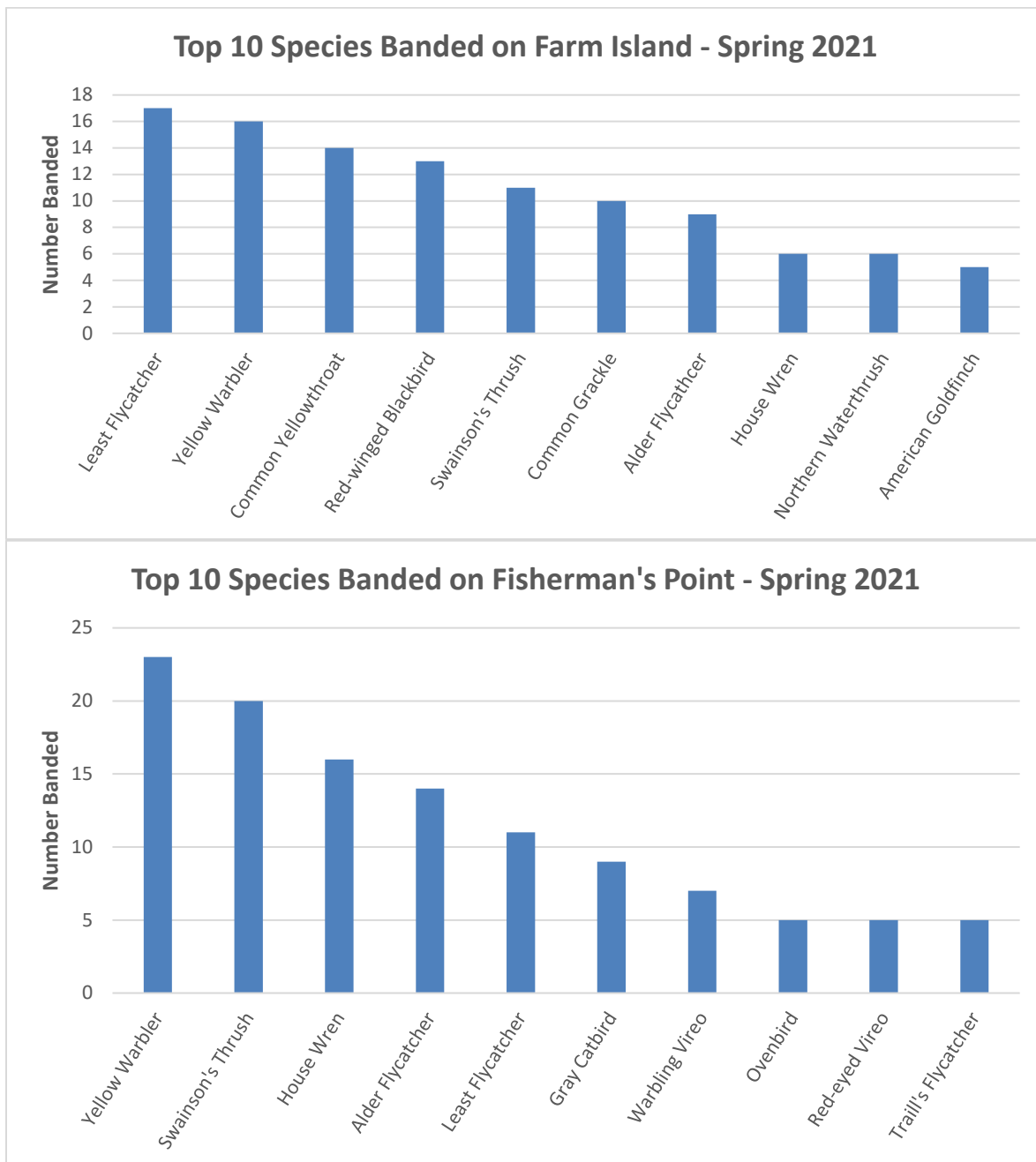


Bird banding update for 2021 Farm Island and Oahe Downstream, South Dakota

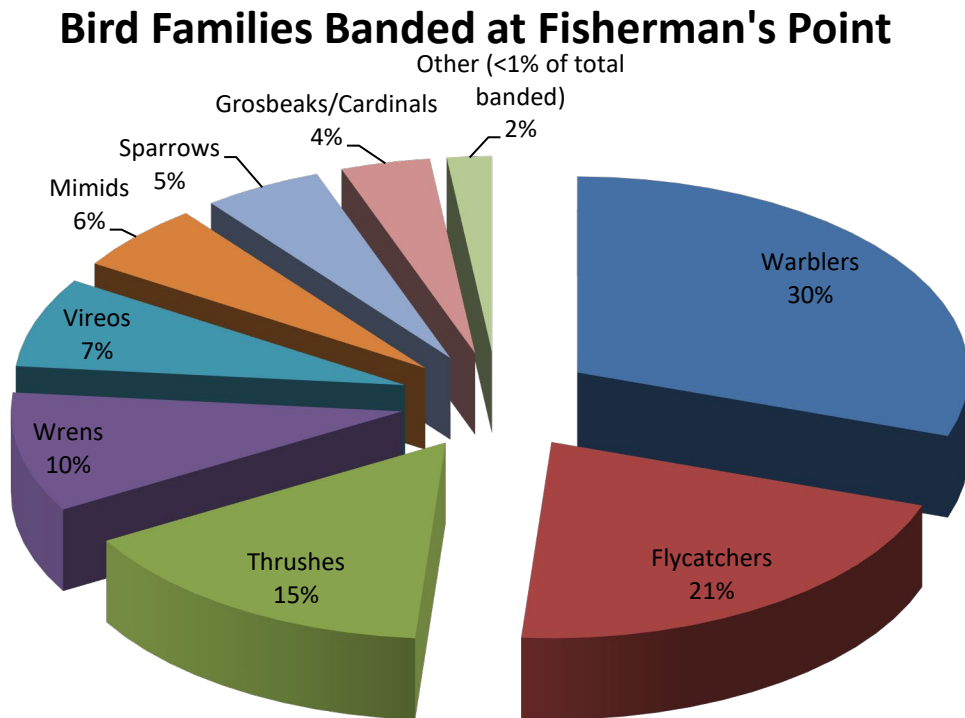
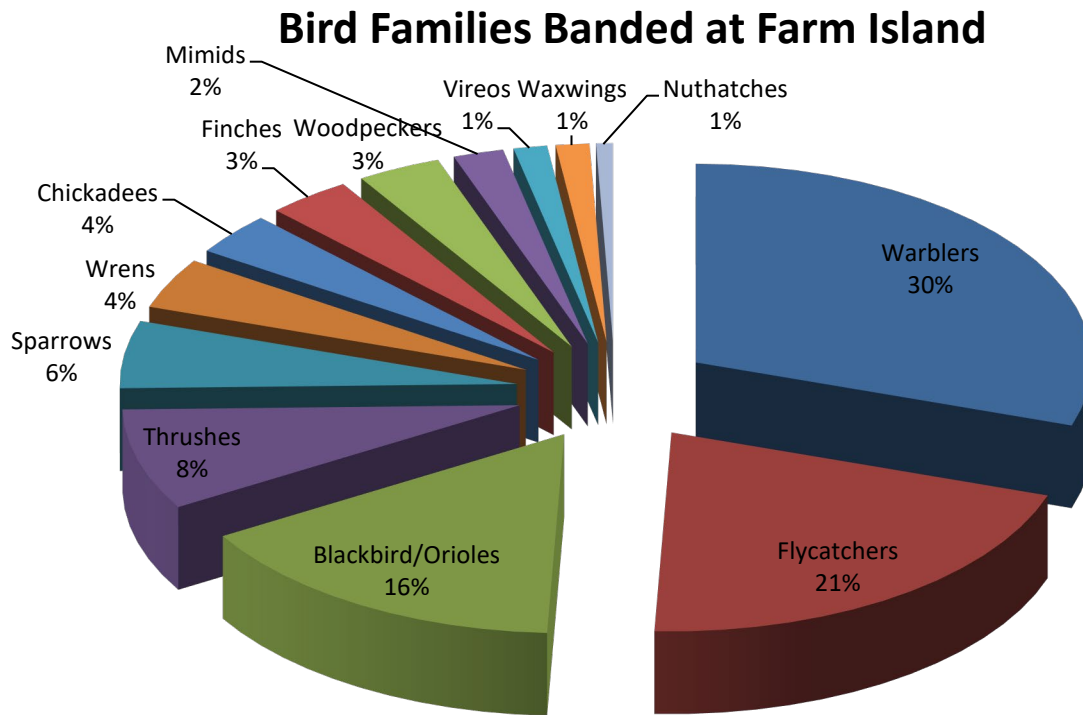
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Diversity Program staff band birds during the peak of spring and fall migration at two sites in central South Dakota to learn more about how the areas are used by migrants and how that use has changed through the years. The Farm Island State Recreation Area site was established in 1993. The Oahe Downstream Recreation Area site (called Fisherman's Point in this report and also called Diver's Point by local users) was added in 2004.

SPRING:

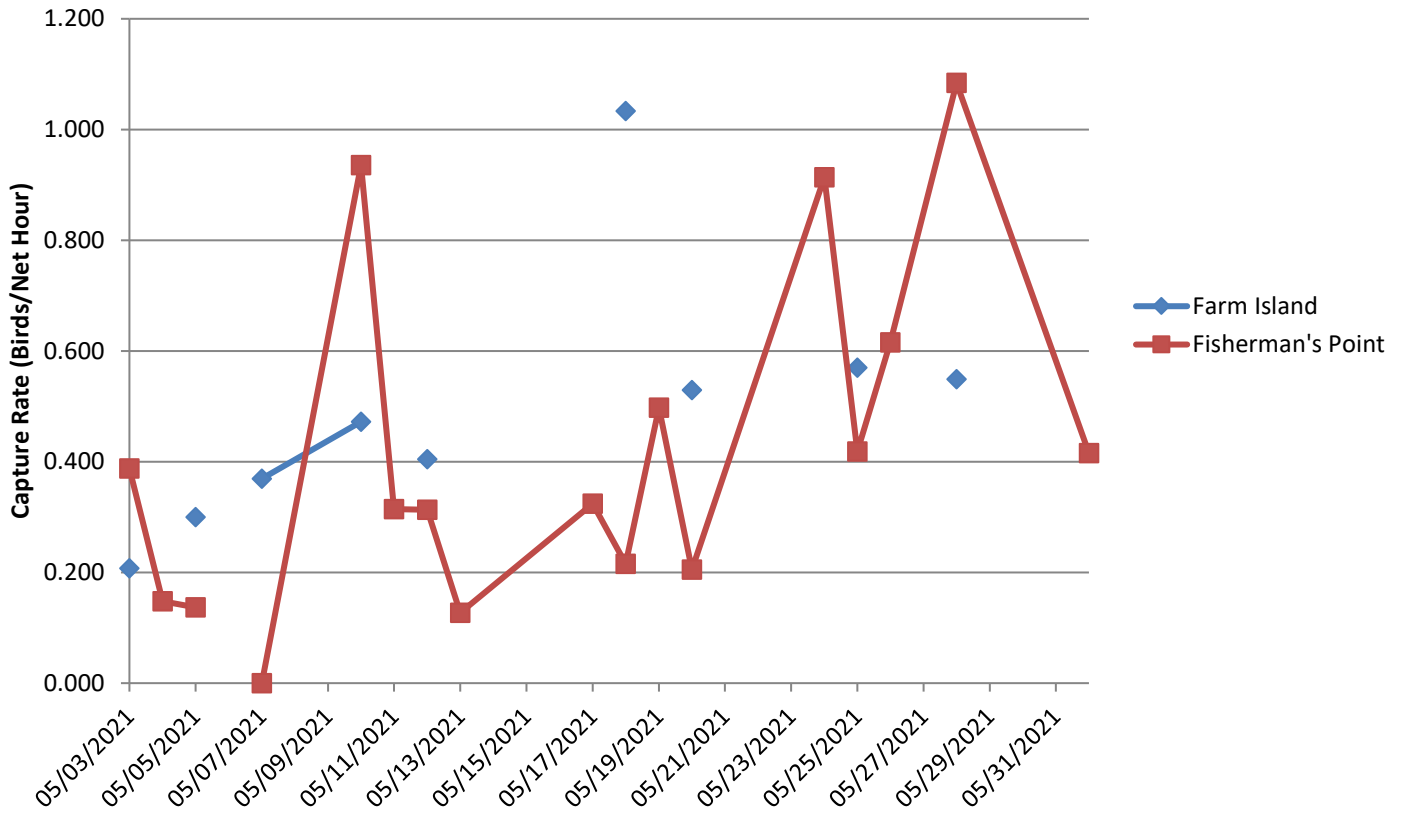
Species: Species most commonly banded at both sites during this banding season were Yellow Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, and House Wren.



Families: Warblers, flycatchers, and thrushes were the most commonly captured families at both sites during this season.



Capture Rates at Farm Island and Fisherman's Point - Spring 2021



Capture rates: Banding effort was limited at Farm Island during this migration season. The capture rate (number of birds per net hour) at Farm Island peaked on May 19, 2021, with a value of 1.03 birds/net hour. Fisherman's Point's peak occurred on May 28, 2021, with 1.08 birds/net hour.

In all, we banded 308 birds during the spring of 2021; 146 birds at Farm Island of 32 species and 162 birds at Fisherman's Point of 31 species.

Recaptures: We had 28 unique recaptures during the spring of 2021. A unique recapture is the first capture that season of a previously-banded bird. Subsequent recaptures of such birds during this season were not included in this summary. All were birds we originally banded at the site of recapture.

A male Common Yellowthroat netted at Farm Island on May 24, 2021 was banded there on September 12, 2014 as an after-hatch-year bird, making him at least 8 years old. He has also been recaptured at Farm Island on June 2, 2016 and May 16, 2018.

Original banding season by site for unique recaptures during spring 2021.

When banded	spring		fall	
	Farm Island	Fisherman's Point	Farm Island	Fisherman's Point
2021		18		
2020			1	
2019	2			
2018	4			
2017	1			
2016	1			
2015				
2014			1	
TOTAL	8	18	2	0

Banding Highlights:



Silka Kempema netted this Wood Thrush at Fisherman's Point on May 25, 2021, only the second individual of this species captured at either of our banding sites. The other record was from May 17, 2004, also at Fisherman's Point.

This Western Palm Warbler was only the 8th individual of this species netted at Fisherman's Point since banding began there in 2004. It was banded on May 10, 2021.



Samantha and Easton Ermer helped Silka Kempema band at Fisherman's Point.



The Cedar Waxwing is named for the waxy tips on the ends of its wing feathers. Tail feathers are typically tipped with a yellow border. A bird netted at Farm Island showed red tips at the ends of the tail feathers.

More images from spring 2021:



Clockwise: Male Common Yellowthroat, Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, and female Yellow-shafted Flicker.

Number of birds banded by species at Farm Island, spring of 2021

Species	#
Least Flycatcher	17
Yellow Warbler	16
Common Yellowthroat	14
Red-winged Blackbird	13
Swainson's Thrush	11
Common Grackle	10
Alder Flycatcher	9
House Wren	6
Northern Waterthrush	6
American Goldfinch	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	4
American Redstart	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	3
Gray Catbird	3
White-throated Sparrow	3
Cedar Waxwing	2
Downy Woodpecker	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Traill's Flycatcher	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2
American Robin	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Ovenbird	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Spotted Towhee	1
Warbling Vireo	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Western Palm Warbler	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Total	146

Number of birds banded by species at Fisherman's Point, spring of 2021

Species	#
Yellow Warbler	23
Swainson's Thrush	20
House Wren	16
Alder Flycatcher	14
Least Flycatcher	11
Gray Catbird	9
Warbling Vireo	7
Ovenbird	5
Red-eyed Vireo	5
Traill's Flycatcher	5
American Robin	4
Common Yellowthroat	4
Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Spotted Towhee	4
American Redstart	3
Black-headed Grosbeak	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	3
Northern Cardinal	3
Northern Waterthrush	3
Black-and-white Warbler	2
Blackpoll Warbler	2
Mourning Warbler	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Baltimore Oriole	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Myrtle Warbler	1
Willow Flycatcher	1
Wilson's Warbler	1
Wood Thrush	1
Western Palm Warbler	1
Total	162

Banders and Acknowledgements: Eileen Dowd Stukel, Silka Kempema, and Casey Heimerl.
U.S.G.S. Banding Permit #21966.

Hilary Morey, Chelsey Pasbrig, Kathy Mehls, Doug Backlund, Ricky Olson, and the Ermer family assisted with banding during the spring of 2021.

This activity is supported by Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Project W-95-R-51, Study 9509-IV and matching funds from SDGFP, Wildlife Division.

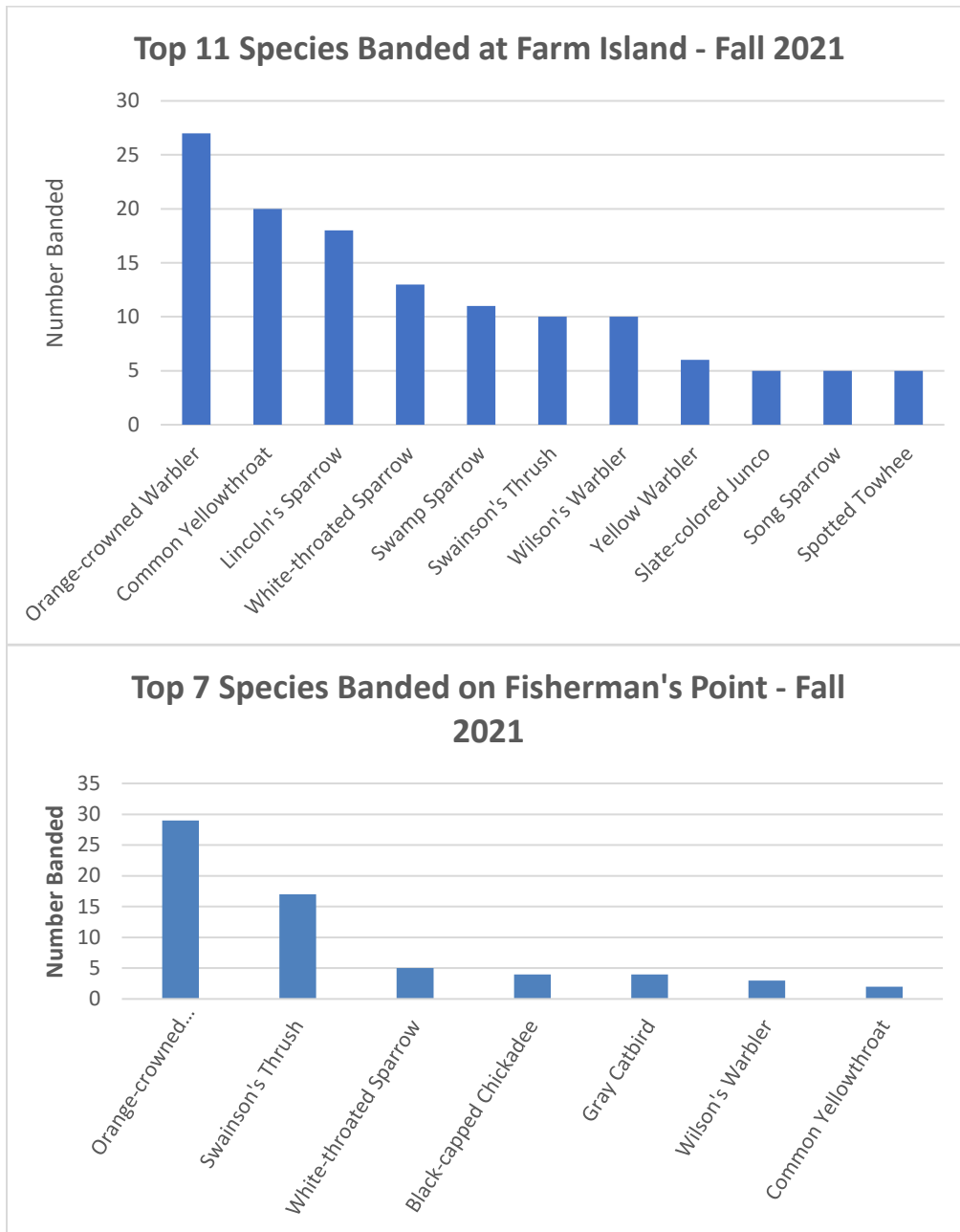
Figures prepared by Casey Heimerl. Photos by Silka Kempema, Casey Heimerl, Jacquie Ermer, and Hilary Morey.



Yellow-breasted Chat

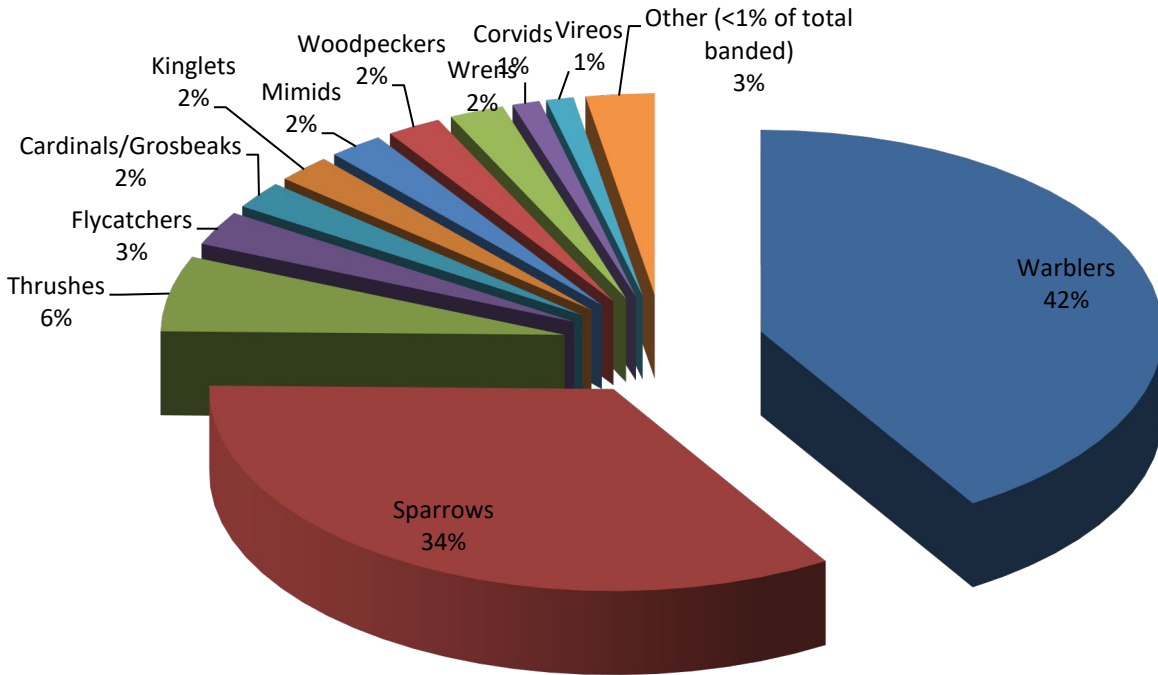
FALL:

Species: Species most commonly banded at both sites during this banding season were Orange-crowned Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Wilson's Warbler.

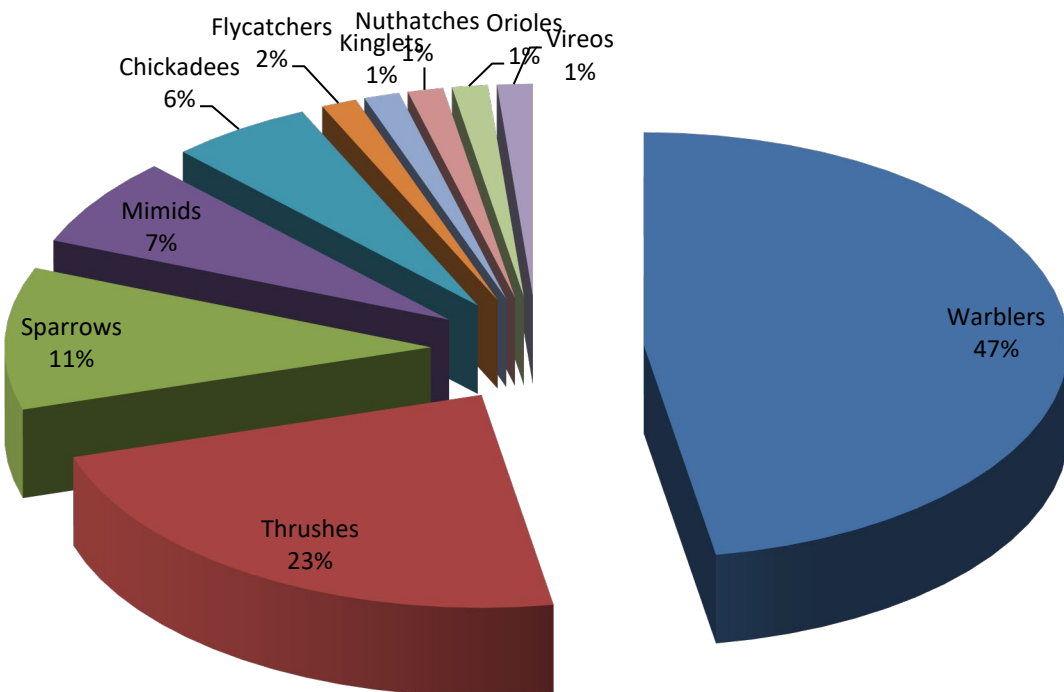


Families: Warblers, sparrows, and thrushes were the most commonly captured families at both sites during this season.

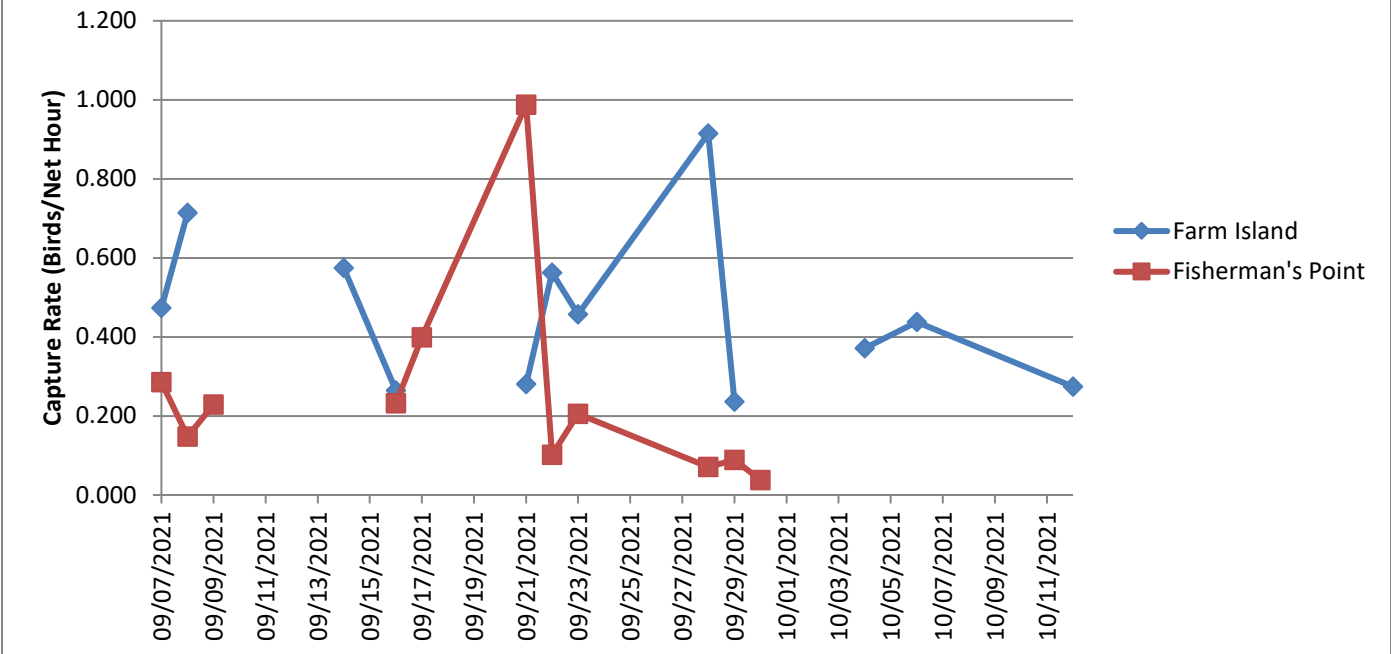
Bird Families Banded at Farm Island - Fall 2021



Bird Families Banded at Fisherman's Point - Fall 2021



Capture Rates at Farm Island and Fisherman's Point - Fall 2021



Capture rates: The capture rate (number of birds per net hour) at Farm Island peaked on September 28, with a value of 0.915 birds/net hour. Fisherman’s Point’s peak occurred on September 21 at 0.987 birds/net hour.

In all, we banded 256 birds during the fall of 2021; 182 birds at Farm Island of 38 species and 74 birds at Fisherman’s Point of 17 species.

Recaptures: We had 12 unique recaptures during the fall of 2021, all at Farm Island. A unique recapture is the first capture that season of a previously-banded bird. Subsequent recaptures of such birds during this season were not included in this summary. All were birds we originally banded at the site of recapture.

Original banding season by site for unique recaptures during fall 2021.

When banded	spring	fall
2021	1	9
2020		
2019	1	
2018	1	
TOTAL	3	9

Images from fall 2021:

During the fall, we age birds as either Hatch Year (HY), meaning 2021 was the year they hatched, or After Hatch Year (AHY) for birds that hatched during 2020 or earlier. There are a variety of ways to age birds in the fall.

Some species do not attain their adult eye color until their second year. The Male Spotted Towhee below has a brown eye, indicating he is a HY. The Red-eyed Vireo was also aged as HY based on his brown eye. Both of these individuals will have red eyes next year.



Another aging technique for many species is the shape and condition of the outer tail feathers. HY birds may have outer tail feathers that are worn and pointed, compared to broader, more rounded feathers for AHY birds. This relates to when the species molts in the fall and whether the feathers are fresh and new (broader and more rounded) or older (worn and pointed).



Note the worn and pointed outer tail feathers and very faint black mask of this HY male Common Yellowthroat.



Juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawks also have a different eye color than adults. In addition to changes in plumage, the yellow eye of this juvenile will be reddish colored in future years. This bird was banded at Farm Island on September 14.



This is only the 10th Yellow-bellied Flycatcher we have banded at either site. It is yellowish to olive in overall color, with a yellowish eyeing and two strong wingbars.



Blue-headed Vireo banded at Fisherman's Point on September 7. This is the 7th individual of this species banded there, in addition to only 8 banded at Farm Island. South Dakota is on the western edge of its migration area.



Evelyn Heimerl was unimpressed during her first visit to the Farm Island banding site.



White-throated Sparrows can be either a white-striped form (upper) or a tan-striped form (lower). Flocks can contain both forms. It's believed that they typically mate with a bird of the opposite form.

Number of birds banded by species at Farm Island, fall of 2021

Species	#
Orange-crowned Warbler	27
Common Yellowthroat	20
Lincoln's Sparrow	18
White-throated Sparrow	13
Swamp Sparrow	11
Swainson's Thrush	10
Wilson's Warbler	10
Yellow Warbler	6
Slate-colored Junco	5
Song Sparrow	5
Spotted Towhee	5
American Redstart	4
Gray Catbird	4
House Wren	4
Ovenbird	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
Alder Flycatcher	2
Blue Jay	2
Field Sparrow	2
Harris's Sparrow	2
Nashville Warbler	2
Northern Cardinal	2
Northern Waterthrush	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2
American Robin	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Common Grackle	1
Downy Woodpecker	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Indigo Bunting	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Warbling Vireo	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Traill's Flycatcher	1
Total	182

Number of birds banded by species at Fisherman's Point, fall of 2021

Species	#
Orange-crowned Warbler	29
Swainson's Thrush	17
White-throated Sparrow	5
Black-capped Chickadee	4
Gray Catbird	4
Wilson's Warbler	3
Common Yellowthroat	2
Baltimore Oriole	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Brown Thrasher	1
Field Sparrow	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Ovenbird	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Spotted Towhee	1
Total	74

Banders and Acknowledgements: Eileen Dowd Stukel, Silka Kempema, and Casey Heimerl. U.S.G.S. Banding Permit #21966.

Charlie Bessken, Ricky Olson, and Pat Buscher assisted with banding during the fall of 2021.

This activity is supported by Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Project W-95-R-51, Study 9509-D and matching funds from SDGFP, Wildlife Division.

Figures prepared by Casey Heimerl. Photos by Silka Kempema and Eileen Dowd Stukel.