



Bird banding update for 2024

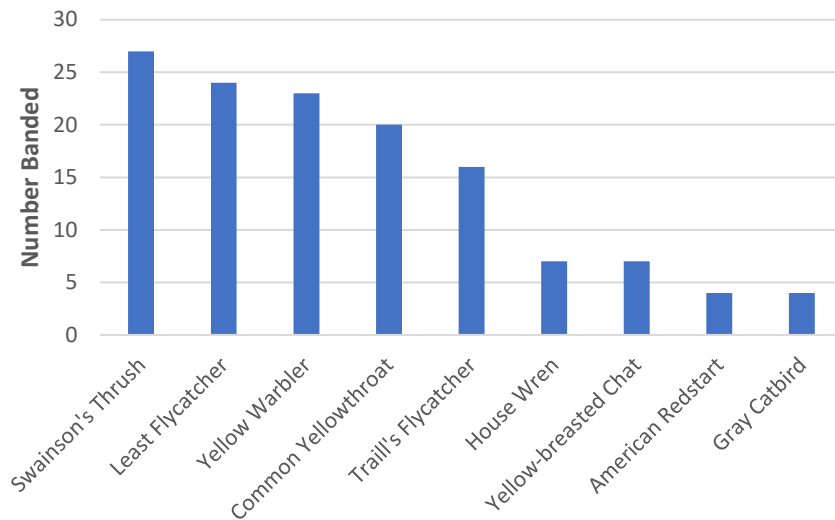
Farm Island, Oahe Downstream, and Good Earth, South Dakota

SPRING 2024

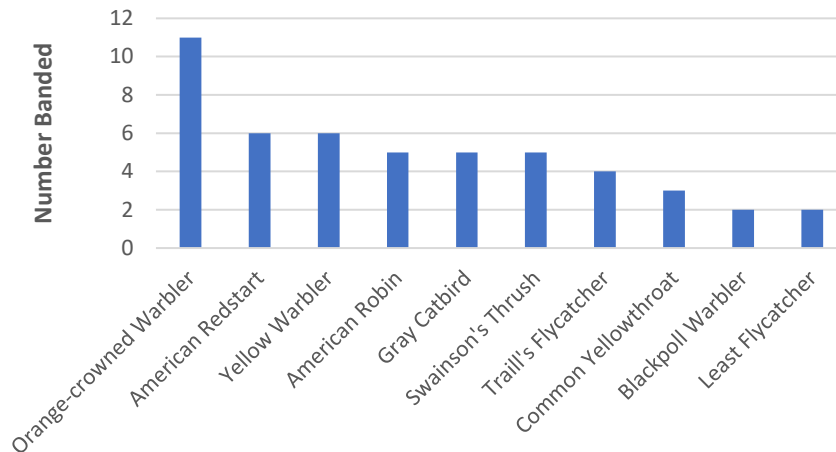
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Diversity Program staff have banded birds during the peak of spring and fall migration at 2 sites in central South Dakota for many years. The Farm Island State Recreation Area site was established in 1993. The Oahe Downstream Recreation Area site (called Fisherman's Point in this report and also called Diver's Point by local users) was added in 2004. Spring of 2024 was the last migration season we banded at Fisherman's Point due to personnel changes. The Fall 2024 summary portion of this report presents results from a new banding site established at Good Earth State Park in southeastern South Dakota.

Species: Species most commonly banded at both sites combined during this banding season were Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Common Yellowthroat, and Traill's Flycatcher. The most commonly banded species at each site are shown in the following graphs.

Top Species Banded at Farm Island - Spring 2024

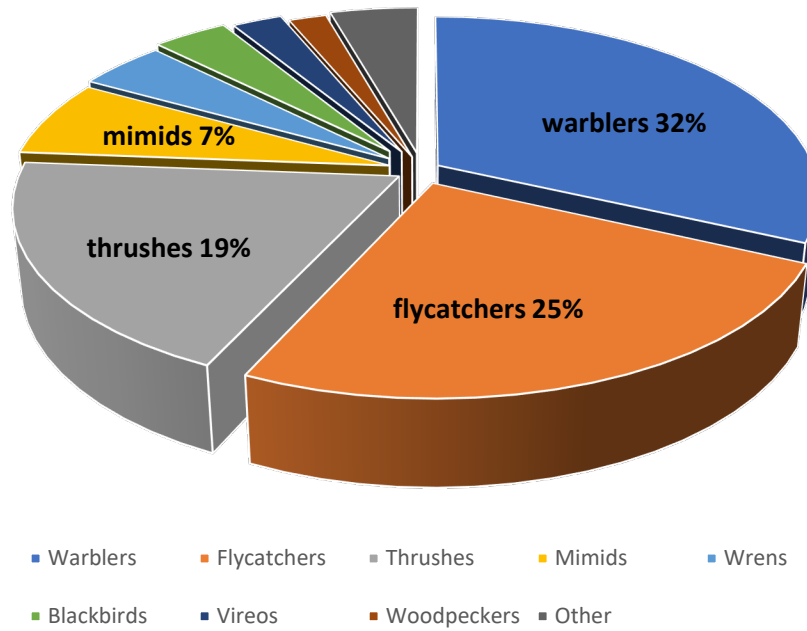


Top Species Banded at Fish. Pt. - Spring 2024

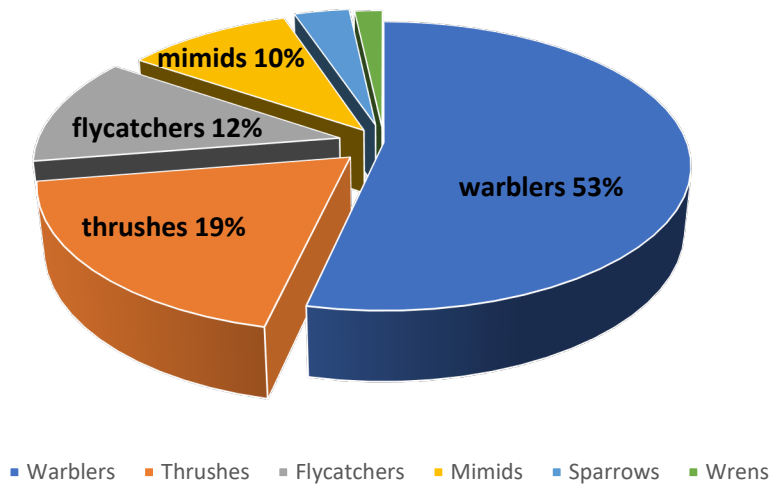


Families: Warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, and mimids were the most commonly captured families at both sites during this season.

Bird Families Banded at Farm Island - Spring 2024



Bird Families Banded at Fisherman's Point - Spring 2024



Capture rates: A standard measurement for reporting banding effort is by “net hour.” A standard mist net operated for one hour equals one net hour. The capture rate (number of birds per net hour) at Farm Island peaked on May 13, 2024, with a value of 1.0 birds/net hour. Fisherman’s Point’s peak occurred on May 1, 2024, with 2.31 birds/net hour.

Date	Farm Island	Fisherman’s Point
1 May 2024		2.31
2 May 2024		
3 May 2024		
4 May 2024		
5 May 2024		
6 May 2024		
7 May 2024		
8 May 2024		
9 May 2024		1.17
10 May 2024		0.39
11 May 2024		
12 May 2024		
13 May 2024	1.00	
14 May 2024	0.61	
15 May 2024		
16 May 2024	0.47	
17 May 2024		0
18 May 2024		
19 May 2024		
20 May 2024		1.16
21 May 2024		1.42
22 May 2024	0.79	
23 May 2024	0.67	
24 May 2024		
25 May 2024		
26 May 2024		
27 May 2024		
28 May 2024	0.31	
29 May 2024		0.28
30 May 2024		
31 May 2024	0.51	0.61
AVERAGE	0.62	0.75

Net hours at Farm Island and Fisherman’s Point banding sites during spring of 2024.

Farm Island banding totaled 257.17 net hours during this season, with 77.33 net hours at Fisherman’s Point. We banded 218 birds during the spring of 2024; 160 birds at Farm Island of 25 species and 58 birds at Fisherman’s Point of 19 species.

Images from spring 2024:



Male American Redstart (upper left), female Black-and-white Warbler (above), and Gray Catbird (left) banded at Fisherman's Point during the spring of 2024.

Number of birds banded by species at Farm Island, spring of 2024

Species	Count
Swainson's Thrush	27
Least Flycatcher	24
Yellow Warbler	23
Common Yellowthroat	20
Traill's Flycatcher*	16
House Wren	7
Yellow-breasted Chat	7
American Redstart	4
Gray Catbird	4
Bell's Vireo	3
Blackpoll Warbler	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3
Red-winged Blackbird	3
American Goldfinch	2
Common Grackle	2
Downy Woodpecker	2
Northern Cardinal	2
Black-capped Chickadee	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Magnolia Warbler	1
Veery	1
Warbling Vireo	1
White-throated Sparrow	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1
TOTAL	160

*Because of the difficulty of distinguishing between Willow and Alder flycatchers in hand, banders may identify them as Traill's Flycatchers.

Number of birds banded by species at Fisherman's Point, spring of 2024

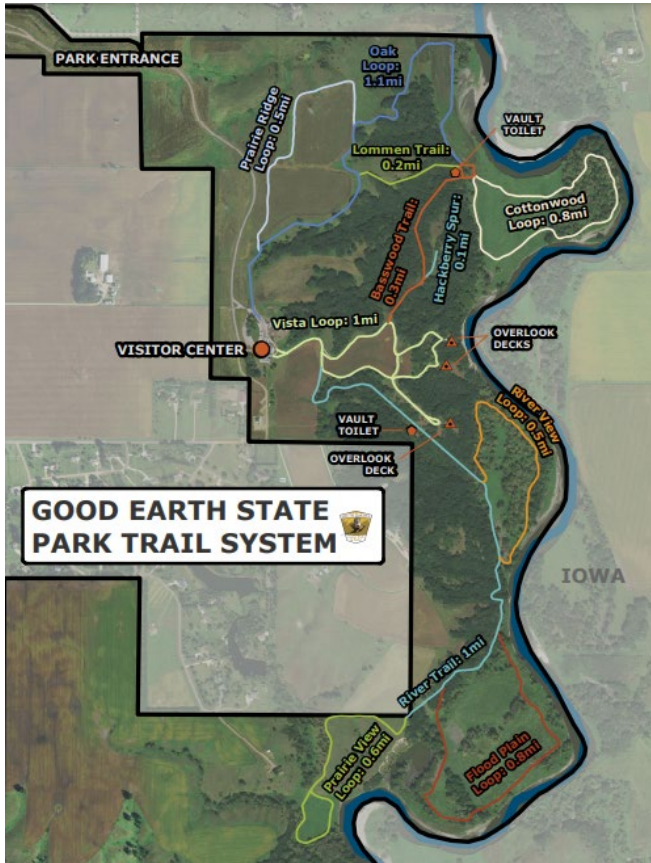
Species	Total
Orange-crowned Warbler	15
American Redstart	12
Yellow Warbler	10
American Robin	8
Gray Catbird	8
Swainson's Thrush	4
Traill's Flycatcher	4
Common Yellowthroat	3
Blackpoll Warbler	3
Least Flycatcher	2
Black-and-white Warbler	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	2
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Mourning Warbler	2
Ovenbird	2
Song Sparrow	1
House Wren	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
TOTAL	58

Banders and Acknowledgements: Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema. All banding, marking, and sampling are conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab. This activity is conducted under U.S.G.S. Banding Permit #21966.

Visitors to the banding stations during the spring of 2024 included Aileen Bruner, Ricky Olson, Claire Kempema, Natalie Gates, Dale Gates, and Doug Backlund. This activity is supported by Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Project W-95-R-51, Study 9509D and matching funds from SDGFP, Wildlife Division on sites hosted by Parks Division, SDGFP.

FALL 2024

The fall of 2024 was the first banding season for a new site at Good Earth State Park, located southeast of Sioux Falls in southeastern South Dakota. Bounded by the Big Sioux River on the east, this site has a diverse mixture of habitat types, contributing to the potential for interesting banding results for years to come as well as offering a wonderful educational opportunity for park visitors.

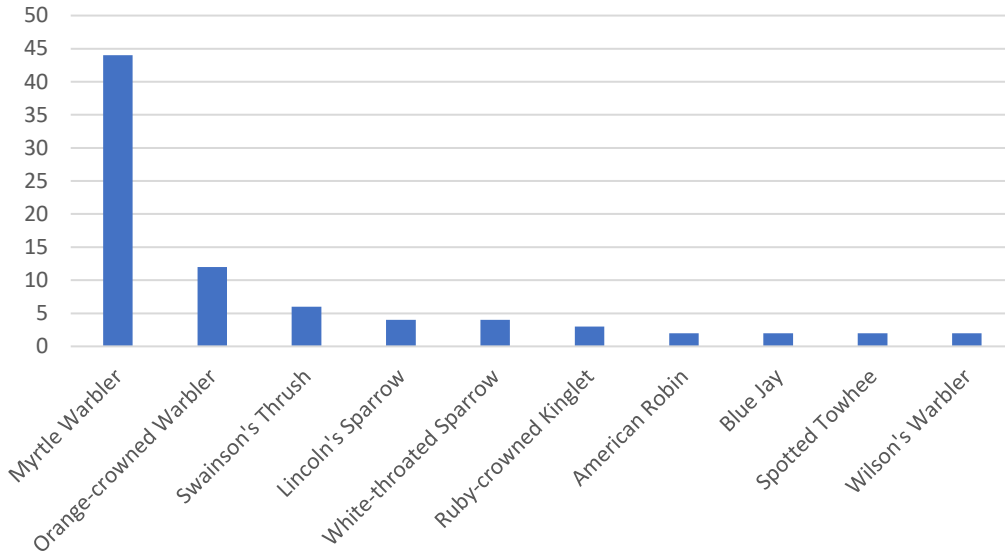


Wildlife Diversity Biologist John (JM) Weidler (right) with the first bird banded at Good Earth during this season – a Northern House Wren. GFP Volunteer Bander Dennis Skadsen (left) examines a Canada Warbler at the Good Earth site.



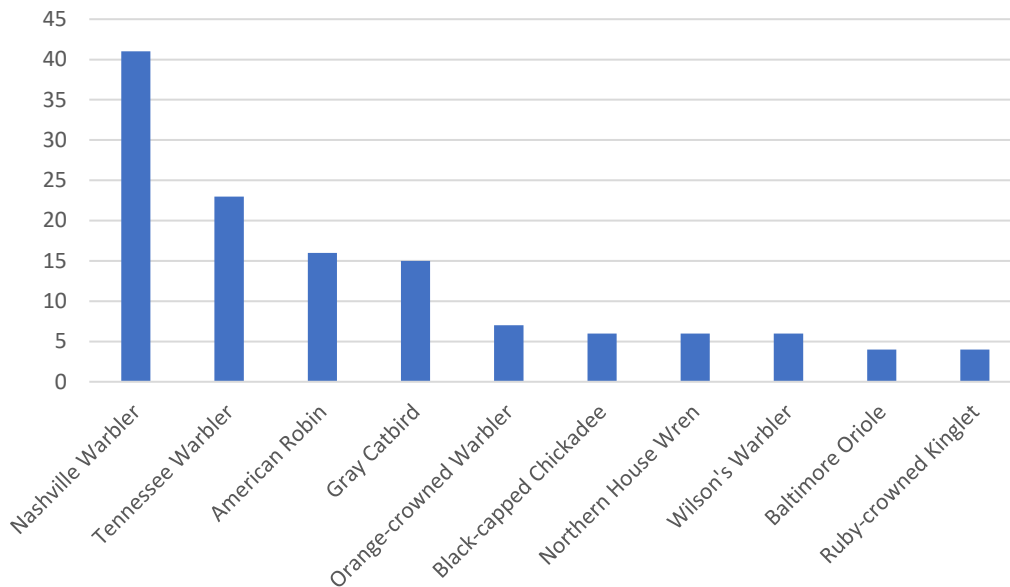
Species: The most commonly banded species at Farm Island during the fall of 2024 were Myrtle Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Swainson’s Thrushes. Banding at this site was more limited than usual due to drought conditions and lack of available staff time, resulting in low numbers of birds banded considering the effort expended.

Top Species Banded at Farm Island - Fall 2024

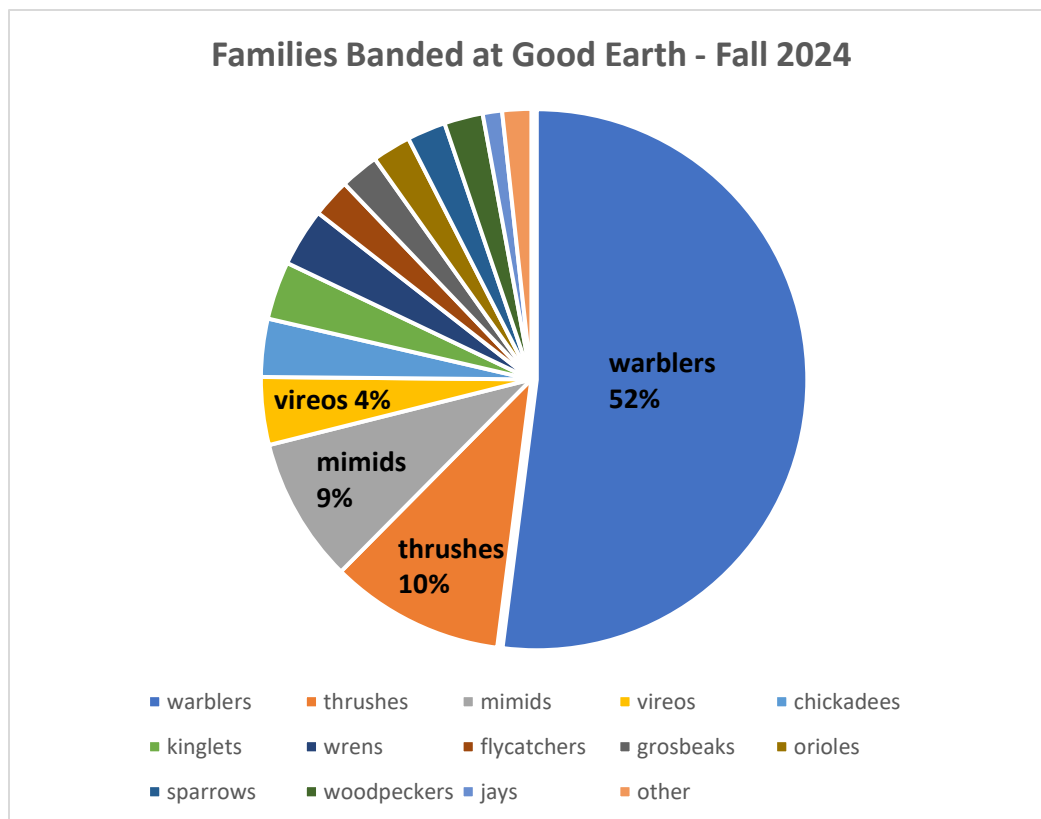
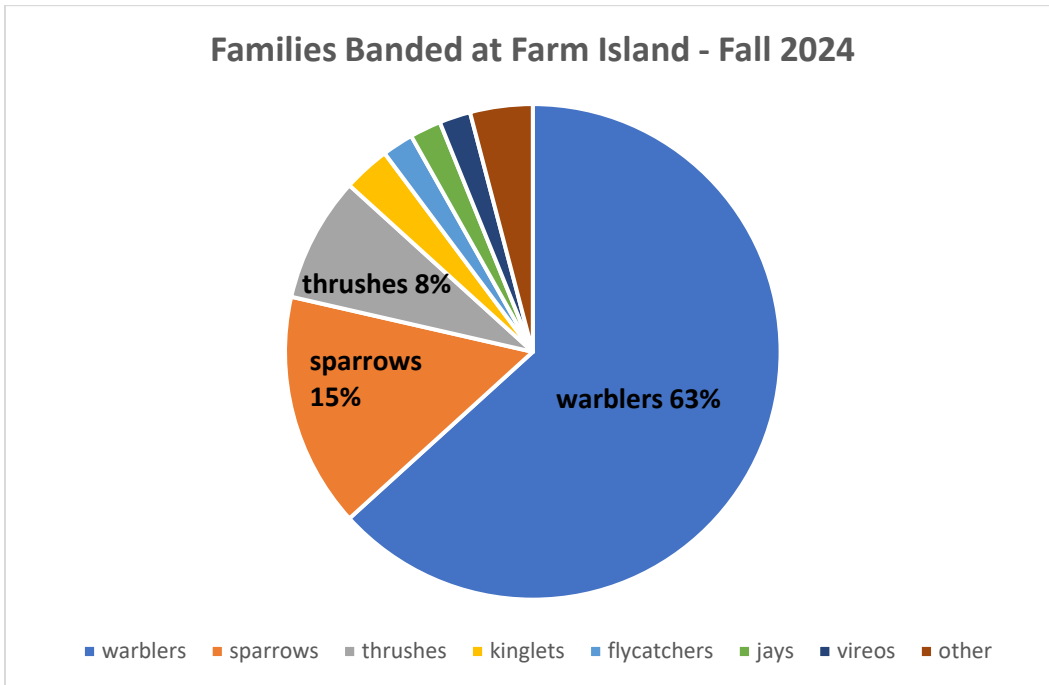


Good Earth banding yielded a large number of species, many with only 1 or 2 birds represented. The figure below includes species with 4 or more individuals banded during the fall of 2024. See the full species lists for each site later in this report.

Top Species Banded at Good Earth - Fall 2024



Families: Warblers, sparrows, thrushes, mimids, and vireos were the most commonly captured families at both sites during this season. Differences in proportions by site are displayed below.



Capture rates: A standard measurement for reporting banding effort is by “net hour.” A standard mist net operated for one hour equals one net hour. The capture rate (number of birds per net hour) at Farm Island peaked on September 27, 2024, with a value of 0.91 birds/net hour. Good Earth’s peak occurred on August 30, 2024, at 1.58 birds/net hour, with 2 additional values greater than 1 bird/net hour (1.24 on August 27 and October 5).

Date	Farm Island	Good Earth
27-Aug		1.24
28-Aug		0.85
29-Aug		0
30-Aug		1.58
31-Aug		
1-Sep		
2-Sep		
3-Sep		0.33
4-Sep		0.77
5-Sep		
6-Sep		
7-Sep		
8-Sep		
9-Sep	0.15	0.08
10-Sep		
11-Sep		0.32
12-Sep		0.13
13-Sep		
14-Sep		
15-Sep		
16-Sep	0.11	0
17-Sep		
18-Sep		
19-Sep	0.11	0.09
20-Sep	0.17	0
21-Sep		
22-Sep		
23-Sep	0.03	0.04
24-Sep	0.07	0.21
25-Sep		
26-Sep		0.17
27-Sep	0.91	0.13
28-Sep		
29-Sep		
30-Sep		
1-Oct	0.26	0.23
2-Oct	0.51	0.41
3-Oct		0.13
4-Oct		0.33
5-Oct		1.24
6-Oct		0.85
7-Oct		0
8-Oct	0.27	
9-Oct	0.2	
AVERAGE	0.27	0.37

Net hours at Farm Island and Good Earth banding sites during fall of 2024.

Farm Island banding effort totaled 356.37 net hours during this season, with 468.19 net hours at Good Earth. We banded 271 birds during the fall of 2024; 98 birds at Farm Island of 37 species and 173 birds at Good Earth of 40 species.

Images from fall, 2024:



Black-throated Blue Warbler female (left) and juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker (right); banded at Farm Island. This is only the second Black-throated Blue Warbler banded at Farm Island. The other was also banded during a fall banding season (2022).



Blackburnian Warbler female (left), Blue-headed Vireo (right), and female Black-and-white Warbler (below); banded at Good Earth.





Juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk banded at Farm Island location.

The first day of banding at Good Earth yielded a hybrid between a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak and a Black-headed Grosbeak. The Black-headed Grosbeak is a species of the western U.S. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks range from the central U.S. and Canada eastward. This combination is one of several that have been documented where various species may overlap in South Dakota.



Number of birds banded by species at Farm Island, fall of 2024

Species	Total
Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warbler	44
Orange-crowned Warbler	12
Swainson's Thrush	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	4
White-throated Sparrow	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3
American Robin	2
Blue Jay	2
Spotted Towhee	2
Wilson's Warbler	2
American Redstart	1
Bell's Vireo	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Common Yellowthroat	1
Field Sparrow	1
Gray Catbird	1
Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow	1
Harris's Sparrow	1
Least Flycatcher	1
Northern House Wren	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	1
Song Sparrow	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Traill's Flycatcher	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Total	98

Number of birds banded by species at Good Earth, fall of 2024

Species	Total
Nashville Warbler	41
Tennessee Warbler	23
American Robin	16
Gray Catbird	15
Orange-crowned Warbler	7
Black-capped Chickadee	6
Northern House Wren	6
Wilson's Warbler	6
Baltimore Oriole	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
Northern Cardinal	3
Red-eyed Vireo	3
Warbling Vireo	3
Blackburnian Warbler	2
Blue Jay	2
Downy Woodpecker	2
Field Sparrow	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Magnolia Warbler	2
Mourning Warbler	2
Traill's Flycatcher	2
American Goldfinch	1
American Redstart	1
Black-and-white Warbler	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1
Blackpoll Warbler	1
Brown Creeper	1
Canada Warbler	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Grosbeak Hybrid	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Ovenbird	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Swainson's Thrush	1
Wood Thrush	1
White-throated Sparrow	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1
Total	173

Banders and Acknowledgements: Eileen Dowd Stukel, JM Weidler, and Dennis Skadsen. All banding, marking, and sampling are conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab. This activity is conducted under U.S.G.S. Banding Permit #21966.

David Swanson, USD Department of Biology, and Dennis Skadsen assisted in recommending Good Earth State Park as a new banding site and helped select potential sites within the area for net locations. Parks Division staff with Farm Island and Good Earth provided significant support for the continued banding effort at Farm Island and the new area selected at Good Earth.

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

Photos by Eileen Dowd Stukel, Doug Backlund, JM Weidler, and Dennis Skadsen.

Photos contained in this summary report were taken under supervision of experienced bird banders for documentation and educational purposes with minimal handling and associated stress.

Fisherman's Point banding site (2004 – 2024)

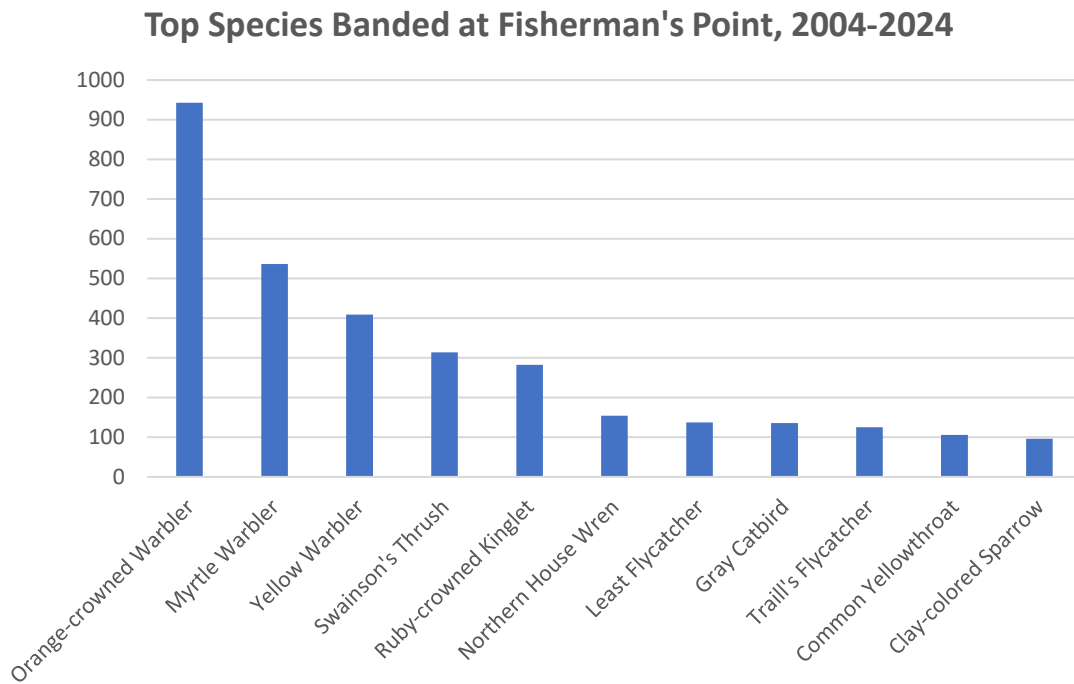
Wildlife Biologist Doug Backlund recommended adding this site in 2004. This area occurs within the Oahe Downstream State Recreation Area. It includes more forested habitats and closer proximity to the Missouri River than the more open Farm Island Nature Area banding site.



Doug Backlund and Silka Kempema banded the majority of birds at the Fisherman's Point banding site from 2004-2024.



During the 21 years SDGFP staff netted during spring and fall migrations at this site, they banded 4,316 individuals birds of 82 species, hybrids, or intergrades. The most commonly banded species are illustrated below.

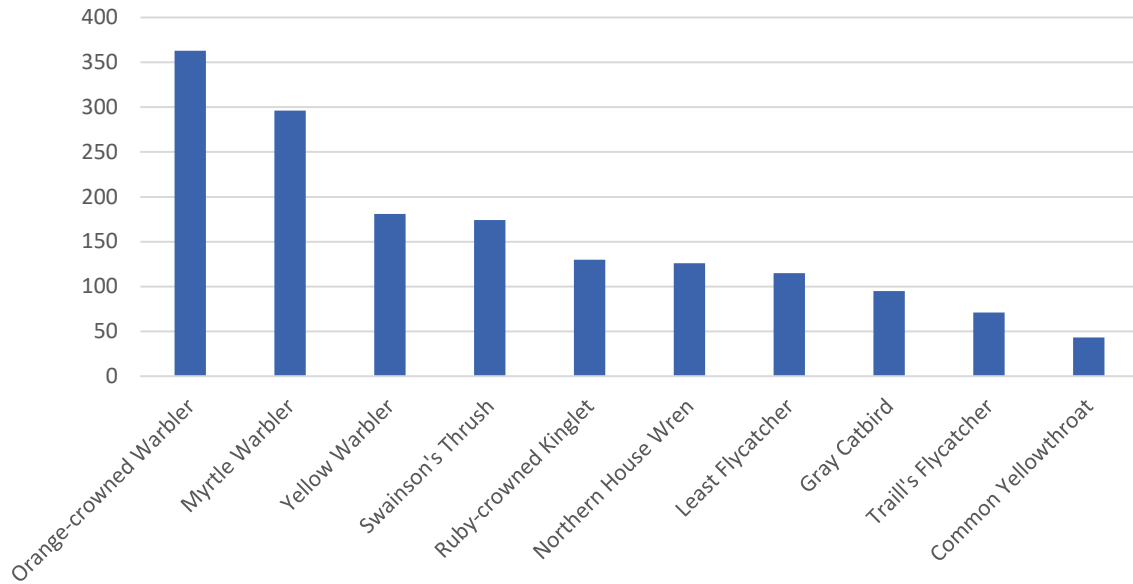


At the other end of the spectrum are species that were rarely banded at this site. Three species banded only once at Fisherman's Point have never been banded at Farm Island. They are:

- Scarlet Tanager banded on 23 May 2016
- Townsend's Solitaire banded on 27 Sep 2016
- Worm-eating Warbler banded on 14 May 2004

Captures by banding seasons at Fisherman's Point are illustrated in the charts below.

Fisherman's Point Captures - Spring Seasons



Fisherman's Point Captures - Fall Seasons

