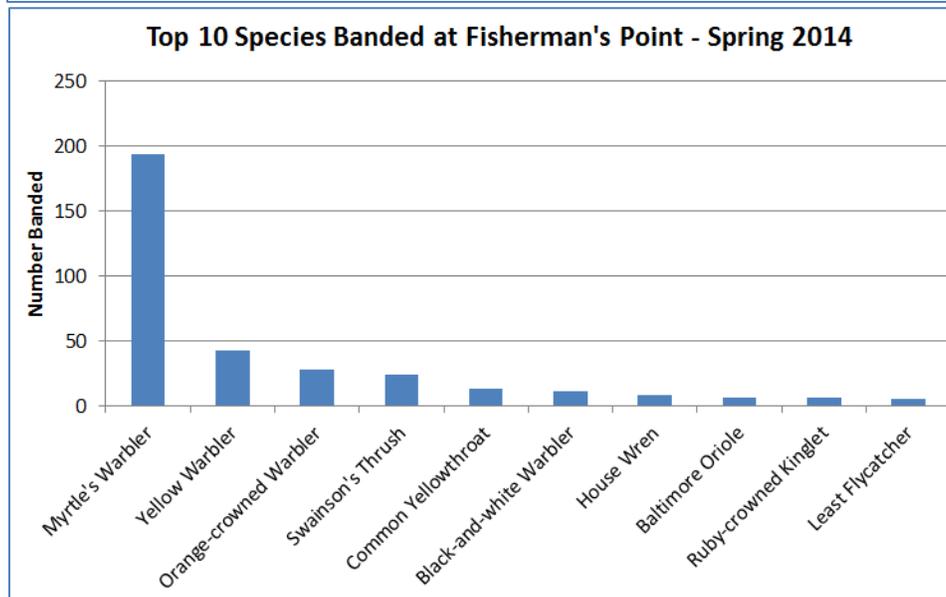
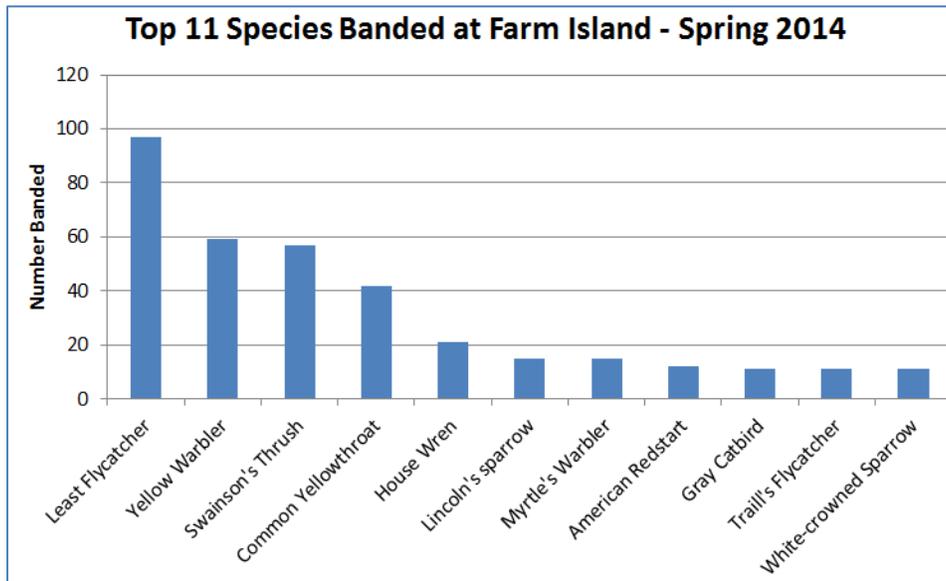


Bird banding update for spring of 2014 Farm Island and Oahe Downstream, South Dakota



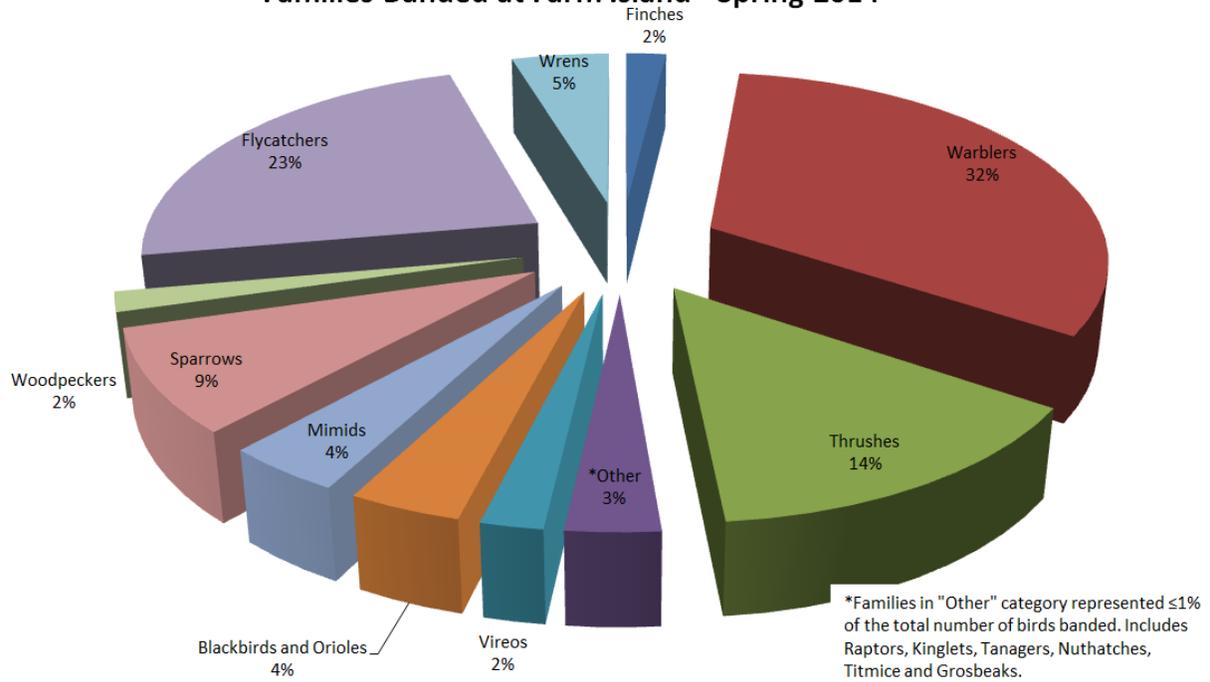
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Diversity Program staff band birds during the peak of spring and fall migration at 2 sites in central South Dakota. The Farm Island State Recreation Area site was established in 1993. The Oahe Downstream Recreation Area site (called Fisherman's Point) was added in 2004. With the exception of 2011, when extreme flooding prevented access to the sites, we have banded at both sites since their establishment.

The most common species banded during the spring of 2014 reflected the more diverse habitats at the Farm Island site, which attracts more sparrows and ground-dwelling species due to the loss of many trees and increased weedy growth after the 2011 flooding. A movement of Myrtle's Warblers was documented during the first week of May at the Oahe Downstream site. This and other warbler species were commonly captured at this site this spring.

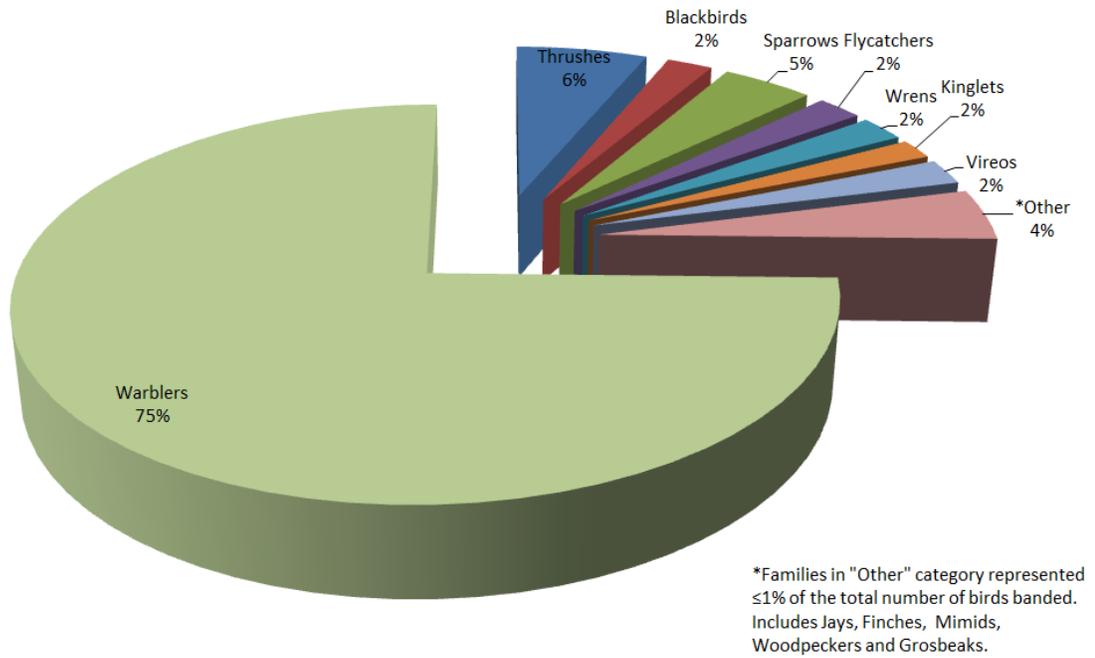


Distribution by bird families is another illustration of available habitats at the 2 sites:

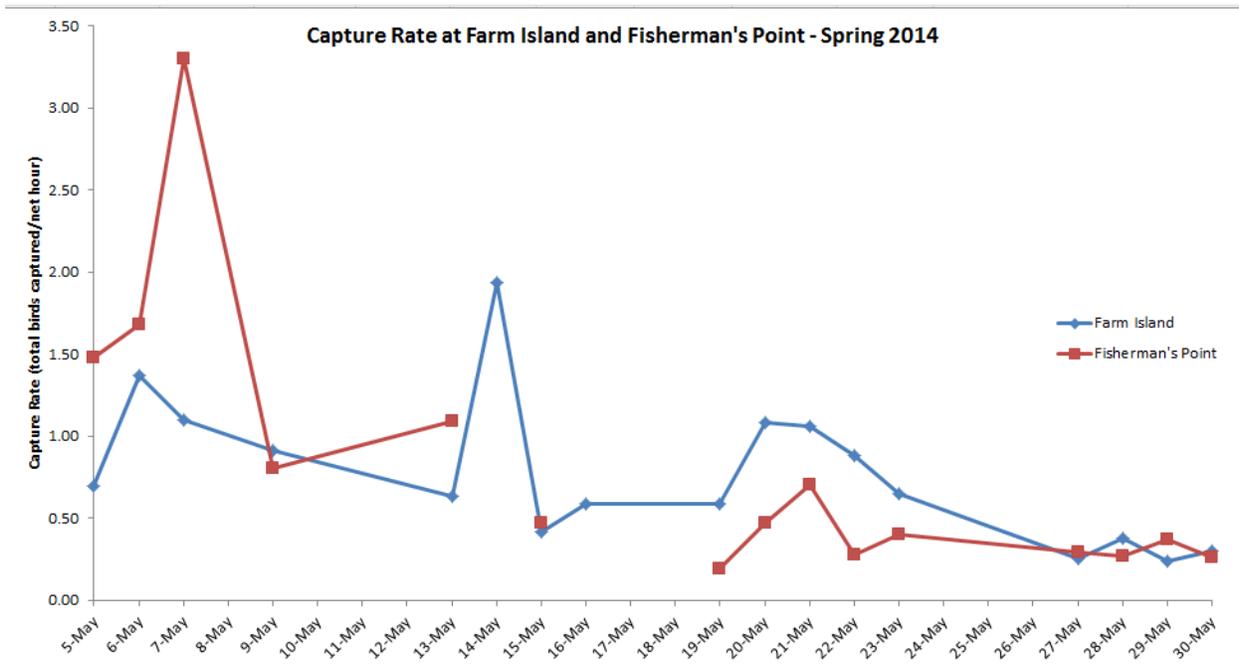
Families Banded at Farm Island - Spring 2014



Families Banded at Fisherman's Point - Spring 2014



Capture rate at Farm Island peaked on May 14 and on May 7 at Fisherman's Point. A total of 885 birds were banded during the spring of 2014; 470 birds at Farm Island and 415 birds at Fisherman's Point.



Recaptures: Seventy-nine birds were recaptured. All were birds we originally banded. The majority (43) were banded during the spring of 2014. Nineteen were banded in 2013, and 17 were banded in 2012 or earlier.

Fisherman's Point recapture highlights:

- ❖ A male Yellow Warbler banded as an after hatch year age in May 2010 was recaptured.
- ❖ Three male Yellow Warblers banded as after hatch year age in May 2011 were recaptured.
- ❖ A male Indigo Bunting banded as an after hatch year age in May 2011 was recaptured.
- ❖ An interesting bird banded in September 2010 as a hatch year age was recaptured. After much examination and discussion, this individual was determined to be a male hybrid Indigo/Lazuli Bunting.

Farm Island recapture highlights:

- ❖ A Brown Thrasher banded in May 2009 was recaptured.
- ❖ A female Yellow Warbler banded in May 2010 was recaptured.
- ❖ A male Yellow Warbler banded in May 2008 was recaptured.
- ❖ A male Common Yellowthroat banded in September 2009 as an after hatch year age was recaptured. We have also recaptured him in 2010, 2011, and 2013.
- ❖ A male Common Yellowthroat banded in September 2006 as unknown age was recaptured, making him at least 8 years old.

These recaptures prove the importance of these sites for Neotropical migrants, which breed in the U.S. or Canada and migrate each fall to Central and South America to return each spring.

Highlights: We banded our first Cooper's Hawk at either site on May 6, 2014 at Farm Island.



We banded only our fourth Golden-winged Warbler at either site on May 6, 2014 at Farm Island.



We banded only our second Winter Wren at either site at Farm Island on May 13, 2014.



We banded only our fourth Summer Tanager at either location, a second year male, at Farm Island on May 22, 2014.



We banded our first Western Tanager at either site, a second-year female, at Farm Island on May 23, 2014.



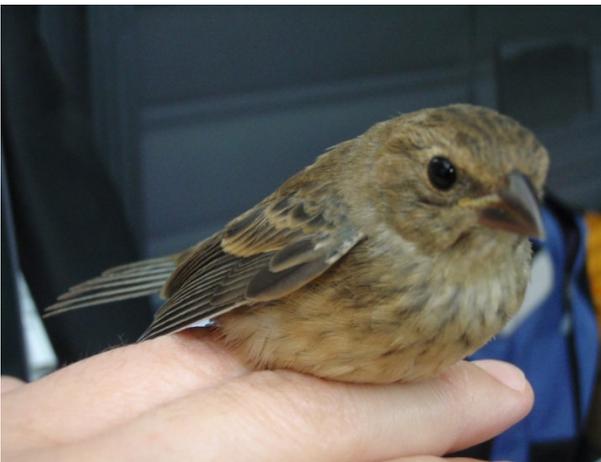
We banded an interesting Black-capped Chickadee at Farm Island. Note the brownish cap and pale color on the back of this after hatch year bird. We presume this is a leucistic (reduced pigmentation) bird. Dan Tallman and David Swanson have also captured or observed such individuals in South Dakota. Tallman reported that a juvenile leucistic Black-capped Chickadee banded in Aberdeen, SD subsequently molted to normal plumage (Tallman, D.A. 1987. Abnormally colored juvenile Black-capped Chickadee molts to normal basic plumage. Wilson Bulletin 99:722-723).



This Eastern Kingbird was a first for the banding station at Oahe Downstream.



The bird in the first 2 pictures below was first banded at Oahe Downstream as a hatch year Lazuli Bunting in September of 2010.



This spring, it was recaptured (photos below) and identified as a hybrid Lazuli/Indigo Bunting.



Amelia Pennington from North Dakota assisted with banding at Farm Island.



Blue-headed Vireo

Species list for birds banded in the spring of 2014 (alphabetical):

American Goldfinch	Red-eyed Vireo
American Kestrel	Red-shafted Flicker
American Redstart	Red-winged Blackbird
American Robin	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Baltimore Oriole	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Bell's Vireo	Song Sparrow
Black-and-white Warbler	Spotted Towhee
Black-capped Chickadee	Summer Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak	Swainson's Thrush
Blackpoll Warbler	Tennessee Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	"Traill's" Flycatcher
Blue Jay	Warbling Vireo
Brown Thrasher	Western Palm Warbler
Chipping Sparrow	Western Tanager
Clay-colored Sparrow	White-breasted Nuthatch
Common Yellowthroat	White-crowned Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	White-throated Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Eastern Bluebird	Winter Wren
Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-breasted Chat
Golden-winged Warbler	Yellow Warbler
Gray-cheeked Thrush	
Gray Catbird	
Great Crested Flycatcher	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Harris's Sparrow	
House Wren	
Indigo Bunting	
Indigo/Lazuli Bunting hybrid	
Least Flycatcher	
Lincoln's Sparrow	
Magnolia Warbler	
Mourning Warbler	
Myrtle Warbler	
Northern Waterthrush	
Orange-crowned Warbler	
Orchard Oriole	
Ovenbird	

Bell's Vireo

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

Acknowledgements: The following assisted with bird banding during the spring of 2014:

Doug Backlund
Charlene (Charlie) Bessken
Pat Buscher
Kathy Mehls
Amelia Pennington
Dan Renner
Scott Stolz
Maya

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



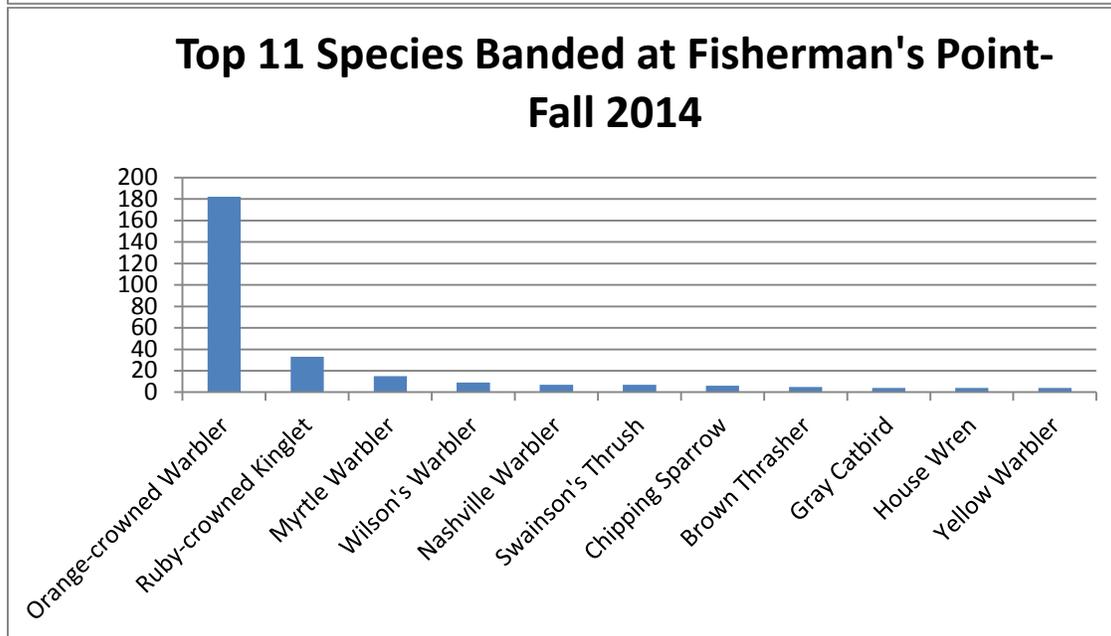
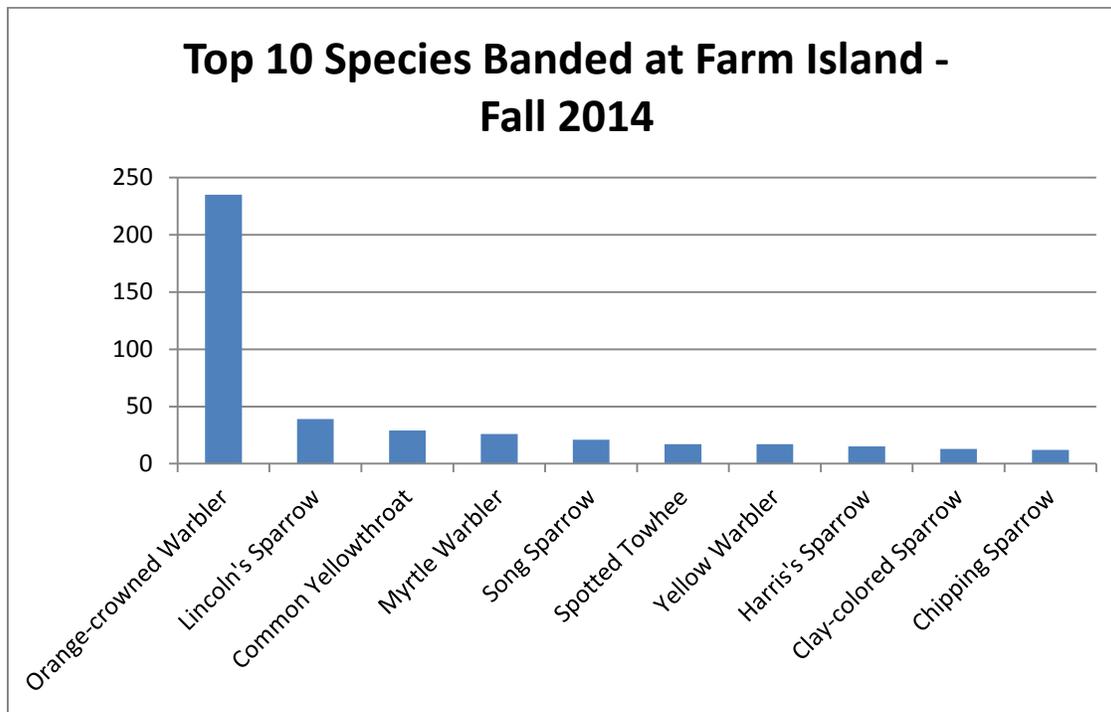
Male Yellow Warbler



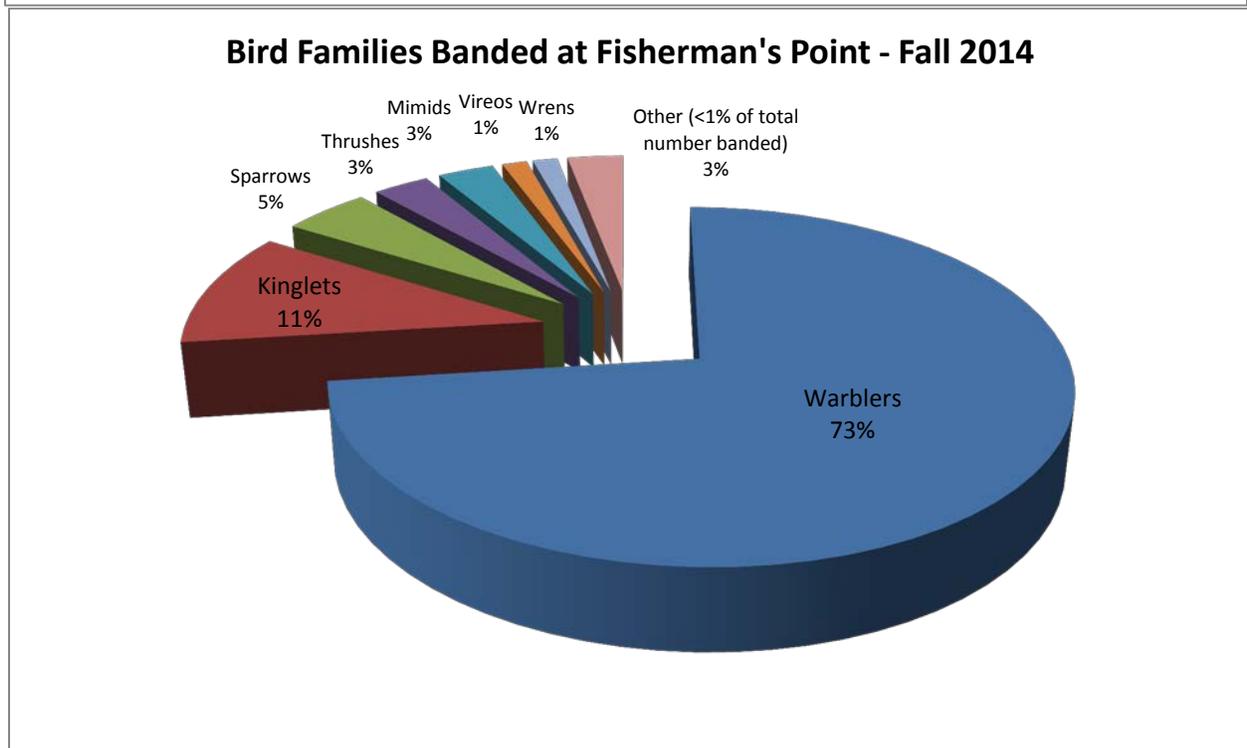
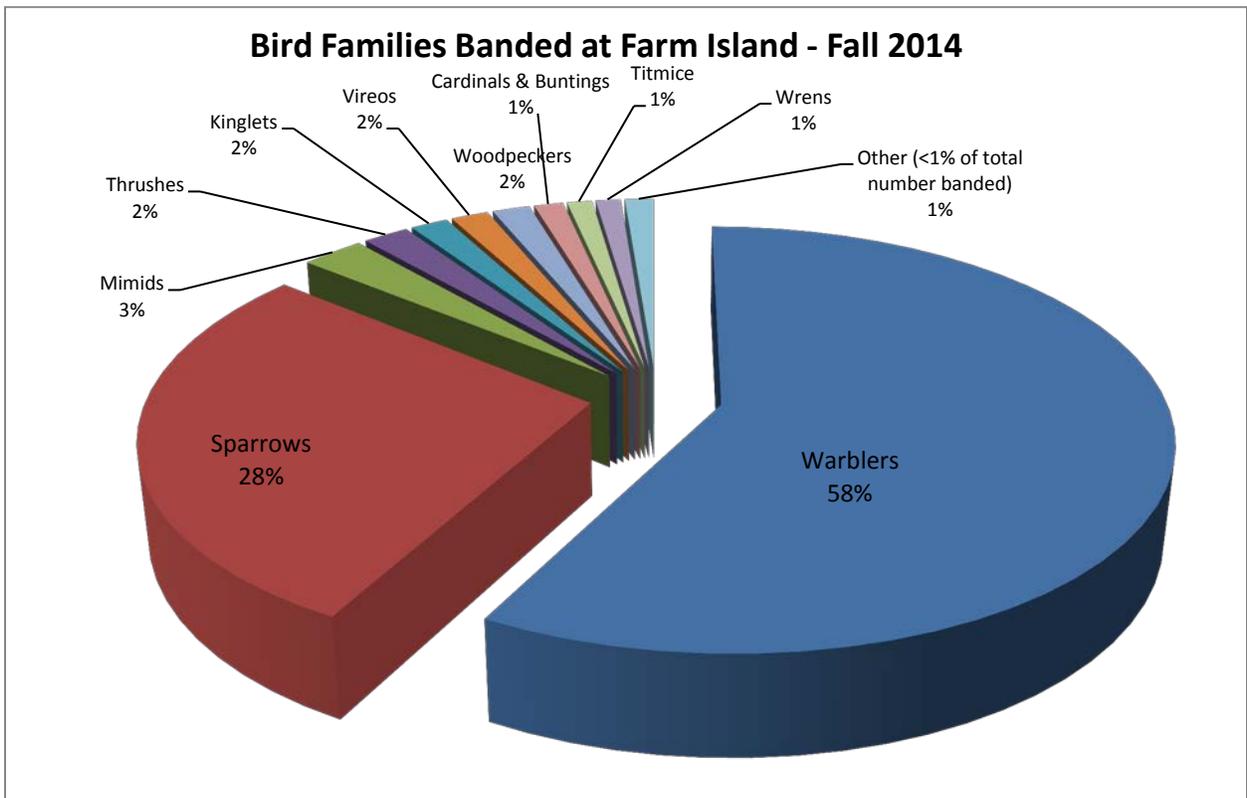
Bird banding update for fall of 2014 Farm Island and Oahe Downstream, South Dakota

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Wildlife Diversity Program staff band birds during the peak of spring and fall migration at 2 sites in central South Dakota. The Farm Island State Recreation Area site was established in 1993. The Oahe Downstream Recreation Area site (called Fisherman's Point) was added in 2004. With the exception of 2011, when extreme flooding prevented access to the sites, we have banded at both sites since their establishment.

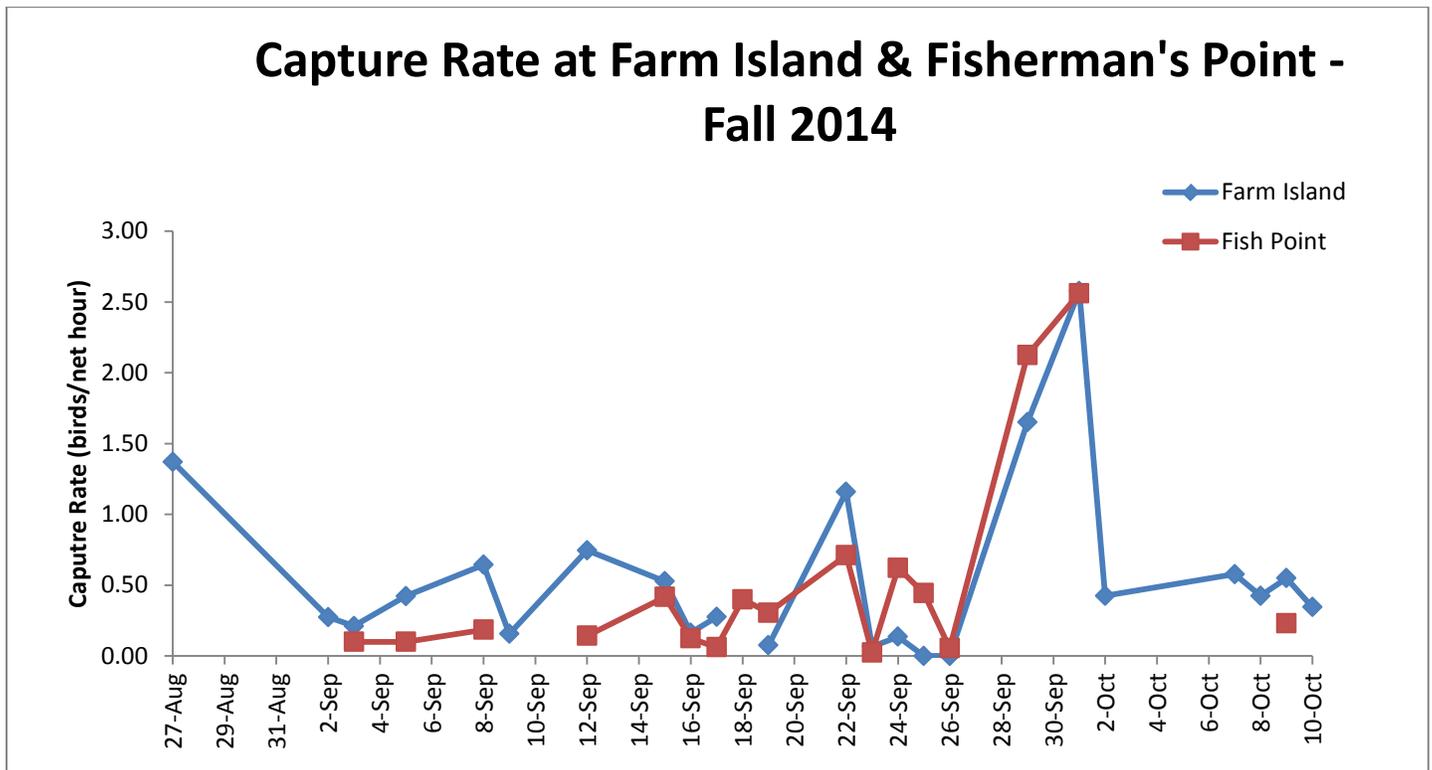
The most common species banded at both sites this season was the Orange-crowned Warbler, which is also the most commonly banded species at these sites through time.



Distribution by bird families illustrates how birds respond to available habitats at the 2 sites. Farm Island tends to attract more sparrows and ground-dwelling species compared to the higher prevalence of warblers and other groups that favor the woodland and forest habitats at Fisherman's Point.



Capture rate at both sites peaked on October 1, 2014. The vast majority of individuals banded that day were Orange-crowned Warblers. In all, we banded 866 birds during the fall of 2014; 561 birds at Farm Island and 305 birds at Fisherman's Point.



Recaptures: Forty-six birds were recaptured. All were birds we originally banded.

Fisherman's Point recapture highlight:

- ❖ A Black-capped Chickadee banded on September 18, 2009 was recaptured, making this individual at least 5 years old.

Farm Island recapture highlights:

- ❖ A Black-capped Chickadee banded on September 5, 2012.
- ❖ A Song Sparrow banded on September 24, 2013 as a hatch year bird (this category means the bird was hatched in that year).
- ❖ A female Spotted Towhee was banded on September 12, 2013 as a hatch year bird.

These recaptures prove the importance of these sites for species that spend either all or part of the year at these areas.

Highlights:



Male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker banded at Farm Island on September 22, 2014. This was only the second individual of this species banded at either site. This woodpecker was netted with about a dozen Yellow-shafted Flickers and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. We don't know if they were foraging or traveling together.



Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Flickers hybridize in central South Dakota. Above is an example showing orange feather shafts. The head displays a reddish-black "moustache" or malar and a red crescent-shaped nape. A male Yellow-shafted Flicker has a black malar. A male Red-shafted Flicker has a red nape. This is the second hybrid male netted at Farm Island this year.



The maroon iris of this male Red-bellied Woodpecker identifies it as a bird that is more than 2 years old.



During fall banding, we can determine age classes for many birds by examining the skull to see the extent of bone formation, a process called pneumaticization. A second technique is to examine feather replacement. This female Eastern Bluebird was netted at Farm Island. The arrow shows the extent of feather replacement in the greater coverts. The set of bluish feathers from the arrow toward the bird's body has been replaced. Several to the right of the arrow are dull and grayish. They have not been replaced. This pattern helps us verify that this is a hatch-year aged bird.

Species list for birds banded in the fall of 2014 (alphabetical):

American Redstart	Northern Flicker
American Robin	Northern Waterthrush
American Tree Sparrow	Orange-crowned Warbler
Bell's Vireo	Ovenbird
Black-capped Chickadee	Philadelphia Vireo
Blue Jay	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Brown Creeper	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Thrasher	Red-eyed Vireo
Chipping Sparrow	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Common Yellowthroat	Slate-colored Junco
Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Eastern Bluebird	Spotted Towhee
Field Sparrow	Swainson's Thrush
Flicker Intergrade	Swamp Sparrow
Gray Catbird	Tennessee Warbler
Harris's Sparrow	"Traill's" Flycatcher
House Wren	Warbling Vireo
Indigo Bunting	White-breasted Nuthatch
Least Flycatcher	White-crowned Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow
Magnolia Warbler	Wilson's Warbler
Myrtle Warbler	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Nashville Warbler	Yellow-breasted Chat
Northern Cardinal	Yellow Warbler



Philadelphia Vireo

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

Acknowledgements: The following assisted with bird banding during the fall of 2014:

Pat Buscher
 Amelia Pennington
 Maya and Brewen

Figures prepared by Casey Heimerl. Photos by Eileen Dowd Stukel.