Outreach and Education

The opportunity for guests to observe birds in the hand and engage directly with field researchers inspires and promotes a conservation ethic. We are committed to sharing our research and conservation efforts through educational programs designed to appeal to groups of all ages including:

- School groups (preschool through high school)
- College and graduate students
- Community organizations
- Land trusts

Our programs typically include a bird banding presentation and a general discussion of bird biology, ecology, and migration. Presentations are tailored to the interests of the group and usually last about an hour. For more information, visit: www.briloon.org/riverpoint

International Migratory Bird Day

Join us for our annual celebration of bird migration.

Enjoy guided bird and nature walks, meet BRI and other local biologists, and observe our research in action.

For a complete description of planned events, visit:

www.briloon.org/riverpoint

Yellow Warbler

BRI's Bird Observatory

In 2011, Biodiversity Research Institute began a wildlife monitoring effort at River Point Conservation Area with the primary goal of establishing a migratory bird banding station. In collaboration with the Town of Falmouth, BRI biologists set up mist nets to capture birds, which are banded for tracking purposes and released unharmed.

In just a few years, River Point Bird Observatory has become a hub for avian research and education. Our biologists have banded thousands of songbirds, trained dozens of interns, developed strong collaborations, and shared their work with more than a thousand students and community members.

This triad of scientific research, conservation, and education has involved community partnerships with the Town of Falmouth, Maine Audubon, the University of Maine System, the Maine Medical Center Vector-Borne Disease Lab, and others. We have been able to serve a variety of local needs and interests due to the generous support of many volunteers and foundations including Maine Community Foundation, Horizon Foundation, Davis Conservation Foundation, and the Jane B. Cook Charitable Trust.

Population Monitoring and Scientific Research

- Migratory and breeding studies
- Disease monitoring
- Contaminant studies
- Tracking studies

Applied Field Training

- Internship programs
- Continuing education

Outreach and Education

- School programs
- Community events
- Volunteer opportunities

Cedar Waxwing

Program Director
Patrick Keenan
patrick.keenan@briloon.org

Program Staff: Dana Palm, Evan Adams, Alex Dalton, Kevin Regan, Robby Lambert

Biodiversity Research Institute
innovative wildlife science

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Biodiversity Research Institute

River Point Bird Observatory

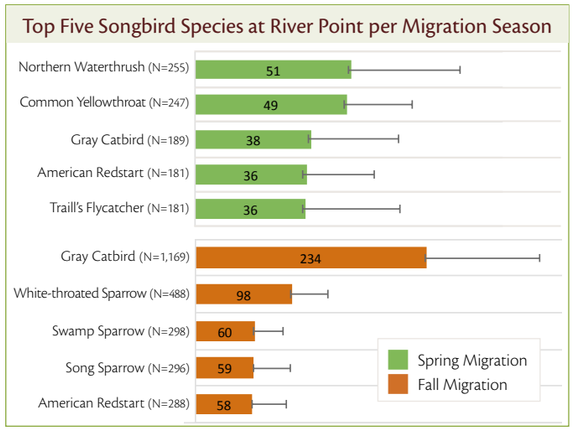
Baltimore Oriole

Population Monitoring

Migratory connectivity—the linkages between northern breeding sites and southern nonbreeding areas—is a critical component to understanding how environmental threats affect migratory songbird populations. BRI's River Point Bird Observatory has become a valuable resource for interns, graduate students, educators, and collaborating biologists in the development of new research studies on migratory birds.

During spring and fall, BRI's staff and volunteers gather data about the presence and abundance of birds at River Point, employing standardized bird capture surveys. In addition to bird banding, we document bird observations using eBird.

We also conduct capture surveys of Northern Saw-whet Owls during fall migration. Owl surveys take place at River Point as well as on Suckfish Brook Preserve, a private property nearby.



Scientific Research

At River Point Conservation Area, BRI biologists collect scientific data on various aspects of the health, behavior, and life history of bird populations through capture, marking, and monitoring studies. Below is a selection of ongoing songbird studies:

- **Tracking Veery Migration with Geolocators**—In 2013, BRI began a tracking study of nesting Veeries, placing geolocators on 15 birds. In 2014, we recovered seven of those individuals. Migration data from the geolocators will help inform conservation efforts.
- **Southern Maine Nest Box Trail**—Nearly 50 nest boxes placed at River Point are part of a broader monitoring effort focusing on Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds—two species showing declines. At River Point, we have seen the return of nesting Tree Swallows. We also monitor nest boxes at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm and Sable Oaks Golf Course. Data is shared through The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch portal.
- **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Maine Songbirds**—BRI, the Maine Medical Center Vector-borne Disease Lab, and Centers for Disease Control conducted a serosurvey of EEE in Maine songbirds. This study provides baseline data about the prevalence of this mosquito-transmitted avian disease.
- **Assessing Mercury Exposure to Northern Waterthrush Populations**—We collect blood and feathers from this neotropical migratory songbird to assess mercury burdens across seasons and age classes. These data help us understand exposure risk over the life cycle of this species.


Tree Swallows


Canada Warbler

Applied Field Training

River Point Bird Observatory is an incubator for learning about avian studies. BRI staff mentor interns and visiting field biologists who are committed to conservation and research.

Internships and training programs may take a variety of forms, but the focus is on identifying birds by sight and sound, learning safe bird handling techniques, recording and managing data, understanding ethics and regulations related to field research, and monitoring nest boxes.

Training programs will provide research competencies in:

- Bird banding
- Tissue sampling

A·R·S
Avian Research Supplies

BRI is the agent for the Association of Field Ornithologists' Avian supply company. We are pleased to be able to provide this important service to field researchers. This business is run by ornithologists for ornithologists. We provide the highest quality mist nets and bird banding supplies that we use in our own fieldwork.

Proceeds support research grants for students, amateurs, and Latin American researchers.

www.avianresearchsupplies.org

About BRI

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), headquartered in Portland, Maine, is a nonprofit ecological research group whose mission is to assess emerging threats to wildlife and ecosystems through collaborative research, and to use scientific findings to advance environmental awareness and inform decision makers.

BRI supports 10 research programs within three research centers including the **Center for Ecology and Conservation Research**, the **Center for Mercury Studies**, and the **Center for Loon Conservation**. Within the Center for Ecology and Conservation Research, BRI manages the following programs:

Taxonomic

- Mammal Program
- Marine Bird Program
- Raptor Program
- Songbird Program
- Waterfowl Program

Ecosystems

- Arctic Program
- Tropical Program
- Wetlands Program

Environmental Issues

- Wildlife Health Program
- Wildlife and Renewable Energy Program

BRI has been conducting scientific inquiries for private sector and government clients nationwide and globally since 1998. Using both traditional and innovative approaches, our researchers collect, analyze, and interpret scientific results on how ecological stressors impact living systems.

By incorporating regional data and developing strategies for collecting additional data, BRI has effectively modeled such stressors on species and community distributions, phenology, adaptive strategies and population viability across tropical, temperate, and arctic biomes.

BRI's Toxicology Lab has the capacity to analyze various tissue samples for mercury concentrations.

For more information on our capabilities and services, visit: **www.briloon.org/services**