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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V-fall 1993

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V -Fall 1993

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113 Poteskeet Trail
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Once again I wish to thank the banders in Region V for their cooperation. Harford Glenn and Parramore Island did not report their 1993 data. I hope they will rejoin us in 1994.

The 1993 totals were surprisingly good considering that most stations reported few cold fronts. Kiptopeke recorded a record 88 different species, while Jekyll Island had the high for birds/100 net hours at 151. Of the seven stations that reported, the average percentage of HY birds was 77.7%

Kiptopeke showed record high counts for American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. They also reported the following:

	<u>No. of Birds 1993</u>	<u>Best Year Since</u>
American Redstart	348	1988
Bl-thr. Blue Warbler	158	1989
Com. Yellowthroat	225	1990
Bl. & White Warb.	60	1989
Red-eyed Vireo	59	1989
Chipping Sparrow	29	1979

Five stations reported banding more birds in 1993, while two showed declines. Jekyll Island probably banded the most unusual species: a Townsend's Warbler banded 30 September. (This is still not approved by the BBL.) This bird was banded by Lydia Thompson who had extensive birding in the west and had been a banding assistant at Pt. Reyes. This was the second western warbler banded at Jekyll Island; a MacGillivray's was banded in 1987. Four Worm-eating Warblers were reported banded: three at Kiptopeke, and one at Scott King-Jordan Gameland.

Table 1. Fall 1993 Region V Summary.

	Stevenson MD	Calmes Neck VA	Kiptope VA	Smith Farm VA	Chicahauk NC	King-Jordan Gameland NC	Jekyll Island GA
Days Oper.	37	41	60	74	35	9	26
# Nets Used	16-27.5	5-10	11-28	12	2-5	4-8	8-18
Total Net Hours	3906.5	7987	9373	8387	968.5	224	1967
Largest Daily Catch	62	161	366	105	15	21	440
Date of Lrg. Catch	2 Nov.	28 Oct.	3 Nov.	3 Nov.	7 Nov.	15 Aug.	28 Sept
Birds Banded-1992	1385	760	2835	1220	333	98	2697
Birds Banded-1993	867	1590	4517	1532	256	118	2961
Diff. Species-1992	72	73	80	69	47	24	56
Diff. Species-1993	63	81	88	77	38	23	55
Birds/100 NH-1992	33	15	35	14.8	29	54	165
Birds/100 NH-1993	22	20	48	18.2	26.3	53	151
% Hatching Year	80	61	94.3	57	78	88	86

Table 2. Most commonly banded species, Region V.

Stevenson MD	Calmes Neck VA	Kiptopeke VA	Smith Farm VA	Chicahauk NC	King-Jordan GameInd NC	Jekyll Is. GA
150 GRCA	669 AMGO	1890 MYWA	247 WTSP	59 MYW	52 HOFI	1309 WPWA
90 BTBW	102 CHSP	348 AMRE	182 SCJU	33 NOCA	11 NOCA	538 COYE
58 WOTH	76 SCJU	223 COYE	164 SOSF	26 COGR	9 AMGO	357 GRCA
46 AMRO	67 COGR	181 GRCA	126 RCKI	25 CACH	7 BLJA	146 AMRE
40 RCKI	56 PUFI	161 AMGO	68 PUFI	21 RCKI	6 MODO	93 TRES
39 NOCA	33 ETTI	158 BTBW	52 AMGO	11 AMRE	6 MAWA	61 BTBW
36 HETH	32 NOCA	124 WPWA	40 EAPH	11 GCKI	5 COGR	48 INBU
36 SCJU	32 CACH	97 RCKI	39 SWSP	6 BTBW	5 CARW	40 PRAW
33 VEER	25 MODO	80 FISP	33 GRCA	6 GRCA	3 PIWA	38 NOWA
31 OVEN	23 EAPH	66 VEER	32 NOCA	5 CARW	1 14 DIFF. SPECIES	38 HOWR

Stevenson
Stevenson, MD
Barbara Ross

393-9764

There seemed to be no outstanding cold fronts this fall. Several days of high winds or rain kept us away.

The habitat is pretty much the same as previous years—the old fields in succession and the mature woods. However, the adjacent fields of corn and soybean that existed in 1992 were left fallow and, in September, were plowed and prepared for winter crops. We think the absence of corn in the fall greatly curtailed the sparrows, Myrtle Warblers, and Palm Warblers.

We had more fatalities than in previous years, in part due to the increase of Sharp-shinned Hawks. We actually caught and banded two young female sharpies.

We had good returns in the spring but not much this fall. A White-throated Sparrow banded 17 November 1991 as AHY-M returned 12 November 1993.

In comparison to previous years, the number of birds and species was down. Less effort was made this year but not enough to warrant such low numbers. For example, as compared to 1992, this year we banded 12 Common Yellowthroats vs. 58 in 1992, 28 Song Sparrows vs. 121, 23 Myrtle Warblers vs. 76, 30 White-throated Sparrows vs. 75, and 40 Ruby-crowned Kinglets vs. 96. Only the number of Black-throated Blue Warblers banded went up from 44 in 1992 to 90 in 1993.

Many thanks to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property. Thanks also to banders Sharon Schwemmer, Mark Johnson, Glenda Weber, and Jim Wiley; and to Nancy Mullen, Ed Carlson, and Dave Ziolkowski for their tireless net tending, record keeping, and brush cutting.

Calmes Neck
Boyce, VA
J. William Oberman

390-0775

Despite a big increase in net hours, 5071 in 1992 to 7989 in 1993 and almost doubling the number of individual birds captured, 760 in '92 to 1590 in '93, almost all of the woodland nesting species that I don't "home grow" were significantly down in number.

This was a very good year for goldfinch, banding 669, the best ever for me during fall migration. They were very much in evidence during September and October.

I consider myself very much in the backwater of migration, just into the ridge and valley section of the country. My yield is highly dependent on the presence of running water artificially created by two of my neighbors and myself. Were it not for this establishment, my yield would be, and has been in the past, decidedly lower.

Kiptopeke **370-0755**
Cape Charles, VA
John Dillard

The thirtieth year of operation of banding in the Kiptopeke area began on 5 September and ran through 3 November. The station operated for 60 days with only five days down. Net hours increased 16% over 1992 to 9373, while the number of birds banded, 4517, was 59% higher in 1993. Some of the increase in numbers may be attributed to the relocation of nets into forest ridge areas as well as an increase in personnel.

The station, which overlooks Chesapeake Bay at the southern tip of the eastern shore of Virginia, is operated by the Migratory Birds Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. In 1993, the station cooperated with the Northampton County Critical Habitat Study which was conducted by Sarah Mabey and Bryan Watts. One of their study teams assisted daily in record keeping and banding. The specific net in which birds were trapped was recorded as well as both weight and fat content. The former information was needed to determine habitat usage and the latter to assess the value of this area for migrants' fat recovery. This information is now being analyzed.

Changes in capture rates for the more commonly banded birds are shown below. Since net hours were up 16% in 1993, the percent of change from 1992 was calculated based on birds per net hour.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No Birds</u>	<u>%Increase</u>
	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993 vs. 1992</u>
Yel-rp Warb.	1890	45
Am. Redstart	348	76
Com. Yelthr	225	50
Gray Catbird	181	73
Am. Goldfinch	161	NA*

*Four birds in '92

High counts in the history of the station were set for American Goldfinch at 161; Field Sparrow, 80; Savannah Sparrow, 38; White-crowned Sparrow, 7; Vesper Sparrow, 6; and Lincoln's Sparrow, 6. Factors contributing to these records include extending the station operation five days into November and locating two nets adjacent to a large brush pile.

Banding of an Eastern Bluebird for the first time in 1993 brought the total species list for the station to 158.

Licensed banders in charge of the station for varying periods of time were Don Schwab, Walter Smith, John Dillard, Dave Leake, James Pion, and Bryan Watts. Other banders and assistants played a vital role in the success of the station and their help is greatly appreciated. Walter Smith did the editing and tabulation of the field records as well as the comparison to past records.

Smith Farm **382-0781**
Madison, VA
Edgar Smith

The weather in 1993 was unremarkable. There were no big cold fronts, just gradual cooling and periodic light rains. The station operated 74 days, an increase of 14 days over 1992. The overall number of birds banded increased 312 over 1992. The number of different species also increased from 69 in 1992 to 77 in 1993. It seemed that the numbers for many species increased over last year. White-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Song Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Eastern Phoebe showed this increase while Golden-crowned Kinglet, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow showed decreases.

There were two foreign recoveries, both were American Goldfinches. Returns were a little low for this year, 23 in all and none older than 1989. One interesting return was a Yellow-shafted Flicker caught 8 October 1993 that showed no weight gain from its original weight of 131.7g recorded when it was banded 12 October 1992.

Chicahauk Station
Kitty Hawk, NC
H. David Leake

360-0754

This was a disappointing year. I opened the station 19 October and continued to 11 November, banding 35 days. Both the number of birds and the number of different species were less than last year. There were no significant cold fronts. The most productive period was 7 November through 11 November. Only Cardinals and Golden-crowned Kinglets showed an increase in numbers compared to 1992 totals—Cardinals, 23 in 1992 and 33 in 1993; Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 in 1992 and 21 in 1993. I did have two new species for this station: an Orange-crowned Warbler and four Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Scott King-Jordan Gameland
Durham, NC
Liz Pullman

355-0785

For the first time in years, there was a perceptible fall migration of neotropical birds at our station in the piedmont of North Carolina. Beginning with the Worm-eating Warbler on 5 September, "peaking" with four Magnolias, a Black-and-White Warbler, and a Swainson's Thrush on 22 September, and ending with two more Magnolias and a Wood Thrush (local Wood Thrushes had left weeks before) on 2 October. This banding sequence constitutes for us a clear-cut migration.

The main factor, weatherwise, was a drought starting in July and continuing through the fall. This drought might account for some of the netting of migrating warblers since we were providing dripping water as bait in the vicinity of several mist nets.

We had several species of stop-over sparrows in October, but these did not take up residence in our trapping area. Slate-colored Juncos showed

up in early November and were plentiful by Thanksgiving with several returns from previous years.

The most uncommon catch was the Worm-eating Warbler which was well out of normal habitat. The most unusual event was actually banding six Magnolia Warblers which turned out to be the most common migrant warbler seen at our station this fall, an even more unusual event. One interesting recovery from Madison, Virginia, was a goldfinch that I had banded as a SY-M on 26 March 1989, recovered on 12 November 1993. (*Ed's note: Edgar Smith is the bander in Madison, Virginia.*)

Jekyll Island
Brunswick, GA
Doris Cohrs

310-0812

This was a memorable year for JIBS. Banded in 1993 were 2961 birds of 55 different species. The station operation started 26 September and ended 24 October. Only three days were lost to inclement weather. The Palm Warbler total was unusual this year. The high single day occurred 28 September with 392 birds banded, while the grand total was 1309. This total includes both Western Palm Warblers and Yellow Palm Warblers, but Yellow Palm Warblers make up only a small percentage of the total. There was a dramatic increase in Gray Catbirds: 38 banded in 1992 and 357 in 1993. The numbers of Common Yellowthroats declined from a high of 939 in 1992 to 538 in 1993. Some JIBS people wondered if these fluctuations might be somehow related to the damage caused by hurricane Hugo in 1989.

A Townsend's Warbler was banded by Lydia Thompson on 30 September. This was the second western warbler to be banded at JIBS. In 1987, a MacGillivray's Warbler was banded here. Fortunately, Lydia is familiar with Townsend's Warblers from her extensive birding out west.

The banding demonstrations and ecology talks, an integral part of our program, continued this year reaching 125 people ranging from third graders to senior citizens. We wish to extend our thanks to the 67 volunteers who helped maintain this station. Thanks also go to the Georgia Non-game Wildlife Program for the grant money they have provided JIBS for the last three years.