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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V - Fall 1994

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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region V - Fall 1994

H. David Leake, Coordinator

Chicahauk Station
133 Poteskeet Trail
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

In 1994, three more stations joined Region V: Fernbank Forest, GA; Butler Island Aux., GA; and Tallahassee, FL. We are still in need of stations in South Carolina and additional stations in Florida. If you know of banders in our region who are not contributing their AFR data, please encourage them to contact me.

In 1994, Region V banders banded 11,769 birds in spite of a lack of strong cold fronts and generally dry conditions in most areas. Kiptopeke reported 88 different species and Smith Farm, 76. The percentages of HY birds remained practically unchanged: 77.7% in 1993 and 78.7% in 1994.

Several species seemed to indicate a preference for coastal or western migration routes. Among the coastal migrants were American Redstarts (1682), Myrtle Warblers (1343), Palm Warblers (1207), and Gray Catbirds (408). None of these species appeared on the list of "10 most frequent birds" for either Calmes Neck or Smith Farm, both western stations of Region V. On the other hand, our two western stations reported highs for Eastern Phoebe (60) and Slate-colored Junco (109), neither of which were found on the coastal stations' list of "10 most frequent birds."

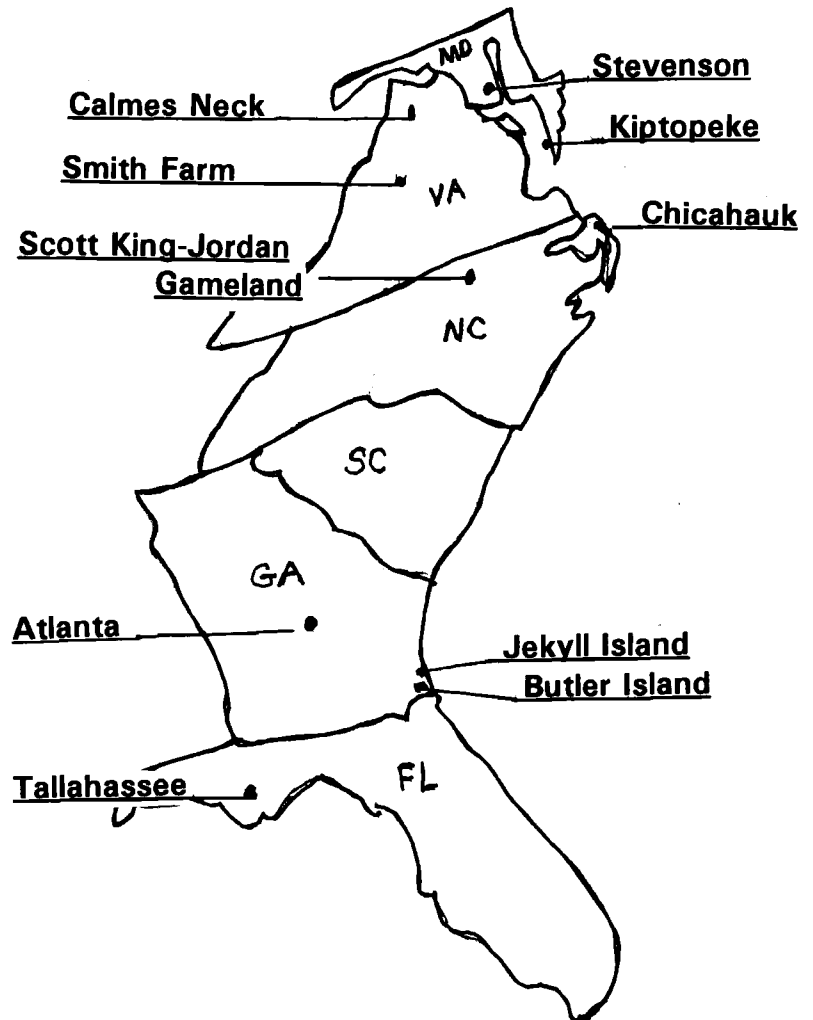


Table 1. Fall 1994 Region V Summary.

	Stevenson MD	Calmes Neck VA	Kiptopeke VA	Smith Farm VA	Chicahauk NC
First day/last day	2 Sept/15 Nov	13 Aug/13 Nov	3 Sept/28 Oct	15 Aug/15 Nov	23 Aug/15 Nov
Days Oper.	38	37	54	76	29
No. Nets Used	10 to 29	9 to 19	12 to 23	12	1 to 5
Total Net Hours	4051	6170	7550	8283	923
Lrg Daily Catch	71	29	264	91	18
Date/Lrg. Catch	25 Sept.	3 Sept.	22 Oct.	22 Oct.	24 Sept.
Birds Banded '93	867	1590	4517	1532	256
Birds Banded '94	1026	494	3616	1487	163
Diff. Species '93	63	81	88	77	38
Diff. Species '94	70	75	88	76	32
Brds/100 NH '93	22	20	48	18.2	26.3
Brds/100 NH '94	25	8	48	17.9	17.6
% Hatching Year	82%	83%	94%	67%	83%

Table 1 (con'd). Fall 1994 Region V Summary.

	S King-J Gameland NC	Fernbank Forest GA	Jekyll Island GA	Butler Aux Sta GA	Tallahassee FL
First day/last day	13 Aug/24 Nov	30 Aug/4 Nov	25 Sept/23 Oct	5 Sept/31 Oct	27 Aug/30 Nov
Days Oper.	9	6	26	47	29
No. Nets Used	1 to 8	5 to 8	13 to 15	6 to 14	4 to 8
Total Net Hours	136	24	1643	1241	1895
Lrg. Daily Catch	10	5	313	128	21
Date/Lrg. Catch	13 Aug	28 Sept	4 Oct	31 Oct	17 Sept
Birds Banded '93	118	115	2961	N/A	137
Birds Banded '94	50	63	2379	2222	269
Diff. Species '93	23	29	55	N/A	32
Diff. Species '94	17	20	52	34	40
Brds/100 NH '93	53	N/A	151	N/A	8.3
Brds/100 NH '94	27	N/A	145	179	14.2
% Hatching Year	68%	94%	79%	82%	55.80%

Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1994.

Stevenson MD		Calmes Neck VA		Kiptopeke VA		Smith Farm VA		Chicahauk NC	
154	GRCA	49	AMRO	1263	MYWA	252	WTSP	24	CACH
101	WOTH	41	SCJU	402	AMRE	227	SOSP	22	NOCH
98	AMRO	29	ETTI	329	COYE	200	INBU	19	AMRE
85	BTBW	27	MODO	163	WPWA	128	RCKI	14	COGR
40	VEER	26	EAPH	141	GRCA	63	SCJU	12	MYWA
39	SOSP	21	NOCA	132	BTBW	40	CAWR	10	CAWR
36	MYWA	21	CACH	83	SOSP	39	NOCA	8	MODO
34	SWTH	16	EABL	78	FISP	34	EAPH	7	NOPA
33	HOWR	13	EAWP	65	HOWR	34	CHSP	6	BLJA
31	WTSP	13	BTNW	63	OVEN	34	AMGO	5	REVI

Table 2. Most commonly banded species - 1994 (Cont.)

S King-J Gameland NC		Fernbank Forest GA		Jekyll Island GA		Butler Aux Sta. GA		Tallahassee FL	
2	NOCA	5	NOCA	996	Palm Wrb Sp	727	COYE	49	NOCA
8	BLJA	3	SWTH	534	COYE	552	INBU	41	WEVI
5	SCJU	2	RSTO	114	TRES	508	SWSP	27	MYWA
5	MYWA	1	BLJA	97	AMRE	54	NOWA	16	RCKI
4	RCKI	1	BRTH	79	GRCA	48	Palm Wrb Sp	11	MAWA
3	AMGO	1	WTSP	62	BTBW	42	WYWA	11	VEER
2	ETTI	1	CAWR	48	PABU	39	YWAR	10	ACFL
2	CAWR	1	WIWR	44	PRAW	39	PABU	8	CHSP
1	GCKI	1	HOWA	41	HOWR	34	GRCA	5	CAWR
1	7 other species	1	OVEN	33	INBU	33	WAWR	4	CACH

Stevenson
Stevenson, MD
Barbara Ross

392-0764

The weather was remarkably mild and reasonable this fall. We did have several cold fronts but not much rain or severe winds. As usual, we banded in the mornings, quitting by noon or one p.m.

We had an outstanding berry and fruit crop. Our fields continue to be unplanted and weedy, but even

the weeds were cut down due to the quantity of Johnson grass, which the Agriculture Department won't tolerate.

In looking at records of previous years, I realize I am covering fewer days for the AFR study. One reason is that the MAPS program that I'm involved in from May to August overlaps with the beginning of the AFR study. I can't do both programs during the overlap. I also seem to have less and less help.

We had two interesting notes: The first was the return of a Hairy Woodpecker originally banded 5 May 1987 and recaptured 5 October 1994. Secondly, we cooperated with the Irvine Nature Center by supplying birds for 12 of their banding demonstrations.

Many thanks to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property, and to banders Mark Johnson, Glenda Weber, and Sharon Schemmer. Thanks also to very important helpers: Nancy Mullen, Dixie Mullineaux, Brian Rollfink, Dave Ziolkowski, Peter Martin, and Bea Shapiro.

Calmes Neck
Boyce, VA
J. William Oberman

390-0775

During 1994, the fall banding numbers dropped dramatically. Some of this was because the station was not open during two weekends in October. Nevertheless, the numbers of migrants was down significantly. This was my slowest September on record despite net hours comparable to 1993. The species list was somewhat lower, 81 in 1993 and 75 in 1994. Whether this is a trend or merely a dip awaits the 1995 results.

Kiptopeke Banding Station
Townsend, VA
John Dillard

370-0755

The 31st year of banding in the Kiptopeke area began 3 September and ran through 28 October. The station operated for 54 days with only two days down for rain. The total birds banded, 3616, dropped 20% from last year, possibly due to less personnel; but birds per 100 net hours remained constant at 48. Two birds were trapped that were banded elsewhere and eight were banded at Kiptopeke in previous years. 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. The following observations are offered in comparing 1994 banding results with previous years:

1. The five Clay-colored Sparrows banded in 1994 is the highest count since the station was founded. The previous high was three in 1988.

2. The banding of two Fish Crows added the 159th species to our station list.
3. The Lark Sparrow banded this year was the first since 1972.
4. This year's Henslow's Sparrow was the first since 1983.
5. The 10 Northern Cardinals banded was the lowest since 1985.
6. No Great Crested Flycatchers were banded for the fifth consecutive year. Prior to 1990, an average of five were banded annually.
7. The eight Sharp-shinned Hawks banded were half as many as in the past three years. Prior to that time, a hawk banding station was operated and their results were included in our banding station numbers.

Licensed banders in charge of the station for varying periods of time were Dave Leake, James Pion, Down Schwab, Walter Smith, Bryan Watts, and John Dillard. Other banders and assistants played a vital role in the success of the station and their help is greatly appreciated. Interpretative assistance was provided by Mary Arginteanu, Fred Adams, Jamerson Hook, and others. This was needed because the station was visited by 55 school and festival groups comprising 1100 people. On site support was provided by Scott Flickinger, park manager, and his staff.

Smith Farm
Arlington, VA
Edgar Smith

382-7810

This was an unusually warm fall. I continued banding until 28 November but caught very few birds after 20 November.

There were 43 returns, none notable. The oldest was a Carolina Chickadee retrapped 10 October 1994 and banded 23 April 1989 as an AHY. No Northern Cardinals banded before 1992 were retrapped, rather surprising. For the second year in a row I banded an American Tree Sparrow.

A point to consider concerns HY percentages. These figures are comparable one year to another but always understated to some degree. Why? I believe that the bulk of such species as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Eastern Phoebe that are banded after the time when age determination is

reliable and therefore are recorded as "U" are, in fact, HY birds because of their rapid pneumatization.

Chicahauk
Kitty Hawk, NC
H. David Leake

360-0754

This was another disappointing year. Several comparisons from 1993 results illustrate this. Birds/100 net hours dropped from 26.3 in 1993 to 17.6 in 1994. The total number of birds caught also declined, 256 banded in 1993 while only 163 were banded in 1994. While the station operated six fewer days than last year, there were only 45.8 less net hours in 1994. This year the number of Myrtle Warblers dropped from 59 in 1993 to 12 in 1994. Several species included on the list of the ten most commonly banded species failed to appear on the 1994 list, notably Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Gray Catbird, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Numbers of Norther Parula Warbler, Blue Jay, and Red-eyed Vireo were more average in 1994.

The results are puzzling, for the number of birds caught did not seem to have any correlation with cold fronts. The cold fronts on 29 October and 15 November produced few birds. The day of the largest catch there was no wind and the temperature was 66°F. In addition, the vegetation has grown considerably at the banding site providing more food and cover. Still, the numbers have declined.

Scott King-Jordan Gameland **355-0785**
Durham, NC
Liz Pullman

My husband and I were asked to conduct a biological survey on a large tract of land this fall and were able to operate our AFR station for only nine days, which resulted in this year's poor results.

The weather was close to normal this fall, somewhat dry in general but very local showers helped. There were no sharply defined cold fronts bringing large numbers of birds.

The one trend I noticed was the decline of House Finches for all of 1994. At this point I cannot offer any theories for this decline.

Fernwood Science Center **334-0841**
Atlanta, GA
Georgann Schmalz

I operated this station from 15 August to 15 November. The weather did not cooperate this year. We had many cancellations due to rain. Most of my banding is done with school groups and, due to my teaching schedule, we allow only one day every two weeks to set our nets. If it rains that particular day, we don't have an alternate day to make it up.

Just for the record, we found a passerine leg with a band on Jekyll Island, Ga., on 20 September 1994. After checking with Don and Doris Cohrs and Lydia Thompson, who band on the island, I sent the band number off to the Banding Lab. They informed me that the bird was a HY Red-eyed Vireo, sex unknown, banded by Mrs. F. D. Lampham of New Canaan, CT, near Block Island, RI.

Jekyll Island **310-0812**
Brunswick, GA
Don Cohrs

Bird banding produces odd results at Jekyll Island Banding Station. Our catch varies in no discernible pattern. For instance, we had averaged four Yellow-billed Cuckos per year up to 1994. This session we banded 11 of them. The Tree Swallows were either hungry or stupid in 1994, as we banded 31% of our 17 year total, 114 of 481. The Gray Catbirds were back to normal after a big increase in 1993. Our warbler catch went both up and down. Palm Warblers were down to 42% of our total from their usual 45%. The increased number of days with NE winds brought more Blackpoll Warblers than usual, these birds being over-the-water migrants.

Overall, 2380 birds of 53 species was a fairly good year. We did band 505 birds in two days, a sizeable and tiring accomplishment. One hundred forty five birds per 100 net hours is a good capture rate. Not many other stations can equal these results.

Our results would not have been possible without the untiring help of master banders Lydia Thompson and Nannette Johnson. Our other helpers were

Nancy Gobris, Joan Hesterberg, Andy Kinsey, and Chris Pitman.

Butler Island Auxiliary Station 312-0812
Darien, GA
Doris Cohrs

This was the first year of operation for this station. Butler Island is part of the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area operated by Georgia's Department of Natural Resources and is located on US 17 just south of Darien, Ga.

Nets were set up along dikes between impoundments. Major vegetation is shrubby blackberry vines (*Rubus* spp.), greenbrier (*Smilax* spp.), various marsh grasses, marsh elder (*Baccharis* spp.), and occasional red maple (*Acer rubus*) reaching tree proportions. Several of the nets used were two tiers high. These were quite effective against the generally low vegetation.

As noted from the station totals, there was considerably less species diversity than found at Jekyll Island Station, the station I have been connected with for the past 16 years. The Butler Island site is 23 miles north of the Jekyll Island site and 9.5 miles inland from the mouth of the Altamaha River; whereas, the Jekyll Island site is on the south end of a barrier island separated from the next land mass, Little Cumberland Island, by a three-mile sound. Therefore, the species mix was expected to be different.

The number of Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings, and Swamp Sparrows astounded us. The latter two found us totally unprepared as far as adequate numbers of size 1 bands were concerned. There was quite a bit of scrambling around toward the end of October to have sufficient numbers of bands. Many thanks to Lydia Thompson and Frank McCamey for coming to the rescue.

Since Butler Island Auxiliary Station was a new operation and not publicized, it was almost a one-person enterprise. Without the early morning and weekend assistance of Malcolm Hodges and Keith Tassin, biologists with The Nature Conservancy office in Darien, I would not have been able to handle all the birds that I did. There is no way I can thank them enough. The Georgia DNR was very

cooperative with the project, and we hope to be able to use this site again in future years.

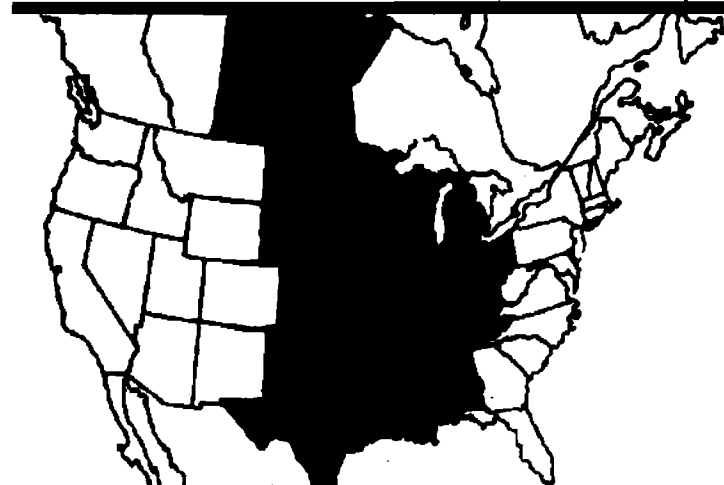
Lakeshore Estates 302-0841
Tallahassee, FL
Peter Homann

This report is the first to the Atlantic Flyway Review from weekend mist netting and banding in a Tallahassee suburban area that has been ongoing for 20 years and is aimed mainly at transient and winter passerines. Three general locations over a distance of 300 m were chosen for placing nets: my family's backyard with scattered mature pine trees and shrubs (including wax myrtles, *Myrica cerifera*); a wooded area (pine, oak, magnolia, beech, sweetgum, and cherry) with dense undergrowth; and a bog with shrubs and a few deciduous trees which, since 1988, borders on a weedy clearing that was established to erect a telecommunication tower. (Permission granted by Cellular One of Tallahassee to continue netting birds in that area is gratefully acknowledged.)

Banding data are reported for the somewhat arbitrary time period of late August to 30 November. This allowed me to include in the tally the (largely transient) early arriving individuals of winter species like Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. From the data summary it is evident that, quite generally, no non-resident or non-wintering species ("true" transient) ever was among the four most frequently captured ones. It is also apparent that a comparatively low number of birds was banded in 1993. In fact, the number of banded Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets as well as thrushes as a group were far below normal (about two standard deviations below the five-year average). This presumably can be attributed to scarcity of food. A late winter storm in 1993 had destroyed the bloom of the wax myrtles, and poor fruit of berry-bearing shrubs was compounded by dry weather during fruit ripening. In contrast, good crops of wax myrtle fruit and berries were produced in 1992 and 1994, and the wet year, 1994, kept the bog flooded throughout the period covered by this report (in the fall of 1992, the bog was flooded only sporadically). Even though the numbers of captured Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets remained low in early fall of 1994 (but not later). Veery were captured in normal or even above-

average numbers. Other species banded in above-normal numbers in 1994 were Acadian Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (four caught; last time I netted one was 1981), Northern Cardinal, and White-eyed Vireo. Cardinals apparently had a very productive breeding season,

while an upward trend for White-eyed Vireos had been evident in my netting area since establishment of the clearing for the telecommunication tower. Nevertheless, the 42 White-eyed Vireos recorded in 1994 were an all-time record.



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION 1995 FALL CONFERENCE AT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Co-chairmen **Tom Little** and **Terrence N. Ingram** organized this year's gathering for 13-15 October. Highlights of the program include the following papers:

Twenty-eight years of banding. Lee Johnson

Lee Johnson started banding as an individual bander and later purchased an area near the Sugar River that he named Sand Bluff Banding Station. With many volunteer helpers, over 230,000 birds have been banded at the station. This effort has produced some very interesting returns and recoveries.

First Aid -- Last Aid. Tom Bartlett

Every bander has had a bird become injured or die at some time or another. Banders should have a "bird" first aid kit to treat injuries of birds (and banders!) and should know what to do to provide sufficient salvage information if a bird dies.

Bluebird Returns near Green Bay, Wisconsin, 1967-1995. Vince Bauldry and Don Beimborn

Since 1967, over 12,000 Eastern Bluebirds have been banded near Green Bay, Wisconsin. Of these birds, 518 individuals have been recaptured 658 times. For birds banded as nestlings, annual survival from one to two years old is about 50%; yearly survival for other year or age categories varied from 20% to 33%. Only 3% of nestlings returned to the same site as banding; 32% of adults returned to banding site.

Tailgate Bird Banding. Forest Strnad

Forest Strnad has been banding in Minnesota since 1957. He began banding Mourning Doves to help F&WS determine where the young birds went when they migrated. His banding work has taken him to many parts of Minnesota where he has banded out of the back of his station wagon and thus has had an opportunity to band many different species of birds in different habitats.

Management Implications of MAPS Program. Cindy Trombino

Participants in the MAPS Program have defined guidelines to follow in order to get results that can be compared in a meaningful way to other