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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region Iv - Fall 1995

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Atlantic Flyway Review:

Region IV - Fall 1995

H. David Leake, Coordinator
Chicahauck Station
133 Poteskeet Trail
Southern Shores, NC 27949

In 1995 there were several changes. In the geographical reorganization of the Atlantic Flyway Review, Region V became Region IV. Our three western stations were changed to Region III. There seemed to be a distinct difference in the species that migrated through the western stations than the more eastern stations within in Region IV. We were pleased to add three new stations: Atlanta Zoo, Back Bay, and Apopka. Region IV shall continue to seek stations in coastal North Carolina and South Carolina.

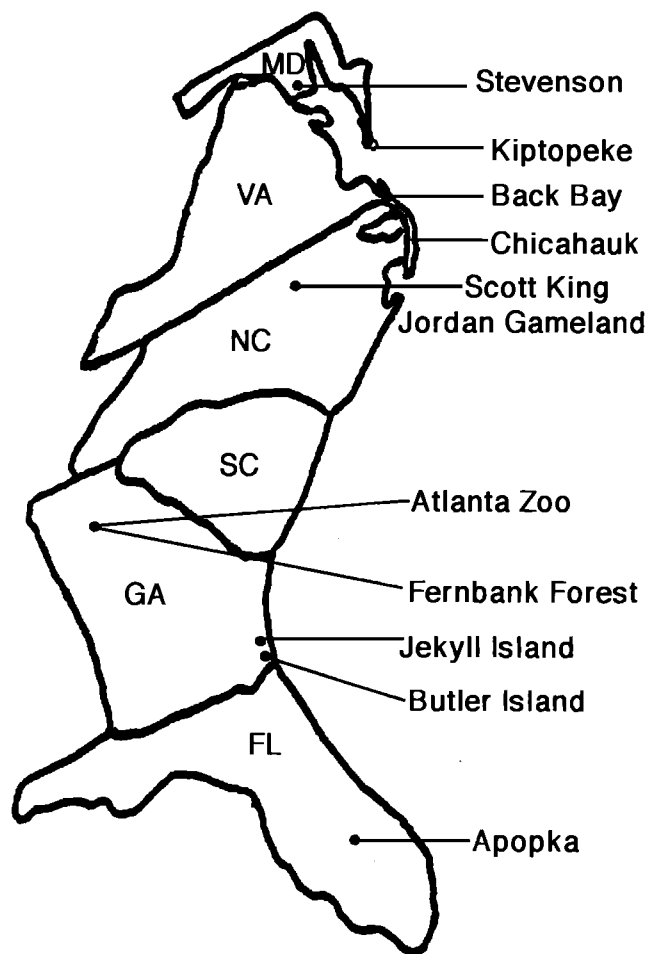
Compared to last year, 1995 showed an increase in the number of birds banded: 13,866 compared to 11,769 in 1994. There was a drop in the percentages of HY birds: 77.7% in 1993, 78.7% in 1994, but only 60% in 1995.

Several species showed stronger numbers compared to 1994. Red-eyed Vireos increased dramatically: five reported in 1994, while 314 were banded in 1995. Gray Catbirds increased from 408 in 1994 to 1008 banded in 1995. Myrtle Warblers also showed up in larger numbers: 408 in 1994 while there were 3724 banded in 1995. Palm Warblers, including both Western and Yellow, increased by almost 500 over 1994 totals. Two species, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Golden-crowned Kinglets, that were on the ten most commonly caught species in 1994, did not appear on any station's top ten list in 1995.

Stevenson
Stevenson, MD
Barbara Ross

392-0764

Fewer days were covered this season due to lack of help. The fields surrounding the station are to be organically managed (which is good), but rye and timothy are planted for hay, and come fall, they will be mowed (which is bad). When corn was there,



the fields would be full of sparrows, Myrtle Warblers, Palm Warblers, and a few surprises. The school has become vigorous in pursuing a horse-back riding program, and this fall, they had new, larger trails constructed in the woods. The deer population continues to increase, lessening the amount of understory. All this seems to affect the number and variety of species.

Despite all my complaints, we caught our first ever Cerulean Warbler! It was a HY male caught 25 Aug. Wood Thrush, Veery, and Black-throated Blue Warbler numbers seem to have remained fairly consistent the past eight years. The catbird numbers dropped from 345 in 1991 to 118 in 1992 but have remained at that level or slightly better since then. I have not caught any Tennessee Warblers in several years: 15 were banded in 1986 and 11 in 1989. We banded only 12 Ruby-

crowned Kinglets this year as compared to 23 in 1994, 40 in 1993, 96 in 1992, and 39 in 1991. It's hard to draw conclusions but banding 11 days fewer in 1995 than 1994 and the situation mentioned above concerning the habitat may be responsible for the changes.

Many thanks to St. Timothy's School for the use of their property. I continue to remain indebted to the ongoing help of Nancy Mullen, Keith Lott, Sandra Naylor, Dixie Mullineaux, Sharon Schwemmer, and Tessie Brumgardt.

Table 1. Fall 1995 Region IV Summary

	Stevenson MD	Kiptopeke VA	Back Bay VA	Chicahauk NC	S King- J Gameland NC
First Day/Last Day	25 Aug/31 Oct	2 Sept/29 Oct	21 Sept/29 Oct	18 Aug/14 Nov	12 Aug/17 Nov
Days Operated	27	54	24	28	18
No. Nets Used	10 to 29	5 to 23	1 to 81	3 to 6	2 to 8
Total Net Hours	3111	7127	N/A	1013.5	261
Largest Daily Catch	91	200	476	24	29
Date of LDC	20 Sept	16 Oct	27 Oct	8 Aug	12 Nov
Birds Banded 1994	1026	3616	3493	216	193
Birds Banded 1995	783	3801	3238	216	193
Diff. Species 1994	70	88	N/A	32	17
Diff. Species 1995	65	87	78	35	27
Birds/100 NH-1994	25	48	N/A	17.6	37
Birds/100 NH-1995	25	53	N/A	21.3	73
% Hatching Year	91%	93%	94.5%	92%	79%

Table 1. Fall 1995 Region IV Summary (Continued)

	Fernbank Forest GA	Atlanta Zoo GA	Jekyll Island GA	Butler Aux St. GA	Apopka FL
First Day/Last Day	12 Sept/16 Nov	7 Sept/11 Oct	24 Sept/22 Oct	3 Sept/29 Oct	31 Aug/29 Oct
Days Operated	7	4	29	52	50
No. Nets Used	8 to 10	5	10 to 17	3 to 14	3 to 9
Total Net Hours	250	23	1573	1985	2206
Largest Daily Catch	18	17	393	93	61
Date of LDC	27 Sept	28 Sept	9 Oct	17 Sept	9 Oct
Birds Banded 1994	63	108	2379	2222	N/A
Birds Banded 1995	59	51	3339	1507	6999
Diff. Species 1994	20	33	52	34	N/A
Diff. Species 1995	15	26	63	47	47
Birds/100 NH-1994	N/A	N/A	145	179	N/A
Birds/100 NH-1995	23	221	212	76	31.7
% Hatching Year	16%	20%	67%	91%	48%

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species - Region IV - 1995.				
Stevenson MD	Kiptopeke VA	Back Bay VA	Chicahauk NC	S King-J Gameland NC
136 GRCA	1273 MYWA	2388 MYWA	52 NOCA	48 AMGO
100 BTBW	282 BTBW	102 AMRE	28 CACH	30 NOCA
68 WOTH	240 COYE	89 GRCA	19 COGR	27 SCJU
40 VEER	202 WPWA	63 REVI	14 CAWR	21 MYWA
39 SOSP	201 AMRE	59 COYE	12 REVI	10 HOFI
36 AMRO	194 SAVS	39 WPWA	8 BLJA	7 MODO
35 OVEN	154 GRCA	39 SWSP	8 BTBW	7 COGR
31 HOWR	110 YPWA	36 BTBW	6 MYWA	6 CACH
28 COYE	99 REVI	30 BAOR	6 AMRE	5 BHNU
26 SWTH	71 SOSP	21 NOPA	6 AMRO	5 ETTI

Table 2. Most Commonly Banded Species - Region IV - 1995 (Continued)				
Fernbank Forest GA	Atlanta Zoo GA	Jekyll Island GA	Butler Aux St. GA	Apopka FL
24 WOTH	9 GRCA	1440 PAWA	815 COYE	129 GRCA
5 CAWR	6 CAWR	854 COYE	109 GRCA	114 COYE
4 BLJA	6 NOCA	237 GRCA	80 NOWA	63 VEER
4 NOCA	6 AMRO	102 AMRE	70 INBU	54 OVEN
4 ETTI	4 AMRE	87 HOWR	57 MYWA	49 BTBW
4 HOWA	4 BRTH	71 REVI	48 PABU	44 AMRE
4 SWTH	4 ETTI	58 INBU	44 YWAR	32 WEVI
2 GCTH	3 REVI	54 BTBW	34 REVI	32 REVI
2 BRTH	2 GCTH	53 PRAW	32 NOMO	26 SWTH
6 OTHER SPECIES	2 SWTH	52 NOCA	30 NOCA	17 HOWR

Kiptopeke Banding Station 370-0755
Townsend, VA
John Dillard

The 32nd year of bird banding in the Kiptopeke area began on 2 September and ran through 27 October. The station, located at Kiptopeke State Park, overlooks Chesapeake Bay at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The station

operated for 54 days with only two days down due to rain. This was made possible by the help of eight banders and 49 assistants. Walter Smith did the editing and tabulation of the field records as well as the comparisons with past records.

The total birds banded, 3801, increased by five percent over last year's total. Eighty-seven species were banded which is the average for the

last ten years. Birds/100 net hours increased from 48 to 53. Fifteen birds that were banded at Kiptopeke in previous years were retrapped. There were 101 repeats this year, which will provide data for the ongoing fat study.

High counts in the history of the station were: 194 Savannah Sparrows compared to the previous high of 38, and 12 Grasshopper Sparrows compared to a previous high of two. No new species were added to our station list.

The following observations are offered by comparing 1995 with previous years:

1. The 282 Black-throated Blue Warblers was the highest total since 1987. For the first time in the history of the station, Common Yellowthroats and American Redstarts, whose numbers dropped, were outpaced by this species.
2. The Western Palm Warbler count of 202 was the highest since 1972.
3. The Yellow Palm Warbler count of 110 was the highest since 1969.
4. This year saw a return of a Black-billed Cuckoo and Great Crested Flycatcher after a five-year absence.
5. A Yellow-throated Warbler was the first record since 1987 and only the third ever.

A presentation about migration and banding was given to 56 groups of people, 31 which were from schools. Total visitors were approximately 1250.

Back Bay
Sandbridge, VA
Rob Simpson

363-0755

Our station is primarily a teaching station for Natural Resource and Environmental Science students at Lord Fairfax Community College. We have three sessions (11 to 14 days long) in May, September, and October. Depending on the class, students learn capture techniques, mist netting, identification, sexing, ageing, data entry, data retrieval, etc. Each student is responsible for approximately ten mist nets (maximum of 15 students/day). We have 126 net lanes, but usually about 85 to 100 are in operation. On big days we have to close down to 20 nets to keep up with the large number of birds. Usually we have two five

aerial nets set up which reach 20 feet into the air. In cooperation with the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, we are doing a project on Neotropical migrants. We are trying to determine the habitat preferences by analyzing the habitat/food/cover type of each net lane. Then we find out who gets most frequently caught in which environment. Our main station is right by the ocean in the first Myrica scrub dune vegetation. It also includes marsh, Baccharis wetlands, wind controlled mud flats, and shallow lagoons. The secondary station includes a closed canopy deciduous swamp and loblolly pine forest.

Other studies include detailed plumage analysis on selected species (Myrtle Warblers, Gray Catbirds, et. al.), migration weather correlations, and "reverse" flights in passerines. Each fall there is a large northerly movement of migratory passerines during the morning. We record the time, net number, and direction of flight for each bird caught. Through a new program developed by one of my former students, we hope to make some sense out of all of the accumulated data. The station has been in operation since the early 1980s.

Chicahauk
Kitty Hawk, NC
H. David Leake

360-0754

There was little change in overall results between 1994 and 1995. One interesting occurrence was the rather large increase of Northern Cardinals: 22 in 1994 compared to 52 banded in 1995. Several species banded in 1994 did not show up this year, such as Black-and-white Warblers, Winter Wrens, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

During the 1995 banding season, I lost one of my most productive net sites due to development on the lot adjacent to mine. In spite of this loss, the total birds banded increase: 163 in 1994 to 216 in 1995. The birds/100 net hours also increase from 17.6 in 1994 to 21.3 in 1995.

I'm hoping that when construction stops in the neighboring lot and the cleared vegetation is replaced with net plantings, my banding will improve. Time will tell.

Atlanta Zoo
Atlanta, GA
Suzanne Elder

334-0841

The purpose of our study at the Atlanta Zoo is to find out whether the vast amount of plantings we've done here at the zoo in the past years is providing suitable habitat for Neotropical migratory birds. (Originally we were also interested in our resident population, but because of manpower constraints, we had to drop that idea for the time being.) We began the project in the fall of 1994 for six weeks during migration, and then again in the spring and fall of this year. Because we rely mostly on zoo personnel for help, we could only open the nets on one day per week during the six-week period. We hope in the future to recruit more assistance and increase our net days.

Our fall 1995 banding season was shorter than usual due to Hurricane Opal and other inclement weather. We banded only four of our usual six days. We had no foreign recaptures but did have several recaptures of our own.

Fernwood Science Center
Atlanta, GA
Georgann Schmalz

334-0841

We changed our banding site from a large tract of field and edge to the forest behind the Science Center. Fernback Forest is about 70 acres of old growth mature hardwoods and a few pines. It will be easier to band in the forest since we can safely leave our poles and nets up without their being disturbed. This year we were pleasantly surprised by the 24 WOTH we netted.

I had an interesting recapture this fall: a WTSP banded on 22 November 1991 was recaptured here on 6 January 1993 and again on 16 November 1995. I actually have about a half dozen recaptures from previous winters, but never a bird from four winters ago.

Scott King-Jordan Gameland
Durham, NC
Liz Pullman

355-0785

This fall was much better than last fall. The most notable banding observation is the earlier-than-

usual arrival of Slate-colored Juncos and Myrtle Warblers. They were coming through in good numbers by early November. I did not start picking up any returns until around Thanksgiving. By December, our wintering flock had formed around our yard. Notable observations by my husband Jim included a sizable flock of migrants on 11 and 12 September. Included were Magnolia Warblers, a Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

On 24 September, I banded a Bay-breasted Warbler and on 27 September, the first Connecticut Warbler appeared and spent the day parading around our yard. Spotted the same day were several Magnolia Warblers and the first Red-breasted Nuthatch showed up. A Nashville Warbler on 6 October was a final notable observation. I have concluded from all of the above that there is a "Migrants-Go-Away" sign on my roof on Saturdays and Sundays!

Jekyll Island
Brunswick, GA
Don Cohrs

310-0812

This was a vintage year at JIBS. We almost caught up to our best years, 1988 and 1989; 3339 birds of 63 species put 1995 in third place all time in numbers and fourth in species count. Our operation was a repeat of the last years, with no changes in net sites or vegetation. The basic reason for this abundance can be ascertained by analyzing the weather data. We had eight days with northerly winds, five of these days being overcast until noon and no rainfall.

We had our first return in several years: a Painted Bunting banded in 1994 as a HY/F. It was netted twice this year.

The Western Palm Warbler and the Common Yellowthroat appear to have done well during the 1994 breeding season, but the number of White-eyed Vireos was down. The surprise was the number of Northern Cardinals. We banded four times the number banded in each of the last three years.

Our mainstays in the operation were master banders Lydia Thompson and Nannette Johnson and chief "band-aides" Nancy Gobris, Chris and Jan Pitman, and Joan Hesterberg. We also want to acknowledge the help of Patricia Moore and her toddler son, Roger Atchison, Ashley Harrington, Louise Macul, Kelly Stewart, and Jennifer Bailey. The latter women came from northern Ontario to help us. There were many other helpers too numerous to mention by name.

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

In an attempt to increase the variety of migrants banded at BIAS, we set up a new site this year. With only a one year past history, we are still feeling our way. By moving the station just 1/2 mile to the northwest, we did, in fact, greatly increase the variety of species. However, we had a large overall drop in numbers as well as many fewer birds per 100 net hours. The new site is still in the Georgia DNR waterfowl management area and nets were situated along dikes between impoundments as was done last year. The major difference is in the more advanced stage of vegetative succession along these dikes. Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), wild cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) and sumac (*Rhus copallina*) reach moderate to tall size along some of the net lanes and provided enough shade to allow longer hours of operation, a factor we must consider in this climate. There are also several dense tangles of willow (*Salix sp.*), Cherokee rose (*Rosa laevigata*), pepper vine (*Ampelopsis*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) in this new location. These tangles were very attractive to the migrants at times.

We were amazed at the reduced numbers of INBU's (from 552 in '94 down to 70 this year) and SWSP's (508 to 21). This decrease is probably not a function of the change of sites but more likely related to the actual scarcity of these birds. My assistant birded the old site frequently and did not see many of either of these species. Perhaps the bumper crop in '94 was merely a fluke. Whatever the case, the COYE's were again to be found in large numbers.

We learned of the recovery of one of last year's INBU's in DuBois, PA, in July of this year. We felt one recovery out of 2222 birds was fairly lucky. It was several years before JIBS ever had a recovery.

Keith Tassin, the botanist with the Nature Conservancy office in Darien, was my mainstay. He helped for two hours each morning before going to work and most weekends. I could not have managed without him. Don Cohrs also helped most mornings, except while the JIBS station was in operation. Carole Amason, Andrew Edgar, and Jessica Blair also helped out a few mornings. The latter three helpers are all under the tender age of ten and are excellent and gentle bird releasers. Perhaps in years to come they will carry on as a full-fledged bander.

Wekiva Basin GEOPark 284-0812
Apopka, FL
Parks Small

This was our first year running the migration banding station at Wekiva Basin GEOPark. The GEOPark encompasses some 50,000 acres. Bird surveys of this area have been conducted since 1977. Two dedicated banders, Bob Sicolo and Richard Poole, who often neglected work during the passage of a cold front, and I learned a great deal. Our netting efforts were concentrated in the morning hours of September and October. A number of local birders who visited our migration station as well as our MAPS station plan to assist us next year. While we did not have any earth-shattering captures, we did add six new species to the park list: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Gray-cheeked Thrush.

