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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

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**Eden Mill**

Pylesville, Harford Co., MD

**Mark S. Johnson***Mark.S.Johnson@us.army.mil***394-0762**

This year's results generally suggest breeding conditions were favorable for migrants. Fall of 2006 provided our best numbers in the last four years. Although our days in the field were fewer, numbers of birds banded were roughly comparable to other years and birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) were at our highest so far (89.5). The top five species banded were not different from last year, though the proportions of hatching-year birds were higher. Myrtle Warblers, Swamp Sparrows, and Carolina Wrens made it to the top ten species this year. Numbers of Field, Fox, and Lincoln's sparrows were fewer than expected and are down compared to previous years.

Best days are regularly in mid-to-late October including the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, where the former produced the greatest species diversity (19) and the latter the greatest number of individuals. In both cases, White-throated Sparrows were the most common. Our first Blue-headed Vireo was netted on 22 Oct. Not included in our data are 30 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which were not banded because of ethical considerations.

Many thanks to our volunteers, who make each day especially enjoyable: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Les Eastman, and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

**Foreman's Branch Bird Observ. 391-0755**

Chino Farms, Chestertown

Queen Anne's Co., MD

**J. M. Gruber***201 Maple Ave., Chestertown, MD 21620*

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory is the new name for Chino Farms. We take our new name from the creek and dammed lake beside the station. We completed our ninth fall season of banding in 2006. Habitat in the area remained the same as last year, with farm and station staff performing habitat modification where needed to maintain the original mix. Migration was already evident on the first day of August when we started, and remained good until mid-November. We did

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not experience any prolonged periods of east or southeast winds this fall that tend to shut down migration through this location. With a slight increase in nets and the ability to stay open a little longer in the early afternoon, we increased our net hours greatly. The early afternoon, while productive in species diversity, is usually lower in numbers. This combination of increased net hours and lower numbers held down our birds per net hour, but still maintained it above 30 birds.

We banded three new species for the station this fall. They were Canada Goose on 12 Nov, Northern Harrier on 22 Aug, and a western race Willow Flycatcher (pending reviews by records committees and the banding office) on 12 Sep. Other highlights were a Red-tailed Hawk on 16 Aug, a Red-shouldered Hawk on 8 Oct, a flicker intergrade on 19 Nov, a Gambel's race of the White-crowned Sparrow on 30 Oct, a Brewster's Warbler on 12 Sep, and Orange-crowned Warblers on 4, 16, and 26 Oct.

In addition to the banders already listed, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Helga Orrick, Doug Gill, Jeannine Tardiff, Hillary Staver, Nancy Lee, and Jared Parks.

**Chincoteague Natl. Wildlife Ref. 375-0752**

Assateague Island, Accomac Co., VA

**Richard N. Roberts***bandbird@verizon.net*

The 2006 fall banding was dominated completely by the Myrtle Warblers that started on 4 Oct. B/100nh were 7.6 in August, 28.7 in September, 181.4 in October, and 181.8 in November. In August, the total birds banded was only 12, and in September, 77.

The top-ten bird list had never before included the Brown Creeper; this year's total was more than twice the average. All of these birds were captured in the nets in the shrubs behind the beach, suggesting they had been blown out over the ocean.

The 20 Oct cold front brought the Myrtle Warblers and from then on they dominated every banding day, resulting in this species accounting for 70% of

the total. On three days, the nets had to be closed early because of the abundance of Myrtle Warblers being captured. On one day, 35 Myrtles were released without bands.

**Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Sta. 371-0755**  
Cape Charles, Northampton Co., VA  
**Jethro Runco, head bander**  
[jethrorunco@aol.com](mailto:jethrorunco@aol.com)

The Kiptopeke banding station was in operation for the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, starting back in 1963. The 8,773 individuals banded this season make it the second highest total since 1982 (24 years), beaten only by the 2005 season when 9,567 were banded.

After two years of habitat improvement at the station, this was the first year with only limited changes during the season. During the off-season, lots of young oaks and myrtles were planted in areas where pines once stood. Also, many recruiting plants and shrubs have started to fill in the open areas. It is hopeful that over the next few years the understory will completely fill in, creating a more diversified forest and food supply for migrating birds.

Once again, the high number of individuals captured was attributed to the dedicated staff of volunteers and the huge movement of birds that passed through the area in the middle of October. Being well staffed helped us band 625 birds on 16 Oct. During the 19-day period between 13 and 31 Oct, we banded a total of 4,648 individuals. Thirteen and 16 Oct were our most diverse days, with 31 species banded each day.

This season saw its share of interesting and rare birds. The biggest highlight (note "biggest") came on 15 Nov when we actually caught a Great Blue Heron in a passerine net! More amazing, it was the second one caught at Kiptopeke: the first being caught on 24 Oct 1969. Herons are not done, however! We also caught the second ever Green Heron on 6 Sep. On 8 Oct, we banded the third ever Belted Kingfisher. However, this individual is actually the first one ever banded at Kiptopeke State Park! The first two were both banded the same day (1 Sep 1991), the only year the banding station was not at the current location! Other

species of note were Warbling Vireo (12<sup>th</sup> ever), Hairy Woodpecker (15<sup>th</sup> ever), Chuck-will's-widow (16<sup>th</sup>), and the latest known Kentucky Warbler (34<sup>th</sup> here) for the state of Virginia (26 Oct!). During the 2006 season, 14 species set new ten-year highs. Sadly, only one was a warbler: Northern Waterthrush at 82 banded; previous high 75. The Kiptopeke station is highly indebted to its many volunteers. Their help is essential to run this station and greatly appreciated! Also, thanks to the Kiptopeke State Park and Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

**Jekyll Island Banding Station 310-0812**  
Jekyll Island, GA  
**Chris Pitman**, Jan Pitman, Charles Ratliff  
[ovenbird@earthlink.net](mailto:ovenbird@earthlink.net)

The 2006 session of JIBS was abbreviated in that we were able to operate for only two weeks. This factor certainly affected our overall total for the year. We normally operate during the last week of September through the first two weeks of October, but we had to adjust this year's session to the second and third weeks of October. This adjustment seemed to account for MYWAs atypically becoming our third highest quantity species.

As usual WPWAs and COYEs were in plentiful supply, accounting for 62% of our total. Capturing 18 RCKIs allowed us to study this species in detail; our usual quantity is two.

The Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival brought us numerous visitors to educate. One of our primary goals at the station is to inform the public not only about the birds but also about the importance of stop-over areas for migrants. Not surprisingly, developers are trying to lay siege to every square inch of this barrier island that they can get their hands on.

**Tomoka Bird Banding Station 292-0810**  
Ormond Beach, Volusia Co., FL  
**Meret Wilson**  
[MILEYBUG@aol.com](mailto:MILEYBUG@aol.com)

Tomoka Bird Banding Station (TBBS) is located in Tomoka State Park, Ormond Beach, FL (29.3481° N, 81.0853° W). Following a devastating hurricane season in 2004, the banding station finally opened