

2007

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station

Jethro Runco

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Runco, Jethro (2007) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 32 : Iss. 3 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol32/iss3/11>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

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

The Kiptopeke banding station was in operation for the 44th 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 (12th ever), Hairy Woodpecker (15th ever), Chuck-will's-widow (16th), and the latest known Kentucky Warbler (34th 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

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

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