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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Jekyll Island Banding Station

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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
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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
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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
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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

on 19 Oct 2004. Meret S. Wilson is the primary bander and runs the station. Richard Poole, who runs Wekiva Basin Bird Banding Station in Wekiwa State Park, Orlando, FL, is the Master Bander. Banding is continuous from late August through the end of May, with weather determining banding frequency during January and February. Due to the heat, banding is not conducted during the summer months.

The banding station is located on a spoil island surrounded by water on three sides. The area is a mixture of live oak, red cedar, wax myrtle, and mangroves with some grassy areas and a few slash pines. The entire park lost a tremendous number of trees throughout in the wake of hurricanes Charlie and Frances. Slowly the understory is returning from the damage caused by the fallen trees. The park itself is about 2,000 ac (1809 ha) in the heart of rapidly growing urban sprawl, containing hiking trails, a boat ramp, and campgrounds. The park is an oasis for birds and a restful gem for humans.

The banding station uses three sections of the island as the seasons change. Fall migration favors the grassier area with large numbers of wax myrtle present. Spring migration is heavier in the oaks and slash pines. A midsection between the two areas is especially active during the deep winter months.

During the 2004-2005 season, 360 birds were banded and 43 birds were recaptured, mostly local residents, with Northern Cardinals being the highest number. In 2005-2006, the number of newly banded birds increased to 496, with 56 recaptures. The 2006-2007 season showed a tremendous jump in numbers, with 758 new birds banded and 79 recaptures, including both resident and migrant birds from previous seasons. The rarest species of the fall 2006 season was a Bell's Vireo. A total of 61 different species have been banded to date. Eleven migrants have returned to the park from previous seasons: six Gray Catbirds, two Ovenbirds, three Myrtle Warblers, and one foreign recaptured male Black-throated Blue Warbler, origin of band yet to be determined. These recaptured birds showed amazing site fidelity.

The most exciting recaptures occurred in the early winter of 2007 when two Myrtle Warblers were recaptured a week apart in the very same net they were both caught in on the same day at the same time in the spring of 2005. What makes this so remarkable is that the species with the largest number of birds banded this season was the Myrtle Warbler. There were literally thousands overwintering in Tomoka State Park.

TBBS will enter its fourth season in the fall of 2007. A huge thank-you to Charley DuToit, park biologist; Joe Isaac, resident ranger; the tremendously supportive staff of the park; and volunteer Bert Charest for the success thus far of this banding station.

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This was the fifth year of mistnetting at BBCFSP during fall migration. Sixteen nets were placed in a restored hardwood hammock that is part of a multi-million dollar project to return native vegetation to the park. The goal of this banding project is to determine whether the restored habitats are suitable for fall migrant landbirds, and also to describe migration in south Florida.

We were able to start in time this year to catch the early migration, and nets were opened for the first time on 9 Aug. Eleven of 16 net locations were completely changed due to forest damage from 2005's Hurricane Wilma. The new locations proved to be successful and we captured a record number of birds in 2006. Most of the trees that had fallen over last year were still alive and producing fruit while understory vegetation had thickened with the loss of most of the canopy.

The weather for the 2006 field season was remarkably benign. The only hurricane threat was Tropical Storm Ernesto in late August, but he never lived up to his potential. The site was open every day from 14 Aug until 27 Oct, with no down time due to rain or excessively slow periods, and we ended the field season on 6 Nov. This was a front-