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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Lakeshore Estates

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driven migration, with significant movements nearly every week between 27 Aug and 3 Nov. We finally captured over 100 birds in one day on four separate days: 104 on 28 Sep, 101 on 9 Oct, 109 on 14 Oct, and 132 on 22 Oct. This last day was the highest total ever banded in one day in the five-year history of the site, and featured 97 Black-throated Blue Warblers. These are small numbers when compared to many other sites, but we are not swamped by shorter-distance migrants this far south.

Seven species were banded for the first time: Yellow-bellied and Least flycatchers, Yellow-throated Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, Cerulean Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. We captured 2561 birds of 60 species, at an overall rate of 50 b/100nh. This is much greater than our previous high of 1445 birds captured in 2004 at a rate of 41 b/100nh. Overall diversity was nearly the same as in 2005; we caught no vagrants but did band some rare but regular migrants. *Empidonax* flycatchers were well represented this year, with 19 Traill's banded along with our first ever Yellow-bellied and Least flycatchers. The number of Traill's banded this fall is nearly four times our previous high of five banded in 2005. Veery numbers were up significantly in 2006, while Gray-cheeked Thrushes were down, and Swainson's Thrushes were banded in moderate numbers. This is probably due to weather patterns; radar observations showed many birds bypassing deep south Florida by cutting across the Gulf from the central west coast during a time when many Gray-cheeks and Swainson's were on the move.

The big news of the 2006 fall season was the large number of our regular migrant species banded. Previous banding highs were shattered for the following species: Red-eyed Vireo, 169 (72/2005); White-eyed Vireo, 40 (13/2004); Northern Parula, 105 (37/2004); Prairie Warbler, 50 (36/2003); American Redstart, 307 (185/2005); Ovenbird, 364 (247/2005); Northern Waterthrush, 99 (70/2005); Common Yellowthroat, 198 (95/2005); Painted Bunting, 35 (17 in 2002); and most impressively, Black-throated Blue Warbler, 558 (277/2004). These increases in numbers are partially due to the change in net locations and traffic patterns of birds through the site as a result of the canopy loss, but

local birders also reported a steady strong movement of our regular, mainly Caribbean-bound migrants throughout the entire fall.

Adult migrants continue to make up a significant percentage of our captures, with only 59.3% of the overall total consisting of hatching-year (HY) birds. This percentage has remained fairly constant over the five years the site has been operating. The percent of HY birds within species has been less consistent, but generally still shows a greater proportion of adults to young than many other coastal banding stations report. Species such as American Redstart, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush continue to vary between 40 and 60% adults over the years of the study. Red-eyed Vireos, Common Yellowthroats, and Gray Catbirds have consistently had a lower percentage of adults but still range between 7 and 30% adult birds over the seasons.

Fourteen birds returned from previous years, all as winter residents except for the six resident Northern Cardinals recaptured. A Northern Waterthrush was the first return of that species we have recorded. Six Ovenbirds and one Gray Catbird rounded out the returns. The catbird was a first-time recapture of a bird banded in 2002. Two of the Ovenbirds were banded in 2002 and have returned every winter since, so the hurricane damage does not seem to have affected the suitability of the site for wintering. We captured one foreign recovery Ovenbird in 2006, and are still waiting to learn the origin.

Long-term volunteers Robin Diaz and Elizabeth Golden have graduated to full bander status. This project would not be possible without their efforts and the capable assistance of Amber Albores. Special thanks to Robert Yero, the Park manager, for continuing to support our research.

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Whereas banding activity at my Tallahassee site in the fall of 2005 had covered almost 12 weeks, the period covered in 2006 was only about half as long.

This is comparable to the efforts in 2002 and 2003. My banding summaries, therefore, should be compared to one of those years instead of to 2005.

Netting success was disappointingly low during the first weeks of October, but a sudden influx of Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets ended the season on a somewhat encouraging note. Both species made it to near the top of the list of the ten most commonly banded species. This was particularly reassuring in the case of the Myrtle Warbler, because it had been absent from the list for the past three years. On the other hand, White-eyed Vireo is missing from the list for the first time since 1994, the year I began contributing to the Atlantic Flyway Review. In fact, this species always could be counted upon to make the top half of the list, but this year I captured only three individuals.

The fat load of White-eyed Vireos I capture in October typically is quite high, indicating that most of them are prepared for a trans-Gulf flight. Perhaps a large number of individuals perished in the ferocious hurricanes of 2005. Many thrushes may have met the same fate, because I netted just one Gray-cheeked Thrush and not a single Swainson's Thrush.

Noteworthy among the recaptures during the period covered by my report is a White-eyed Vireo banded in Feb 2001. This individual has always remained quite lean and is known to me as a year-round resident male. As I am writing this, I can report that he survived another winter and is now in his eighth year at least. Not to travel obviously is his recipe for a long life.

EBBA's 2008 Annual Meeting

The 2008 annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association will be **11-13 Apr at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie, PA**. The North American Banding Council will meet in conjunction with the EBBA meeting at the same location.

NABC will have its council meeting on 10 Apr. EBBA's council meeting will take place on 11 Apr.

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