

2010

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2009 North Folly Island, Lighthouse Preserve Banding Station

Chris Snook

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

Recommended Citation

Snook, Chris (2010) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2009 North Folly Island, Lighthouse Preserve Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 35 : Iss. 2 , Article 31. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol35/iss2/31>

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.

Charleston, SC. We operated at two undeveloped sites; one on each end of the island and representing two distinct habitat types. One site (Captain Sam's Spit) is situated in secondary dune scrub/shrub and marsh dominated by wax-myrtle, sea ox-eye, and marsh-elder. The other site (Cougar Island) is located within a small old field surrounded by maritime forest. Each site maintained eight nets and was operated once per week, weather permitting, from September through November. Nets were generally opened 30 min before sunrise and closed approximately five hours later.

Captain Sam's Spit was operated for 13 days resulting in 502 net-hours (nh). In total, 521 new individuals were banded along with 83 recaptures. Average capture rate was 104 b/100nh. Forty-one species were captured; however, three species made up 57% of the season's catch: Gray Catbirds (22%), Common Yellowthroats (19%), and Myrtle Warblers (16%). Three color-banded male Painted Buntings were recovered, presumably part of the Painted Bunting Observer Team (PBOT) program; however, at the time of this report, no banding data for these birds have been submitted.

Cougar Island was operated for eight days resulting in 258 nh. A total of 283 new individuals were banded along with 27 recaptures. Average capture rate was 110 b/100nh. Thirty-nine species were banded, including one individual of the Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrush complex and both races of Palm Warbler. A male Common Yellowthroat banded on 3 Nov was reported dead the following day in Ormond Beach, Florida, a journey of approximately 300 mi by land or 250 mi shortcutting across the Atlantic Ocean.

We express gratitude to the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and equipment. Additionally, we thank Kiawah Development Partners for permission to band on their property. We acknowledge the expertise of Chris Snook for helping us get our banding station up and running and devoting his time to assist us through the fall migration.

North Folly Island

324-0795

Lighthouse Creek

Heritage Preserve Banding Station

Chris Snook, Director of Banding,
Cape Romain Bird Observatory,
P.O. Box 362, McClellanville, SC 29458.

snook_c@bellsouth.net

Helpers: Carole Bennett, Aaron Given, Jesse Fagan, Carl Broadwell.

Trapping effort remained about the same as last year with 20 visits during the recording period. The fall migration this year was disappointing because of the lack in number of birds and species caught.

Weather conditions were different from last year with very few tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Basin that would affect the nearshore migration patterns. Temperatures remained higher than normal toward the end of October and through to early November, which combined with a lack of wind from the western quarter resulted in an apparent poor migration. The pronounced decrease, by approximately one third (Table 1), in this year's totals was most likely attributable to the weather conditions that probably kept most of the migrants in the mountains.

Looking at the species, there was a notable reduction in the number of warblers compared with 2008, by as much as 90% for some individual species; e.g., Black-throated Blue Warbler (-88%), Northern Waterthrush (-80%), Palm Warbler (-96%) (probably because of the wind direction), and Myrtle Warbler (-90%) (probably because of the warm weather). Ground-feeding warbler numbers were up; e.g., Yellow-breasted Chat (+230%), Ovenbird (+50%), and Worm-eating Warbler (four caught, none in the past two years). Vireos also were affected: Red-eyed Vireo was down (-66%) while White-eyed Vireo was up (+33%). Gray Catbird numbers were up from last year (+27%) and remained the number one species at the site.

Despite the drop in numbers, presumably because of the weather conditions, some interesting birds were caught. The capture of an Alder Flycatcher

represented a possible first documented record of the species for the State. This fall yielded two interesting foreign recaptures of significance. The first was a Gray Catbird banded by Danny Bystrak's group at Laurel, MD, that had been banded only eleven days previously. The second was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet trapped in November, that was originally banded a month earlier by Betsy Brooks at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory in the Town of Greece, NY. A Gray Catbird banded at the end of September was found dead on Long Key, FL, at the beginning of Mar 2010, representing the first long-distance recovery of a bird banded at this station.

Jekyll Island Banding Station 310-0812

Glynn Co., GA

Chris Pitman, Master Bander

Ovenbird@att.net

The 2009 banding session was pared down from the usual three week session to two weeks, the availability of banders being the primary reason for the shortened session. Life brings changes; sometimes the changes are not preferred.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their generosity, patience, and fortitude. It is not easy to slog through sand, while giving blood (to mosquitoes), under the blazing sun. It takes a special and somewhat eccentric person to want to become involved with the station. Extra special thanks to Carol Schneier, Evan Pitman, Laura Steadman, Diane Laws, and Bob Williams.

The overall numbers were markedly low this year with the shortened session and only one cold front moving through during the time span in which we were banding. Common Yellowthroats and Western Palm Warblers accounted for nearly fifty percent of total captures, as usual. A rarity for us, a Yellow-throated Vireo (AHY) was an exciting species to have in the hand. Not quite as rare but infrequent, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (HY) peeked everyone's interest.

Tomoka Bird Banding Station

292-0810

Ormond Beach, Volusia Co., FL

Meret S. Wilson

MILEYBUG@aol.com

The fall 2009 banding season was the best of the six years of operation for Tomoka. Fall alone surpassed three of the five total years' data. In 49 days of banding, only one day had a zero capture day. The weather was perfect (except for the record heat in October), making no days needing to be cancelled. This fall had a steady stream of visitors, finally indicating an increased interest in banding on the whole and this station in particular. Several volunteers have become regulars and for the first time I have three people who can extract birds from the nets.

The most amazing thing that happened this season was the capture and banding of an Audubon's Warbler. This may be the first Audubon's Warbler ever banded in Florida. One other was reported in 1958, but notes by the bander suggest the bird was actually a Myrtle Warbler. Both are of the species Yellow-rumped Warbler, but the two different races are generally separated by the Rocky Mountains. The 2009 bird has been documented with photographs for rare bird entry into state records with the Florida Ornithological Society.

Three brand new species, never before accounted for within the state park boundaries, were captured and banded: Acadian Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Field Sparrow. Photographs have been published on the Halifax River Audubon website for documentation. Several other birds, previously never recorded as seen at the park, were seen "hanging" around the station but refusing to be caught: a female Blue Grosbeak, two adult male Eastern Towhees, a Gray Kingbird, and a close overhead flyby of a white adult Snow Goose.

Recaptures of previously banded birds at Tomoka have also been remarkable. Two Myrtle Warblers, both banded more than three years ago, were caught in nets within 50 ft of their original capture nets. Again this is quite amazing because of the huge