

2010

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2009 Jekyll Island Banding Station

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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

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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

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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