

2011

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2010 Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

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have operated seven days each in August and November and 14 days in September and October for a total of 42 days, generally on a M/W/F schedule. Nets were opened by dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later.

A total of 1,876 birds of 79 species were banded, exceeding our previous three-year average of 1,796 birds of 76 species. Families that showed a slight (2-3%) increase over their 2007-2009 average included: warblers 25%, kinglets 17%, and vireos 7%; whereas, those showing a slight decline were sparrows 25% and mimids 9%, with no change for thrushes. Several warblers showed significant increases over their previous 2007-2009 high: Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, and Tennessee. Concomitantly, American Redstart, and Myrtle and Connecticut warblers showed a noticeable decline from their previous 2007-2009 low. Other species having a particularly strong showing compared to their previous 2007-2009 highs were Golden-crowned Kinglets, Slate-colored Juncos and a near record-breaking eight Philadelphia Vireos, the most since 1983.

Other highlights included our 2<sup>nd</sup> Black-capped Chickadee, 4<sup>th</sup> American Woodcock, 8<sup>th</sup> Great Crested Flycatcher, 13<sup>th</sup> White-crowned Sparrow, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Orange-crowned Warbler and 17<sup>th</sup> Warbling Vireo since 1980. In addition, we banded an HY male Eastern Towhee with a split lower bill that was crossed, a Yellow Palm Warbler with four alula feathers (instead of three) on both wings, and an HY Swainson's Thrush whose outer primary and outer three primary coverts on both wings were white.

In 2010 with 1,876 bandings we had 332 recaptures of 196 individual birds of 27 species. We had eight individual birds originally banded in 2007, nine from 2008, and twelve from 2009. While we had a similar banding rate (1,902 bandings) in 2009, we had a much more robust recapture rate in 2009: 465 recaptures of 306 individual birds of 34 species. Of those 306 birds, 60 were banded in either 2007 or 2008. One contributor to this decline may have been

the record-setting snowfall (aka snowmageddon) of the 2009-2010 winter season (at least 72.3" at nearby BWI Airport). This may have had a negative impact on the survivability of some of the year-round species (e.g., Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee) and other species that winter here (e.g., White-throated Sparrow, Hermit Thrush). Of that sub-set, in the 2009 recapture season we had 41 birds of seven species banded in 2008 or 2007; whereas, in the 2010 recapture season, we had only six birds of three species banded in 2008 or 2009. Greatly assisting in this effort were: Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report), Mike Quinlan, Jo Anna Lutmerding, Woody Martin, and Bruce Peterjohn. Special thanks to Deanna Dawson who filled in as bander-in-charge on occasion. Our thanks also to the many others who lent occasional assistance.

**Foreman's Branch  
Bird Observatory**

**391-0760**

Chestertown, Queen Anne's County, MD

**J. G. Gruber\*, P. Gruber, M. E. Gimpel, D. M. Small, W. Snyder, and A. C. Spears**, Banders

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Foreman's Branch completed its 13<sup>th</sup> fall banding season this year. Productivity was slightly above the ten-year average. Species diversity was our highest ever for a fall, with two new species, Mallard and Rusty Blackbird. Weather was more nearly normal with regular cold fronts passing through almost on a weekly timetable. Banding highlights included the following fall record-breaking species totals: 277 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 89 Bobolinks, 980 Indigo Buntings, 93 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 194 Purple Finches, 43 Pine Siskins, and 231 Eastern White-crowned Sparrows with one Gambel's race on 1 Nov. Other highlights included two Semipalmated Sandpipers, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Owl, Whip-poor-will, three Orange-crowned Warblers, Golden-winged Warbler, and Summer Tanager.

For the third fall in a row under Maren's direction we collected hundreds of tick samples for a researcher at Yale University for a Lyme disease

study. In addition to the banders listed above, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Doug Gill, Victoria Cadby, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Bernie Lohr, Rachel Field, Lisa Spears, Bill and Chris Gimpel, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

#### **Chincoteague**

**375-0752**

##### **National Wildlife Refuge**

Chincoteague Island, Accomack County, VA

**Richard N. Roberts**, Bander

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The weather was a major factor this year, since many days were very windy and thus reduced the capture rate or precluded banding altogether. Cold fronts to bring birds were usually followed by windy days with no banding possible. This was the first time for an immature White-crowned Sparrow. Table 2 indicates some different species in the top ten for this year compared to last year.

#### **Kiptopeke**

**371-0755**

##### **Songbird Banding Station**

Cape Charles, Northhampton Co., VA

**Bob Reilly**, Station Master

*rjreilly@vcu.edu*

In Fall 2010, Kiptopeke Banding Station was in operation for its 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, dating back to 1963. The season started on 18 Aug and ran through 22 Nov. The station operated for 92 of those days, capturing a total of 95 species. In total, 8,470 individuals were banded this season, more than doubling the season total last year and well above the season average of 7,254 since 1997, when the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) took over operation of the station. This increase was due largely to an expansion of the station into some adjacent developing shrub/scrub habitat. It was clear to staff members in 2009 that a substantial number of the migrants were drawn to this habitat. Thus, four relatively unproductive nets were discontinued for 2010 and a six-net horseshoe array was added into the shrub/scrub area, raising the total nets to 26. The results were impressive.

The new array of six nets caught 29% of the station's total captures and showed high diversity as well. A further expansion of six more nets in the shrub/scrub area is planned for 2011. The fall 2010 season saw a return of some very high volume days, with the 780 newly banded birds on 30 Oct setting a modern era record for the station. Fortunately, the station was able to field several banders and an excellent staff of highly skilled net runners to meet the challenge.

Finally, we were very pleased to have long time CVWO staff member and outstanding passerine bander Calvin Brennan take over as the lead bander at Kiptopeke this season. He was ably assisted by intern Jennifer Wilcox and a group of long-time volunteer banders and net runners that are vital to the station's operation. The public is always welcome at Kiptopeke; and this year many, many visitors of all ages, including school groups (primary school to college), bird clubs, master naturalists, scout groups, elder hostels, families, and individuals availed themselves of the opportunity.

#### **Kiawah Island Banding Station 326-0801**

Kiawah Island, Charleston County, SC

**Aaron Given**, James Jordan, William Oakley

Town of Kiawah Island

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Kiawah Island, SC 29455

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This was the second fall banding season on Kiawah Island. Kiawah Island is an 8,000 ac (3,238 ha) barrier island and residential/resort community located approximately 20 mi southeast of Charleston, SC. Last year we operated at two undeveloped sites, one on each end of the island representing two distinct habitat types: scrub/shrub and maritime forest. This year we decided to discontinue the maritime forest site and concentrate all our efforts at the site dominated by scrub/shrub habitat. The site is situated in secondary dune scrub/shrub and marsh with wax-myrtle, sea ox-eye, and marsh-elder being the dominant plant species. We operated 10 nets twice per week, weather