

2011

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2010 Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station

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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

bandbird@verizon.net

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

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In Fall 2010, Kiptopeke Banding Station was in operation for its 48th 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

21 Beachwalker Drive

Kiawah Island, SC 29455

agiven@kiawahisland.org

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