

2011

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2010 Kiawah Island 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

*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

21 Beachwalker Drive

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

permitting, from the end of August through November. Nets were generally opened 30 min before sunrise and closed approximately five hours later.

We operated for 27 days resulting in 1,000.7 net-hours (nh). A total of 910 new individuals were banded, along with 157 recaptures. Average capture rate was 106.6 b/100nh. Fifty-four species were captured; however, three species made up 55% of the season's catch: Yellow-rumped Warblers (25%), Common Yellowthroats (20%), and Gray Catbirds (10%). Nine migrants that had been banded last fall returned to the site: 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Gray Catbirds, 2 House Wrens, 1 Painted Bunting, and 1 Swamp Sparrow. Additionally, five migrants that had been banded the previous winter returned this fall: 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 1 Gray Catbird.

We express gratitude to the Kiawah Conservancy for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and equipment. Additionally, we thank Kiawah Development Partners for permission to conduct our research on its property. We also thank all of the volunteers who participated during our banding season.

**North Folly Island** **324-0795**  
Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve Banding Station  
**Chris Snook**, Director of Banding  
Cape Romain Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 362  
McClellanville, SC 29458  
[snook@crbo.net](mailto:snook@crbo.net)

With better weather conditions than last year, we enjoyed a more productive trapping season. A number of wax myrtles collapsed this fall, opening up the canopy in a couple of the net lanes.

This fall saw an increase in Yellow-breasted Chats to the highest number encountered in the six years that we have banded here. We also had a higher-than-expected ratio of adults to young (Table 2). We banded five new species this fall: Chestnut-

sided Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Least Flycatcher.

We did recover five birds previously banded at this site in 2008, and two from 2009. They included first-time year-to-year returns for Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Song and Swamp sparrows (all initially encountered in 2008) and a House Wren from 2009. The remaining year-on-year encounters were a Gray Catbird from 2009 and a Yellow-rumped Warbler from 2008.

I thank my helpers, Carole Bennett, Jesse Fagan, Aaron Given, Paula Sisson and Kathy Woolsey, for their continued assistance, and Charleston County Parks for their continued permission to use the site.

**Tomoka Bird Banding Station** **292-0810**  
Ormond Beach, Volusia Co., FL  
**Meret S. Wilson**  
[MILEYBUG@aol.com](mailto:MILEYBUG@aol.com)

This was a windy, hot and dry fall yielding one of the lower fall counts, especially after such a banner year in 2009. Although northern banding stations were having record numbers of captures this fall, southern stations were reporting lower numbers. Hurricanes mostly stayed out in the Atlantic, cold fronts were extremely late in pushing birds southward, and birding in general all over the state was almost non-existent, similar to fall 2008 when the weather conditions were comparable, especially with decreased rainfall.

Notably missing in this fall's capture counts were Hermit Thrushes, Prairie Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers, and Swainson's Warblers, to name a few. With the exception of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Gray Catbirds, all the usual migrants were decreased in numbers. The most exciting catch of the fall season, and adding a new species to our total count of 76 species at Tomoka State Park, was a Belted Kingfisher.

Migrant recaptures continue to be interesting. The very first Gray Catbird of the fall season, captured