

2011

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2010 Tomoka Bird Banding Station

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Recommended Citation

Wilson, Meret S. (2011) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2010 Tomoka Bird Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 36 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol36/iss2/19>

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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**
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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**
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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

on 4 Oct 2010, was originally banded by me on 13 Oct 2009. The first bird to be captured and banded on the south side was a hatch-year Ovenbird. Over the course of the fall it was recaptured three more times. It also was the last bird to be captured for the fall season. A Black-throated Blue Warbler banded on 17 Oct 2010 was re-caught on 24 Oct; I have recaptured them a day or two after banding but never as long as a full week later.

For the first time, I banded on a regular basis on the south side of the park to get an idea of how the species' counts vary. The habitat, across from a restored marsh, is quite different and includes more hardwoods and pine trees. The only Kentucky Warbler of the fall was caught there. Two of the three Swainson's Thrushes were also caught there. Four days a week are dedicated to Helicopter Island and one day a week is now dedicated to the south area. Females continue to outnumber the males captured and, in general, the number of hatching-year birds predominates in the fall as well.

Forty-five visitors came to the banding station, including a class from a college in Tennessee and a local Audubon birding class. Four regular volunteers, whose help has been invaluable, were: Joe and Judie Dziak, Bill Horton, and Carla Vanderbilt. And, as always, the park employees continue to be extremely supportive.

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park 254-0800

Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade Co., FL

Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Elizabeth Golden, Erica Hernandez

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Cape Florida is in its ninth year as a fall migration banding station. The park is on the southern tip of a mostly developed barrier island just off the coast of Miami. We have 19 nets set in a restored tropical hardwood hammock that is part of a multi-million dollar effort to return native vegetation to the park following Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

We started banding on 12 Aug 2010 and were open on all but six days until we closed on 8 Nov. We ran

anywhere from 10 to 19 nets from first light until early afternoon on most days. The weather in 2010 was quite active, especially when compared to the previous fall season. Two weak tropical storms passed through the region, one in mid-August and the other in late September. Fronts were fairly frequent and there were many nights with rainfall, but none of the ingredients lined up perfectly to give us a fallout of migrants. We never captured more than 40 birds in a day until 3 Oct when 73 were banded; and our only other big day was 15 Oct, with 103 birds captured. The fall cooldown was early this year, with humidity levels becoming comfortable in early October, about two to three weeks ahead of schedule. Our location is too far south to get many short-distance migrants, so we wrapped up the season on 8 Nov.

We did capture some interesting individuals in spite of the low overall numbers. The only tanager banded in 2010 was a Western Tanager on 4 Nov, a first for the station. An aberrant-plumaged Bicknell's Thrush was also banded on that day, and we banded yet another gynandromorphic Black-throated Blue Warbler, the third individual in nine seasons. We captured two foreign recoveries: a Painted Bunting banded in July in Georgia, and an Ovenbird banded three weeks earlier in Pennsylvania. An adult male Cerulean Warbler was a treat in late August, and a Connecticut Warbler banded on 30 Sep is rare in fall.

The trends seen in 2008 and 2009 were continued in 2010, with greatly reduced birds/100 net-hours. Local weather seemed to be promising for bringing down birds on our site, but perhaps the large-scale weather patterns were causing the majority of migrants to bypass the region completely. Observations of overnight radar loops for the Southeastern region suggested that this was probably the case. The 19 b/100nh was the lowest ever in nine years of banding here; 27 b/100nh in 2009 and 20 in 2002 were the previous lows. Black-throated Blue Warbler numbers were low in 2010, despite their continued hold on the top species spot; 233 were banded this fall, compared to an eight-year average of 348 and a high of 580 in 2008. Most