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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2011 Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station

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the streams and waterways in the banding area and consequently flooded net lanes. Despite this bad weather, we were down only one banding day over 2010 with near normal species and species totals.

Banding highlights included the following fall record-breaking species totals: Acadian Flycatcher 23, "Traill's" Flycatcher 141, Blue Grosbeak 336, Swamp Sparrow 304, Bicknell's Thrush 5 (25, 27, and 29 Sep and 4 and 17 Oct), and Hermit Thrush 279. Other notable highlights included a Lawrence's Warbler (our second but first fall bird) on 17 Aug, our third Red-shouldered Hawk, and our fourth Pileated Woodpecker. Our most notable species was the only new species for the fall, Ash-throated Flycatcher. We banded not one but two, the first on 9 Nov and the second on 30 Nov. Pictures were taken of both birds and the Maryland records committee has officially accepted both records. Hundreds of ticks were collected for the fourth fall for a Lyme disease study.

FBBO became a part of Washington College's Center for Environment and Society in early March of 2011. We look forward to a long association with them. We also welcomed a new bander to our staff this fall, Rachel Field, who both interned and volunteered with us while studying at Washington College for her bachelor's degree. In addition to the banders already listed, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Doug Gill, Victoria Cadby, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Bernie Lohr, Lisa Spears, Bill and Chris Gimpel, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station 371-0755

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Kiptopeke Banding Station, established in the fall of 1963 and operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory since 1997, reached a milestone this season, banding over ten thousand birds for the first time in the modern era of operation. The one hundred

species tagged is slightly above a typical season average. Six more nets were added to the array, bringing the total in the scrub-shrub habitat to 12 and the overall total to 32 nets. The total net-hours of 15,992 established a new record for the station also.

The capture rate for the 12 nets in the scrub-shrub habitat was 59 birds/100 net-hours, which was slightly below the overall average of 63. Having said that, these nets are still highly productive, particularly in the early and middle portions of the season as well as early in the morning. The twelve nets accounted for 36% of all birds caught during the season.

It was a banner year for many birds this fall, with 27 species either exceeding or matching their highest totals ever (Table 1). These included most of the warblers (17 of 29) with the most impressive of these being Northern Parula, posting a total that was off the chart. Non-warblers setting new highs were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Traill's Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Bicknell's Thrush, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. Several unexpected birds were caught, including the station's first Western Wood-Pewee as well as only the second Lawrence's Warbler ever. Also, the Virginia Rail trapped was only the third such occurrence in recent times. A peculiarity to the season was the lag in the timing for a number of the warblers with many still migrating through in numbers well into October. Particularly if we look at a species like Black-throated Blue, we see the peak flight was on 16 Oct, a week or ten days later than expected. Several species were even recorded into November, namely American Redstart, Northern Parula, and Blackpoll Warbler. Also, a Wood Thrush was caught on 12 Nov, perhaps a state record late departure date for that species.

Fall 2012 will be Kiptopeke's 50th season of operation; a remarkable achievement to which many banders and dedicated volunteers have contributed so much. We invite you to come visit the station and help us celebrate our golden anniversary!