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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2012 North Folly Island, Lighthouse Preserve Banding Station

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New in 2012 was the creation of the Kiawah Island Banding Station Blog. The blog was setup to highlight our banding activities during fall migration. The blog was updated daily with the banding totals for each day, photos, interesting anecdotes, and occasionally information on ageing and sexing certain species. The blog can be viewed at <http://www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com>. Please follow along with us in 2013!

We would like to express gratitude to the Kiawah Conservancy for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and to allow the hiring of three bird banding technicians. This allowed us to expand our effort to band daily. DeeAnne Meliopoulos, Meghan Oberkircher, and Michael Novak were a great addition to the team, and their hard work (for very little pay) was greatly appreciated! Additionally, we thank Kiawah Development Partners for permission to conduct our research on their property. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who participated during our banding season.

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Weather effects were most pronounced this year. Only two days of the banding schedule were missed this year because of poor weather, one of which was the passage of Hurricane Sandy close offshore. The biggest effect was the timing of the fronts throughout the fall. The majority of fronts moved through the area 1-2 days after a banding session. It was an unusually warm fall with temperatures remaining warm until mid-January. The recent weather patterns and tree pest effects are beginning to be seen on the site. Red Bay Blight is beginning to be noticeable, with over 50 trees affected. An  
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increasing number of Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) trees are succumbing to wind (possibly due to low rainfall).

The fall was mostly characterized by consistently low-to-moderate numbers of birds with an unusual shift in the highest catch day from early October to early November (Table 1), resulting from a front arriving the day before the banding session. However, the day of greatest species diversity continued to be in early October. The number of birds banded this fall decreased by approximately one-third from 2011, due primarily to these effects despite a similar effort. There was a similar decrease in the number of species caught (Table 1). This can be seen by the presence of the resident Northern Cardinal and the winter visitor Swamp Sparrow in the top ten species list and the loss of Red-eyed Vireo from the rankings (Table 2). The top four most numerous migrant species in Table 2 are showing a decreasing trend in the number of hatch-year birds caught.

A Common Yellowthroat was trapped on 24 Nov and a Black-throated Blue Warbler on 3 Nov. Both records are the latest for these species since 2005 and are probably due to the unusually warm fall.

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The year 2012 was a successful one at the Jekyll Island Banding Station. We were open for one week longer than last year, for a total of three weeks, from 30 Sep 2012 to 21 Oct 2012. During that time, we banded 1,328 birds and had 39 recaptures. This is an increase of about 300 birds from 2011; however, we would have expected a greater increase with an entire extra week of banding. We did have one very slow day on 2 Oct 2012 as there were 8-12 mph southeastern winds which affected our capture rate and we banded only four birds on that day. On our busiest day this year, 9 Oct 2012, we banded 132 birds of 22 species. We kept the nets open from 7:10AM until 7:00PM with only a two-hour break