

2014

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2013 Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

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Warblers on 25 Sep. This is the most since 2007 and ties with the 9<sup>th</sup> highest single day since 1980; and (3) a White-crowned Sparrow, only our 17<sup>th</sup> since 1980.

Historically, mimids and warblers account for 13% and 27% of our (adjusted) bandings. This year they accounted for 7% and 39%, respectively. All other families of species were within 1-3% of their historical (adjusted) norms: flycatchers (3%), kinglets (7%), sparrows (21%), thrushes (6%), vireos (8%) and all others (8%). In 2013 we had 271 recaptures of 172 individual birds of 31 species. Two of those recaptures were banded by us in 2007 – Gray Catbird and Hermit Thrush. We also recaptured – for the 19<sup>th</sup> time – a Hermit Thrush initially banded by us in 2010. He must like it here!

The station continues to be a focal point for visitors from foreign banding programs as well as serving as a training and educational site for interested staff. We have two experienced volunteers as well as employees to help with set-up, data entry, bird extraction, etc. Because the station is located in an area of the refuge that is closed to the general public, we cannot encourage outside participation. Researchers, however, wishing to visit the site are encouraged to contact Danny Bystrak at [dbystrak@usgs.gov](mailto:dbystrak@usgs.gov).

Greatly assisting in this effort were Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report), Mike Quinlan, Jo Anna Lutmerding and Bruce Peterjohn. A special thanks to permitted bander Karilla Barbosa from Brazil and Jasmine Rajbhandary from Nepal who both rendered highly valued assistance in the field and in the BBL this season. Extra thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky, Samantha Collins and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

**Foreman's Branch  
Bird Observatory**

Chestertown, Queen Anne's Co., MD  
Banders: **J. G. Gruber\***, *M. E. Gimpel, D. M. Small*

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This was the 16<sup>th</sup> fall banding season for Foreman's

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Branch Bird Observatory. Productivity was again slightly higher than our 10-year average but down from last year. Species diversity was average. The fall weather was overall unremarkable. Banding highlights were few. Our highlights included one Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow on 21 Oct, a Brewster's Warbler on 25 Aug, 2 Orange-crowned Warblers, one each on 3 Oct and 8 Oct, and two Bicknell's Thrushes, one each on 30 Sep and 3 Oct. This banding season could be characterized as mostly uneventful. We would like to thank our Washington College intern, Christie Phoebus, for her dedication and hard work this fall. She was a great asset to our operations. In addition to the banders listed, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Dr. Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Erika Koontz, Kathy Thornton, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

**Kiawah Island Banding Station 326-0801**

Kiawah Island, Charleston Co., SC

*Aaron Given, William Oakley, Jim Jordan*  
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This was the fifth fall banding season on Kiawah Island and the second in which we have banded daily. Kiawah Island is an 8,000 acre barrier island and residential/resort community located approximately 20 miles southeast of Charleston, South Carolina. The banding site is situated at the extreme western end of the island in secondary dune scrub/shrub and high marsh with wax-myrtle, sea ox-eye, and marsh-elder being the dominate plant species. We operated 20 nets daily, weather permitting, from 15 Aug through 30 Nov. Nets were generally opened 30 minutes before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hours later.

We operated for 98 days resulting in 9,584.2 net-hours (nh). A total of 4,529 new individuals were banded and 1,144 birds of 82 species were recaptured. The capture rate for new birds was 47.3 birds/100 nh with an additional 11.9 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Eighty-seven species were banded and two additional species were captured as recaptures. Our capture rate decreased by 24% from last fall. Consequently, we had substantially fewer 100+ bird days, which was probably attributed to the