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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2013 Jekyll Island Banding Station

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major cold fronts patterning more to our south. Three species made up 61% of the season's catch: Common Yellowthroats (25%), Yellow-rumped Warblers (23%), and Gray Catbirds (13%). We banded nine species never before captured at the station: Eastern Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bay-breasted Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole (first for fall), and Bobolink. The two most surprising species banded were the MacGillivray's Warbler (first time this species has been observed in South Carolina) and the Ash-throated Flycatcher. Additionally, we banded our 3rd Bell's Vireo in as many seasons.

We had 1,144 recaptures (1,021 repeats, 122 returns, one foreign recapture) during the 2013 fall season. Of the 122 returns, 89 were from migrant species (46 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 18 Painted Buntings, nine Gray Catbirds, four White-throated Sparrows, three Swamp Sparrows, three Song Sparrows, two White-eyed Vireos, two Hermit Thrushes, one Common Yellow-throat, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk). Interestingly enough, of the 3,419 Common Yellowthroats banded at KIBS in the past five years, this was the first return that we have had. The one foreign recapture this season was from a Painted Bunting that was banded on 12 Jul 2011 on neighboring Seabrook Island (less than three-fourths mile from KIBS).

New in 2012, was the creation of the Kiawah Island Banding Station Blog. The blog was set up to highlight our banding activities during fall migration. The blog is updated daily with the banding totals for each day, photos, interesting anecdotes, and occasionally information of ageing and sexing certain species. The blog can be viewed at www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com. Please follow along with us in 2014!

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 four bird banding technicians. This allowed us to expand our effort to band daily. Mattie VandenBoom, Claire Stuyck, Josh Lefever, and Vicki Morgan 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 the volunteers who participated during our banding season.

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The 2013 banding season yielded a higher total number of birds banded than the previous several years, but interestingly with slightly lower species diversity. We were open for a total of 22 days, and banded 1408 birds of 42 species.

On our busiest day this year, we banded 293 birds – a steep increase from the 132 birds banded on the busiest day of the 2012 season. More birds could have been captured, but so many were caught during the first hour that we closed the nets for safety reasons. On the second busiest day, we banded 270 birds but were able to keep most of the nets open as usual. Birds were captured more steadily throughout the day rather than in large numbers all at once, so we could band and process more safely and efficiently. Common Yellowthroats made up the majority of captures on these busy days, making up 59% of total birds banded on the first and 43% on the second, as well as being our top species for the season with a total of 500 banded.

We seemed to miss the Yellow-rumped Warbler migration this season, as we banded only eight for the entire three weeks, and they were all captured during the last week. The previous year, we saw very few Yellow-rumped Warblers until the last few days, when they arrived in abundance. It is possible that the main bulk of their migration arrived after the close of the season.

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The fall season at Tomoka Basin Banding Station started just after a prescribed control burn took