

2015

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain- Fall 2014- Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

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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.

Greatly assisting in this effort were: Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report), Mike Quinlan, Jo Anna Lutmerding and Bruce Peterjohn. Thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky, Jasmine Rajbhandary and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

Foreman's Branch **391-0760**
Bird Observatory

Kingstown, Queen Anne's Co., MD

Banders: J. G. Gruber*, P. Gruber. M. Gimpel, D. Small, A. C. Spears

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This was the 17th fall banding season for Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. Productivity was higher than our 10-year average because of a large reduction in net-hours. We did not keep nets open as long into less productive afternoon hours as we have in the past. Total number of birds banded did not suffer greatly from this decision and productivity per 100 net-hours increased. Species diversity was slightly above the average of 120.

The fall weather was overall unremarkable in comparison to the past five years. Banding highlights were few. Notable catches for the season were our second only Barred Owl on 26 Oct, a station record high total of 242 Purple Finches, a Clay-colored Sparrow on 5 Nov, a single Yellow-throated Vireo on 7 Sep, and a Marsh Wren on 24 Sep. Notably absent from the nets this fall was the Red-breasted Nuthatch; a few individuals passed through the banding station, but they were scarce throughout the local area all season. Bicknell's Thrush was caught three times this fall with one each on 28 Sep, 2 Oct, and 5 Oct.

We thank our Washington College intern, Christie Phebus, for her dedication and hard work at Foreman's Branch over the past three years. She graduates in the spring of 2015 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and we shall miss her and all her hard work at the station. In addition to the banders already listed above the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Greg Cole, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Jennie Carr, Kailani Clarke, Andrew Wade, Kathy Thornton, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

Kiawah Island

326-0801

Banding Station (KIBS)

Town of Kiawah Island, Charleston County, SC

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This was the sixth fall banding season on Kiawah Island and the third in which we have banded daily. Kiawah Island is an 8,000 ac barrier island and residential/resort community located approximately 20 mi southeast of Charleston, SC. 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 23 nets daily, weather permitting, from 15 Aug through 30 Nov. Nets were generally opened 30 min before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hr later.

We operated for 103 days resulting in 11,565.6 net-hours (nh). A total of 5,086 new individuals were banded and 1,312 birds were recaptured of 80 different species. The capture rate for new birds was 44.0 birds/100nh with an additional 11.3 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Our capture rate decreased by 3.7 birds/100nh from last year despite banding over 500 more individuals compared to last fall. This is most likely an artifact of an increase in effort due to being open five more days than the previous fall and the addition of three new nets. Three species made up 61% of the season's catch: Common Yellowthroats (23.9%), Gray Catbirds (20.6%), and Yellow-rumped Warblers (16.6%). We banded six species never before captured at the station: Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Clapper Rail, Sedge Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

We had 1,312 recaptures (1,215 repeats, 95 returns, 2 potential foreign recaptures) during the 2014 fall season. Of the 95 returns, 64 were from migrant species (28 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 16 Painted Buntings, 7 Gray Catbirds, 4 Swamp Sparrows, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Song Sparrow, 1 House Wren, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Common Yellowthroat, and 1 Prothonotary Warbler). All returning migrants, with the exception of the Prothonotary Warbler, potentially either wintered or breed on Kiawah Island. The returning Prothonotary Warbler is exceptional as it truly showed site fidelity to a stop-over site. The two potential foreign recapture this season were both