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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV (Piedmont)- Fall 2015- Jekyl Island Banding Station

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stopped, beginning on 6 Oct, Captain Sam's experienced huge volumes of birds moving through. Little Bear missed out on all this activity, but it was surely nice to have all hands on deck at Captain Sam's during that time.

We banded 2,370 new birds and had 410 recaptures of 70 different species. The most commonly banded species were Gray Catbirds (563), Common Yellowthroats (424), and Yellow-rumped Warblers (423). Those three species combined made up 59% of all the birds banded this season.

We logged 3,552.4 nh out at Little Bear this fall. We started with 10 nets, but that number increased to 16 as the season progressed and we learned more about the site.

Little Bear had a very good capture rate at 76.2 birds/100 nh – much higher than at Captain Sam's. There were 11 days when over 75 birds were banded with three over 100. The best day was 13 Oct, when we banded 116 birds and had five recaptures.

We banded three species never before banded at KIBS during this first fall at Little Bear: Green Heron, Saltmarsh Sparrow, and Seaside Sparrow.

No vagrants were banded this year, but some rare and notable species were banded including Green Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Black-throated Green warblers, and Clay-colored, Saltmarsh, Seaside, and Lincoln's sparrows.

I thank all those who made this season such a great success: the banding assistants (Mattie VandenBoom, Chris Snook, Sean McElaney, Casey Weissburg, Michael Gamble, Nancy Raginski, and Ryan Donnelly), the Kiawah Island Conservancy for providing funding for the hiring and housing of seven banding assistants; the Town of Kiawah Island for allowing me to take on an extremely time-consuming project, and the funding for one banding assistant; Kiawah Partners for allowing access to their property; and finally to all the volunteers who donated their time to either come out and help or just to observe.

Jekyl Island Banding Station

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During the 2015 fall migration season, the Jekyl Island Banding Station banded a total of 1,497 birds of 49

species. We welcomed a new sub-bander, Darlene Moore, to our regular volunteer staff. She has quite a bit of experience volunteering at banding stations in several states and we are excited to have her knowledge, energy, and dedication at JIBS. We also had the support of many wonderful visitors, volunteers, and staff throughout the 22-day banding season.

Common Yellowthroats remained the most numerous species, with a total of 693 banded. This is an increase of 54% from last year's total of 371, and this year Yellowthroats made up a significant percentage of our catch every day, with the most in one day being 192 on 6 Oct. This year also saw a higher percentage of adult birds banded, as last season 84% of birds were hatch-year birds and this season only 76% were hatch-year. We banded 196 Western Palm Warblers this year, which is far below the usual capture rate for this species. Palm Warblers remained our second most abundant species, but only by two individuals, narrowly surpassing Gray Catbirds, of which we banded 194. This is highly unusual, and compared to the 2014 season, when a total of 468 were banded, it appears that Palm migration peaked about a week later this year on 12 Oct with 48 Palms; whereas last year the peak was 169 on 4 Oct. The significance and cause of this difference cannot be determined for certain from this data, but weather patterns may have played a role. Theoretically, global climate change will have a greater impact on species that reside closer to the Earth's poles, and could affect the timing of migration. We need to have continued monitoring for this pattern.

While Palm Warblers were represented in much lower numbers this year, other species were in greater abundance than they have been in several years. Yellow-billed Cuckoos are not generally captured or even observed every year, but this season we banded a total of eight, six of which were on 6 Oct. Common Ground-doves are seen and heard regularly, but only one or two are generally banded each year. However, this season we caught six individuals across five days. Other uncommon species banded this year included Baltimore Oriole, Bobolink, Blue Grosbeak, and Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian warblers. Of course, few inferences can be based on these individual data points, but they are amusing to note.

