

2018

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont (Coastal Plain)- Fall 2016, Kiawah Island Banding Station Captain Sam's

Aaron Given

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

Given, Aaron (2018) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont (Coastal Plain)- Fall 2016, Kiawah Island Banding Station Captain Sam's," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 43 : Iss. 4 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol43/iss4/13>

This Eastern News is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

is dominated by a dense six-to eight-foot high canopy of shrubs, and is an excellent source of shelter and food for breeding and migrating birds. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along a one-half mile east-west axis. Nets were opened by dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later. From 2007-2016, we have consistently operated seven days in August and November and 14 days in September and October for a total of 42 days, generally on a M/W/F schedule. In 2013, however, due to the government shutdown, we banded only 35 days. Any comparisons to previous levels of activity refers to the years 2007-2012, since our 2013 season was incomplete.

This was our 34<sup>th</sup> year, and was by far our worst since 2007 with 1,360 bandings however we were up two species from last year, at 75.

The only highlight was banding our first Clay-colored Sparrow since 1980. This is the 125<sup>th</sup> species on this station's Fall banding list. We had no days over 100 birds, our best day being only 80. Nine species set or tied high counts, with none being particularly noteworthy. By contrast, 15 species set or tied low counts.

Our 256 warbler bandings of 24 species accounted for 19% of all of our bandings, below their historical norm. Mimids (notably Gray Catbirds) were at 8.5%, down from a norm of 12%; sparrows at 35% up from their norm of 25.

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, however, researchers 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: Jo Anna Lutmerding, Mike Quinlan, Claire Nemes, Ikumi Kayama and Bruce Peterjohn. Thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

## **Kiawah Island Banding Station      326-0801 Captain Sam's Site**

Kiawah Island, Charleston County, SC

**Aaron Given**

[agiven@kiawahisland.org](mailto:agiven@kiawahisland.org)

[www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com](http://www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com)

This was the 8<sup>th</sup> fall banding season on Kiawah Island at the Captain Sam's site and the 5<sup>th</sup> in which banding has occurred 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 dominant plant species. We operated 25 nets daily, weather permitting, from the 15 August through 30 November. Nets were generally opened 30 minutes before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hours later.

We operated for 98 days resulting in 12,582.5 net-hours (nh). A total of 3,872 new individuals were banded and 1,183 birds were recaptured of 84 different species. The capture rate for new birds was 30.8 birds/100 nh with an additional 9.4 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Our capture rate decreased by 8.6 birds/100 nh compared to last fall. Three species made up 56% of the season's catch: Common Yellowthroats (25.4%), Yellow-rumped Warblers (19.1%), and Gray Catbirds (11.5%). We banded 4 species never before captured at the station – Red-shouldered Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Mourning Warbler, and Red-winged Blackbird.

It was an active season for tropical weather. The station was closed from 2-3 September for Tropical Storm Hermine and 5-11 October for Hurricane Matthew. This is the first year that a hurricane has affected our banding and it couldn't have come at a worse time – right at the peak of migration for us. We had to remove all equipment from the banding site, and because of a mandatory evacuation, there were several good days of banding pre-and post-storm that we missed.

I would like to express gratitude to the Kiawah Conservancy and the Town of Kiawah Island for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and to allow the hiring of seven bird banding technicians. Mattie VandenBoom, Blaine Carnes, Michael Gamble, Ryan Donnelly, Alison Nevins, Michael Rodgers, and Col Lauzau were a great addition to the team and their hard work was greatly appreciated! Additionally, we thank Kiawah Partners for permission to conduct research on their property. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers that participated during our banding season.

Please check out the KIBS blog in 2017. It 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](http://www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com).

#### **Kiawah Island Banding Station Little Bear Banding Site (LBBS)**

To complement the Captain Sam's Banding Site located at the west end of Kiawah Island, we initiated a new banding station on the east end of the island in 2015. The Little Bear Banding Site (LBBS) is situated at the extreme eastern end of the island about 14 km east of KIBS in secondary dune scrub/shrub and high marsh with wax-myrtle and baccharis being the dominant plant species. We operated 20 nets daily, weather permitting, from 22 August to 17 November. Nets were generally opened 30 minutes before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hours later.

We operated for 75 days resulting in 6,011.8 (nh). A total of 3,442 new individuals were banded and 1,035 birds were recaptured of 74 different species. The capture rate for new birds was 57.3 birds/100 nh with an additional 17.2 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Three species made up 55% of the season's catch: Yellow-rumped Warbler (19.1%), Gray Catbirds (18.1%), and Common Yellowthroats (18.1%). A few species were banded at LBBS that have never been banded before during the fall at KIBS. These included a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Warbling Vireo, and Yellow-green Vireo. The Yellow-green Vireo (a species that breeds in Mexico and Central

America and winter in South America) was a huge surprise! This species rarely makes it into the United States and represented the first state record for South Carolina.

I would like to express gratitude to the Kiawah Conservancy and the Town of Kiawah Island for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and to allow the hiring of seven bird banding technicians. Mattie VandenBoom, Blaine Carnes, Michael Gamble, Ryan Donnelly, Alison Nevins, Michael Rodgers, and Col Lauzau were a great addition to the team and their hard work was greatly appreciated! Additionally, we thank Bear Island Holding Trust for permission to conduct research on its property. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers that participated during our banding season.

Please check out the KIBS blog in 2017. It 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](http://www.kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com).

#### **Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park 254-0800**

Key Biscayne, Miami-Dade Co., Florida  
Michelle Davis, Robin Diaz, Elizabeth Golden,  
Miriam Avello, Mario Porcelli, Marc Kramer  
[vireoojorojo@hotmail.com](mailto:vireoojorojo@hotmail.com)

Cape Florida is in its fifteenth year as a fall migration banding station. The park is on the southern tip of a mostly developed barrier island just off the coast of Miami. We have 26 nets set in a restored tropical hardwood hammock that is part of a multi-million dollar effort to return native vegetation to the park following Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

We started banding on 16 Aug 2016 and the station was open on all but 6 days until we closed on 7 Nov. Nets were opened from first light until early afternoon on most days.

The 2016 fall season weather started out favorable for migration at our location. Unsettled weather and nighttime thundershowers were prevalent in Aug and the first part of Sept, causing birds to land at Cape Florida. A steady stream of birds were seen on radar moving through the area throughout Sept, but daily captures were dependent on the location