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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont (Coastal Plain)- Fall 2016, Kiawah Island Banding Station Little Bear

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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.

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

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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