

This may be a consequence of our location on a barrier island rather than an overall decline in Red-eyed Vireos moving through Florida, as they were reported in relatively high numbers this fall by birders on the mainland.

We captured 24 returning birds of six species, including our first Swainson's Warbler return from a previous fall (2010). This suggests that the species does occasionally overwinter on our site, as all of our other returns were of either resident or potentially wintering species. The oldest returns were a resident Northern Cardinal and a wintering Gray Catbird, both banded as hatching-year birds in 2004.

Anna Scharnagl, Angel Abreu and Mariel Abreu all graduated to bander status in 2011, and David Schaffter and Bente Torvund provided a lot of assistance as extractors. Special thanks goes to David Foster, the new Park manager, for continuing to support our project.

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In past reports I have argued that my poor netting success in recent years might have been due to a persisting drought in this region that resulted in rather dry conditions of the high grounds where I operate my nets. Well, it got worse: the year 2011 ended with a rainfall deficit of almost 50%. No wonder, perhaps, that the netting success dipped to less than 4 b/100 nh.

A noteworthy event was the capture of a thrush that I recorded as a Gray-cheeked Thrush but that probably was a large (wing chord 97 mm) Bicknell's Thrush, my first. After having released the bird, I could not forget its somewhat unusual appearance, especially the tan hue to the rectrices; but then it was too late, of course, to have another look and take pictures. In addition to this thrush, I banded only five other thrushes this fall, four Veeries and a Hermit Thrush. I did not capture any Wood Thrush or Swainson's Thrush, both species having been regulars or even candidates for my top ten list not long ago. However,

the last time I netted a Swainson's Thrush was in 2009, and it was just one.

Not surprising, but depressing nevertheless, has been a continued scarcity of birds at my site throughout the winter. My "seed addicted" Ovenbird (*NABB* 33:66), however, was back for its seventh winter but it conformed to the general bleakness of the winter season and has stayed out of sight since 9 Nov, as I write this in early March.



Great Blue Heron
by George West