

Warblers on 25 Sep. This is the most since 2007 and ties with the 9th highest single day since 1980; and (3) a White-crowned Sparrow, only our 17th since 1980.

Historically, mimids and warblers account for 13% and 27% of our (adjusted) bandings. This year they accounted for 7% and 39%, respectively. All other families of species were within 1-3% of their historical (adjusted) norms: flycatchers (3%), kinglets (7%), sparrows (21%), thrushes (6%), vireos (8%) and all others (8%). In 2013 we had 271 recaptures of 172 individual birds of 31 species. Two of those recaptures were banded by us in 2007 – Gray Catbird and Hermit Thrush. We also recaptured – for the 19th time – a Hermit Thrush initially banded by us in 2010. He must like it here!

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. A special thanks to permitted bander Karilla Barbosa from Brazil and Jasmine Rajbhandary from Nepal who both rendered highly valued assistance in the field and in the BBL this season. Extra thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky, Samantha Collins and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

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

Chestertown, Queen Anne's Co., MD
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This was the 16th fall banding season for Foreman's

Branch Bird Observatory. Productivity was again slightly higher than our 10-year average but down from last year. Species diversity was average. The fall weather was overall unremarkable. Banding highlights were few. Our highlights included one Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow on 21 Oct, a Brewster's Warbler on 25 Aug, 2 Orange-crowned Warblers, one each on 3 Oct and 8 Oct, and two Bicknell's Thrushes, one each on 30 Sep and 3 Oct. This banding season could be characterized as mostly uneventful. We would like to thank our Washington College intern, Christie Phoebus, for her dedication and hard work this fall. She was a great asset to our operations. In addition to the banders listed, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Dr. Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Erika Koontz, Kathy Thornton, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

Kiawah Island Banding Station **326-0801**

Kiawah Island, Charleston Co., SC

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This was the fifth fall banding season on Kiawah Island and the second in which we have banded 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 dominate plant species. We operated 20 nets daily, weather permitting, from 15 Aug through 30 Nov. Nets were generally opened 30 minutes before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hours later.

We operated for 98 days resulting in 9,584.2 net-hours (nh). A total of 4,529 new individuals were banded and 1,144 birds of 82 species were recaptured. The capture rate for new birds was 47.3 birds/100 nh with an additional 11.9 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Eighty-seven species were banded and two additional species were captured as recaptures. Our capture rate decreased by 24% from last fall. Consequently, we had substantially fewer 100+ bird days, which was probably attributed to the

major cold fronts patterning more to our south. Three species made up 61% of the season's catch: Common Yellowthroats (25%), Yellow-rumped Warblers (23%), and Gray Catbirds (13%). We banded nine species never before captured at the station: Eastern Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bay-breasted Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole (first for fall), and Bobolink. The two most surprising species banded were the MacGillivray's Warbler (first time this species has been observed in South Carolina) and the Ash-throated Flycatcher. Additionally, we banded our 3rd Bell's Vireo in as many seasons.

We had 1,144 recaptures (1,021 repeats, 122 returns, one foreign recapture) during the 2013 fall season. Of the 122 returns, 89 were from migrant species (46 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 18 Painted Buntings, nine Gray Catbirds, four White-throated Sparrows, three Swamp Sparrows, three Song Sparrows, two White-eyed Vireos, two Hermit Thrushes, one Common Yellow-throat, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk). Interestingly enough, of the 3,419 Common Yellowthroats banded at KIBS in the past five years, this was the first return that we have had. The one foreign recapture this season was from a Painted Bunting that was banded on 12 Jul 2011 on neighboring Seabrook Island (less than three-fourths mile from KIBS).

New in 2012, was the creation of the Kiawah Island Banding Station Blog. The blog was set up to highlight our banding activities during fall migration. The blog 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. Please follow along with us in 2014!

We would like to express gratitude to the Kiawah Conservancy for supporting our project by providing the funding to purchase banding supplies and to allow the hiring of four bird banding technicians. This allowed us to expand our effort to band daily. Mattie VandenBoom, Claire Stuyck, Josh Lefever, and Vicki Morgan were a great addition to the team and their hard work (for very little pay) was greatly appreciated! Additionally,

we thank Kiawah Development Partners for permission to conduct our research on their property. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who participated during our banding season.

Jekyll Island Banding Station 310-0812
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The 2013 banding season yielded a higher total number of birds banded than the previous several years, but interestingly with slightly lower species diversity. We were open for a total of 22 days, and banded 1408 birds of 42 species.

On our busiest day this year, we banded 293 birds – a steep increase from the 132 birds banded on the busiest day of the 2012 season. More birds could have been captured, but so many were caught during the first hour that we closed the nets for safety reasons. On the second busiest day, we banded 270 birds but were able to keep most of the nets open as usual. Birds were captured more steadily throughout the day rather than in large numbers all at once, so we could band and process more safely and efficiently. Common Yellowthroats made up the majority of captures on these busy days, making up 59% of total birds banded on the first and 43% on the second, as well as being our top species for the season with a total of 500 banded.

We seemed to miss the Yellow-rumped Warbler migration this season, as we banded only eight for the entire three weeks, and they were all captured during the last week. The previous year, we saw very few Yellow-rumped Warblers until the last few days, when they arrived in abundance. It is possible that the main bulk of their migration arrived after the close of the season.

Tomoka Basin Banding Station 292-0810
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The fall season at Tomoka Basin Banding Station started just after a prescribed control burn took