Eastern Regional News

Eastern Bird Banding Association Founded 1923

Atlantic Flyway Review: Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Region IV, Fall 2000

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Weather conditions were unremarkable. Although monthly mean temperatures were one to two degrees below normal each month from August through December, day-to-day variation was minimal and vigorous cold fronts were lacking until mid-September. Laurel and Kiptopeke had their best day for species on 16 Sep (Table 1), the day the mercury in Laurel first dropped into the forties. The next cold front on the 25th gave Chincoteague its best species list of the season. The best period for total birds banded was 16-23 Oct, when all seven of the northernmost stations reported their peak day for new birds banded. Forty-degree temperatures brought an American Tree Sparrow to Hollywood, MD, on 8 Oct, ten days ahead of the state record; and a cold front on 23 Oct caused a near-freeze (34°) at Chestertown, MD, and rewarded Jim Gruber with one of the few modern Maryland records of a Northern Shrike on the 25th. Precipitation was ample, almost daily, in the Middle Atlantic States throughout August and to 27 Sep, but drought prevailed in most of the region for the remainder of the year. Tropical storms *Gordon* and *Helene* brought welcome rain to the Tallahassee area; the Atlantic coast was free of hurricane activity.

The number of birds banded increased from last year's at every station except Chino Farms. The number of net hours increased at six stations and declined at four. Deanna Dawson's Patuxent station recorded its best fall season in 21 years, and Brian Johnson reported that the Kiptopeke total was the second best in the past 18 years. Even in a good year, Kiptopeke has many slow days; on 11 days they banded fewer than ten birds. Myrtle Warbler was the species banded in largest numbers in Region IV, comprising 32% of the regional total of 24,257. Runners-up were Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, Gray Catbird, and White-throated Sparrow.

The high ranking of Common Yellowthroat as second most common species was surprising in view of the fact that it declined in rank from last year at seven stations, maintained the same rank at two stations, and increased in rank at only one. The percent of HY yellowthroats was almost the same as last year, so there is no indication of a poor reproductive season. American Redstart declined in rank at four stations and increased at one. The greatest increases in rank were for Indigo Bunting (four stations) and Swainson's and Hermit thrushes and Ovenbird (three stations each).

Comparing the most common species among stations (Table 2), the three coastal stations plus Butler Island all had Myrtle Warbler as the top species. Chincoteague and Butler Island were the only stations to share the same top three species–they even had them in the same sequence. Some of the surprises were 692 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Patuxent, 240 Indigo Buntings and 86 Bobolinks at Jug Bay, 1456 American Goldfinches and 356 Indigo Buntings at Chino Farms, 4640 Myrtle Warblers and 109 Black-and-white Warblers at Kiptopeke, and 210 Veeries at Wekiva.

Table 1. AFR Region IV, Fall 2000 Summary						
	Laurel	**Patuxent**	**Jug Bay**	**Hollywood**	**Chino Farms**	**Chincoteague**
First Day	26 Aug	3 Aug	14 Aug	12 Aug	1 Aug	2 Aug
Last Day	30 Nov	30 Nov	15 Nov	12 Nov	11 Nov	8 Nov
Days Oper.	76	108	42	20	61	25
Nets Used	4 - 16	22 - 26	26	2 - 3	7 - 69	5 - 8
Net Hours	5238	9234	3606	121	16,252	315
Best Day	29	163	130	23	361	80
BD Date	16 Oct	16 Oct	23 Oct	23 Oct	20 Oct	20 Oct
Most Species	14	24	30	8	38	9
Date	16 Sep	5 Oct	29 Sep	21,29 Oct	10 Oct	25 Sep
Banded '99	394	2498	2462	102	8225	229
Banded '00	452	3739	2171	173	6929	446
Species '99	53	81	90	27	120	41
Species '00	49	82	83	28	107	75
B/100 nh '99	10	32	73	155	32	36
B/100 nh '00	9	40.5	60	143	43	142
% HY 1999	68%	63%	73%	59%	78%	60%
% HY 2000	67%	69%	74%	72%	86%	72%

Table 1 (Cont'd.). AFR Region IV, Fall 2000 Summary					
	Kiptopeke	Back Bay	Butler Is	Wekiva	Lakeshore
First Day	23 Aug	22 Sep	3 Sep	1 Sep	20 Sep
Last Day	21 Nov	5 Nov	5 Nov	31 Oct	15 Nov
Days Oper.	81	20	58	56	48
Nets Used	11 - 19	46 - 159	5 - 9.5	10 - 36	3 - 9
Net Hours	7018	16,362	1712	5625	2624
Best Day	545	540	115	101	11
BD Date	19 Oct	30 Oct	3 Nov	28 Sep	30 Sep
Most Species	32	38	12	21	8
Date	16 Sep	28 Sep	10 Sep	19 Sep	30 Sep
Banded '99	6410	1619	1033	1746	110
Banded '00	7583	2764	1606	2310	238
Species '99	96	78	51	56	27
Species '00	87	82	45	66	37
B/100 nh '99	74	17	53	41	6
B/100 nh '00	108	18	93	41	9
% HY 1999	87%	94%	83%	69%	64%
% HY 2000	91%	95%	77%	73%	60%

Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2000.

Laurel		Patuxent		Jug Bay		Hollywood		Chino Farms		Chincoteague	
	% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
46 WTSP (1)	46	692 RCKI (1)	44+	240 INBU (6)	85	44 INBU (8)	86	1456 AMGO (1)	90	262 MYWA (1)	91
39 NOCA (3)	71	350 WTSP (3)	67	191 SOSP (3)	85	26 WTSP	69	651 WTSP (2)	74	47 COYE (3)	60
32 GRCA (2)	81	298 GCKI (8)	77+	153 WTSP (2)	64	17 SOSP (7)	29	457 MYWA (7)	82	32 GRCA (2)	90
28 SWTH (23)	57	215 MAWA (6)	45	142 SWSP (9)	69	14 FISP (2)	64	412 CHSP (8)	93	12 SOSP (5)	8
27 MAWA (6)	63	201 SCJU (2)	59	139 MYWA (8)	81	10 CARW (4)	80	409 RCKI (4)	86	9 FISP (4)	67
24 HETH (7)	71	194 REVI (7)	72	117 AMGO (1)	82	10 GRCA (6)	80	356 INBU	90	9 SCJU	50
23 OVEN (12)	74	191 GRCA (4)	84	117 COYE (4)	59	9 RCKI	89	341 SOSP (6)	87	8 SWSP (7)	22
23 ETTI (5)	55	129 COYE (5)	73	89 CHSP (7)	88	7 COYE (1)	100	247 FISP (9)	92	7 HOWR	86
17 AMRO (18)	59	98 HETH (10)	82	86 BOBO	71	5 NOCA (3)	20	223 COYE (5)	64	6 REVI	100
16 CACH (4)	72	73 OVEN (16)	82	50 GRCA	80	4 HETH	50	200 SCJU (3)	82	6 CARW	50

Table 2 (Cont'd.). AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2000.

Kiptopeke		Back Bay		Butler Is.		Wekiva		Lakeshore Est.	
	% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
4640 MYWA (1)	92	1759 MYWA (1)	97	761 MYWA (2)	75	669 GRCA (1)	75	33 WEVI (1)	36
330 AMRE (3)	85	96 GRCA (3)	96	298 COYE (1)	85	419 COYE (2)	71	18 NOCA (2)	44
330 GRCA (6)	95	88 WPWA (4)	92	132 GRCA (4)	95	210 VEER (9)	69	17 WOTH	88
327 COYE (4)	90	82 GCKI (8)	100	59 NOWA (3)	97	103 OVEN (6)	65	15 MYWA (5)	67
201 BTBW (5)	95	68 RCKI	100	34 SWSP (9)	85	94 WEVI (8)	68	14 GRCA	71
176 WTSP (7)	77	46 SSHA	96	31 HOWR (10)	71	86 REVI	80	12 HOWA (3)	17
119 HETH (14)	90	40 COYE (5)	97	28 WPWA	93	83 HOWR (5)	62	12 SWTH (9)	83
109 BAWW (27)	92	36 SCJU (10)	100	27 NOCA (8)	48	69 NOCA (7)	70	12 CACH	50
104 WPWA (13)	95	35 TRES	89	27 NOM0 (5)	70	54 AMRE (3)	57	11 NOMO	100
96 SCJU (20)	93	33 AMRE (6)	94	25 INBU	68	45 SWTH	49	10 CARW (6)	80

Robbins Nest **390-0765**
Laurel, MD
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The 28th fall migration season of this backyard station atop the Patuxent River gorge saw my cumulative fall net hours pass the hundred thousand mark. The late start (26 Aug) undoubtedly contributed to the lower species total. Except for one catbird and four White-throated Sparrows, my 29 return records were from permanent resident species. The oldest were an eight-year-old Carolina Chickadee, a seven-year-old Northern Cardinal, and a seven-year-old Tufted Titmouse. Only ten individuals of transient species were recaptured beyond the date of banding. An Ovenbird stayed 18 days, gaining 2.2 g, and a redstart stayed 12 days, gaining 0.5 g. The average stay for recaptured transients was 6.4 days. The greatest weight gain was by a Gray-cheeked Thrush that weighed 39.5 g on arrival on 11 Oct and 48.3 g four days later.

Patuxent Powerline Right-of-way **390-0764**
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, MD
Deanna K. Dawson
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Bird numbers rebounded at this station in fall 2000, with more birds banded than in any of the 20 previous autumns of operation. Capture totals exceeded 100 birds on four mornings between 16 and 24 Oct, and record highs were set for several species: Golden-crowned Kinglet (298), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (692), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (40), Nashville Warbler (37), and White-throated Sparrow (350). The only species captured in record low numbers were Prairie Warbler (2) and Common Yellowthroat (129), both of which nest in the managed scrub habitat in which the banding station is located. Forty-nine birds banded in previous years were captured, including 15 Red-eyed Vireos, two of which were banded as HYs in 1994. Special thanks to Brice Adams, Marty Barron, Woody Martin, Jane Nicolich, Gemma Radko, and Jack Saba for their assistance, and to Danny Bystrak and Mary Gustafson, who each served as bander-in-charge on several mornings.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary **384-0764**
Bristol, Anne Arundel Co., MD
Danny Bystrak
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In 2000, we added two nets to complete our array, so the comparability of our data is somewhat compromised, although these nets did not differ significantly in their species mix, except for Bobolinks. It was a very unremarkable year, with the only highlights being a Blue-headed Vireo, two Grasshopper Sparrows, and the large number of Bobolinks. Along with serving as a migration monitoring station, we also continue to track differences in bird occurrence by habitat. We had the help of many volunteers, most notably Mike Quinlan, Lloyd Lewis, and June Bourdat. Special thanks also to our intern Tracy Walker.

Greenwell Field Station **382-0763**
Hollywood, St. Mary's Co., MD
Ron and Mark Runkles
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Record cold weather in early and late October gave Greenwell Field Station its earliest Hermit Thrush (7 Oct), American Tree Sparrow (8 Oct) and Slate-colored Junco (29 Oct) in its four years of fall monitoring. Of the 200 birds we captured during this fall season, we banded 173, 9 were recaptures, and 18 were released without banding—the truth is that most of those released without banding simply flew out of our hands while we untangled them from the net or examined them for age and molt. One, an American Woodcock, our first ever (28 Oct), was intentionally released without banding.

Overall, our banding in both numbers and species mirrored our sight and sound observations and seemed typical of the fall migration in our area. It was unspectacular. Two species were conspicuously and totally absent from our banding and observations: Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher. Towhees do not breed within or in the area immediately surrounding our banding operation, but Brown Thrashers do. This past spring, only one breeding territory was noted for Brown Thrashers in the vicinity of our banding. Normally, we identify three or four territories. Are the numbers for these species entering a cyclical

decline for northern St. Mary's County? Or, are the numbers down this fall because of the weather during their breeding season, the abnormally wet spring and early summer? Or, is this part of a general, long-term decline?

One of the three nets operated accounted for 64% of all the birds captured (128/200). This net is located at the head of a wooded gully where the woods is like a finger jutting into a fallow field. During wet weather, a tiny rivulet of water begins to flow in the wooded gully toward the Patuxent River just below the net lane. This finger of woods has a thick shrub layer, vine tangles (green briar, Japanese honeysuckle, and wild grapes), and pokeweed along the edges by the field. It acts as a magnet for migrating birds, in particular, as it provides morning sun on the east side, food, water, and shelter. There are several other such magnets in the park, but unfortunately they are too far apart to bring into our banding operation at this time.

From our weekend banding, we anticipated and forecasted the appearance of West Nile Virus in the state by about 10 days due to the migration of Swamp Sparrows and Common Yellowthroats—species that frequent moist habitats—through our area of the coastal plain. Was this coincidence or unfortunately the result of something more?

Because our field station is located within a state park, we naturally have a number of visitors. This fall season we averaged at least one visitor per day of banding, aside from two groups that visited. After our banding season closed, we did have an interesting non-human visitor, a Bobcat. We found its track on 26 Nov.

Chino Farms **391-0755**
Chestertown, MD
J. M. Gruber

Chino Farms' third year was closer to average numbers than last year. Less help available meant 10,000 fewer net hours, but capture rate was up from 32.4 to 42.6 birds per 100 net hours. Habitat remained roughly the same, maybe a little taller, but the addition of a one-third acre sunflower field is reflected in the large number of goldfinches.

Three immature Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows and an Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco were some of the highlights. The real surprise of the season was the immature Northern Shrike banded on 25 Oct.

Thanks for all the help from my wife Trish, sub-permittee Bill Snyder, Helga Offrick, Harry Sears, and Jeannine Tardiff.

Chincoteague
National Wildlife Refuge **370--0752**
Chincoeague, VA
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The weather featured many windy periods, limiting many banding days. Banding was accomplished in three different habitats: beach scrub, wax myrtle bushes, and mature loblolly pines. Banding demonstrations were given weekly to Refuge visitors.

Kiptopeke
Passerine Banding Station **371-0755**
Cape Charles, Northampton Co., VA
Brian Johnson
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The year 2000 marked the 38th consecutive year of operation by the Kiptopeke Passerine Banding Station, now overseen by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. As in previous fall seasons (except for one year at another site nearby), banding was conducted at Kiptopeke State Park, near the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula. Mist nets were open on 81 days, making this the second highest number of days ever tallied here. However, net hours were down. Nets were placed in the same locations as in the past several years.

Although the number of birds banded (7583) was only the 17th best, it was the second highest tally of the last 18 years, eclipsed only in 1998. And with a capture rate of 108.0 birds per 100 net hours, nearly double the historical average of 57.3, we easily set a new all-time station record. The number of species captured (87) was slightly below the historical average of 89, and no new species were added this year. Like other migration

stations, Kiptopeke tends to be a boom or bust operation. While over 500 birds were banded on two days, there were eleven days in which fewer than 10 birds were caught.

As in 1998, nets were opened earlier in the year to better sample Neotropical migrants. However, owing to the lack of cold fronts, as well as days with rainy or excessively windy weather, we got off to a very slow start. Not until 14 Sep did we see our first decent hit (248 birds captured). Our best September day came two days later (309 birds). Interesting captures included: a Kentucky Warbler (first since 1992); a Prothonotary Warbler (second since 1987); and a Louisiana Waterthrush (fifth ever). Also, this was our best year for Black-and-white Warblers (109 banded).

With the low numbers early in the season, birds tended to be very fat. One very healthy Black-and-white Warbler weighed 17.1 g. Additional noteworthy masses were Magnolia Warbler, 12.2 g; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 15.1 g; Blackpoll Warbler, 20.2 g; and Ovenbird, 28.6 g. The principal reason for the high capture rate this year was the huge flight of Myrtle Warblers. With 4640 birds banded, this species comprised 61.2% of our entire 2000 total and was the most banded since 1982; it was far above both the all-time average of 2232 and the 10-year average of 1764. Sizes ranged from a large male with a wing of 77 mm and tail of 65 mm (a full 4 mm above the next longest tail measurement and easily the longest I have ever measured on this species), to a dwarf female with a wing of 62 mm (a full 2 mm shorter than the next shortest wing), a tail of 48 mm (also a full 2 mm shorter than the next shortest tail), and a short tarsus of 16.8. Despite a good fat load, her mass was only 9.5 g. The lightest mass recorded in the last four years at Kiptopeke, 9.2 g, went to another very small female (wing = 64 mm), whose tarsus measurement, 15.4 mm, was by far the shortest as well. The heaviest bird, also a female, weighed 16.1 g. This was the only Myrtle Warbler that peaked our fat measurement scale. The number of Myrtle Warblers with some degree of body molt was 253 (5.5%).

Other noteworthy numbers came in small doses. Seven Hooded Warblers were the most since 1976. Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, the 8th and 9th ever caught here, set an all-time record. Four Bicknell's Thrushes were the most caught since that species was separated from the Gray-cheeked Thrush. Also well above recent averages were Gray Catbird (330), Swainson's Thrush (44), and Common Yellowthroat (326). Whereas the raptor trapping station at Kiptopeke had a dismal season, the passerine station banded the most Sharp-shinned Hawks (30) since the two stations were separated a decade ago. We also caught two Cooper's Hawks.

For the third year in a row, netting continued well into November in order to capture more temperate migrants. Only juncos and Hermit Thrush were banded in decent quantities, however. Numbers for grassland species were atrocious. Neither Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, nor Lincoln's sparrows were caught at all. And whereas finches were well represented in 1999, not a single one was caught in 2000. Goldfinch, for instance, plummeted from an all-time high of 546 last year to none this year.

Hatching-year (HY) birds again strongly dominated the captures. This year they comprised 91.1% of the birds whose ages could be ascertained accurately. High rates were observed in Red-eyed Vireo, Palm Warbler, House Wren, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Species with considerably lower rates of HY birds included White-throated Sparrow, Magnolia Warbler, and those that breed at Kiptopeke State Park. Overall, where sex could be determined positively, 53% of the birds banded were female and 47% were male–the same rate as that exhibited by Myrtle Warblers alone.

Returns numbered 21 individuals of ten species. Of those birds, ten can be considered summer/ permanent residents, and eleven as primarily winter residents. The most common were Carolina Wren (5) and Field Sparrow (4). Thirteen returns had been banded in 1999 and seven in 1998. The oldest was a Northern Cardinal banded in 1997. The most interesting, however, was a leucistic Song Sparrow that was banded as a normal plumaged HY in 1999, but sported large white patches over much of its plumage in 2000.

Only two foreign recoveries of birds banded outside the vicinity of Kiptopeke were encountered

in 2000: a Common Yellowthroat and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. This matches the number from 1999. One of the foreign recoveries from 1999, a Gray-cheeked Thrush caught on 26 Sep, was banded originally at Appledore Island on 18 May 1998.

There were 210 repeats (birds recaptured within the same season) of 191 different individuals representing 30 species. This yields a rate of 2.5% individuals recaptured. There were 45 repeats in September, 96 in October, and 69 in November. Birds that lost mass slightly outnumbered those that gained. Overall, the difference between first and last capture averaged eight days. However, if only the 59 presumed non-resident individuals are considered, the difference between first and last recapture was only two days. Of these, 37 showed losses or no changes in mass, while 20 showed gains.

Ticks were found on 26 individuals of 10 species. While most birds had few, one Carolina Wren had 28 ticks on its head. Species worst hit were Common Yellowthroat, with ticks recorded on eleven birds, and Carolina Wren, with five birds found with ticks. At time of banding, hippoboscid flies were found on 18 individuals of five species. Nine of 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks had them. The most found on any individual was three (on three female Sharp-shinned Hawks).

Banding demonstrations were provided to groups or individuals visiting the station. This year we recorded 1377 visitors. One staff member and 42 volunteers from six states contributed to make the fall 2000 season successsful. Banders were Brian Johnson and Lena Usyk. The following assistants contributed five days or more: Jerri Howe, Bob and Kathy Loomis, Barbara Chambers, Mark Garland, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Nan LaRue, Pat Krauss, Bill Kelly, Bettye Fields, Mary Anne Pulley, Marty Edmonds, Joseph Edmonds, and Phyllis Simonetta. I thank them and the other volunteers who generously donated their time and efforts. A special thanks goes to Paula Bernett who was immensely helpful at the station this year. Considerable appreciation is also extended to the Dave Summers, Amber Rae, and the rest of the staff at Kiptopeke State Park for their support and assistance.

Back Bay **363-0755**
Sandbridge, Virginia Beach Co., VA
Rob and Ann Simpson
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Our banding station is a biological field station for Natural Resources students at Lord Fairfax Community College. Depending on the class, students learn field identification, mist netting, banding techniques, sexing and aging. We are doing a cooperative project with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on the Neotropical migrants' use of various habitats on their staging grounds. Students are responsible for maintaining about ten mist nets each, and the number of students is limited to fifteen on any one day.

This year, Blackpoll Warbler numbers were down considerably (from 114 in 1999 to 10 in 2000). Our Myrtle Warbler population was back up to normal numbers (1759), from a slump last year (616).

As usual for our station, the HY percentage is very high. Only one of the top ten species fell below the 90% mark and three were 100%. On many days we also experience a perplexing reverse migration, where most of the songbird migrants are flying north.

Interestingly, Sharp-shinned Hawks outnumbered all warblers banded except Myrtle and Western Palm. The large number of Sharp-shinned Hawks seems to correlate nicely with an abundant food source of Myrtle Warblers. All of our Sharp-shinned Hawks are coincidentally caught in mist nets and most are males (89%). At our station they arrive and settle in with the Myrtle Warblers. All of our Sharp-shinned Hawks were caught at the end of October and first of November. A Clay-colored Sparrow was a good catch, but they are just about regular in the fall at our station.

We caught two foreign recaptures: a Sharp-shinned Hawk and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Also, another bander caught one of our Myrtle Warblers. Specifics on these records will have to be reported later.

We thank our long-time associate, Gary Sargent, for helping us ease into Band Manager. Our 45 students performed admirably under a wide

variety of environmental conditions. It is very rewarding to see some of these students go on to get jobs using their banding skills in a way that should have a positive effect on our planet. Former students have worked on a wide variety of projects ranging from endangered species to the effects of toxic chemicals on our wildlife. The students have worked on banding studies in the Neotropics, Puerto Rico, and many of the states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Butler Island Altamaha Station 312-0812
Darien, GA
Doris Cohrs
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After an extremely slow beginning, BIAS wound up with a flourish, albeit a passel of Myrtle Warblers! Our area, like many others, has experienced several years of drought, which seems to have affected what might be considered "normal" migration. Last year's top four species were again in top ranking but all had juggled positions. I was disappointed that the number of Northern Waterthrushes dropped to about half of last year's number, because these seemed to be good "return" birds, faithful to this migration corridor. However, with such a short history, I hesitate to make any comments on numbers of various species being significantly different from year to year.

Weather was uniformly warmer than average, and only four days were missed because of rain or windy conditions. (A fifth day was missed because of a migraine headache.)

Several hawks were in the nets this year but either escaped before I could reach them, or I got there in time to remove them from the net but was alone and had no way to measure them for identification nor could I manage the banding with only two hands. Surely there must be a way! Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were kind enough to get caught when I had an assistant, so they were banded.

The oldest return this year was a Common Yellowthroat banded as a HY-M in October of 1995. One Northern Waterthrush and one Swamp Sparrow were banded originally in the fall of 1997, and one each of House Wren, Myrtle Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Carolina Wren (a resident) returned after having been banded in the fall of 1998. There were also five returns from 1999.

This was the final year of operation of BIAS after six years in this site and one year at a slightly different site. During the seven years of operation, 12,273 birds of 83 species were banded. The station was located in a Wildlife Management Area operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. DNR has been extremely cooperative with our banding efforts and we greatly appreciate their help. Next fall, or perhaps earlier, I will begin banding on the property around my home, which is a bit farther inland and about six miles north of the Butler Island site. It will be quite a change of habitat but, hopefully, will prove to be of value in the overall puzzle of migration.

Thanks go to Don Cohrs, Mal Hodges, Eugene Keferl, Mary Nevill, Scott Somershoe, Keith Tassin, and Beth Willis for their assistance this year. They were truly dedicated to put up not only with me but also with the hordes of mosquitoes. Long-term thanks to everyone else who has helped over the seven years of BIAS's operation.

Wekiva Basin GEOpark 284-0812
Apopka, FL
Parks Small, Bob Wheeler, Clay Black, Richard Poole
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Our sixth season brought the reopening of the Wekiva Springs State Park site with questions of recoveries on our mind. One tropical system and some much needed rain halted operations for five days. Total captures for the season were 2725 (2310 new, 382 recaptures, and 33 unbanded). We had no foreign recoveries, but a catbird banded in 1997 was recovered in New York in the summer of 2000. Two hundred sixty-nine individuals from 24 species were recaptured this season. Seventy-five percent were within-season recaps. Thirteen percent were one-year returns. Two- and three-year returns both had 5% each while 4- and 5-year returns both represented 0.4% each.

Four new species were captured this fall: Pileated Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Nashville Warbler (first fall record), which brings the station total to 90 species and 11,502 captures.

An increase in visitor turnout was enjoyed. An experimental elevated net was set with no real conclusive capture differences. We would love to hear from anyone comparing ground to canopy captures. The future of the banding station is currently uncertain as changes in park staffing may affect next season.

Lakeshore Estates **3029 -08417**
Tallahassee, Leon Co., FL
Peter H. Homann

The netting lanes were the same as in previous years: in my yard along shrubbery under scattered pine trees and in the adjacent woods with a small temporary bog. After a very dry summer, tropical storms *Gordon* and *Helene* brought some short-term relief in mid-September and delivered surface water to the bog.

Two major changes set my banding activities in 2000 apart from those in previous years. First, I did not begin until 20 Sep, *i.e.,* about four weeks later than usual; and second, my retirement allowed increased banding on weekdays. Consequently, the tabulated banding data for 2000 and 1999 are not comparable. To be able to make valid comparisons, I kept separate records for a weekly netting schedule that I might have followed if I had not retired. The number of birds captured per 100 net hours calculated from the data of this schedule was 8.5. This compares with a value of 7.0 obtained for the netting success in 1999 between 20 Sep and 15 Nov. Obviously, by this measure, bird activity in 2000 was not improved as much over that in the disappointing year 1999 as the data in Table 1 suggest.

A contributing factor has been the remarkable drop in the number of captured Northern Cardinals in both 1999 and 2000 to less than 50% of the preceding six years' average (even if differences in the banding activities are taken into account). This possibly resulted from poor reproductive success during our three-year drought. The unpredictable effect of weather-related conditions on bird activity was evident from the capture of seven HY Northern Waterthrushes in the flooded bog area, five of them during the weekend schedule. More than twenty years of netting there had never yielded more than two in a single year. One of this year's birds was banded on 8 Oct and was caught three more times, the last time on 24 Oct, just before the bog dried up completely. At that date, the weight of the bird had increased from 18.8 g to 22.9 g and its fat deposits had increased significantly. Two other waterthrushes remained in the area for at least three and four days.

Noteworthy returns this winter were a Chipping Sparrow banded on 17 Apr 1995, a Myrtle Warbler banded as HY on 27 Nov 1996, and a Hermit Thrush banded as AHY on 23 Nov 1997.

NABC Certification Session

The Eastern Bird Banding Association will conduct a North American Banding Council bander evaluation session **17-19 Apr 2002** at Niagara Falls, NY, immediately preceeding the EBBA Annual Meeting. This session will accept up to 12 candidates already possessing a U.S. or Canadian banding permit or sub-permit. Successful candidates will receive NABC certification, valid for five years. Applications are available from Prof. Sara R. Morris at Dept. of Biology, Canisius College, 2001 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14208-1098; 716-888-2567; morriss@canisius.edu.

Completed applications should be returned to her by no later than **20 Feb 2002**. Applicants will be notified by **28 Feb 2002,** and accepted applicants will receive NABC manuals and further information on the written examination and April field evaluation. Candidates wishing to take the written examination prior to the field evaluation have until **1 Apr 2002** to do so, otherwise they must take it at the site on 17 Apr.

Further information available from Robert P. Yunick, 518-377-0146, anneboby@aol.com.