
ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW:

Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Region IV, Fall 2001

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USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, MD 20708-4015

The Hollywood, Butler Island, and Wekiva Basin stations did not operate this year, but we welcome back Jekyll Island, GA, with its flagship species, Western Palm Warbler (835); and we are glad to have a report from Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Florida to replace the Wekiva Station.

Except for a couple of good rains in August, the second half of the year was droughty in Maryland and Virginia, while Florida had a surplus of rain throughout the autumn. Baltimore recorded its driest fall since 1941. The 2001 stream inflow entering Chesapeake Bay was 36 percent below normal, securing the status of the region's longest running drought since the 1960s. Part of the extended drought can be blamed on two consecutive years without a hurricane making landfall in continental United States—the first time in two decades that this had happened. September and October averaged cooler than normal throughout the region, but the other months had excessive heat. The stations that opened in early August detected little movement in the first half of the month. States to the north of us were experiencing record-breaking heat, culminating in the hottest day in the past quarter century in New York City (104° F) on 9 Aug. On the following day the temperature 40 feet below the surface of Lake Erie more than three miles off Cleveland reached 80° F for the first time in history.

Chris Pitman commented on the scarcity of cold fronts that penetrated to the Georgia coast, and most banders elsewhere in the region would agree that the first three weeks of September produced no major waves of migrants. Peak flights at most stations occurred between 26 Sep and 19 Oct.

Comparing only the eight stations that were operated both years, net hours of effort declined 5.3% from 60,649 to 57,405, but birds per 100 net hours increased from 40.10 to 46.64. Myrtle

Warbler was by far the dominant species, with about 7200 banded in Region IV this season. Surely one or two of these will be picked up somewhere in the next few years. Gray Catbird was in second place with about 1850. Third place went to American Goldfinch, thanks to the efforts of Jim Gruber who banded nearly 1800 of them at Chino Farms. Common Yellowthroat, which was in second place last year, fell to fourth place, and White-throated Sparrow remains number five.

Some of the remarkable totals this year were 1797 American Goldfinches, 488 Song Sparrows, and 341 Indigo Buntings at Chino Farms, 214 Swamp Sparrows at Jug Bay, and 599 Gray Catbirds, 299 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 196 Hermit Thrushes, and 15 Bobolinks at Kiptopeke. Intergrade flickers were banded at Kiptopeke and at Back Bay, and American Woodcock at Jug Bay and Back Bay.

Although all stations in Region IV remained open into November, none encountered the influx of Black-capped Chickadees and northern finches that was noted in the reports from Regions I and II.

On 7 Oct, the final day of the Eastern Shore Birding Festival, the Kiptopeke banders celebrated with 249 birds of 28 species, thanks to a timely cold front. Operating until 4 Nov really paid off for the crew at Back Bay, as their final bird was an Ash-throated Flycatcher, the first ever banded in Virginia.



Table 1. AFR Region IV, Fall 2001 Summary.

	Laurel	Patuxent	Jug Bay	Chino Farms	Chincoteague
First Day	5 Aug	1 Aug	14 Aug	1 Aug	2 Aug
Last Day	26 Nov	30 Nov	16 Nov	15 Nov	25 Nov
Days Open	105	109	42	65	38
Nets Used	6 to 16	19 to 26	26	11 to 69	3 to 7
Net Hours	6459	9130	3700	13,895	749
Best Day	32	203	162	412	43
Best Day Date	29 Sep	14 Oct	19 Oct	16 Oct	8 Oct
Most Species	12	26	28	37	15
" " Date	28 Oct	4 Oct	1 Oct	2 Oct	8 Oct
Banded 2000	452	3739	2171	6929	446
Banded 2001	519	3737	2661	8057	430
Species 2000	49	82	83	107	75
Species 2001	53	84	72	111	60
B/100nh 2000	9	40.5	60	43	142
B/100nh 2001	8	40.9	72	61	57
% HY 2000	67%	69%	74%	86%	72%
% HY 2001	67%	58%	70%	79%	92%

Table 1. AFR Region IV, Fall 2001 Summary (cont'd.).

	Kiptopeke	Back Bay	Jekyll Island	Rock Springs	Lakeshore
First Day	21 Aug	2 Sep	23 Sep	19 Sep	23 Sep
Last Day	21 Nov	4 Nov	14 Oct	29 Nov	15 Nov
Days Open	93	20	22	18	52
Nets Used	21	30 to 98	15	12 to 20	4 to 9
Net Hours	11,667	9354	959	1116	2451
Best Day	421	562	296	91	17
Best Day Date	16 Oct	30 Oct	26 Sep	30 Sep	26 Sep
Most Species	28	28	18	17	10
" " Date	7 Oct	23 Sep	26 Sep	30 Sep	26 Sep
Banded 2000	7583	2763	2259	2310	238
Banded 2001	8026	3150	1802	591	194
Species 2000	87	83	44	66	37
Species 2001	94	84	42	38	39
B/100nh 2000	108	18	246	41	9
B/100nh 2001	69	34	188	69	8
% HY 2000	91%	95%	96%	73%	60%
% HY 2001	96%	95%	96%	50%	68%

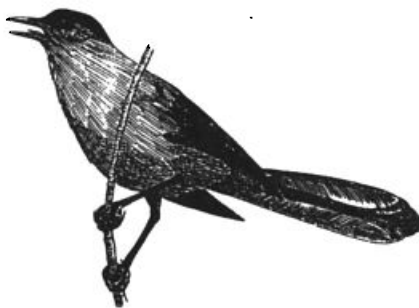
Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2001.

Laurel		Patuxent		Jug Bay		Chino Farms		Chincoteague	
% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY	
50 WTSP (1)	64	586 RCKI (1)	21	293 SOSP (2)	78	1797 AMGO (1)	79	91 MYWA (1)	100
46 GRCA (3)	76	382 WTSP (2)	43	215 INBU (1)	86	632 WTSP (2)	67	64 COYE (2)	84
36 HETH (6)	58	340 GRCA (7)	82	214 SWSP (4)	71	503 SCJU (10)	75	56 GRCA (3)	100
33 AMRO (9)	72	216 SCJU (5)	196	196 COYE (7)	72	488 SOSP (7)	84	22 AMRO	100
27 MAWA (5)	63	172 GCKI (3)	50	176 WTSP (3)	56	479 MYWA (3)	64	17 SOSP (4)	100
25 ETTI (8)	40	165 MAWA (4)	52	164 AMGO (6)	68	355 GRCA	86	15 SWSP (7)	80
25 NOCA (2)	58	156 COYE (8)	60	157 MYWA (5)	64	341 INBU (6)	95	12 AMRE	100
22 MYWA	45	127 MYWA (16)	70	145 CHSP (8)	88	295 COYE (9)	60	11 HOWR (8)	100
20 RCKI	80	124 HETH (9)	66	84 BLGR	75	278 RCKI (5)	41	8 OROR	88
20 BTBW	70	92 REVI (6)	60	68 EATO	76	263 CHSP (4)	91	8 EAPH	100

Table 2 (cont'd.). AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2001.

Kiptopeke		Back Bay		Jekyll Island		Rock Springs		Lakeshore	
% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY	
4002 MYWA (1)	98.3	2204 MYWA (1)	98.8	835 WPWA (1)	99.6	251 GRCA (1)	69	27 NOCA (2)	74
599 GRCA (3)	98.1	134 GCKI (4)	85.7	442 COYE (2)	97	89 COYE (2)	40	22 WEVI (1)	73
380 AMRE (2)	96.7	69 RCKI (5)	79.7	134 GRCA (3)	97.7	48 MWWA	73	12 GRCA (5)	83
299 BTBW (6)	93.6	55 GRCA (2)	95.5	62 AMRE (4)	88.7	26 HOWR (7)	35	12 MYWA (4)	67
244 COYE (4)	93.9	53 SSHA (6)	98	50 PRAW (6)	86	23 SWSP	26	10 RCKI	40
196 HETH (7)	91.1	49 SCJU (8)	87	42 PABU (8)	83.3	23 WEVI (5)	70	9 HOWA (6)	56
135 WTSP (6)	76.9	48 SWSP	61	30 BTBW (5)	73.3	16 RCKI	44	8 CACH (8)	55
132 BAWW (8)	98.4	41 BRGR	78.9	27 NOWA (9)	96.2	14 NOCA (8)	36	9 CARW (10)	66
122 RCKI	68.9	41 COYE (7)	94	27 WEVI (12)	100	13 OVEN (4)	46	8 ETTI	71
116 MAWA	96.4	39 HETH	79.4	24 NOCA (11)	70.8	10 AMRE (9)	30	6 SWTH (7)	71
								7 HETH	57

(#) Indicates species' position last year.



Gray Catbird
by George West

Robbins Nest

Laurel, MD

Chandler S. Robbins

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390-0765

I continue to band before and after work and all day on weekends on my two and a half acres along the Patuxent River gorge between highway I-95 and the Laurel city limits. Our kids have long since flown the coop, so I have no one to run the station when I am out of town; thus, I miss some of the best flight days. The chief changes in habitat over the years have been replacement of pines by young deciduous growth, loss of dogwoods in the mature deciduous forest, and gradual replacement of lawn by shrubbery. To explore changes in fall migration patterns, I compared my banding totals for the first five years of systematic fall banding with those of the most recent five years. By coincidence the totals were nearly identical: 2175 birds in 1973-1977 and 2169 in 1997-2001. However, my net hour totals were vastly different: 9124 in the first five years compared with 26,284 for the current period. It took nearly 2.9 times the effort to catch the same number of birds I used to band. Next year, my 30th, I'll be checking to see which species I am losing and which are maintaining their numbers.

I had 35 returns of a dozen species, but all were either summer, winter, or permanent residents. The oldest this time was only four years old, a Gray Catbird. Eleven transients repeated on a subsequent day. The one longest in residence was a Gray-cheeked Thrush that I captured 10 times in 17 days; it weighed 31.0 g when banded and reached a maximum of 51.7 g 13 days later.

Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way 390-0764

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Laurel, MD

Deanna K. Dawson

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After one of the quietest Septembers since this station opened in 1980, a record high number of birds was captured in October, making the seasonal total almost identical to that in fall 2000. Capture totals exceeded 100 on eight mornings between 9 and 24 Oct, and a new daily high was set on 14 Oct, when 203 birds, including 105 Myrtle Warblers, were banded. Capture totals for several species

set record highs: Gray Catbird (340, including 4 returns; previous high 288), Northern Cardinal (48, including 2 returns; previous high 36), Fox Sparrow (44, previous high 36), Swamp Sparrow (65, previous high 60), and White-throated Sparrow (382, including 8 returns; previous high 350). For the first time ever, captures of Red-eyed Vireos dropped below 100, with only 5 return birds captured (compared to 15 returns in 2000 and 37 in 1999). Carol Erwin and Woody Martin deserve special thanks for assisting on most mornings throughout the season. Brice Adams, Emma Allott, Marty Barron, Danny Bystrak, Kacy Cook, Mary Gustafson, Jane Nicolich, Diann Prosser, Mike Quinlan, Gemma Radko, and Jack Saba also provided assistance.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary**384-0764**

Bristol, Anne Arundel Co., MD

Danny Bystrak

dbystrak@aol.com

Our fifth autumn of operation was our second consecutive year with our full complement of 26 nets. We operated from 14 Aug to 16 Nov on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule. Our catch of 90 species and 2661 individuals was above average on both counts. It was a more interesting year than 2000, with highlights being American Woodcock, 7 Baltimore Orioles, Barn Swallow, 3 Great Crested Flycatchers, Cape May, Kentucky, and Orange-crowned warblers, Warbling Vireo, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Along with serving as a migration monitoring station, we also continue to track differences in bird occurrence by habitat. We thank our many volunteers, most notably Mike Quinlan, June Bourdat, Arlene Ripley, and Sandy Curry. Special thanks also to our intern, Sara Martin.

Chino Farms**391-0755**

Chestertown, MD

J. M. Gruber

Chino Farms' fourth year was its second best for numbers of new birds banded and for number of species. Net hours were down for the second consecutive year, but catch rate (new b/100nh) was up almost 20% over last year. Habitat remains the same. Highlights include our second Clay-colored Sparrow, two new species: Yellow-throated

Vireo and Summer Tanager, and another record number of American Goldfinches (1797). A few northern species put in an appearance with better-than-average numbers for this station: Purple Finch (34), Pine Siskin (8), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (20).

Again, this station could not operate without the help of loyal volunteers: my wife, Trish; sub-permittees Jeannine Tardiff and Bill Snyder; net runners Helga Orrick, Matt Haffner, Scott Ferenburg; and our host, Dr. Harry Sears.

Chincoteague Natl. Wildlife Refuge 375-0752
Chincoteague, Accomac Co., VA
Richard N. Roberts
Chincoteague, VA 23336
bandbird@intercom.net

Compared to 2000, 2001 was a poor year. Twice the effort resulted in about the same number of birds. The fall and end of summer were very dry with little or no rainfall for months, and many banding days in the fall were conducted under stationary highs when no birds were moving anywhere.

Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Sta. 371-0755
Cape Charles, Northampton County, VA
Jethro Runco, head bander
jethro_runco@hotmail.com

This season can be summed up in two words: very dry. Of the 93 days that marked our banding season, we banded on all 93 of them! This, in turn, allowed us to have very high net hours. Our biggest day came on 16 Oct when 421 birds were banded. The most species came on 7 Oct after a cold front pushed through the area. What was special about this day was that it was also the last day of the ninth annual Eastern Shore Birding Festival! We banded 249 birds that day in front of a very large crowd of festival goers. Fun was had by all! Our best birds of the season include a flicker intergrade, that is thought to be the first for the station, on 13 Oct, a Clay-colored Sparrow on 9 Oct, and 15 Bobolinks on 27 Aug! Only two other Bobolinks have been caught and banded during the 39 years of banding at Kiptopeke! Sixteen species were caught in ten-year highs and another 17 were in five-year highs. Once again, Yellow-rumped

Warblers were the main catch here. This year, with 4002 banded, they represented half of the station total.

The 2001 season was an outstanding success mainly due to the dedicated support from the many volunteers, who are the heart and soul of this banding station. They are the ones that make Kiptopeke what it is today. Many thanks to them. Special thanks also to the staff at Kiptopeke State Park and Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge.

Back Bay 363-0755
Sandbridge, Virginia Beach County, VA
Rob and Ann Simpson
Lord Fairfax Com. Coll., Middletown VA
snphotos@adelphia.net

This is an educational banding station run by Lord Fairfax Community College. Students are instructed in net setup, bird capture, bird handling, identification, sexing, aging and other banding techniques. In cooperation with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, we are doing a study on habitat selection by Neotropical migrants on their staging grounds.

The weather was not very conducive to migration during our first 10-day session. During our second session, we had NW winds on several nights that brought us many migrants. We continue to have a strange reverse migration where the Neotropical migrants move north during the day. We welcome suggestions as to why this happens.

As usual, close to 100% of the Neotropical migrants are HY. This seems to be very high compared to other banding stations and we are still trying to find out why. We banded three new birds for the station. Our first American Woodcock and Rusty Blackbird were overdue. Our best bird was an Ash-throated Flycatcher, the first to be banded in Virginia. It was the last bird caught on 4 Nov, our last day of operation. Other good birds included a Clay-colored Sparrow on 27 Oct and an intergrade flicker.

A special note of thanks goes to Gary Sargent, a long-time associate, who is responsible for all of our computer operations and data analysis. The instructors and students appreciate Gary's wizardry with the computer and help in the field.

Jekyll Island Banding Station **310-0812**
Jekyll Island, GA
Chris Pitman
janchrisbirders@juno.com

This year's session was marked by a 20% decrease in the total number of birds from year 2000, despite an approximate 5% increase in the net hours. The primary factor in this decrease is attributed to the lack of quantity and strength in the northern cold fronts coming through the area. As in most years, Western Palm Warblers yielded a large portion of our catch, with this year's "masses" accounting for 46% of our total. Common Yellowthroats accounted for another 25%.

Much gratitude is due to our many volunteers without whose dedication the station would not be able to function. Banders this year, other than myself, were Jan Pitman, Charles Ratliff, Lydia Thompson, and Don Cohrs. Of particular note, after twenty-five years Don Cohrs has retired from JIBS. Don's knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment will be missed. We shall be hard-pressed to find someone who can entertain, mesmerize, and enthrall visiting groups and individuals of all ages, as Don has done for so many years.

Rock Springs Run State Reserve **284-0813**
North of Orlando, FL
Richard Poole
Catbird@cfl.rr.com

A banding station for monitoring birds was established in 1998 in Rock Springs Run State Reserve located north of Orlando, FL. The station operates once or twice weekly from late October until early May. Nets are opened at first light, approximately one-half hour before sunrise, and remain open until 1000 or 1100 depending upon wind and number of captures. Vegetation around the nets varies from oak (*Quercus* spp.) to palmetto (*Sabal* ssp.) with blackberry (*Rubus betulifolius*) thickets and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) trees.

Some birds became inveterate repeaters. A White-eyed Vireo banded 19 Sep 1997 was caught for the 33rd time. Swamp Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and a Gray Catbird provided some of the interesting recaptures. A Swamp Sparrow banded

on 17 Dec 2000 was caught four times during the 2000-01 season and six times during the 2001-02 season, the first time 1 Nov 01. Another Swamp Sparrow banded on 15 Mar 2001 was caught again on 1 Nov. A Common Yellowthroat banded on 7 Oct 2001 was caught for the fifth time 1 Nov 2001. A Common Yellowthroat banded on 4 Oct 01 stayed around long enough to be caught for the sixth time 23 Jan 02. A third Common Yellowthroat banded on 22 Sep 2001 stayed until 10 Mar 2002 to be netted nine times. A Gray Catbird was caught six times from 28 Oct 2001 through 23 Jan 2002.

Numerous volunteers braved the heat, which was more than 100° F at times, and the record low cold, 17° F. (The Chamber of Commerce does not like us to send out this information.) We had many visitors from pre-school to retirees.

Lakeshore Estates **302-0841**
Tallahassee, FL
Peter H. Homann
homann@bio.fsu.edu

As in previous years, I used netting lanes located in my yard along shrubbery under scattered pine trees and in adjacent mixed woods with a small temporary bog. After several years of drought, rainfall was almost normal this year in the Tallahassee area. This set the stage for an exciting migratory season because the berry crop was plentiful and the bog was filled with surface water during most of the banding period. My expectations were not met, however. While the species count was higher, the number of captured individuals was 20% lower than last year. Of course, there are factors other than a flooded bog and an availability of berries that influence the abundance of transient migratory birds. Moreover, when conditions are good for a stopover at my location, they are likely to be just as good or better elsewhere.

The number of banded birds remained quite low throughout December when wintering migrants represent the majority of captured birds without a band. This additional hint at quite generally poor migratory activity in this area was strengthened later by our rather low Christmas count of wintering passerines in the wider vicinity of my home.

EBBA's ANNUAL MEETING -- 4-6 APRIL 2003

Plan an early vacation next year in the beautiful laurel highlands of western Pennsylvania while attending a weekend banding conference.

Hidden Valley Four Season Resort will be our conference center for the 2003 meeting. Four Season's efficiency units will be available for the weekend or the entire week at the same conference price of \$69.00 per unit per night. Lodging guests may enjoy many available activities including skiing, golf, hiking, tennis, swimming, and a fitness center. There will be a free continental breakfast served to guests daily from 7 to 11 am.

For those who prefer more rustic accommodations, there is a nearby state park with a limited number of winter cabins available.

Our gracious co-host for this event will be Carnegie Museum's Powdermill Nature Reserve, a world-renowned year-round banding site where over 500,000 birds have been banded and which also hosts a spectacular banding website for banders. The Saturday session will be held in the field and nature center at Powdermill with participants being able to consult with experienced banders in a hands-on atmosphere. Workshops will focus on learning and improving banding skills in trapping, net setup, aging and sexing, measuring, molt limits, and more. Bring your questions, ideas, and techniques to help everyone improve their banding.

Friday and Saturday evening meals and speakers will be at Hidden Valley. The conference room will be open continually to guests and our annual bucket raffle and silent auction items will be on display around the walls of the room. Please remember to bring items to donate for the bucket raffle and silent auction. Thanks.

For information and/or questions, contact: Brad Silfies, PO Box 242, Danielsville, PA 18038. e-mail: bssilfies@entermail.net phone: 610-826-3817.

NABC Certification - 2002

The third EBBA-sponsored NABC Bander Certification Session was hosted by Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) on 13-15 Sep 2002. Participating NABC-certified Trainers were Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Sara Morris, Bob Mulvihill, and Bob Yunick.

Many of the candidates took advantage of the invitation of BBBO to come a day early to work at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station and become comfortable with the layout of the station and the banding protocol in place. The formal part of the session began on Friday afternoon with dinner and presentations by the candidates and many of the trainers. Presentations included: "Ongoing Research at BBBO", "Avian Jeopardy", "Saw-whet Owl Banding", "A Bander's Bag of Tricks", "Designing a Website", and "Spotted Owl Banding".

Saturday included testing at the nets and banding table, where there was an ample supply of a variety of species and, in the afternoon, testing of various skills banders need to master. A pizza party Saturday evening was preceded by a discussion among all the participants on ways to improve future sessions.

Before departure on Sunday morning, exit interviews between trainers and candidates were held. Successful candidates were David Hauber of Coudersport, PA; Erin Karnatz of Batavia, NY; and David Semple of Rochester, NY.

Betsy Brooks

NABC Certification - 2003

The Eastern Bird Banding Association plans to conduct a North American Banding Council bander certification session **6-8 Apr 2003** following its Annual Meeting at Powdermill Nature Reserve near Rector, PA. The session is open to up to 12 candidates either with a banding permit or who are seeking certification to apply for a banding permit in the U.S. or Canada. Applications and additional information are available from

Robert S. Mulvihill

Powdermill Nature Reserve

HC 64, Box 453, Rector, PA 15677-9605

ph: 724-593-7521; fax: 724-593-6570;

e-mail: mulvipnr@westol.com

Completed applications should be returned to him as much in advance of **10 Jan 2003** as possible, and accepted applicants will be notified by **15 Jan** with information on obtaining NABC manuals and procedures for taking a proctored written examination needed to qualify for the field examination on **6-8 Apr**.

Robert P. Yunick

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