
ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW:

Region IV Piedmont—Coastal Plain, Fall 2010

Chandler S. Robbins, Region IV Coordinator
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, MD 20708-4000
crobbs@usgs.gov

Although Region IV was spared direct hits from hurricanes in 2010, heavy rains from weak tropical storms in mid August and late September interrupted banding at coastal stations. A classic pattern of weekly cool fronts kept the Maryland and Virginia stations busy in September and October, but the fronts rarely penetrated as far south as Florida. With only 10% of normal precipitation, it was the driest October on record for the state of Florida.

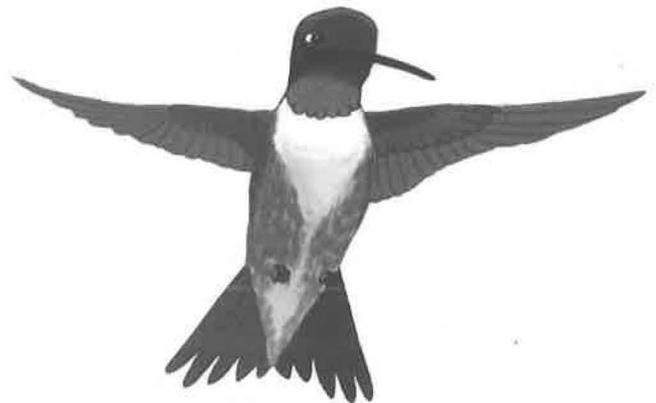
In seasons when few cool fronts occur, nearby stations tend to have their best days or best species days within two or three days of each other; but in 2010 when fronts were frequent, the best days reported were scattered widely, with only two coinciding (17 Oct).

Table 2 shows the high consistency in relative abundance of the most commonly banded species from year to year. The top three species were the same as the previous year at six of the eleven stations, and two of the top three were the same at the other stations. Major high totals this year included 980 Indigo Buntings, 617 House Finches, and 277 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Foreman's Branch; 4,252 Myrtle Warblers at Kiptopeke; 30 Western Palm Warblers at Folly Island; 37 Prairie Warblers and 37 Painted Buntings at Kiawah Island; and 90 Worm-eating Warblers at Cape Florida. Among the greatest declines were Ruby-crowned Kinglet (691 in 2009 to 430 in 2010) at Foreman's Branch, Gray Catbird (235 to 161) at Patuxent, and Black-throated Blue Warbler (365 to 233) at Cape Florida. Migrants were reported in lower numbers than usual at the Florida stations.

The oldest returns recaptured were an American Redstart and a Gray Catbird, both banded in 2004 at Cape Florida, and Peter Homann's Ovenbird from 2005 at Tallahassee. Danny Bystrak suggests that the record-setting snowfall of 2009-2010 would have reduced survivability of wintering species from prior years at the northern stations. Rarities included the first Philadelphia Vireo at Eden Mill, Black-capped Chickadees at Eden Mill and Patuxent, 93 Northern Saw-whet Owls and a Barn Owl at Foreman's Branch, and Western Tanager at Key Biscayne.

The Kiptopeke, Kiawah, and Tomoka stations altered some of their net locations this year to better sample some of their habitats or to sample sites not previously covered.

We thank the Region IV banders for their 74,000 net-hours of effort during the 2010 fall season. We regret there is no report from Jekyll Island this year.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by George West

	Eden Mill	Laurel	Patuxent	Foreman's Branch	Chincoteague	Kiptopeke
First Day	27 Aug	11 Oct	16 Aug	1 Aug	4 Aug	18 Aug
Last Day	5 Nov	30 Nov	15 Nov	30 Nov	28 Nov	22 Nov
Days Open	11	20	42	88	38	92
No. Nets Used	11.5	13	26	10 to 101	3 to 9	26
Net Hours	503	932	3,549	41,488	580	13,235
No. Best Day	52	14	95	449	104	790
Best Day Date	22 Oct	12&16 Oct	17 Oct	11 and 24 Oct	17 Oct	30 Oct
Most Species	21	9	24	46	16	32
Most Species Date	2 Oct	12 Oct	13 Sep	3 Oct	10 Sep	8 Oct
Banded 2009	188	234	1,902	10,076	165	4,119
Banded 2010	265	115	1,876	13,431	455	8,470
Species 2009	32	41	75	111	28	89
Species 2010	45	20	79	127	45	95
B/100nh 2009	72.5	10.9	53.6	25.0	45	38
B/100nh 2010	37.9	12.3	52.9	32.4	78	64
% HY 2009	76%	68%	73%	86%	93%	91%
% HY 2010	83%	65%	73%	89%	90%	92%

	Lighthouse Creek	Kiawah Island	Tomoka	Cape Florida	Lakeshore Estates
First Day	1 Sep	23 Aug	15 Aug	12 Aug	15 Aug
Last Day	20 Nov	24 Nov	28 Nov	8 Nov	15 Nov
Days Open	23	27	65	83	91
No. Nets Used	7.5 to 10.5	10	4 to 10	19	4 to 6
Net Hours	830	1,001	1,849	7,296	2,718
No. Best Day	66	78	24	103	9
Best Day Date	2 Oct	1 Oct	11 Nov	15 Oct	5 Sep
Most Species	17	19	7	17	7
Most Species Date	4 Sep	7 Oct	4 & 17 Oct	15 Oct	5 Sep
Banded 2009	462	910	314	1,685	164
Banded 2010	603	804	286	1,220	199
Species 2009	50	54	43	59	29
Species 2010	55	52	26	52	37
B/100nh 2009	49	107	15	27	8
B/100nh 2010	73	107	18	19	7
% HY 2009	94%	81%	64%	57%	74%
% HY 2010	91%	83%	61%	56%	76%

Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2010

	Eden Mill		Laurel		Patuxent		Foreman's Branch		Chincoteague		Kiptopeke	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	55 WTSP(1)*	70	21 HETH (4)	67	220 RCKI (2)	84	1,667 WTSP (1)	80	257 MYWA (1)	100	4,252 MYWA (1)	92.1
2.	39 NOCA (2)	90	21 WTSP (2)	76	176 WTSP (1)	56	1,343 SOS (2)	92	24 GRCA (2)	100	523 AMRE (3)	92.7
3.	29 MYWA (3)	92	20 NOCA (1)	60	161 GRCA (3)	83	1,027 AMGO (4)	70	23 SOS (4)	96	512 GRCA (2)	96.5
4.	22 GRCA (4)	90	10 ETTI (6)	75	160 SCJU (6)	59	980 INBU (8)	95	16 COYE	88	255 WTSP (6)	92.9
5.	12 CACH (5)	100	8 CACH (8)	67	112 MAWA (5)	62	791 SCJU (6)	82	10 NOCA (3)	30	226 HETH (7)	97.8
6.	11 SOS	81	6 AMRO(7)	33	109 COYE (4)	65	617 HOFI	95	8 SWSP (9)	100	186 COYE (5)	96.8
7.	7 ETTI	100	4 CARW(8)	100	102 GCKI	91	460 MYWA(10)	78	8 YEWA	88	186 BTBW (8)	97.9
8.	7 SWSP	100	4 GCKI	75	101 REVI (8)	74	430 RCKI (3)	88	7 WPWA	100	174 SOS (4)	90.8
9.	6 AMGO	67	3 DOWO	100	48 HETH (7)	60	355 COYE (5)	62	7 AMRE	100	142 REVI	88.1
10.	6 INBU	100	3 WIWR	100	36 BTBW	78	320 FISP (9)	94	7 HOWR	100	127 VEER (10)	96.9

* (#) - Indicates placement on list in 2009.

Table 2 (cont'd). AFR IV Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2010

	Folly Island		Kiawah Island		Tomoka		Cape Florida		Tallahassee	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	113 GRCA(1)	91	224 MYWA(3)	67	119 MYWA(1)	67	233 BTBW(1)	52.8	37 NOCA(1)	88
2.	73 COYE(2)	88	185 COYE(2)	88	32 GRCA(3)	69	212 OVEN(2)	62.3	19 WEVI(2)	68
3.	55 AMRE(3)	96	89 GRCA(1)	85	21 NOCA(7)	67	149 AMRE(3)	40.3	19 REVI	84
4.	46 MYWA	100	37 PRAW	100	17 BTBW(5)	41	90 WEWA(7)	44.4	12 ETTI	92
5.	30 WPWA	93	37 PABU	65	15 COYE(2)	53	78 BAWW(4)	41.0	12 HOFI(10)	55
6.	29 REVI	90	33 AMRE(6)	88	15 REVI(4)	73	75 GRCA(5)	72.0	11 GRCA(3)	73
7.	16 HOWR(6)	100	32 REVI(4)	94	9 CARW(8)	44	75 COYE(6)	64.0	9 CACH(6)	85
8.	16 NOCA(7)	88	26 INBU	96	7 OVEN(6)	77	60 NOPA(9)	65.0	8 BRTH	63
9.	16 PRAW(10)	94	24 BTBW(7)	96	5 AMRE(10)	20	43 NOWA	44.2	7 ACFL	71
10.	16 YBCH	69	23 NOCA(5)	100	5 WEVI(6)	100	27 REVI	70.4	6 WPWA	67