

# Kiptopeke

B I R D B A N D I N G S T A T I O N

FALL 2005

Kiptopeke State Park

Northampton County, Virginia



[www.ccb-wm.org](http://www.ccb-wm.org)



[www.dcr.state.va/parks/kiptopek.htm](http://www.dcr.state.va/parks/kiptopek.htm)

**Bryan Watts, PhD**  
*Station Master*

**Bob Anderson**  
*Raptor Committee Chair*

**Bob Ake, PhD**  
*Songbird Committee Chair*

**Bart Paxton**  
*Band Manager*

**Jethro Runco**  
*Songbird Bander in Residence*

**Zach Smith**  
*Raptor Bander in Residence*

The 2005 fall season represents the forty-third year of operation for the Kiptopeke Banding Station. Begun by Virginia Society of Ornithology members Fred Scott, Walter and Doris Smith, Mike and Dorothy Mitchell, and Charlie Hacker, the station has operated each fall since 1963. Over this 43-year period, songbird banders have banded 306,054 individuals of 159 species, captured 148 birds banded elsewhere, and recorded 534 birds that returned to the station in different years.

In 2005, songbird banding was conducted during 94 days between 15 August and 27 November with a total of 11,426 net hours. The station was closed for 11 days during the period due to rain and high wind. A total of 9,567 birds were banded of 105 species (Table 1). Two additional species (Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Northern Bobwhite) were captured but not banded. Captures included 6,012 (62.8%) nearctic migrants, 3,394 (35.5%) neotropical migrants, and 161 (1.7%) residents. Average capture rate was 83.7/100 net hours.

Consistent south winds throughout the first half of the migration season seemed to hold birds to the north, resulting in very few frontal movements during the normal passage time for neotropical migrants (Figure 1). This unusual pattern ended in mid-October when late-moving neotropical migrants poured through the station along with high numbers of temperate migrants. The second half of October provided the most significant series of captures in 30 years with 5,981 birds banded between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Just after these large movements were captures of a state record MacGillivray's Warbler and an Oregon Junco. Throughout the season, daily captures included 2 days over 700, 3 days over 600, 4 days over 500, 6 days over 400, 8 days over 300, 14 days over 200, and 24 days over 100. Capture of Gray Catbirds was a station record 1,289, reminiscent of more northerly stations. On 17 October the station reached a milestone when the 300,000<sup>th</sup> bird was captured, banded, and processed. The young male Black-throated Blue Warbler was fitted with a gold band, photographed, and released. The Kiptopeke Banding Station has banded more birds during fall migration than any station in North America.

Diurnal raptor trapping was conducted during 76 days between 9 September and 2 December. The station was closed for 9 days with

total operation hours of 589.5. A total of 687 individuals were banded of 9 species (Table 2). Average capture rate was 116.5 birds/100 hours of operation. No birds were captured from other years and 7 birds were foreign recoveries. The highest daily capture was 40 birds on 24 September (Figure 2).

In addition to normal operations, the banding station continued to participate in projects to evaluate spatio-temporal patterns of migration using stable isotope signatures from feathers. Banders in residence were Jethro Runco for songbirds and Zach Smith for raptors. Ariel White served as banding assistant for the entire season. Volunteer banders were Steve Cardano, Shannon Ehlers, Amy Finfera, Jerri Howe, Bart Paxton, Bob Reilly, and Bryan Watts. Volunteer assistants who spent extended periods of time at the station include John & Martha Dillard, Shannon Ehlers, Bette Fields, Amy Finfera, Jerri Howe, Renee Hudgins, Robert Klages, Nan LaRue, Bob & Kathy Loomis, Josh Nemeth, Bart Paxton, Mary Pulley, Bob Reilly, Lori Rutledge, Fletcher Smith, and the Odell family (Abby, Andrew Sr., Andrew Jr., Cameron, E.A., Margaret & Shannon). We thank the Kiptopeke State Park staff for their generous hospitality and assistance. Special thanks to park director Sam Sweeney and Eastern Shore of Virginia, NWR manager Sue Rice for their continued support. The Kiptopeke Banding Station is financially supported and operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory in cooperation with Kiptopeke State Park and the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary. Additional funding was provided by the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

*Bryan Watts*

Bryan Watts - Station Master  
The Center for Conservation Biology  
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**Table 1.** Summary of 2004 songbird banding results for Kiptopeke Banding Station.

Common Name	Total Number	Percent of Total	First Capture	Last Capture	High Count Day	High Number
Green Heron	1	0.01	10-Oct	10-Oct	10-Oct	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	22	0.23	2-Sep	19-Nov	26-Oct	3
Cooper's Hawk	8	0.08	3-Sep	31-Oct	8 Days	1
American Woodcock	3	0.03	28-Oct	13-Nov	3 Days	1
Mourning Dove	2	0.02	15-Aug	11-Sep	15-Aug, 11-Sep	1
Eastern Screech Owl	2	0.02	22-Aug	9-Oct	22-Aug, 9-Oct	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16	0.17	16-Aug	23-Oct	22-Oct	2
Chuck-will's-widow	3	0.03	17-Aug	24-Aug	24-Aug	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	0.02	16-Aug	10-Sep	16-Aug, 10-Sep	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	8	0.08	5-Sep	29-Oct	22-Oct	3
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	0.05	3-Sep	13-Oct	5 Days	1
Trail's Flycatcher	71	0.74	22-Aug	10-Oct	3-Sep	15
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9	0.09	23-Aug	30-Sep	3-Sep	4
Least Flycatcher	6	0.06	16-Aug	28-Sep	3-Sep	2
Eastern Phoebe	42	0.44	28-Sep	8-Nov	16-Oct	8
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	0.02	3-Sep	23-Sep	3-Sep, 23-Sep	1
Eastern Kingbird	5	0.05	26-Aug	7-Sep	26-Aug	2
White-eyed Vireo	11	0.11	16-Aug	3-Oct	16-Aug	2
Blue-headed Vireo	3	0.03	13-Oct	6-Nov	3 Days	1
Philadelphia Vireo	3	0.03	18-Sep	20-Sep	18-Sep	2
Red-eyed Vireo	81	0.85	25-Aug	22-Oct	4-Sep	12
Blue Jay	2	0.02	5-Nov	12-Nov	5-Nov, 12-Nov	1
Tree Swallow	1	0.01	21-Oct	21-Oct	21-Oct	1
Carolina Chickadee	9	0.09	20-Aug	30-Oct	20-Aug, 24-Aug	2
Tufted Titmouse	2	0.02	24-Aug	15-Nov	24-Aug, 15-Nov	1

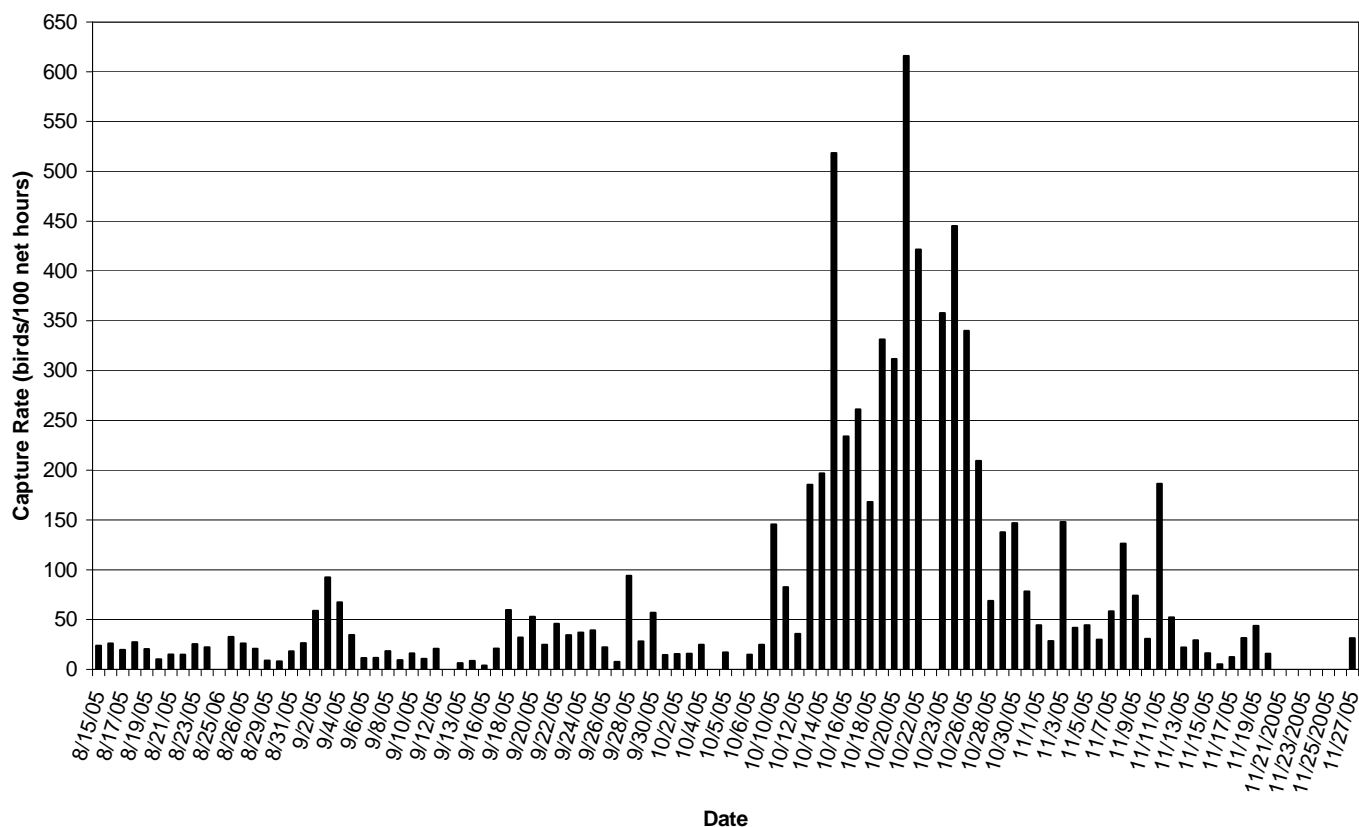
**Table 1.** –continued–

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>First Capture</b>	<b>Last Capture</b>	<b>High Count Day</b>	<b>High Number</b>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	0.07	24-Sep	27-Nov	24-Sep, 19-Oct	2
Brown Creeper	38	0.4	28-Sep	20-Nov	19-Oct	5
Carolina Wren	46	0.48	15-Aug	22-Oct	15-Aug	4
House Wren	71	0.74	16-Aug	20-Nov	20-Oct	9
Winter Wren	32	0.33	4-Oct	18-Nov	19-Oct	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	79	0.83	15-Oct	27-Nov	19-Oct	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	72	0.75	28-Sep	14-Nov	3-Nov	8
Swainson's Thrush	38	0.4	4-Sep	22-Oct	20-Sep	5
Veery	64	0.67	25-Aug	15-Oct	4-Sep	8
Gray-cheeked Thrush	13	0.14	18-Sep	17-Oct	28-Sep	3
Bicknell's Thrush	3	0.03	28-Sep	17-Oct	17-Oct	2
Hermit Thrush	257	2.69	16-Oct	27-Nov	11-Nov	40
Wood Thrush	17	0.18	9-Sep	19-Oct	17-Oct	8
American Robin	31	0.32	28-Aug	20-Nov	11-Nov	4
Gray Catbird	1289	13.47	9-Sep	20-Nov	23-Oct	127
Northern Mockingbird	18	0.19	16-Aug	16-Oct	23-Sep	4
Brown Thrasher	14	0.15	24-Aug	27-Oct	18-Oct	2
Cedar Waxwing	3	0.03	2-Sep	8-Nov	3 Days	1
Blue-winged Warbler	5	0.05	15-Aug	6-Sep	2-Sep	2
Golden-winged Warbler	1	0.01	4-Sep	4-Sep	4-Sep	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	0.02	20-Oct	20-Nov	20-Oct, 20-Nov	1
Nashville Warbler	5	0.05	3-Sep	18-Oct	5 Days	1
Northern Parula	47	0.49	4-Sep	29-Oct	28-Sep	13
Yellow Warbler	3	0.03	21-Aug	20-Sep	3 Days	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	0.04	18-Aug	15-Oct	4 Days	1
Magnolia Warbler	54	0.56	2-Sep	27-Oct	18-Sep	7
Cape May Warbler	3	0.03	14-Oct	20-Oct	3 Days	1
Blackburnian Warbler	1	0.01	3-Sep	3-Sep	3-Sep	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	287	3	29-Aug	4-Nov	10-Oct	37
Cerulean Warbler	1	0.01	17-Aug	17-Aug	17-Aug	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	0.03	10-Oct	17-Oct	17-Oct	2
Myrtle Warbler	4324	45.2	22-Sep	27-Nov	21-Oct	531
Western Palm Warbler	178	1.86	4-Sep	20-Nov	20-Sep	48
Yellow Palm Warbler	35	0.37	28-Sep	12-Nov	19-Oct	8
Pine Warbler	6	0.06	28-Aug	22-Oct	21-Oct	3
Prairie Warbler	15	0.16	19-Aug	22-Oct	4 Days	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	0.01	3-Sep	3-Sep	3-Sep	1
Blackpoll Warbler	13	0.14	21-Sep	9-Nov	3 Days	2
Black-and-White Warbler	99	1.03	16-Aug	21-Oct	3-Sep	17
American Redstart	388	4.06	16-Aug	23-Oct	3-Sep	50
Prothonotary Warbler	3	0.03	18-Aug	9-Oct	3 Days	1
Worm-eating Warbler	6	0.06	25-Aug	26-Sep	6 Days	1
Ovenbird	80	0.84	18-Aug	23-Oct	18-Sep	8
Northern Waterthrush	68	0.71	16-Aug	19-Oct	5-Sep	6
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	0.02	15-Aug	17-Aug	15-Aug, 17-Aug	1
Connecticut Warbler	1	0.01	13-Oct	13-Oct	13-Oct	1
Mourning Warbler	4	0.04	21-Aug	25-Sep	4 Days	1

**Table 1. –continued–**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>First Capture</b>	<b>Last Capture</b>	<b>High Count Day</b>	<b>High Number</b>
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	0.01	8-Nov	8-Nov	8-Nov	1
Kentucky Warbler	1	0.01	29-Aug	29-Aug	29-Aug	1
Common Yellowthroat	236	2.47	18-Aug	15-Nov	17-Oct	16
Hooded Warbler	1	0.01	9-Oct	9-Oct	9-Oct	1
Wilson's Warbler	2	0.02	2-Sep	18-Sep	2-Sep, 18-Sep	1
Canada Warbler	2	0.02	26-Aug	2-Sep	26-Aug, 2-Sep	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	20	0.21	22-Aug	20-Oct	4 Days	2
Summer Tanager	4	0.04	28-Aug	13-Oct	4 Days	1
Scarlet Tanager	4	0.04	4-Oct	23-Oct	4 Days	1
Eastern Towhee	33	0.34	15-Oct	18-Nov	19-Oct	7
Chipping Sparrow	22	0.23	16-Oct	18-Nov	11-Nov	6
Field Sparrow	125	1.31	15-Aug	27-Nov	22-Oct	11
Vesper Sparrow	2	0.02	3-Nov	3-Nov	3-Nov	2
Savannah Sparrow	7	0.07	19-Oct	19-Nov	4-Nov	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	7	0.07	16-Aug	29-Oct	7 Days	1
Fox Sparrow	10	0.1	12-Nov	20-Nov	19-Nov	3
Song Sparrow	243	2.54	13-Oct	27-Nov	27-Oct	22
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	0.04	16-Oct	23-Oct	4 Days	1
Swamp Sparrow	229	2.39	2-Oct	19-Nov	11-Nov	39
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1	0.01	30-Sep	30-Sep	30-Sep	1
Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	6	0.06	16-Oct	27-Oct	27-Oct	3
White-throated Sparrow	309	3.23	15-Oct	27-Nov	11-Nov	99
Slate-colored Junco	67	0.7	19-Oct	19-Nov	11-Nov	12
Oregon Junco	1	0.01	11-Nov	11-Nov	11-Nov	1
Northern Cardinal	78	0.82	15-Aug	13-Nov	3 Days	5
Blue Grosbeak	16	0.17	23-Aug	16-Oct	31-Aug	4
Indigo Bunting	51	0.53	21-Aug	21-Oct	28-Sep	6
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0.01	17-Nov	17-Nov	17-Nov	1
Rusty Blackbird	1	0.01	23-Oct	23-Oct	23-Oct	1
Baltimore Oriole	7	0.07	1-Sep	3-Sep	3-Sep	3
House Finch	2	0.02	19-Oct	19-Oct	19-Oct	2
American Goldfinch	24	0.25	7-Sep	27-Nov	19-Nov	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,567</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>15-Aug</b>	<b>27-Nov</b>	<b>21-Oct</b>	<b>739</b>

**KIPTOPEKE SONGBIRD BANDING  
(Capture Rate by Season)**

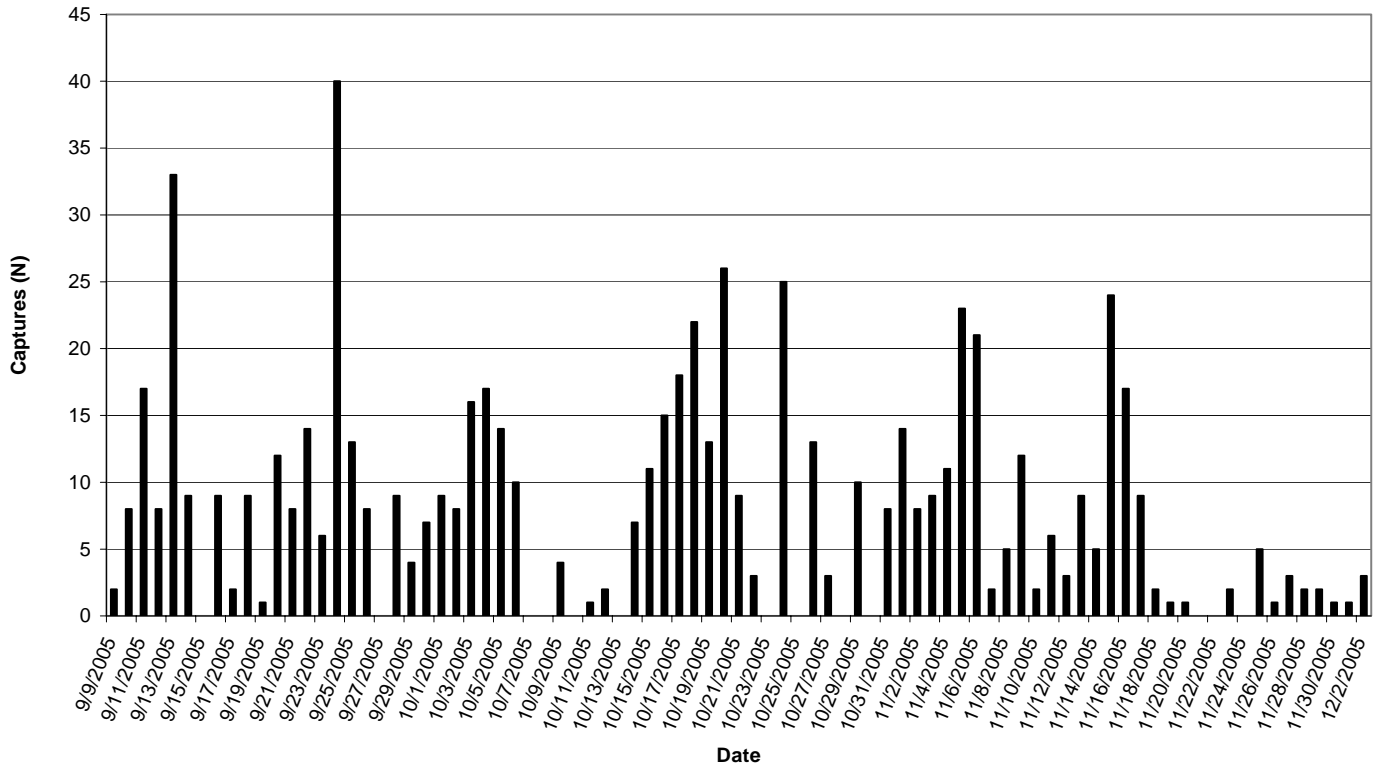


**Figure 1.** Temporal distribution of capture rates for songbirds in 2005.

**Table 2.** Summary of 2005 raptor banding results for Kiptopeke Banding Station.

Common Name	Totals	Percent of Total	First	Last	High	High Number
Northern Harrier	17	2.47	16-Oct	2-Dec	20-Oct, 1-Nov	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	249	36.24	11-Sep	29-Nov	15-Nov	20
Cooper's Hawk	156	22.71	9-Sep	2-Dec	24-Sep, 18-Oct	11
Northern Goshawk	2	0.29	22-Oct	25-Nov	22-Oct	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	0.15	14-Nov	14-Nov	14-Nov	1
Red-tailed Hawk	34	4.95	12-Sep	1-Dec	17-Nov	4
American Kestrel	54	7.86	9-Sep	16-Oct	13-Sep	18
Merlin	154	22.42	10-Sep	13-Nov	24-Sep	18
Peregrine Falcon	20	2.91	20-Sep	3-Nov	4-Oct	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>9-Sep</b>	<b>2-Dec</b>	<b>24-Sep</b>	<b>40</b>

**KIPTOPEKE RAPTOR BANDING  
(Capture by Season)**



**Figure 2.** Temporal distribution of captures for raptors in 2005.