

K i p t o p e k e

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

FALL 2002

Kiptopeke State Park

Northampton County, Virginia



www.ccb-wm.org



www.dcr.state.va/parks/kiptopek.htm

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Station Master

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Jethro Runco
Songbird Bander in Residence

Deniz Aygen
Raptor Bander in Residence

The 2002 fall season represents the fortieth 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 been operated each fall since 1963. Over this 40-year period, songbird banders have banded 280,708 individuals of 158 species, captured 138 birds banded elsewhere, and recorded 495 birds that returned to the station in different years.

In 2002, songbird banding was conducted during 90 days between 15 August and 22 November. The station was closed due to high wind or rain for 10 days. A total of 6,217 birds were banded of 88 species (Table 1). Captures included 3,976 (64.0%) nearctic migrants, 2,098 (33.7%) neotropical migrants, and 143 (2.3%) residents. Average capture rate was 66.8 birds/100 net hours. This rate is the lowest since the station expanded the banding season in 1997. A full assessment of long-term trends is underway. The overall cadence of migration followed the normal course with daily capture rates increasing in mid-October as neotropical migrants gave way to nearctic migrants (Figure 1). The early fall produced relatively few opportunities for frontal movements with much of the airflow originating from the deep south. Consequently, 160 birds represented the peak daily total during the August-September period. The warm temperatures and late leaf fall in the northeast also appeared to contribute to higher than expected captures of neotropical migrants in the second half of October.

Diurnal raptor trapping was conducted during 76 days between 7 September and 30 November. The station was closed due to high wind or rain for 9 days. A total of 515 individuals were banded of 9 species (Table 2). Average capture rate was 85.4 birds/100 hours of operation. This rate is the second lowest rate since 1995 and is consistent with the below average hawk count recorded for the site. Unfavorable winds occurred during many days throughout the fall season and appear to have reduced the number of good flights along the lower Delmarva Peninsula. The highest daily capture was 31 birds on 25 October (Figure 2). Observations and captures of Sharp-shinned Hawks were extraordinarily low during September. As with passerines, this pattern may reflect the unusual conditions throughout the northeast.

During the 2002 season, there were 1,289 entries in the visitors log. Visitors were from 32 states, the District of Columbia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, and Nicaragua. A large number of school groups, bird clubs, and nature tours visited the station. Banders in residence were Jethro Runco for songbirds and Deniz Aygen for raptors. Volunteer banders were Jerri Howe, Bart Paxton, Bob Reilly, and Elizabeth Sellers. We very much appreciate the volunteer assistance provided by Mary Arginteanu, Shirley Buchanan, Muriel and Doug Carle, Marty Daniels, Todd Day, Ed Dewars, John and Martha Dillard, the Edmonds family, Susan Heath, Renee Hudgins, Robert Klages, the Miller family, the Myers family, Trina Morris, the Odell family, Carol and Donald Palmer, Larry Robinson, Dot Silsby, Andy and Karen Taylor, Mike Terry and Alex Wilke. A special thanks for all of their efforts and time to Betty Fields, Jane Frigo, Jerri Howe, Nan LaRue, Bob and Kathy Loomis, David Mitchell, Dorothy Mitchell, Mary Pulley, Bob Reilly, Sue Rice and Elizabeth Sellers. We thank the Kiptopeke State Park staff for their generous hospitality and assistance. Special thanks to park director Dave Summers for his continued support and Cameron Barnas for all her efforts to coordinate visiting groups and volunteers. 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 - *Station Master*
 The Center for Conservation Biology
 College of William & Mary

Table 1. Summary of 2002 songbird banding results for Kiptopeke Banding Station.

Species	Total Number	Percent of Total	First Capture	Last Capture	High Day	High Number
Sharp-shinned Hawk	23	0.37	16-Sep	18-Nov	15-Nov	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	0.08	15-Aug	24-Sep	5 days	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2	0.03	19-Aug	9-Sep	2 days	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0.02	15-Sep	15-Sep	15-Sep	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0.03	15-Oct	1-Nov	2 days	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	0.02	20-Nov	20-Nov	20-Nov	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	4	0.06	3-Sep	20-Nov	4 days	1
Eastern Kingbird	8	0.13	27-Aug	13-Sep	27-Aug	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	0.03	30-Aug	2-Sep	2 days	1
Eastern Phoebe	17	0.27	24-Sep	14-Nov	22-Oct	8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	0.06	13-Sep	25-Sep	18-Sep	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	22	0.35	20-Aug	19-Sep	5-Sep	6
Acadian Flycatcher	3	0.05	18-Sep	3-Oct	3 days	1
Traill's Flycatcher	80	1.29	17-Aug	5-Oct	5-Sep	15
Least Flycatcher	5	0.08	19-Aug	19-Sep	5 days	1
Blue Jay	3	0.05	18-Oct	25-Oct	18-Oct	2
Orchard Oriole	4	0.06	22-Aug	22-Aug	22-Aug	4
Baltimore Oriole	6	0.10	3-Sep	12-Sep	7-Sep	3
House Finch	2	0.03	23-Oct	8-Nov	2 days	1
American Goldfinch	8	0.13	27-Oct	14-Nov	14-Nov	3
Seaside Sparrow	1	0.02	22-Aug	22-Aug	22-Aug	1
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0.03	28-Oct	12-Nov	2 days	1
White-throated Sparrow	119	1.91	17-Oct	22-Nov	14-Nov	30
Chipping Sparrow	29	0.47	1-Oct	19-Nov	10-23, 11-08	6
Field Sparrow	48	0.77	22-Aug	22-Nov	22-Nov	11

Table 1. –continued–

Species	Total Number	Percent of Total	First Capture	Last Capture	High Day	High Number
Slate-colored Junco	73	1.17	6-Oct	22-Nov	14-Nov	30
Song Sparrow	61	0.98	5-Oct	22-Nov	23-Oct	12
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0.02	22-Oct	22-Oct	22-Oct	1
Swamp Sparrow	34	0.55	29-Sep	19-Nov	23-Oct	5
Fox Sparrow	2	0.03	15-Nov	20-Nov	2 days	1
Eastern Towhee	11	0.18	7-Oct	21-Nov	11-21,10-27	2
Northern Cardinal	43	0.69	15-Aug	21-Nov	8-17,8-24,9-03	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0.02	30-Sep	30-Sep	30-Sep	1
Blue Grosbeak	1	0.02	24-Aug	24-Aug	24-Aug	1
Indigo Bunting	21	0.34	4-Sep	15-Oct	9-30,10-07	4
Scarlet Tanager	7	0.11	5-Sep	15-Oct	7 days	1
Summer Tanager	1	0.02	19-Sep	19-Sep	19-Sep	1
Red-eyed Vireo	86	1.38	22-Aug	19-Oct	12-Sep	14
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0.03	24-Sep	24-Sep	24-Sep	2
Blue-headed Vireo	8	0.13	6-Oct	19-Nov	10-6,10-17	2
White-eyed Vireo	18	0.29	15-Aug	19-Oct	15-Aug	2
Black-and-White Warbler	102	1.64	19-Aug	25-Oct	25-Sep	9
Worm-eating Warbler	12	0.19	18-Aug	7-Sep	8-27,8-19	2
Blue-winged Warbler	4	0.06	3-Sep	18-Sep	4 days	1
Nashville Warbler	6	0.10	12-Sep	14-Oct	12-Sep	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	0.05	15-Oct	3-Nov	3 days	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0.02	12-Sep	12-Sep	12-Sep	1
Northern Parula	29	0.47	31-Aug	19-Oct	24-Sep	10
Cape May Warbler	3	0.05	9-Oct	23-Oct	23-Oct	2
Yellow Warbler	4	0.06	20-Aug	22-Aug	20-Aug	2
Black-thr Blue Warbler	367	5.90	2-Sep	8-Nov	15-Oct	64
Myrtle Warbler	2793	44.92	25-Sep	22-Nov	15-Oct	342
Magnolia Warbler	71	1.14	30-Aug	10-Oct	9-12,9-18,9-25	8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9	0.14	31-Aug	3-Oct	13-Sep	2
Blackpoll Warbler	34	0.55	12-Sep	31-Oct	2-Oct	5
Black-thr Green Warbler	2	0.03	18-Sep	20-Oct	2 days	1
Pine Warbler	5	0.08	30-Aug	24-Oct	9-Oct	2
Western Palm Warbler	61	0.98	12-Sep	19-Nov	29-Sep	16
Yellow Palm Warbler	35	0.56	24-Sep	16-Nov	9-29,10-15	8
Prairie Warbler	17	0.27	16-Aug	7-Oct	19-Aug	3
Ovenbird	87	1.40	18-Aug	15-Oct	9-25,9-26,10-6	6
Northern Waterthrush	17	0.27	20-Aug	14-Oct	4 days	2
Connecticut Warbler	3	0.05	29-Sep	24-Oct	3 days	1
Mourning Warbler	1	0.02	5-Sep	5-Sep	5-Sep	1
Common Yellowthroat	179	2.88	23-Aug	19-Oct	18-Sep	22
Yellow-breasted Chat	23	0.37	17-Aug	22-Oct	17-Oct	3
Hooded Warbler	2	0.03	5-Sep	6-Oct	2 days	1
Wilson's Warbler	8	0.13	4-Sep	3-Oct	9-12,9-18	2
Canada Warbler	5	0.08	30-Aug	2-Sep	2-Sep	3
American Redstart	382	6.14	15-Aug	18-Nov	27-Aug	37
Northern Mockingbird	53	0.85	15-Aug	22-Oct	17-Aug	8
Gray Catbird	158	2.52	12-Sep	15-Nov	6-Oct	34
Brown Thrasher	28	0.45	17-Aug	31-Oct	27-Sep	6
Carolina Wren	32	0.51	16-Aug	8-Nov	17-Aug	5
House Wren	58	0.93	19-Aug	14-Nov	24-Sep	9
Winter Wren	24	0.39	24-Sep	19-Nov	22-Oct	4

Table 1. –continued–

Species	Total Number	Percent of Total	First Capture	Last Capture	High Day	High Number
Brown Creeper	50	0.80	6-Oct	20-Nov	22-Oct	8
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	3	0.05	17-Aug	7-Sep	17-Aug	2
Carolina Chickadee	6	0.10	17-Aug	14-Nov	20-Aug	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	299	4.81	7-Oct	21-Nov	27-Oct	31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	172	2.77	1-Oct	21-Nov	17-Oct	23
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	0.03	17-Aug	31-Aug	2 days	1
Wood Thrush	2	0.03	15-Oct	18-Oct	2 days	1
Veery	63	1.01	25-Aug	6-Oct	6-Sep	9
Gray-cheeked Thrush	29	0.47	24-Sep	1-Nov	29-Sep	8
Bicknell's Thrush	1	0.02	15-Oct	15-Oct	15-Oct	1
Swainson's Thrush	28	0.45	5-Sep	17-Oct	25-Sep	6
Hermit Thrush	164	2.64	14-Oct	22-Nov	1-Nov	28
American Robin	10	0.16	22-Oct	20-Nov	19-Nov	3
Total	6218	100.00	15-Aug	22-Nov	15-Oct	487

KIPTOPEKE SONGBIRD BANDING
(Capture Rate by Season)

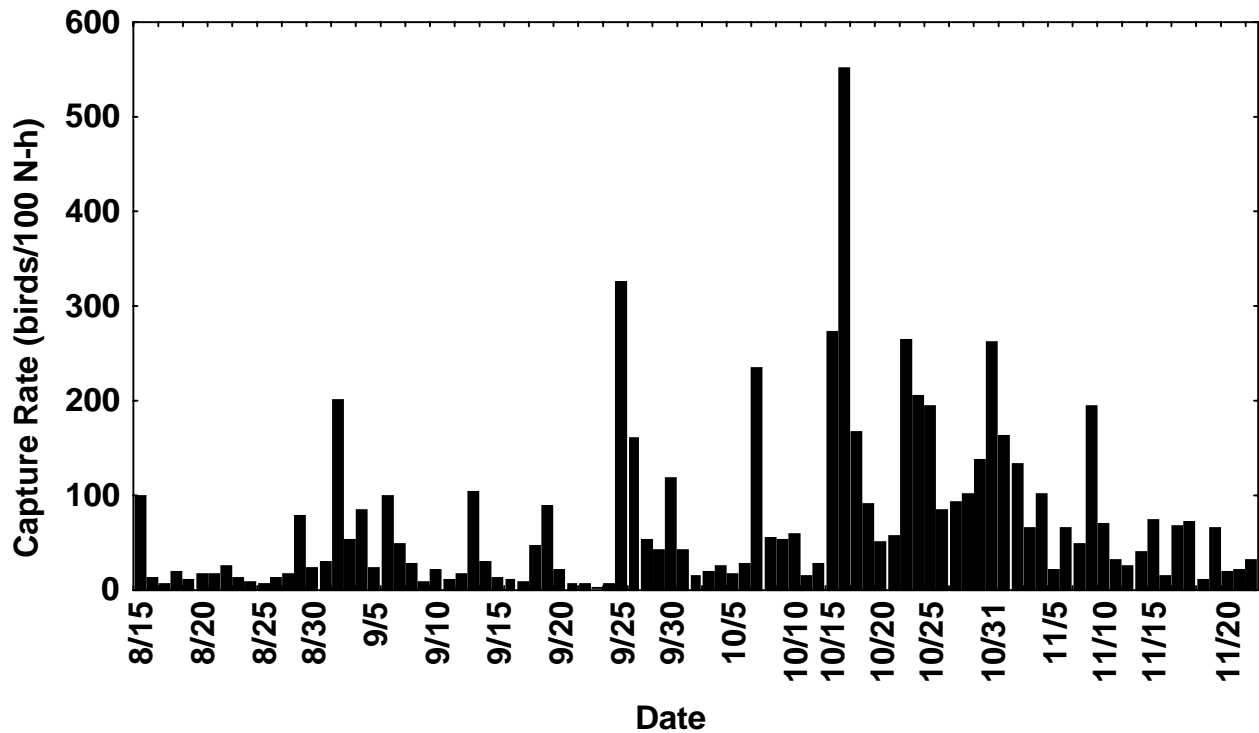


Figure 1. Temporal distribution of songbird captures.

Table 2. Summary of 2002 raptor banding results for Kiptopeke Banding Station.

Species	Total Number	Percent of Total	First Capture	Last Capture	High Day	High Number
American Kestrel	1	0.2	16-Nov	16-Nov	16-Nov	1
Merlin	68	13.2	9-Sep	24-Oct	20-Sep	8
Peregrine Falcon	9	1.7	27-Sep	19-Oct	4-Oct	3
Northern Harrier	12	2.3	1-Oct	30-Nov	15-Nov	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	0.6	23-Oct	26-Nov	3 days	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	0.2	14-Nov	14-Nov	14-Nov	1
Red-tailed Hawk	29	5.7	19-Sep	28-Nov	3,5-Nov	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	292	56.7	13-Sep	29-Nov	25-Oct	26
Coopers Hawk	100	19.4	8-Sep	25-Nov	15-Oct	9
Total	515	100.00	8-Sep	30-Nov	25-Oct	31

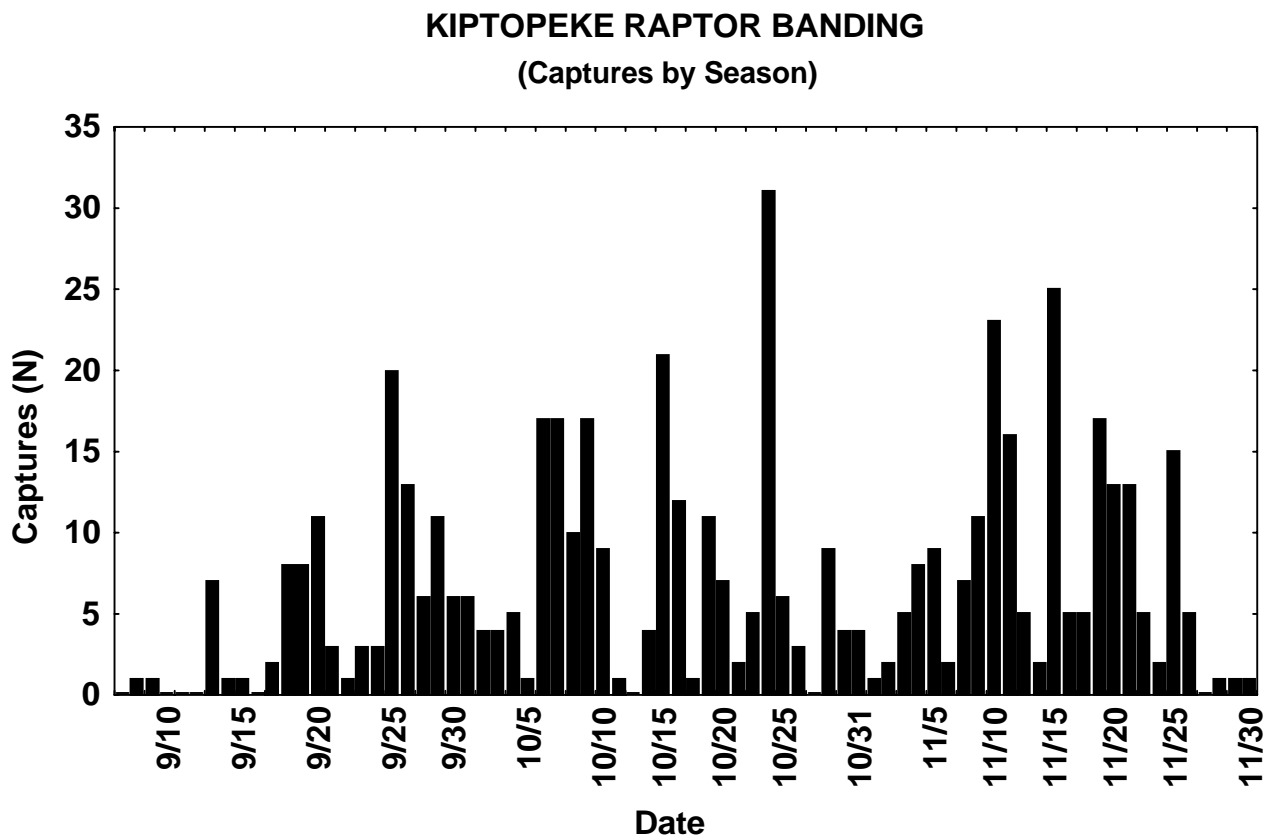


Figure 2. Temporal pattern of raptor captures.