

JIBSHEET

Newsletter of Jekyll Island Banding Station

Annual Report for 2008 #39

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JIBS Opens Saturday October 3 Though Saturday 18th for Our 31st Year Of Banding.

Saturday, October 3rd will be our set up day to prepare for banding at first light on Sunday the 4th. Please join us on Saturday at 8 am. We need all of your help to will prepare the site and get the station ready. I enjoy walking out on the boardwalk for the first time each year during set-up. The scent of the salt air, lantana, and dog fennel bring back memories of the sunrises, people, and birds. When I pull my first bird out the net, the birds completely take over and all other troubles melt away. I am reminded why Chris and I have spent our vacation at JIBS for the past 18 years. It's quite simple, we love it. Charles Seabrook's article in the Atlanta Journal- Constitution "Jekyll Island is a haven for songbirds" beautifully describes his visit to the station during the Coastal Bird Festival. It is true Jekyll Island is a haven for the birds and also for the birders who love them. Just what is this bird with blue legs or which warbler has yellow bottoms on their feet? Questions and answers only banding reveal. You are invited to join us again this year for a truly unique birding experience. One of our primary goals at the station is to inform the public about birds, migration, and the importance of habitats. The Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival and brought us numerous visitors since it began. This year once again we will be a field trip for the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival October 8-11. For more information about the birding festival check out the website www.coastalgeorgiabirdung.org There are some changes this season. Due to personal constrains we must reduce the time the station is operating this year. Also our e-mail address has changed and is listed at the top of the newsletter. Everyone's help has been invaluable –Thank you! Without your help and support the station could not operate. Jan Pitman

2008 Rare Bird Report and Notes From Chris Pitman, Master Bander

For the second year in a row, JIBS banded a rare species in Georgia. On a relatively quiet day I found myself removing a small vireo from the holding bag. The bird felt and appeared different from any other vireo I had banded before. After many minutes of comparing the bird in my hand to various field guidebooks and consulting the "banders bible" (Peter Pyle's Identification Guide to North American Bird's) I came to the

conclusion I was holding A Bell's Vireo. Even after banding thousands of birds over many years, it was absolutely enthralling to band a "new" species.

While Western Palm Warblers and Common Yellowthroats maintained a strong presence in 2008, their numbers were somewhat down from 2007. This year these two species accounted for 57% of our total, down from 67% in 2007. Other species total made up the difference.

Painted Buntings, American Redstarts, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Northern Cardinals, and House Wrens numbers doubled or tripled over the previous year's totals. The operation of the Jekyll Island Station is entirely dependent on the generous donation of time from volunteers. I would particularly like to thank my sub-permittees Jan Pitman and Charles Ratliff, aspiring banders Evan Pitman and Laura Steadman, and Carol "Deputy Strike" Schneier.



Volunteer Information

JIBS is an all-volunteer bird conservation and banding station. We are continuously seeking conscientious persons to donate their time and skills. **Volunteers with excellent hand/eye coordination, a steady hand, and love of puzzles are welcome. Must be tolerant of heat, cold, and mosquitoes! Have the ability to walk through loose sand for half a day. Listen to instructions and performs per instructions. Must have a desire to learn about the natural world, particularly birds.** The station is currently operated under the direction of Charles Ratliff, Jan Pitman, and Chris Pitman, all licensed bird banders. Everyone is personally trained to perform all tasks to station standards. There are various jobs available.

Net Monitor: Patrols the nets for captured birds. Alerts qualified net picker for extraction of birds. Also shuttles bagged birds to the bander and relays bags and other supplies as needed to the Net Picker. There is no direct bird to person contact required. Little training required.

Net Picker: Patrols the nets for captured birds and extracts captured birds from the net. Training and certification by our banders required. Extensive training required.

Recorder: Notates measurements and other data as dictated by the bander Listens to the bander intently and has precise handwriting. No direct bird to person contact required. Moderate training required.

Technical Help: Our website does not work! If you can help please call or email Chris Pitman.

Especially valuable: All of our team that has served JIBS in the past seasons! We look forward to have you back.

How to apply: Let Chris, Charles, or Jan know when you can come to help out by e-mail, phone or in writing. Our new e-mail address is: ovenbird@att.net

Housing: To provide an affordable housing option for JIBS volunteers, we are renting a different house on the island. The cost is \$25 a night per person. A weekly rate is available. Accommodations are limited and include full kitchen and laundry facilities. Please RSVP to the Pitman's for the house soon as you set your dates.

Please provide us with your e-mail address for the next newsletter at ovenbird@att.net

SPECIES	SPECIES NAME	2008 # OF BIRDS
AMRE	American Redstart	54
BAOR	Baltimore Oriole	1
BAWW	Black-and-White Warbler	6
BEVI	Bell's Vireo	1
BGGN	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	3
BLPW	Blackpoll Warbler	2
BRTH	Brown Thrasher	3
BTBW	Black-Throated Blue Warbler	38
BTNW	Black-Throated Green Warbler	1
CACH	Carolina Chickadee	1
CARW	Carolina Wren	2
CMWA	Cape May Warbler	3
COYE	Common Yellowthroat	269
EAPH	Eastern Phoebe	3
EATO	Eastern Towhee	3
GRCA	Gray Catbird	138
HOWR	House Wren	45
INBU	Indigo Bunting	19
MODD	Mourning Dove	1
MYWA	Myrtle Warbler	4
NOCA	Northern Cardinal	36
NOMO	Northern Mockingbird	9
NOPA	Northern Parula	5
NOWA	Northern Waterthrush	20
OVEN	Ovenbird	2
PABU	Painted Bunting	55
PRAW	Prairie Warbler	14
RCKI	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	1
REVI	Red-Eyed Vireo	15
SAVS	Savannah Sparrow	1
SWTH	Swainson's Thrush	5
SWWA	Swainson's Warbler	1
REWA	Tennessee Warbler	4
VEER	Veery	1
WEVI	White-Eyed Vireo	21
WPWA	Western Palm Warbler	425
YBCH	Yellow-Breasted Chat	2
YBCU	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	1
YBSA	Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	1
YPWA	Yellow Palm Warbler	2
YWAR	Yellow Warbler	4
TOTAL FOR ALL BIRDS in 2008		1225
TOTAL SPECIES in 2008		41

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