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NABC Certification Session Report

EBBA's sixth North American Banding Council (NABC) certification session was held on 1-3 Oct 2004 at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Participating Trainers were Tom Bartlett, Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, David Holmes, Sara Morris, and Bob Yunick.

Two people successfully passed the Bander-level Certification: Christian Friis and Stuart Mackenzie, both of Port Rowan, Ontario.

For the first time, a Trainer-level Certification was held and two individuals passed their evaluations: David Cimprich of Fort Hood, Texas, and Erin Karnatz of Albion, New York.

Congratulations to all the successful participants!

Betsy Brooks



Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV - Fall 2003

**Chandler S. Robbins,
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We welcome the Eden Mill station in northeastern Maryland to Region IV this year. With three stations reporting their worst year ever, we really need to be refreshed. After a cool and wet July, August was hot and wet in the east. Temperatures in September remained close to normal, but thanks to tropical storms Henri (6-8 Sep) and Isabel (18 Sep), rainfall was excessive in the Chesapeake Bay states. The entire Northeast had cool weather in October, starting with an early freeze on 3 Oct that triggered some good banding days in our region. Precipitation was unusually spotty in October, but plentiful at most of the Region IV stations. November temperatures were consistently well above the norm, starting with a record-breaking 81° in Baltimore on the 1st.

Four of the five Maryland stations had their best day on 19 or 20 Oct. One might expect some of the Virginia coastal stations, Chincoteague, Kiptopeke, and Back Bay, to share the same best day, but they did not. Three stations reported an increase in birds per net hour this year, while seven had a decline. Summarizing the changes in rank in Table 2, Gray Catbird was the species with the most (5) increases in rank (in excess of decreases), followed by junco (4) and Myrtle Warbler and Swamp Sparrow (3 each). Yellowthroat had the most decreases (5), followed by redstart (3).

Myrtle Warbler (4572) was once again the most commonly banded species in Region IV, followed by White-throated Sparrow (1723), Gray Catbird (1349), and Western Palm Warbler (1090). Michelle Davis' station on Key Biscayne is the envy of the rest of us. Her top eight species were *all* warblers and there was not a Myrtle among them. Imagine having Parula, Prairie, and Worm-eating warblers fighting for sixth place!

Not showing among the top ten, however, are other surprises. Several banders commented on Saw-whet Owls and Bicknell's Thrushes. Deanna Dawson banded a Cerulean Warbler at Patuxent. Danny Bystrak caught 138 Swamp Sparrows at Jug Bay. In addition to two Clay-colored Sparrows and two Gambel's White-crowns, Jim Gruber at Chino Farms had his first Le Conte's Sparrow and a state high of 39 Lincoln's Sparrows. Dick Roberts' new species at Chincoteague included Yellow-throated and Mourning warblers, while Jethro Runco's best birds at Kiptopeke included Sedge Wren and Golden-winged Warbler. The Simpsons at Back Bay finally identified a Western Wood-Pewee after many years of trying. Unusual for Michelle Davis' warbler station on Key Biscayne were Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted warblers.