

2006

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV (Piedmont-Coastal Plain) Fall 2005 Eden Mill

Mark S. Johnson

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Eden Mill

Pylesville, MD

Mark S. Johnson

Mark.S.Johnson@us.army.mil

394-0762

We began this year with the construction of a banding pavilion, in memory of long-time friend and birdwatcher, Joe Vangrin. It was truly a group effort, including members of the Harford Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Eden Mill Nature Center and banding volunteers. It provided us with a fold-down table as well as a place to get out of the weather. We are indeed grateful to all who participated.

Numbers were down this autumn for all species in proportions consistent with the relative abundance of species for previous years. Birds banded per 100 net hours were roughly consistent with previous years, yet reduced compared with last year, which was likely an anomaly. Species relative abundances were identical for the top five species as last year, however.

Fall warbler numbers were generally down, but our first Brown Creepers were captured this fall. Numbers of Northern Cardinals, Gray Catbirds, and Fox Sparrows were consistent with previous years. Recaptures included a Northern Cardinal at least eight years old.

Our best days were 15 and 28 Oct, where the latter included our first nine-hour day. Given the consistent productivity of the nets during this trial, it is likely we will continue to schedule full-day activities this time next year. Given the relatively fast decline in birds between weather fronts in the mid-Atlantic in mid-September, we missed our usual productive day for Neotropical migrants.

Many thanks go out to our volunteers who make each day especially enjoyable: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Randy Robertson, Les Eastman, and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

Chino Farms

Chestertown, Queen Anne's Co., MD

J. M. Gruber**391-0755**

Chino Farms completed its eighth fall season of banding in 2005. Habitat in the area remained good until the last days of September when we

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began a 15-day period of east and southeast winds. At that time, when we would expect to band on average 100+ birds per day, we averaged only 60-70. This accounts for the slight decline in captures and 600 fewer birds than last year. After mid-October, migration was back on track and we banded what we would expect.

We banded two new species and one new hybrid for the station this fall: a Golden-winged Warbler on 12 Sep, single Philadelphia Vireos on 14 and 26 Sep, and a Brewster's Warbler on 22 Aug. Other highlights were a Red-tailed Hawk on 24 Aug, a record-high total for the station of 101 Eastern Wood-Pewees, a Clay-colored Sparrow on 22 Sep, an Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco on 8 Nov, a Summer Tanager on 28 Aug, and a Bicknell's Thrush on 19 Sep. Surprising misses this fall were Pine and Prairie warblers. We also missed Bay-breasted Warbler, but it has been some years since we have banded one here.

In addition to the banders already listed, the following persons volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Helga Orrick, Maren Gimple, Dan Small, Doug Gill, Jeannine Tardiff, Hillary Staver, Nancy Lee, and Pam Rickman.

Chincoteague Natl. Wildlife Ref.**375-0752**

Assateague Island, Accomac Co., VA

Richard N. Roberts

bandbird@verizon.net

The 2005 fall banding was very clearly defined by weather events. August and September had almost continuous southerly winds and very little migration. Then there was a complete switch the second week of October when the northerly winds and rain started after the three-month drought. August had 14 b/100nh, September had 15.6, while October and November had 80.7 and 97.9, respectively. Over half of the birds banded in August and September were AHY birds that were probably local, further indicating the lack of migration during that period.

There were significantly more HY Gray Catbirds this year than the previous years and the numbers of Common Yellowthroats were higher than the last five years. The Myrtle Warbler peak came about