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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2006 Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

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Eden Mill

Pylesville, Harford Co., MD

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This year's results generally suggest breeding conditions were favorable for migrants. Fall of 2006 provided our best numbers in the last four years. Although our days in the field were fewer, numbers of birds banded were roughly comparable to other years and birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh) were at our highest so far (89.5). The top five species banded were not different from last year, though the proportions of hatching-year birds were higher. Myrtle Warblers, Swamp Sparrows, and Carolina Wrens made it to the top ten species this year. Numbers of Field, Fox, and Lincoln's sparrows were fewer than expected and are down compared to previous years.

Best days are regularly in mid-to-late October including the 22nd and 29th, where the former produced the greatest species diversity (19) and the latter the greatest number of individuals. In both cases, White-throated Sparrows were the most common. Our first Blue-headed Vireo was netted on 22 Oct. Not included in our data are 30 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, which were not banded because of ethical considerations.

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

Foreman's Branch Bird Observ. 391-0755

Chino Farms, Chestertown

Queen Anne's Co., MD

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Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory is the new name for Chino Farms. We take our new name from the creek and dammed lake beside the station. We completed our ninth fall season of banding in 2006. Habitat in the area remained the same as last year, with farm and station staff performing habitat modification where needed to maintain the original mix. Migration was already evident on the first day of August when we started, and remained good until mid-November. We did

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not experience any prolonged periods of east or southeast winds this fall that tend to shut down migration through this location. With a slight increase in nets and the ability to stay open a little longer in the early afternoon, we increased our net hours greatly. The early afternoon, while productive in species diversity, is usually lower in numbers. This combination of increased net hours and lower numbers held down our birds per net hour, but still maintained it above 30 birds.

We banded three new species for the station this fall. They were Canada Goose on 12 Nov, Northern Harrier on 22 Aug, and a western race Willow Flycatcher (pending reviews by records committees and the banding office) on 12 Sep. Other highlights were a Red-tailed Hawk on 16 Aug, a Red-shouldered Hawk on 8 Oct, a flicker intergrade on 19 Nov, a Gambel's race of the White-crowned Sparrow on 30 Oct, a Brewster's Warbler on 12 Sep, and Orange-crowned Warblers on 4, 16, and 26 Oct.

In addition to the banders already listed, the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Helga Orrick, Doug Gill, Jeannine Tardiff, Hillary Staver, Nancy Lee, and Jared Parks.

Chincoteague Natl. Wildlife Ref. 375-0752

Assateague Island, Accomac Co., VA

Richard N. Roberts*bandbird@verizon.net*

The 2006 fall banding was dominated completely by the Myrtle Warblers that started on 4 Oct. B/100nh were 7.6 in August, 28.7 in September, 181.4 in October, and 181.8 in November. In August, the total birds banded was only 12, and in September, 77.

The top-ten bird list had never before included the Brown Creeper; this year's total was more than twice the average. All of these birds were captured in the nets in the shrubs behind the beach, suggesting they had been blown out over the ocean.

The 20 Oct cold front brought the Myrtle Warblers and from then on they dominated every banding day, resulting in this species accounting for 70% of