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# *Eastern Regional News*

***Eastern Bird Banding Association***

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## **ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: Region IV Piedmont—Coastal Plain, Fall 2007**

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**Laurel, MD 20708-4000**

Region IV welcomed another coastal station in 2007 with a report from Chris Snook at Charleston, South Carolina.

The season was hot and dry throughout Region IV except in Florida where precipitation averaged above normal. Banders blamed their poor success on the lack of cold fronts in August, September, and the first half of October and on persistent strong east winds that blew the migrants farther inland. At Bill Baggs State Park in Miami no significant cold fronts were encountered until 25 Oct, and then on 29 Oct they banded over 100 Black-throated Blue Warblers that should have been on their West Indian wintering grounds by that date.

Myrtle Warblers continued to be the most commonly banded species in Region IV, although numbers were down considerably from the previous autumn; their age ratios ranged from 25% hatching year (HY) at inland Tallahassee to 100% HY at coastal Chincoteague. Gray Catbird, which made the top ten list at all 11 stations, was in second place, with percent of HYbirds ranging from 54% at Laurel to 95% at Chincoteague.

Peak migration days ranged from 19 Sep in Laurel to 14 Nov at Kiptopeke, with five stations reporting their peak during 10-15 Oct.

Thanks to the dedicated banders and assistants who contributed 61,825 net-hours in autumn 2007 to band 22,424 birds in Region IV. Thanks also to colleagues Deanna Dawson and John R. Sauer for their helpful comments.



**Myrtle Warbler**  
**photo by R. Pantle**

**Table 1. AFR Region IV, Fall 2007 Summary.**

	Eden Mill	Laurel	Patuxent	Foreman's Br.	Chincoteague	Kiptopeke	Folly Is.	Jekyll Is.	Tomoka	Key Biscayne	Tallahassee
First Day	31 Aug	1 Aug	17 Aug	1 Aug	2 Aug	15 Aug	22 Sep	30 Sep	11 Sep	27 Aug	28 Sep
Last Day	3 Nov	29 Nov	16 Nov	30 Nov	11 Nov	22 Nov	24 Nov	20 Oct	29 Nov	9 Nov	15 Nov
Days Open	9	52	42	85	34	92	10	20	29	68	44
Nets Used	8 to 12.5	13	26	7 to 88	4 to 6	22	10	20	29	68	44
Net Hours	440	2,549	3,494	34,891	675	11,866	202	773	755.5	5,032.75	1,147
No. Bst Dy	46	25	138	631	53	489	48	123	20	145	7
B.D. Date	21 Sep	19 Sep	15 Oct	15 Oct	21 Oct	14 Nov	29 Sep	11 Oct	10 Oct	29 Oct	24 Oct
Mst Speces	14	9	25	40	12	32	17	18	11	17	6
" " Date	21 Sep	19 Sep	15 Oct	30 Sep	2Sp&11Oct	13 Oct	3 Nov	13 Oct	10 Oct	25 Oct	20 Oct
Banded '06	291	377 in '04	2464 in '03	10,182	1,074	8,773	40	1,115	438	2,561	138
Banded '07	246	255	1,700	11,003	396	5,507	203	1,122	155	1,729	108
Species '06	31	45 in '04	82 in '03	120	47	97	15	46	41	60	23
Species '07	38	36	77	122	47	92	41	43	32	54.5	28
B/100nh '06	89.5	6.9 in '04	32.1 in '03	32.2	115	85	34.8	234	34.8	50	11
B/100nh '07	55.9	10	48.7	31.5	58	46.4	109	145	20.5	37	9
% HY 2006	81	72 in '04	59 in '03	86	97.6	91	73.2	90.7	6.9	59.2	60
% HY 2007	83	57	58	78	96.2	90.3	90.1	94.0	52	50.3	55

**Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2007.**

Eden Mill				Laurel				Patuxent				Foreman's Br.				Chincoteague				Kiptopeke			
			% HY				% HY				% HY				% HY				% HY				% HY
1.	63	WTSP(1)	69	43	NOCA(1)	50	294	RCKI(1)	58	1403	WTSP(1)	67	141	MYWA(1)	100	2585	MYEA(1)	91					
2.	45	GRCA(2)	93	27	WTSP(6)	48	170	WTSP(3)	37	914	SOSP(3)	87	58	GRCA(3)	95	405	GRCA(2)	90					
3.	28	NOCA(3)	96	25	AMRO(5)	48	162	GRCA(2)	75	821	AMGO	57	29	COYE(2)	100	293	WPWA	98					
4.	14	INBU(4)	83	22	GRCA(2)	54	112	COYE(7)	51	630	SCJU(9)	60	16	SOSP(8)	88	238	AMRE(3)	94					
5.	12	SOSP(5)	91	19	WOTH(3)	84	102	SCJU(4)	35	524	GRCA(4)	84	14	WPWA(0)	100	200	COYE(6)	91					
6.	9	COYE	71	10	CARW	50	62	MAWA(5)	58	475	COYE(5)	62	11	SWSP(0)	100	183	SOSP(10)	88					
7.	7	MAWA	83	8	GCTH	50	58	SOSP	65	470	INBU(8)	92	8	WTSP(4)	88	164	BTBW(5)	94					
8.	6	TUTI	100	7	BLJA	71	43	GCKI(9)	81	407	FISP(7)	91	7	NOCA(0)	86	105	CHSP	91					
9.	5	SWSP	75	7	CACH	29	43	SWSP	45	390	MYWA(6)	59	7	HOWR(0)	100	101	SWSP(9)	95					
10.	5	OVEN	66	7	TUTI(7)	40	42	HETH(8)	64	389	CHSP	88	7	AMRE(0)	86	100	WTSP(4)	61					

( ) Indicates placement on list in 2006.

**Table 2 (cont'd.). AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2007.**

Folly Island				Jekyll Island				Tomoka				Key Biscayne				Tallahassee			
			% HY				% HY				% HY				% HY				% HY
1.	37	GRCA	92	527	WPWA(1)	97	30	MYWA(1)	70	442	BTBW(1)	51	14	NOCA(1)	86				
2.	29	WPWA	93	230	COYE(2)	96	26	GRCA(4)	73	232	OVEN(2)	46	11	WEVI	50				
3.	21	MYWA	95	105	GRCA(4)	92	13	COYE(3)	54	218	AMRE(3)	35	10	SWTH	50				
4.	20	COYE	90	23	PABU(7)	83	8	AMRE(9)	38	119	BAWW(6)	34	10	WOTH(7)	70				
5.	11	AMRE	82	21	REVI	100	8	WEVI(8)	50	94	REVI(5)	75	9	GRCA	78				
6.	11	NOCA	91	21	BTBW(10)	53	8	WPWA	100	89	WEWA(9)	28	7	HOFI	67				
7.	8	BTBW	100	19	WEVI	100	6	REVI(2)	33	78	GRCA(7)	67	6	HETH(5)	29				
8.	7	HETH	100	16	AMRE(6)	79	6	NOCA(5)	33	64	COYE(4)	70	4	HOWA	25				
9.	6	HOWR	100	16	HOWR	94	6	BTBW	17	44	BGGN	70	4	MYWA(2)	25				
10.	4	OVEN	100	15	NOCA(5)	60	4	COGD(9)	25	43	NOPA(8)	51	3	RCKI(3)	0				

( ) Indicates placement on list in 2006.

### Eden Mill

Pylesville, MD

**Mark S. Johnson**

**394-0762**

Mid-October has traditionally brought us relatively large numbers of sparrows and as such provides us with our best date for numbers of new birds banded. This did not occur this year. Numbers of Song Sparrows were down, and some species normally captured were not (e.g., Lincoln's Sparrow). Although the number of net hours and days were increased relative to last year, the number of birds captured was lower. Numbers of warbler species increased this year relative to last year.

Overall, however, species diversity and numbers of birds captured were consistent throughout the fall, though species associations changed with time. New species for Eden Mill included an ASY Connecticut Warbler, two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and a male Scarlet Tanager.

Four No. Saw-whet Owls were captured on 23 Nov between 1900 and 2300 using two nets. Given our effort, these data suggest that further attempts in the future may be worthwhile. We found the use of ultraviolet light to be useful in the identification of porphyrins in the remiges to age birds.

Many thanks go out to our steadfast volunteers: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, David Ziolkowski Jr., Les Eastman, and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

### Robbins Nest

Laurel, MD

**Chandler S. Robbins**

crobbs@usgs.gov

**390-0765**

After a gap of two years I resumed banding at this suburban fall-line station on the Patuxent River, my 33<sup>rd</sup> fall banding season on our two-acre wooded lot. I banded three mornings per week, trying to keep the same schedule as the Patuxent powerline station five miles downstream. I used half as many nets as they did and captured only 15% as many birds. Their location in a large undeveloped area combined with their managed shrub habitat probably accounted for most of the difference. The powerline station favored warblers and kinglets; I did better on cardinals and thrushes.

I have witnessed a continuing decline in warblers. In 1997 and 1998 I was still getting four species of warblers among my top ten, and then two or three warbler species through 2004; 2007 was my first year with no warblers among my top ten species.

My oldest recapture was a 10-year-old Gray Catbird (8051-36905) banded as an AHY on 18 Aug 1998.

### Patuxent Powerline Right-of-way 390-0764

Patuxent Research Refuge

Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

**Danny Bystrak**

dbystrak@usgs.gov

This station operates at the Patuxent Research Refuge in a powerline right-of-way that bisects an