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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2007 Patuxent Powerline Right-of-way

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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 33rd 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

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

upland deciduous forest. This area has been used for this purpose since 1980, except in the years 2004-2006. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along approximately one-half mile that runs generally on an east-west orientation. The habitat is marked by dense 4-6 foot high shrub foliage with very few trees of any height. Trees are purposely kept to a minimum within the right-of-way to avoid arcing with the powerlines. We operated seven days in August and November and 14 days in September and October for a total of 42 days, generally on a M/W/F schedule. Nets were opened by 25-30 minutes before sunrise, and closed about 3.5 hours later. Weather did not have a significant impact on our operations. We did have a few mornings in late October when some nets were frozen, delaying their opening. Only once (13 Nov) did rain necessitate closing nets early.

Comparisons to previous efforts at this station need to be tempered by the fact that from 1980 thru 2003, the effort was from 1 Aug thru 30 Nov with upwards of 100 days per season. This compares to our 2007 effort of operating 42 days from 17 Aug through 16 Nov. There were no new species this year. Seventy percent of our banding totals were from warblers (24%), sparrows (26%) and kinglets (20%).

The banding of 412 warblers of 29 species accounted for 24% of our total banding effort (N=1700). Notable warblers banded included (all HY): two Golden-winged, and one each of Orange-crowned, Pine, and Prothonotary. The banding of only 16 Myrtles seems low. Historically, however, there has been great variation among years in Myrtles banded at this site.

Sparrows accounted for 440 banded birds of 10 species or 26% of our total. Of note, we banded an HY White-crowned; during the previous 20 years only 10 had been banded.

Other highlights included an AHY/M Sharp-shinned Hawk, an AHY Bicknell's Thrush identified by its small wing length (88 mm), and an HY Carolina Wren that had an extra tail feather which appeared to be upside down and growing out of the uropygial gland.

Our most productive period was 15, 17, 18 and 22 Oct. During those four days (138, 119, 75 and 88, respectively), we banded 420 birds or 24.7% of our year's total.

We had 429 recaptures of 297 birds of 37 species. The earliest banded recapture was of a resident Gray Catbird (0941-85652) originally banded at Patuxent on 20 Aug 2000 as an AHY/F. We also recaptured a White-throated Sparrow (1861-22226) on 2 Nov that was originally banded at Patuxent on 24 Nov 2002.

We had several volunteers, most notably Sandy Teliak (who also wrote the first draft of this report) and Mike Quinlan. Special thanks also to regulars Susi Ponce, Tony Celis, Woody Martin, and Jo Anna Leachman and to the many others who showed up occasionally.

**Foreman's Branch
Bird Observatory**

391-0755

Chino Farms, Chestertown

Queen Anne's Co., MD

J.G. Gruber*, M.E. Gimpel, and D.M. Small

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Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory (formerly Chino Farms) completed its 10th fall season of banding in 2007. 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. Drought during the summer of 2007 seemed to have affected some of the local breeding birds, most notably the Grasshopper Sparrows, but overall numbers of local HY birds remained close to the same as in previous years.

East and southeast winds held migration to low numbers during early October, but numbers recovered to expected levels after weather patterns shifted back to normal after the 12th with a record-setting day of 631 birds on 15 Oct. Like other stations, we banded some northern irruptives in good or record-setting numbers with Purple Finch (49) and Red-breasted Nuthatch (30) leading the way. For the first time in ten years, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (360) was not in the top ten species, being our second lowest catch of them. Thanks to Dan Small's and Maren Gimpel's dedication and many reduced hours of sleep, they caught 45 Northern Saw-whet Owls and two Eastern Screech-Owls, both new fall record high totals. We collected hundreds of avian flu and tick samples for two different studies: Maryland Department of Natural