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## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2008

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# ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: Region IV

## Piedmont—Coastal Plain, Fall 2008

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Banders from Maryland to Florida who were operating on 19 Oct will long remember that day. A cold front had passed offshore on the 18<sup>th</sup> with lingering rain in the Carolinas and Georgia that day, followed by a large area of high pressure that covered the eastern third of the United States and triggered the greatest songbird migration day of that season. Banders at inland Eden Mill and coastal Kiptopeke had a preview of the flight on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> Foreman's Branch banded 346 birds, Folly Island banded 102, and Key Biscayne banded 227. Patuxent had had their best day on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 95 birds. Stations that missed out on that flight had another chance on 30 Oct after another cold front cleared the coast and was followed by an extensive high centered over Kentucky.

In sharp contrast to October, there was general consensus that the migration in August and September was disappointing. Kiptopeke banders had their third lowest season since 2000, and Tallahassee hit a new low birds per 100 net hours (b/100nh). Nevertheless, most stations had a few surprises to offer in the way of new species or high numbers. Key Biscayne had some of both, including the first Florida Bananaquit to be banded, 31 Chuck-will's-widows, and 131 Worm-eating Warblers.



**Eden Mill**  
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394-0762

Overall, numbers were slightly down from previous years (see tables). Numbers of Indigo Bunting were largely absent this year, possibly because of missing key weather events that assisted in migration. Song Sparrow numbers increased, but numbers for other species, particularly warblers, were down. Best days were in mid October, and species diversity was lower than in previous years. Although the growth of red cedars continues to cause an increase in height, other species of mixed shrubs appear largely unchanged. This suggests that factors other than conspicuous changes in habitat are contributing to lower capture rates of individuals and species. Number of b/100nh, however, did increase over last year.

Our results were largely consistent with those reported from other nearby stations. Nighttime attempts to capture Northern Saw-whet Owls in mid November were unsuccessful.

New species for Eden Mill included three HY Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Minimal feather growth of remiges and rectrices suggests that they may have hatched in the area.

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

**Robbins Nest****390-0765**

Laurel, MD

*Chandler S. Robbins, Jane Robbins*

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This backyard station is located on the south bank of the Patuxent River gorge five miles upstream from the Patuxent Powerline station, 0.4 mile below Rocky Gorge Dam, and one-third mile downstream from the highway I-95 bridge. We operated on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning schedule, the same as the Patuxent station but with exactly half the number of nets. The front property is well shaded with apple, pear, cherry, and hemlock trees and a dense growth of vines and shrubs; the back portion is steep mature oak-tulip forest. Migrating Hermit Thrushes have now replaced Wood and Swainson's thrushes in the top ten species, and this season Hermits even outnumbered White-throated Sparrows. The Patuxent station caught about ten times as many birds per net-hour as we did, largely because they were in shrub habitat whereas most of our birds remained high overhead in the tall trees.

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

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 2004-2006. In the 26 years of operation, over 79,700 birds have been banded. 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

Table 1. AFR Region IV - Fall 2008 Summary

	Eden Mill	Laurel	Patuxent	Foreman's Branch	Chincoteague	Kiptopeke	Folly Is.	Jekyll Is.	Tomoka	Key Biscayne	Tallahassee
First Day	29 Aug	9 Aug	15 Aug	3 Aug	8 Aug	15 Aug	20 Sep	28 Sep	29 Sep	15 Aug	20 Aug
Last Day	7 Nov	2 Dec	17 Nov	25 Nov	14 Nov	23 Nov	26 Nov	19 Oct	30 Nov	5 Nov	15 Nov
Days Open	9	53	42	84	33	90	19	22	44	76	81
# Nets Used	11.5	13	26	10 to 99	4 to 6	22	10.5	14	2 to 10	9 to 18	4 to 6
Net Hours	397	2,345	3,851	39,588	484	11,353	878	792	1,802.50	6,728.25	2,647
No. Best Dy	56	11	95	346	72	383	102	116	22	227	7
B D Date	18 Oct	30 Oct	17 Oct	19 Oct	30 Oct	18 Oct	19 Oct	2 Oct	15 Oct	19 Oct	23 Sep
Mst Species	14	8	28	39	13	28	26	16	9	21	4
" " Date	10 Oct	4 Oct	6 Oct	8 Oct	30 Sep	16 Sep	19 Oct	16 Oct	9 Oct	2 Oct	23 Sep
Banded '07	246	255	1,700	11,003	396	5,507	203	1,122	155	1,729	108
Banded '08	225	248	1,787	9,271	538	6,726	697	1,225	221	2,179	133
Species '07	38	36	77	122	47	92	41	43	32	54	28
Species '08	34	41	75	116	41	91	63	41	35	63	28
B/100nh '07	55.9	10	48.7	31.5	58	46.4	109	145	52	37	9
B/100nh '08	70.5	10.6	46.4	23.4	111	59.2	79	115	12.2	35	5
%HY 2007	83%	57%	58%	78%	96%	90%	90%	90%	52%	50%	55%
%HY 2008	73%	65%	74%	82%	97%	90%	89%	94%	65%	46%	65%

**Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2008.**

Eden Mill				Laurel			Patuxent			Foreman's Branch			Chincoteague			Kiptopeke		
% HY				% HY			% HY			% HY			% HY			% HY		
1.	86	WTSP(1)	59	28	NOCA(1)	56	237	GRCA(3)	82	1123	WTSP(1)	77	370	MYWA(1)	100	2966	MYWA(1)	90
2.	32	GRCA(2)	81	27	GRCA(4)	72	233	WTSP(2)	75	894	SOSP(2)	86	32	GRCA(2)	87.4	596	GRCA(2)	96
3.	23	NOCA(3)	61	22	HETH	82	169	RCKI(1)	81	603	MYWA(9)	71	13	SWSP(6)	100	356	WTSP(10)	82
4.	23	SOSP(4)	65	20	WTSP(2)	70	101	REVI(15)	60	540	GRCA(5)	85	12	COYE(3)	90	313	HETH	87
5.	7	ETTI(5)	100	15	BTBW	50	91	COYE(4)	62	417	COYE(6)	67	9	REVI(0)	100	304	AMRE(4)	92
6.	6	COYE	50	15	OVEN	43	82	SCJU(5)	55	391	SCJU(4)	66	8	WTSP(7)	100	251	BTBW(7)	94
7.	4	HETH	100	14	MAWA	0	73	MAWA(6)	58	369	RCKI	90	7	SCJU(0)	100	164	COYE(5)	93
8.	4	CARW	100	12	CARW	70	68	HETH(10)	83	342	AMGO(3)	77	7	SOSP(4)	100	138	BAWW	91
9.	3	YBSA	100	11	ETTI	67	50	EATO(14)	80	308	FISP(8)	90	7	HETH(0)	100	135	SWSP(9)	90
10.	3	WEVI	100	8	AMRE	38	44	SOSP(7)	69	289	INBU(7)	92	6	BTBW(0)	83.3	119	SOSP(6)	83

**Table 2 (continued. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2008.**

Folly Island				Jekyll Island			Tomoka			Key Biscayne			Tallahassee		
% HY				% HY			% HY			% HY			% HY		
1.	111	GRCA(1)	87	425	WPWA(1)	98	49	COYE(3)	61	580	BTBW(1)	49	27	NOCA(1)	72
2.	104	MYWA(3)	86	269	COYE(2)	97	37	MYWA(1)	51	264	AMRE(3)	42	22	WEVI(2)	50
3.	90	COYE(4)	98	138	GRCA(3)	95	33	GRCA(2)	82	253	OVEN(2)	51	10	GRCA(5)	60
4.	49	WPWA(2)	86	55	PABU(4)	93	15	WEVI(4)	67	173	BAWW(4)	39	7	HOWA(8)	71
5.	40	AMRE(5)	90	54	AMRE(8)	95	13	OVEN	54	131	WEWA(6)	39	6	CACH	80
6.	31	BTBW(7)	55	45	HOWR(9)	60	10	BTBW(8)	60	125	GRCA(7)	76	5	WOTH(4)	80
7.	19	GCKI	100	38	BTBW(6)	74	10	NOCA(7)	70	88	COYE(8)	68	5	ETTI	60
8.	19	RCKI	90	36	NOCA(10)	94	8	WPWA(6)	88	79	NOPA(10)	54	4	RCKI(10)	67
9.	19	NOCA(6)	63	21	WEVI	81	7	REVI(9)	22	49	REVI(5)	82	4	REVI	100
10.	14	HOWR(9)	71	20	NOWA	90	6	WEWA	17	43	SWTH	63	4	VEER	25

( ) Indicates placement on list in 2007.