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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2009 Eden Mill

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Table 3. Comparison of seven common species, 2008 and 2009.

Species		Red-eyed Vireo	Hermit Thrush	Gray Catbird	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Myrtle Warbler	American Redstart	Common Yellowthroat
Total Banded	2008	170	346	1877	975	4080	670	1186
	2009	100	194	1520	503	2182	488	1050
No. of Stations in Top Ten	2008	5	5	11	6	5	5	9
	2009	2	3	11	4	5	4	7
Mean Rank in Top Ten	2008	7.2	6.2	2.6	5.8	1.8	5.4	4.4
	2009	6.0	6.0	3.0	4.8	4.4	3.8	3.6
Mean Percent HY	2008	72.8	90.4	74.8	66.5	79.6	71.4	76.2
	2009	77.0	82.3	81.1	73.2	82.5	74.4	74.0

Eden Mill

394-0762

Pylesville, Harford Co., MD

Mark S. Johnson

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Overall, numbers were slightly down from previous years, predominantly the result of early closures and cancellations because of inclement weather. Birds captured per net hour were largely unchanged from last year. Favorable warm weather in late September may have provided us conditions where a good fallout of Neotropical migrants occurred locally. These included Canada, Black-throated Blue, and Magnolia warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Baltimore Oriole. Our big day was 23 Oct, when sparrow species were predominant.

Again, this year's results were consistent in the decreasing numbers of many species previously more common. Numbers of Indigo Buntings and Song Sparrows were down, as were resident breeders, such as Northern Cardinal and Gray Catbird. Lincoln's Sparrows were not captured this year, yet numbers of Swamp Sparrows increased. New species for Eden Mill included a rather spirited male ATY Sharp-shinned Hawk.

This is our tenth year of banding at this station, which now has provided us with sufficient data to start investigating trends in capture rates. An honors student from the Harford County's Science and Math Academy has begun to regress our year-

to-year capture rate data for the top five species and compare those data with local and breeding weather data to investigate trends. We hope to have those data evaluated later this year. Preliminary findings are consistent with our rather qualitative year-to-year assessments.

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

Robbins Nest

390-0765

Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

Chandler S. Robbins, Jane Robbins

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This fall-line station is located on the brink of the Patuxent River gorge on the west edge of Laurel, five miles upstream from the Patuxent Powerline station. We tried to operate on the same days they did, and with exactly half the number of nets.

Chickadees plus titmice totaled 13 in 2007, 16 in 2008, and 27 in 2009, recovering from the crash in 2003. The autumn of 2009 was very poor for flycatchers and vireos at our station, poor for catbirds, warblers and most thrushes, but fairly good for Hermit Thrushes. The greatest drop was in Swainson's Thrushes; in the 1970s I had averaged 30 to 40+ per year, but in 2007 to 2009 we caught only two, three, and four individuals. For the first time in 35 years we missed Song Sparrow; I had banded 56 of them in 1958.