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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2009 Robbins Nest

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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

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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

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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.

Thrushes led the list by families, 20% of the total, followed by warblers with 16% (compared to 29% in 2008), sparrows 15%, cardinals 13%, and tits 12%, with mimids far behind at 8% (12% in 2008).

Our oldest returns from prior years were a five-year-old cardinal and a five-year-old catbird. A Cooper's Hawk, expertly retrieved by Jane, was the 121st species banded at our station.

Patuxent Powerline

390-0764

Right-of-Way

Patuxent Research Refuge

Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

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This station is in a powerline right-of-way that bisects an upland deciduous forest. It has operated since 1980, except in 2004-2006. In the 27 years of operation, more than 81,600 birds have been banded. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along approximately one-half mile that runs in an east-west orientation. Dense four- to six-foot high shrubs dominate the habitat. As in 2007 and 2008, we operated seven days each 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 dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later.

A total of 1,902 birds of 75 species were banded, up from 1,787 birds of 75 species in 2008. Of the 1,730 birds that were aged, 73% were HY. In 2008, 74% were HY and in 2007, 58% were HY. Families were represented as follows: sparrows 26%, warblers 22%, kinglets 15%, mimids 13%, thrushes 8%, and vireos 7%. The relative percentage of bandings by family did not fluctuate much compared to the past two years. Our Top Ten species accounted for 66% of all bandings compared to 64% for both 2007 and 2008. Some warblers showed respectable increases over their 2007-2008 average: Black-and-white, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Ovenbird. Notable warbler species banded included four Bay-breasted

and one each of Orange-crowned, Tennessee, and Worm-eating.

Other highlights included: American Woodcock, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In September we banded the 80,000th bird of this fall migration monitoring effort.

An HY Gray Catbird that we banded on 25 Sep was recaptured on 10 Oct at the North Folly Island Lighthouse in Charleston Harbor, SC. We had 465 recaptures of 306 individual birds of 34 species. The earliest banded recapture was of a resident Blue Jay originally banded at Patuxent in 2002. In addition, we recaptured a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that we banded as an AHY on 27 Oct 2008. This may be the first instance of this station's recapture of a kinglet banded in a previous season.

Greatly assisting in this effort were: Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report), Mike Quinlan, Jo Anna Lutmerding, Woody Martin, and Bruce Peterjohn. Special thanks to Deanna Dawson who filled in as bander-in-charge on occasion. Our thanks also go to the many others who lent occasional assistance.

Foreman's Branch

391-0755

Bird Observatory

Chestertown, Queen Anne's Co., MD

J. G. Gruber*, P. Gruber, M. Gimpel, D. Small, and W. Snyder, Banders

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Foreman's Branch completed its twelfth fall banding season this year. While productivity was up slightly this year it was still the fourth lowest. Species diversity was down for the second year in a row and no new species was added to the banding list. Strong weather systems from the northwest were mostly absent while strong systems out of the southwest predominated, foreshadowing the snowy weather that was to come in the winter.

Banding highlights include a record-breaking seven Green Herons, 14 Northern Saw-whet Owls, a record-high five Philadelphia Vireos from 6 Sep