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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2011 Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way

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day even though the winter white-throats and juncos had not arrived.

Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way 390-0764

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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 for 2004-2006. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along a one-half mile east-west axis. Dense six- to eight-foot high shrubs dominate the habitat. Since 2007 we have consistently 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 dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later. All references to averages refer to the 2007 to 2010 period.

Despite record-setting rainfall in August and September from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee and two lingering low-pressure systems, we banded 1,831 birds of 71 species compared to our average of 1,816 birds/76 species. Families within 1-2% of their previous averages were warblers (24%), vireos (4%), thrushes (9%) and mimids (12%). We saw a substantial increase in sparrows from an average of 26% of total birds banded to 32%. This was the result of a record number of White-throated Sparrows (297, previous high 254 in 2009) and Eastern Towhees (69, previous high 55 in 2009). Kinglets saw a substantial decline to 11% of all birds banded from an average of 16%. This decline was the result of record low numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets (21) which is surprising given that we had a record high (102) in 2010.

Species showing marked declines from their averages and setting new seasonal lows included: Black-throated Green (following a record high in 2010) and Chestnut-sided warblers; Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jay, and the aforementioned Golden-crowned Kinglet. Species well above average and setting new seasonal highs were: Tennessee, Canada, Blackpoll, Mourning, and

Myrtle Warblers; Gray-checked and Hermit thrushes; White-crowned Sparrow, and the aforementioned White-throated Sparrow and Eastern Towhee. Of particular note, from 2007-2009 we averaged only two Tennessees per season, yet in 2010 we banded 12 and in 2011 banded 19. This year's two Mourning Warblers were the first since 2003. The three White-crowned Sparrows banded this season bring our station's total to 16—out of 85,320 bandings since 1980!

In 2011, with 1,831 bandings, we had 348 recaptures of 220 individual birds of 29 species. We did have some notable banding days. On 26 Oct, we banded 162 birds of which 61 were White-throated Sparrows. Our previous single day high since 2007 was 139 on 30 Sep 2011 (our best ever was 203 on 14 Oct 2001). Our previous single best White-throated Sparrow day ever since 1980 was 55 on 16 Oct 2000. Likewise, on 30 Sep we banded 80 Gray Catbirds. Our previous highest single day since 1980 was 27 Gray Catbirds on 11 Oct 1987. Kiptopeke and Robbins Nest also experienced relatively high Gray Catbird numbers on or about 30 Sep as well.

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

Foreman's Branch

391-0760

Bird Observatory

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Foreman's Branch completed its 14th fall banding season this year. Productivity was back near the ten-year average. Species diversity was also near average. Weather was very wet with extremely heavy rains at times after the second week of August. Tropical systems aside, we experienced numerous one-day rainfalls of more than 3" and two one-day rainfalls in excess of 12". This led to some flooding of