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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain, Fall 2013

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NOTICE: NABB vol. 39, No.1, Page 31. Table 1. AFR II summary of operations Fall 2012 was mislabeled. The table should be labeled Fall 2013.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: REGION IV Piedmont—Coastal Plain Fall 2013

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We bid farewell to two long-term backyard stations, Laurel and Lakeshore Estates, whose operators have retired because of declining agility. We failed to receive a report this year from North Folly; but we welcome a well-established educational station, Harford Glen near the head of Chesapeake Bay.

The fall season of 2013 was unique in that not a single Atlantic hurricane entered the Gulf of Mexico or occurred along the Atlantic coast of North America. Meteorologists believe that great clouds of dust from the Sahara desert that drifted across the Atlantic into the Gulf of Mexico from late July to the end of August inhibited the formation of hurricanes off the African coast. See the Nov-Dec 2013 issue of *Weatherwise* for dramatic photos of the dust clouds. No single weather event could be identified as dominating this fall's migration. The stations all had different best days, extending from 16 Sep to 4 Nov.

The number of birds per hour of effort was slightly down from last year at most stations and the percentage of young birds in the population was up a bit at every station, reflecting a good breeding season up north. Nobody mentioned Cedar Waxwings this year. Were they decimated by the severe weather of the winter of 2012-2013, or did they remain in the tropics for the entire year?

The larger stations always have a few out-of-range birds that were unexpected: an Ash-throated Flycatcher, their third Bell's Vireo, and a MacGillivray's Warbler at Kiawah Island; a possible Cassin's Vireo (in September, too early for the Blue-headed), a Ruddy Quail-Dove, and a sight record of a Western Tanager at Key Biscayne. The presence of the Ruddy Quail-Dove was kept a secret until the close of the banding season.

Aaron Given is to be congratulated for recapturing a banded Common Yellowthroat; many of us have caught banded yellowthroats, but this may be the first time in the history of banding that a permittee has banded more than three thousand individuals of any songbird species before catching his first station return of that species.

Each year we report the number of net-hours as part of our station summaries, but we do not record the number of person-hours that contributed to the training of personnel, clearing of net lanes, setting and periodic checking of the nets, weighing and measuring the birds, maintaining the records, and the painstaking preparation of the annual summaries. I wish to personally thank each participant for his or her devotion to this interesting project.

Table 1. AFR Region IV - Fall 2013 Summary

	Eden Mill	Harford Glen	Patuxent	Foreman's Branch	Kiawha Island	Tomoka	Cape Florida	Jekyll Island
First Day	25 Aug	19 Sep	16 Aug	1 Aug	15 Aug	1 Sep	15 Aug	29 Sep
Last Day	3 Nov	-	18 Nov	26 Nov	30 Nov	3 Nov	9 Nov	20 Oct
Days Open	10	17	35	83	98	36	83	22
No. Nets Used	11.5-13	2-14	26	10-91	20	8-10	23	16
Net Hours	484	800	2,928	43,022	9,584	1,650	9,709	1,051
No. Best Day	39	84	107	354	196	23	156	293
Best Day Date	4 Oct	15 Oct	16 Sep	4 Nov	2 Nov	21 Oct	24 Oct	9 Oct
Most Species	14	15	27	39	23	13	19	17
" " Date	4 Oct	8&15 Oct	16 Sep	30Sep,3 Oct	21 Oct	21 Oct	24 Oct	15 Oct
Banded 2012	284	445	2,193	12,577	4,719	259	1,767	1,328
Banded 2013	258	663	1,630	9,378	4,529	147	2,128	1,408
Species 2012	45	39	82	126	89	32	57	45
Species 2013	45	43	78	117	82	32	61	42
B/100nh 2012	67.4	59.4	52.5	29.2	77.6	10	22	115.1
B/100nh 2013	53.3	82.9	55.7	27.4	59.2	9.3	25	134
% HY 2012	83%	44%	69%	81%	80%	55%	52.1%	84%
% HY 2013	85%	50%	74%	89%	82.8%	56%	60.6%	86%

Table 2. AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2013.

	Eden		Harford Glen		Patuxent		Foreman' Branch	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	41 GRCA (1)	98	130 WTSP (2)	67	131 MAWA(5)	76	1184 SOSP (2)	92
2.	25 NOCA (2)	92	72 NOCA (3)	60	120 REVI (6)	78	1175 WTSP (1)	79
3.	25 WTSP (3)	72	68 SCJU (9)	53	110 WTSP (4)	57	903 INBU	97
4.	14 SOSP (4)	100	64 GRCA (5)	75	108 SCJU (7)	46	488 RCKI (6)	88
5.	12 SWSP (5)	75	61 SOSP (1)	38	103 TEWA (3)	76	471 COYE (7)	66
6.	8 CARW	100	36 AMGO (6)	11	100 GRCA (1)	86	329 SWSP	79
7.	8 MAWA	88	27 INBU	37	86 COYE (8)	52	312 FISP	91
8.	7 COYE	100	26 FISP (7)	69	80 RCKI (2)	71	312 SCJU (4)	69
9.	7 ETI	85	26 SWSP (4)	81	61 HETH (9)	78	309 GRCA (8)	87
10.	4 INBU	100	23 COYE (8)	70	51 CSWA	84	275 BLGR	93

(#) Indicates placement on list in 2012

Table 2 (continued). AFR IV. Ten Most Commonly Banded Species, Fall 2013.

	Kiawah Island		Tomoka		Cape Florida		Jekyll Island	
		% HY		% HY		% HY		% HY
1.	1146 COYE (1)	82.2	35 BTBW (2)	64	358 GRCA (4)	78.5	500 COYE (2)	81.2
2.	1054 MYWA (2)	77.5	19 OVEN (3)	22	324 BTBW (1)	50.0	426 WPWA (1)	96.5
3.	572 GRCA (3)	95.6	13 AMRE (5)	12	317 OVEN (2)	65.3	120 GRCA (3)	86.7
4.	198 PABU (10)	94.4	12 COYE (4)	14	182 AMRE (3)	41.2	53 PABU (4)	98.1
5.	175 REVI (7)	95.4	6 VEER (6)	-	138 WEWA (5)	42.8	43 BTBW (6)	46.5
6.	129 PRAW (5)	75.2	- -	-	126 COYE (7)	73.0	38 AMRE (8)	86.8
7.	117 AMRE (4)	77.8	- -	-	115 BAWW (8)	44.3	32 NOCA (7)	21.9
8.	106 WPWA/YPWA (6)	88.7	- -	-	84 NOVA (5)	48.8	27 INBU (9)	96.3
9.	90 BTBW(9)	63.3	- -	-	72 WPWA	54.2	23 HOWR	95.7
10.	81 RCKI	63.0	- -	-	52 NOPA (9)	69.2	16 WEVI (10)	93.8

(#) Indicates placement on list in 2012

Eden Mill

394-0762

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Banding activity at Eden Mill was consistent with 2012 and rather unremarkable except for a few surprises. One was an ATY male Sharp-shinned Hawk which was rather loosely captured in a net pocket. Another was species diversity where we banded 12 warbler species including Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided. Weather was relatively and consistently cool each day we banded, and thanks to Dave Ziolkowski, we opened up two new net lanes into the marsh. In 2013 we banded five sparrow species, back to our level from previous years.

Our longtime friend and bander, Les Eastman left us for a trial in Phoenix, AZ, and was missed this year. In the meantime, we picked up a young new apprentice, Callum O'Brien, who seems to be very interested in all aspects of avian biology.

The habitat continues to change as the red cedars and other saplings grow larger. Currently, Blue-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, White-

eyed Vireos, and Prairie Warblers breed in the banding area and are captured frequently in the spring, though not in the fall, given our late start dates.

We are encouraged by a prospective Eagle Scout who has planned to help us expand our banding lanes along a tributary to Deer Creek and we are optimistic that these lanes may provide us greater opportunities to increase our banding rates.

As always, many thanks go out to our regular volunteers: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Jay Rubinoff, Susan Hood, Dr. Bob Werrlein and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

Harford Glen

392-0762

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Harford Glen is the site of Maryland's Harford County Public School's Environmental Education Center. Barbara Bilsborough, who many of the older members of EBBA may remember, began banding operations here in 1980, combining avian population monitoring with an educational component to introduce the children attending the