

2014

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

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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

Pylesville, Harford Co. MD

**Mark S. Johnson**

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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-

**394-0762**

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

Abingdon, Harford Co., MD

**Susan B. Heselton**

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**392-0762**

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

Education Center to banding as one element of studying wildlife. Sue Heselton joined Barbara in her endeavors, eventually taking over and continuing the program when Barbara retired in 1996. Harford Glen is a glen with gradually sloped deciduous wooded hills within a circle of encroaching suburban development at 39°29'17".12 N, 076°20'36".92 W. Banding operations are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the children are on site for training, spring and fall. Those seasons are extended into winter in order to accommodate all the fifth graders of Harford County. Additional days are used during migration periods in order to improve an understanding of the Glen as a stopover area. Up to 14 nets are set each day and are in operation for a period that typically runs from sunrise to noon. Regrettably, circumstances have periodically altered the environment at the Glen, including infill of the small reservoir by Hurricane Agnes and loss of pine woods to the bark beetle.

The constant and dramatic changes in the environment and encroachment in and around Harford Glen appear to have eased enough to provide some consistency in data. Once the data were tabulated, it became apparent that there is still considerable variation in the avian populations at Harford Glen. It has been a few years since the major disturbances (consisting of encroaching developments at the Glen's borders, lumbering of the pine woods adjacent to the banding area that were under attack by the Pine Bark Beetle, and repeated flooding of the net area), so we should be stabilizing.

I am indebted to my husband, Ken, and to Amanda Koss (the Harford Glen teacher who works with us) and our volunteers: Eileen Frey, Jane Scocca, Jean Williams, Dennis Kirkwood, Dave Larkin, and Phil Powers without whom we would not be able to keep the banding station operational.

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

Patuxent Research Refuge  
Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

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This station is in a power line right-of-way that

bisects an upland deciduous forest. It has operated since 1980, except for 2004-2006. The habitat is dominated by a dense six- to eight-foot high canopy of shrubs, and is an excellent source of shelter and food for breeding and migrating birds. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along a one-half mile east-west axis. Nets were opened by dawn and closed about 3.5 hours later. From 2007-2012, we 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. This year however, we banded on only 35 days because of the government shutdown this October. Those lost seven banding days were during a period of historically high banding rates. **Any comparisons/averaging to previous 2007-2012 activity is for the comparable 35 banding days in those years unless otherwise specified.**

Despite the truncated season, we managed to band 1,630 birds/78 species. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best season since 2007. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the most significant result of this season was our banding of 103 Tennessee Warblers. Last year we banded 165 when our 2007-2011 average was a mere seven for a full 42-day banding season!! This outfall of Tennessee Warblers is probably a continued result of the spruce budworm outbreak in southwest Quebec that started in 2006. This same outbreak may have resulted in this year's appreciable up-tic in Bay-breasted Warbler bandings as well. Ten species – eight of which are warblers – broke their end-of-season records. Particularly noteworthy increases were Chestnut-sided Warblers/51, Bay-breasted Warblers/15 and Black and White Warblers/34. The only species showing a noticeable decline was Gray Catbird. Their numbers this season were 25% below the previous (adjusted) lowest season total since 2007. Every year since 2007, Gray Catbirds have been within our top three species banded. This year they dropped to 6<sup>th</sup> place. Finally, we set two new single-day, species-specific banding records since 1980: Chestnut-sided Warbler (20 Sep/15) and Black-throated Green Warbler (27 Sep/13).

Other notable bandings included: (1) our first Orchard Oriole and Pine Warbler since 2007. While they breed here, they are typically gone when our fall season begins; (2) banding 21 Magnolia