

2015

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont-Coastal Plain- Fall 2014- Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way

Danny Bystrak

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species. We did encounter more Magnolia Warblers this year, making them our fourth most banded species. We also captured many more Common Yellowthroats this year, all HY birds, which may suggest successful reproduction in the area.

It was a good year for *Empidonax* flycatchers as we captured every species that was possible, including Least, Yellow-bellied, Acadian, and Traill's (we hoped that at least some of the Traill's were Alder and some Willow; the latter breeds in the area). We captured another Sharp-shinned Hawk, which is always exciting.

Thanks to the efforts of Troop 899 and a new Eagle Scout, net lanes were expanded northeast of the pavilion, closer to Big Branch. Unfortunately, these additional net lanes were not very productive, likely because of the height of the surrounding vegetation and possibly the steep terrain. We continued to benefit from new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) students who show interest. Thanks to their enthusiasm, we continue to develop new research questions and strive to develop the next generation of prospective wildlife biologists as much as we can.

As always, many thanks go out to our regular volunteers: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Bob Werrlein and Dennis Kirkwood and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

#### **Harford Glen**

**392-0762**

Abingdon, Harford Co., MD

**Susan B. Heselton**

Sheselton@cs.com

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. Therefore, I decided to venture forth with another contribution to the AFR reports.

However, 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) occurred before, so we should be stabilizing.

I am indebted to my husband, 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.

Apr. - Jun.

#### **Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way**

**390-0764**

Patuxent Research Refuge

Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

**Danny Bystrak**

dbystrak@usgs.gov

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 2007-2014, we have operated fairly consistently 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. In 2013 however, due to the government shutdown, we banded only 35 days. Any comparisons to previous levels of activity refer to the years 2007-2012, since our 2013 season was truncated.

This—our 32<sup>nd</sup> year—was our best since 2007, with 2,210 bandings but only 73 species, our second lowest species total. It was a season with two very different halves. The first half dominated by warblers, Gray Catbirds, and Red-eyed Vireos found us far below our previous mid-season average; whereas, the second half of the season, dominated by sparrows and kinglets, found us setting a new high for the second half of the season.

Numerous highlights included banding our first Pine Siskin since 1980. This is the 124<sup>th</sup> species on this station's fall banding list. We had five 100+ banding days, all in the latter half of October. These five days accounted for almost 30% of this season's bandings. The previous year, with the most 100+ days, was 2012 with three. Ten species set new end-of-season highs. Particularly noteworthy were: Slate-colored Junco (219, previous best 160), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (304), Song Sparrow (68), Connecticut Warbler (13), Common Yellowthroat (146), and Black-throated Blue Warbler (43). We set species-specific single day banding records for: Connecticut Warbler (5), Northern Parula (6), Cape May Warbler (3), Song Sparrow (14) and Slate-colored Junco (58). On 13 Nov we were joined by a Barred Owl that perched about 30 feet away from our banding desk. It seemed to show little interest in us or what we were doing.

Our 549 warbler bandings of 28 species accounted for 25% of all of our bandings which is their historical norm. *Mimids* (notably Gray Catbirds) were at 8%, down from a norm of 12%; sparrows at 31% up from their norm of 25%. All other families were +/- one to two percent of norm.

