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Atlantic Flyway Review: Region IV Piedmont (Coastal Plain)- Fall 2016, Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory

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Eden Mill**394-0762**

Pylesville, MD

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Habitat is rarely static, and such is the case at Eden Mill. Most banding lanes are in what was mixed 'old field' ecotone edge near a mixed deciduous forest bordered by freshwater streams to the south and east. This 'old field' is no longer and now consists of many red cedar, oak, maple, and hickory species. Although Prairie Warblers still breed there, Blue-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, once numerous in the spring and summer, are no more. Many invasive species such as honeysuckle, tear thumb, and multiflora rose are common and appear to provide food for migrating fall songbirds.

Nothing remarkable occurred in the fall of 2016; the number of birds captured per net hour and number banded was fairly consistent with previous years. No unexpected captures though PUFIs were banded; an unreliable migrant.

Some species seem to be occurring later while winter migrants appear to be occurring earlier. Empidonax species were captured into October (YBFL) while WTSP were captured 8 October. Some sparrow species typically banded were elusive this year (e.g., LISP, FOSP).

We captured eleven warbler species which is higher than expected. We had higher numbers of TEWA and BPLW, the last banded on 29 October.

Best days tended to be later with the best in terms of diversity and number being 29 October. This suggests a benefit for banding later into the year.

We continue to benefit from new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math students that 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. This year, Cole Ettenhofer is our new student and Call McClellan-O'Brien has graduated to subpermittee status

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

**Foreman's Branch
Bird Observatory****391-0760**

Kingstown, Queen Anne's Co., MD

**J. G. Gruber*, M. E. Gimpel, A. C. Spears,
D.M. Small**

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory has been a part of the Center for Environment and Society at Washington College since 2011. The year 2016 was FBBO's 19th fall banding season. The numbers of new birds banded and days of operation were down slightly from 2015, but overall production was up 13%. Weather fronts from the northwest were, for the most part, weak and did not produce many heavy migration days. We started collaborating with researchers, Dr. Jeff Buler and graduate student Sergio Cabrera, at the University of Delaware on the effects of light pollution and bird migration.

Notable catches for the season were Red-tailed Hawk on 13th Nov, highest ever Purple Finch catch of 245 and our first catch for the station of a Lark Sparrow on 3rd Nov.

We would like to thank the following people for their support and aid to FBBO: Dr. Harry Sears, Dr. John Seidel, Michael Hardesty, Patricia Gruber, Greg Cole, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleagle, Dr. Jennie Carr, Janet Christensen, Anne and Brennan O'Connor, Daniel and Jonathan Irons, Carly and Vincent Fumo and Jessica Majors who volunteered many weeks in October and November to help us during our busiest time. We also extend special thanks to our two Washington College fall interns, Laura King and Mike Hudson.

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