

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

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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

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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 2007-2014, 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 32nd 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 124th 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.

The station continues to be a focal point for visitors from foreign banding programs as well as serving as a training and educational site for interested staff. We have two experienced volunteers as well as employees to help with set-up, data entry, bird extraction, etc. Because the station is located in an area of the refuge that is closed to the general public, we cannot encourage outside participation. Researchers, however, wishing to visit the site are encouraged to contact Danny Bystrak at dbystrak@usgs.gov.

Greatly assisting in this effort were: Sandy Teliak (who wrote this report), Mike Quinlan, Jo Anna Lutmerding and Bruce Peterjohn. Thanks to banders-in-training Matt Rogosky, Jasmine Rajbhandary and Jennifer McKay and to other staff who lent assistance.

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

Kingstown, Queen Anne's Co., MD

Banders: J. G. Gruber*, P. Gruber. M. Gimpel, D. Small, A. C. Spears

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This was the 17th fall banding season for Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. Productivity was higher than our 10-year average because of a large reduction in net-hours. We did not keep nets open as long into less productive afternoon hours as we have in the past. Total number of birds banded did not suffer greatly from this decision and productivity per 100 net-hours increased. Species diversity was slightly above the average of 120.

The fall weather was overall unremarkable in comparison to the past five years. Banding highlights were few. Notable catches for the season were our second only Barred Owl on 26 Oct, a station record high total of 242 Purple Finches, a Clay-colored Sparrow on 5 Nov, a single Yellow-throated Vireo on 7 Sep, and a Marsh Wren on 24 Sep. Notably absent from the nets this fall was the Red-breasted Nuthatch; a few individuals passed through the banding station, but they were scarce throughout the local area all season. Bicknell's Thrush was caught three times this fall with one each on 28 Sep, 2 Oct, and 5 Oct.

We thank our Washington College intern, Christie Phebus, for her dedication and hard work at Foreman's Branch over the past three years. She graduates in the spring of 2015 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and we shall miss her and all her hard work at the station. In addition to the banders already listed above the following people volunteered many hours helping at the station: Harry Sears, Henry Davis, Greg Cole, Hanson Robbins, Jeannine Fleegle, Jennie Carr, Kailani Clarke, Andrew Wade, Kathy Thornton, and Anne and Brennan O'Connor.

Kiawah Island

326-0801

Banding Station (KIBS)

Town of Kiawah Island, Charleston County, SC

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This was the sixth fall banding season on Kiawah Island and the third in which we have banded daily. Kiawah Island is an 8,000 ac barrier island and residential/resort community located approximately 20 mi southeast of Charleston, SC. The banding site is situated at the extreme western end of the island in secondary dune scrub/shrub and high marsh with wax-myrtle, sea ox-eye, and marsh-elder being the dominate plant species. We operated 23 nets daily, weather permitting, from 15 Aug through 30 Nov. Nets were generally opened 30 min before sunrise and closed approximately 5-6 hr later.

We operated for 103 days resulting in 11,565.6 net-hours (nh). A total of 5,086 new individuals were banded and 1,312 birds were recaptured of 80 different species. The capture rate for new birds was 44.0 birds/100nh with an additional 11.3 birds/100 nh as recaptures. Our capture rate decreased by 3.7 birds/100nh from last year despite banding over 500 more individuals compared to last fall. This is most likely an artifact of an increase in effort due to being open five more days than the previous fall and the addition of three new nets. Three species made up 61% of the season's catch: Common Yellowthroats (23.9%), Gray Catbirds (20.6%), and Yellow-rumped Warblers (16.6%). We banded six species never before captured at the station: Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Clapper Rail, Sedge Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

We had 1,312 recaptures (1,215 repeats, 95 returns, 2 potential foreign recaptures) during the 2014 fall season. Of the 95 returns, 64 were from migrant species (28 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 16 Painted Buntings, 7 Gray Catbirds, 4 Swamp Sparrows, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Song Sparrow, 1 House Wren, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Common Yellowthroat, and 1 Prothonotary Warbler). All returning migrants, with the exception of the Prothonotary Warbler, potentially either wintered or breed on Kiawah Island. The returning Prothonotary Warbler is exceptional as it truly showed site fidelity to a stop-over site. The two potential foreign recapture this season were both