

Eden Mill

Pylesville, Harford Co., MD

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Improved summer and fall weather conditions brought a greater diversity of species with a larger proportion of hatching-year birds, suggesting conditions were favorable for reproduction. Weather, however, did not adversely affect banding activities and we were open four more days than last year, which may have helped reduce the number of birds captured per net-hour. The number of species captured increased 16%, with some species replacing and shifting in our top ten positions. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers (MYWA) for the first time made it within the top five species captured and Indigo Buntings were back on the top ten list this year, as were Swamp Sparrows. HY Northern Cardinals were greatly increased over previous years, reflecting favorable local breeding conditions. Numbers of White-throated Sparrows are down, which is a general trend reflected in local mid-winter and Christmas Count data.

This year brought several new species for our station, which is noteworthy since this is our 11th year of banding at Eden Mill. Nearly coincident with other nearby stations, we captured a Black-capped Chickadee on 5 Nov. Other individuals were also seen during local bird counts and, as such, represented an invasion not typically observed in our region. Other new species included our first Philadelphia Vireo. Lincoln's Sparrows again were captured, as were relatively uncommon species such as Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Nashville Warblers. An early Winter Wren was captured in October.

We continue to host youth groups and those interested in learning more on bird census techniques. Data collected were posted and are being used to help make sound land management decisions regarding the value of this habitat to migratory birds in the immediate region. Interestingly enough, it seems that the fruit of invasive exotic plants is very useful to the birds as

an energy source and provides a quandary on what to do regarding habitat management. Currently, a compromise was found where a section of land will be managed for native plants and a portion will be left alone. With sufficient resources, we hope to monitor both tracts to see how habitat use differs among species.

Many thanks go out to our regular volunteers: Suzanne Procell, Jerry Strickroth, Les Eastman, Jay Rubinoff, Bob Werlein and the staff at Eden Mill Nature Center.

Robbins Nest**390-0765**

Laurel, Prince George's Co., MD

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Operation of this backyard station had to be delayed until 11 Oct, but proceeded as normal on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule from then through the end of November. We had a new high for Hermit Thrush this year, which tied for first place in spite of the decline in October-November net-hours. Song Sparrows used to be at our feeders year-round, but I did not see or hear a single one this year or last year. This was my 74th year of banding, but only the 49th at this location.

We thank Joe Hanfman, Derek Richardson, and Jeff Culler for assisting with retrieval of birds from the nets.

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 powerline right-of-way that bisects an upland deciduous forest. It has operated since 1980, except for 2004-2006. In the 28 years of operation, more than 83,400 birds and over 120 species have been banded. Twenty-six nets are arrayed along approximately one-half mile that runs in an east-west orientation. Dense four- to six-foot high shrubs dominate the habitat. Since 2007, we