
NOTICE: NABB vol. 39, No.1, Page 31. Table 1. AFR II summary of operations Fall 2012 was mislabeled. The table should be labeled Fall 2013.

ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: REGION IV Piedmont—Coastal Plain Fall 2013

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We bid farewell to two long-term backyard stations, Laurel and Lakeshore Estates, whose operators have retired because of declining agility. We failed to receive a report this year from North Folly; but we welcome a well-established educational station, Harford Glen near the head of Chesapeake Bay.

The fall season of 2013 was unique in that not a single Atlantic hurricane entered the Gulf of Mexico or occurred along the Atlantic coast of North America. Meteorologists believe that great clouds of dust from the Sahara desert that drifted across the Atlantic into the Gulf of Mexico from late July to the end of August inhibited the formation of hurricanes off the African coast. See the Nov-Dec 2013 issue of *Weatherwise* for dramatic photos of the dust clouds. No single weather event could be identified as dominating this fall's migration. The stations all had different best days, extending from 16 Sep to 4 Nov.

The number of birds per hour of effort was slightly down from last year at most stations and the percentage of young birds in the population was up a bit at every station, reflecting a good breeding season up north. Nobody mentioned Cedar Waxwings this year. Were they decimated by the severe weather of the winter of 2012-2013, or did they remain in the tropics for the entire year?

The larger stations always have a few out-of-range birds that were unexpected: an Ash-throated Flycatcher, their third Bell's Vireo, and a Mac-Gillivray's Warbler at Kiawah Island; a possible Cassin's Vireo (in September, too early for the Blue-headed), a Ruddy Quail-Dove, and a sight record of a Western Tanager at Key Biscayne. The presence of the Ruddy Quail-Dove was kept a secret until the close of the banding season.

Aaron Given is to be congratulated for recapturing a banded Common Yellowthroat; many of us have caught banded yellowthroats, but this may be the first time in the history of banding that a permittee has banded more than three thousand individuals of any songbird species before catching his first station return of that species.

Each year we report the number of net-hours as part of our station summaries, but we do not record the number of person-hours that contributed to the training of personnel, clearing of net lanes, setting and periodic checking of the nets, weighing and measuring the birds, maintaining the records, and the painstaking preparation of the annual summaries. I wish to personally thank each participant for his or her devotion to this interesting project.