



Audubon MARYLAND-DC

Important Bird Areas Program

Bird Blitz 2009: Jennings Randolph Lake

The Jennings Randolph Lake candidate IBA is located along the Maryland/West Virginia border, about 7 miles east of Swanton, Maryland. The area is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides a number of recreational opportunities, including fishing and boating. The site contains mountainous oak-hickory forest and early successional habitats. This site's rugged terrain presented challenges for Bird Blitz participants. Nevertheless, two volunteers conducted 4 surveys covering 17.5 km of transects during 13 survey hours (Table 1).

The results of these surveys are summarized below in Table 2, with highlighted species representing those with count totals that exceeded their state-level IBA thresholds. Remember that Bird Blitz survey totals represent minimum population estimates of breeding pairs. Actual populations are higher because not all available habitat was covered and because some birds along a route may not be counted (if they were silent and/or hidden while observers passed by). There were 7 at-risk species recorded with a count of 21 Cerulean Warbler exceeding not only its state-level IBA threshold of 10 pairs, but also its global IBA threshold of 15 pairs. These results indicate the significance of these forested habitats to Cerulean Warbler at a much larger scale. A high diversity of shrubland species was also recorded with 8 species present out of 13 possible in Maryland's Appalachian Mountains region (Table 2).

Many thanks go out to the volunteers who conducted Bird Blitz surveys at this site: Fran Pope and Bill Pope. These data will greatly assist our review of this area as a potential IBA.

Table 1. Bird Blitz 2009 survey effort for the Jennings Randolph Lake candidate IBA.

Participants	Surveys	Distance (km)	Time (hr)
2	4	17.5	13

Table 2. Bird Blitz 2009 results for the Jennings Randolph Lake candidate IBA.

At-risk Species¹	Total	Assemblage
Bald Eagle	1	--
Wood Thrush	17	FIDS
Willow Flycatcher	2	Shrubland
Cerulean Warbler	21	FIDS
Kentucky Warbler	3	FIDS
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	FIDS
Golden-winged Warbler	1	Shrubland
Secondary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Hairy Woodpecker	2	FIDS
Pileated Woodpecker	2	FIDS
Blue-headed Vireo	1	FIDS
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	FIDS
White-eyed Vireo	12	Shrubland
Brown Thrasher	2	Shrubland
Northern Parula	1	FIDS
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	Shrubland
Black-and-white Warbler	15	FIDS
American Redstart	14	FIDS
Hooded Warbler	12	FIDS
Yellow-breasted Chat	8	Shrubland
Eastern Towhee	28	Shrubland
Field Sparrow	27	Shrubland

¹Species highlighted in red had counts which exceeded state, continental, or global IBA thresholds.

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