



Important Bird Areas Program

Bird Blitz 2010: Millington Wildlife Management Area

Millington Wildlife Management Area (WMA) consists of 4,000 acres in extreme eastern Kent County. The primary habitat occupying more than three-fourths of the WMA is oak-hickory forest with additional habitats including agricultural fields, woody wetlands, and pine forest. Millington WMA is owned and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Maryland DNR), Wildlife and Heritage Service as a site with diverse habitats providing food and cover for a variety of wildlife, particularly game species. Significant numbers of migrating American Woodcock, an at-risk species in Maryland, have been well-documented at the WMA through past surveys by the Maryland DNR. However, our knowledge of the forest interior bird community at Millington WMA is lacking. During 2010, Bird Blitz surveys targeted additional at-risk species and the Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) assemblage – birds identified by Maryland DNR as requiring large blocks of contiguous forest to breed successfully. All totaled, 8 surveys were conducted by 7 volunteers covering nearly 60% of the WMA. A distance of more than 33 km of transects was walked by these citizen-scientists over the course of about 21 survey hours (Table 1).

The results of these surveys are summarized below in Table 2; with highlighted species representing those with Bird Blitz counts suggesting that populations across the entire site likely match or exceed state-level IBA thresholds. It is important to note 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 5 at-risk species recorded in the Millington WMA. Although no species had counts exceeding state-level IBA thresholds, high counts were made for Wood Thrush and Worm-eating Warbler suggesting that significant populations are likely supported by the site. Bird Blitz also recorded 15 Forest Interior-Dwelling Species (FIDS), indicating a moderately diverse assemblage of FIDS for Maryland's Coastal Plain region.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who conducted Bird Blitz surveys at this site: Dan Small, Maren Gimpel, Rachel Field, Emily Ross, Bill Hubick, Tom Feild, and Rob Ostrowski. These data will greatly assist our review of this area as a potential IBA later this year.

Table 1. Bird Blitz 2010 survey effort for the Millington WMA candidate IBA.

Volunteers	Surveys	Distance (km)	Time (hr)
7	8	33.2	21.2

Table 2. Bird Blitz 2010 results for the Millington WMA candidate IBA.

Primary Targets – At-risk Species	Total	Assemblage
Wood Thrush	106	FIDS
Prothonotary Warbler	6	FIDS
Worm-eating Warbler	29	FIDS
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	FIDS
Kentucky Warbler	9	FIDS
Secondary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	FIDS
Hairy Woodpecker	9	FIDS
Pileated Woodpecker	7	FIDS
Acadian Flycatcher	149	FIDS
Brown Thrasher	2	Shrubland
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	FIDS
Red-eyed Vireo	135	FIDS
White-eyed Vireo	38	Shrubland
Black-and-white Warbler	4	FIDS
Ovenbird	180	FIDS
Yellow-breasted Chat	17	Shrubland
Summer Tanager	1	FIDS
Scarlet Tanager	48	FIDS
Eastern Towhee	30	Shrubland
Field Sparrow	2	Shrubland

Prepared by:

David Yeany II

IBA Program Coordinator, Audubon MD-DC

2437 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224

Phone: 410-558-2473 Email: dyeany@audubon.org