



Audubon MARYLAND-DC

Important Bird Areas Program

Bird Blitz 2009: New Germany State Park

Another 2009 Bird Blitz target area for western Maryland was the New Germany State Park candidate IBA, including all land owned and managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as the State Park. This site is located amid the Savage River State Forest in northeastern Garrett County and encompasses approximately 400 acres of forested habitat. The majority of the park's coniferous and mixed forest was surveyed in 2009 while participants made use of existing park trails and roads. One volunteer and one Audubon staff member conducted 3 surveys covering 7.2 km of transects during 3.8 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). Three at-risk species were recorded, including 1 Louisiana Waterthrush, 1 Canada Warbler, and a count of 13 Blackburnian Warbler which exceeded its state-level IBA threshold of 10 pairs.

Thanks go out to the volunteer who conducted Bird Blitz surveys at this site: Colleen Yeany. These data will greatly assist our review of this area as a potential IBA.

Table 1. Bird Blitz 2009 survey effort for New Germany State Park candidate IBA.

Participants	Surveys	Distance (km)	Time (hr)
2	3	7.2	3.8

Table 2. Bird Blitz 2009 results for New Germany State Park candidate IBA.

At-risk Species¹	Total	Assemblage
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	FIDS
Canada Warbler	1	FIDS
Blackburnian Warbler	13	FIDS
Secondary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Pileated Woodpecker	1	FIDS
Blue-headed Vireo	12	FIDS
Hermit Thrush	3	FIDS
Brown Creeper	3	FIDS
Magnolia Warbler	15	FIDS
Northern Parula	5	FIDS
Black-throated Blue Warbler	4	FIDS
Winter Wren	1	FIDS
Ovenbird ²	x	FIDS
Scarlet Tanager ²	x	FIDS
Red-eyed Vireo ²	x	FIDS
Acadian Flycatcher ²	x	FIDS
Eastern Towhee	1	Shrubland

¹Species highlighted in red had counts which exceeded state IBA thresholds.

²Species not targeted by Bird Blitz due to their wide distribution across Maryland.

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