



Audubon MARYLAND-DC

Important Bird Areas Program

Bird Blitz 2009: Pleasant Valley

The Pleasant Valley candidate IBA consists of agricultural lands and scattered woodlots just south of Oakland in Garrett County. The survey efforts at this site were boosted by responses to a request for information on the globally vulnerable Red-headed Woodpeckers which was printed in a local newspaper during late July. All together, three participants conducted 3 surveys covering 112 km during 16.3 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 3 at-risk species recorded, with a count of 52 Red-headed Woodpecker (including 16 juveniles) exceeding its IBA threshold of 10 pairs/30 individuals and indicating a significant state-level population. Other at-risk species included a single Alder Flycatcher and 3 Willow Flycatcher.

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

Table 1. Bird Blitz 2009 survey effort for the Pleasant Valley candidate IBA.

Participants	Surveys	Distance (km)	Time (hr)
3	3	112	16.3

Table 2. Bird Blitz 2009 survey results for the Pleasant Valley candidate IBA.

At-risk Species¹	Total	Assemblage
Alder Flycatcher	1	Mountain Peatland
Willow Flycatcher	3	Shrubland
Red-headed Woodpecker	52	--
Secondary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Bobolink	21	Grassland
Eastern Meadowlark	2	Grassland
Savannah Sparrow	6	Grassland
American Kestrel	1	Grassland

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

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