

Important Bird Areas Program

Bird Blitz 2009: Nanjemoy

The Nanjemoy candidate IBA in southwestern Charles County was another top priority for Bird Blitz surveys this year due to the rich biodiversity found in this large block of contiguous forest and the widespread development pressures in the county. The 2009 surveys included Maryland DNR and federal BLM tracts of the Nanjemoy Natural Resource Management Area, Purse State Park, Doncaster State Forest, The Nature Conservancy's Nanjemoy Preserve, and numerous adjacent forested areas. This extensive area received excellent survey coverage, as 11 volunteers conducted 20 surveys, including important nightjar data collected during the Charles County May Count. All totaled, 127.5 km were hiked and kayaked during more than 52 survey hours (Table 1).

The results are summarized below in Table 2, with highlighted species representing those which matched or exceeded their 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 10 at-risk species recorded with Whip-poor-will and Worm-eating Warbler surpassing their respective IBA thresholds of 10 pairs and 20 pairs. Other at-risk species with high counts that were below IBA thresholds were Wood Thrush and Prairie Warbler (Table 2). These results also indicate that the area supports a high diversity of Forest Interior-Dwelling Species (FIDS) with 21 FIDS recorded out of 24 possible on Maryland's Coastal Plain (Table 2).

Thanks go out to all the volunteers who conducted Bird Blitz surveys at this site: Gwen Brewer, Bill Hubick, Mikey Lutmerding, Dave Gillum, Warren and Lisa Strobel, Leslie Starr, Joe Turner, Ron Gutberlet, and Hans Holbrook. These data will greatly assist our review of this area as a potential IBA later this year.

Table 1. Bird Blitz 2009 survey effort for the Nanjemoy candidate IBA.*

Volunteers	Surveys	Distance (km)	Time (hr)
11	20	127.48	52.17

*Totals include a nightjar survey done during the Charles County May Count.

Table 2. Bird Blitz 2009 results for the Nanjemoy candidate IBA.

Primary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Bald Eagle	15	--
Chuck-will's-widow	4	FIDS
Whip-poor-will	18	FIDS
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	--
Wood Thrush	84	FIDS
Prairie Warbler	27	--
Prothonotary Warbler	12	FIDS
Worm-eating Warbler	30	FIDS
Louisiana Waterthrush	8	FIDS
Kentucky Warbler	8	FIDS
Secondary Target Species	Total	Assemblage
Red-shouldered Hawk	15	FIDS
Barred Owl	1	FIDS
Hairy Woodpecker	14	FIDS
Pileated Woodpecker	13	FIDS
Acadian Flycatcher*	7	FIDS
White-eyed Vireo	35	SHRUB
Red-eyed Vireo*	7	FIDS
Yellow-throated Vireo	30	FIDS
Marsh Wren	2	MARSH
Brown Thrasher	8	SHRUB
Northern Parula	221	FIDS
Black-and-white Warbler	41	FIDS
American Redstart	7	FIDS
Ovenbird*	95	FIDS
Hooded Warbler	100	FIDS
Yellow-breasted Chat	6	SHRUB
Scarlet Tanager*	25	FIDS
Summer Tanager	7	FIDS
Eastern Towhee	47	SHRUB
Field Sparrow	5	SHRUB

*Species not formally counted due to wide distribution across Maryland.

Prepared by:

David Yeany II, MS

IBA Program Assistant, Audubon MD-DC

2437 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224

Phone: 814-221-4361 Email: dyeany2@gmail.com