

## **Important Bird Areas Program**

### **Bird Blitz 2009: Tanyard Wetlands**

The Tanyard Wetlands site includes freshwater tidal wetlands along the Choptank River in Caroline and Talbot Counties. In 2009, areas along the King's Creek tributary and just north and south of that stream were surveyed by boat. Three volunteers conducted 4 surveys covering 36.5 km of transects during 9.4 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). Seven at-risk species were recorded, with high counts for 3 species suggesting that there are larger populations throughout the site. These included 10 Bald Eagle, 4 Least Bittern, and 12 Least Tern (Table 5).

Thanks go out to the volunteers who conducted Bird Blitz surveys at this site: Karen Harris, Bill Harris, and Amanda Spears.

**Table 1.** Bird Blitz 2009 survey effort for Tanyard Wetlands candidate IBA.

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Surveys</b>	<b>Distance (km)</b>	<b>Time (hr)</b>
3	4	36.5	9.4

**Table 2.** Bird Blitz 2009 results for the Tanyard Wetlands candidate IBA.

<b>At-risk Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Assemblage</b>
Bald Eagle	10	--
Least Tern	12	Coastal Beach & Dune
Northern Bobwhite	2	Shrubland
Least Bittern	4	Freshwater/Salt Marsh
American Black Duck	2	Freshwater/Salt Marsh
Wood Thrush	4	FIDS
Prairie Warbler	4	Shrubland
<b>Secondary Target Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Assemblage</b>
White-eyed Vireo	3	Shrubland
Marsh Wren	54	Freshwater/Salt Marsh
Summer Tanager	2	FIDS

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