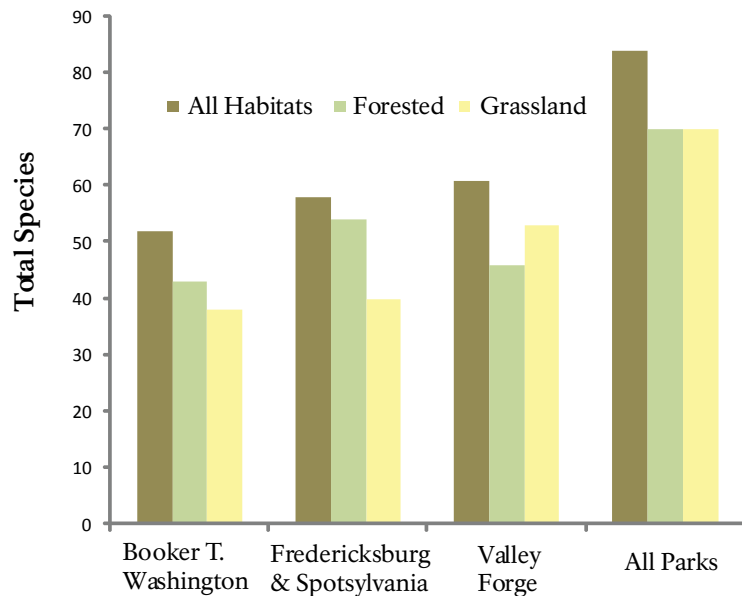




Breeding Bird Monitoring 2009 Results



The Bird Monitoring Program in the National Parks of the Mid-Atlantic Network helps to determine annual changes and long-term trends in species composition and relative abundance. This information can be used to improve our understanding of relationships between breeding birds, habitats and park management. During the breeding season, volunteers navigate to pre-determined monitoring stations and for ten minutes, record all the birds heard or seen within two distance categories (<50m or >50m). The spring/summer of 2009 marked the first season of this monitoring effort and was a great success.



Number of species by habitat type detected during point counts conducted in 2009 at three National Parks in the Mid-Atlantic Network.

Result Highlights

Between May 21st and July 15th of 2009, 22 volunteers surveyed the bird communities at Booker T.



Washington National Monument, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, and Valley Forge National Historical Park. Volunteers surveyed a total of 151 monitoring stations. Many volunteers made it out to survey stations more than once during the season giving us a total of 247 surveys. Multiple visits are especially important in estimating abundance as information on variability due to weather, disturbances, breeding status, etc. can be captured and accounted for.

A total of 84 species were detected across the three parks. The five most abundant species (having the most detections per number of stations surveyed) across the three parks were the **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Tufted Titmouse**, **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, and **Northern Cardinal**. At Booker T. Washington, the top three were the **Red-eyed Vireo**, the **Wood Thrush**, and the **Eastern Wood-Pewee**. At Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, the top three were the **Tufted Titmouse**, **Red-eyed**

	TOTAL STATIONS	GRASSLAND STATIONS	FORESTED STATIONS	TOTAL VOLUNTEERS	AVERAGE # SURVEYS/STATION	ALL HABITATS	FORESTED	GRASSLAND
Booker T. Washington	16	4	12	3	3.4	52	43	38
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania	59	11	48	7	2.0	58	54	40
Valley Forge	76	39	37	11	1.0	61	46	53

Summary of survey sites and point counts conducted in the Mid-Atlantic Network National Parks



Vireo, and Wood Thrush. Valley Forge hosts three different species as the most abundant; the **Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, and American Robin.**

Several species of conservation concern were also detected across the parks. **Wood Thrush**, a Partners in Flight Watchlist Species, were recorded at all three parks in high numbers (20-75% of survey points had this species). Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania also hosted high numbers of **Prairie Warblers**, another Watchlist species that inhabits grassland systems.

Plans for 2010

In addition to assessing year-to-year trends in populations, we will use the monitoring data to assess the ecological integrity of forested and grassland habitats. Avian communities are composed of many species that can be affected to different degrees by changes to their ecosystem – for example, by changes in food resources, nesting substrates, or habitat structure. By examining the community as a whole, we can take these various impacts into account and assess how the population changes. We hope to complete these analyses this summer.

As we gear up for the 2010 monitoring season, we would like to thank the volunteers who make this program possible (see below), and encourage the participation of more volunteers. This year, we plan to monitor two additional parks,



Volunteers conducting a mock point count during a training session at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP

Richmond National Battlefield Park and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Volunteer Spotlight

Many thanks to our volunteers for their hard work in 2009. We hope you'll join us again this season! At Booker T. Washington, we thank: **Marshall Daniels** and **Bill and Anne Tucker**. At Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, we thank: **Paul Nasca, Marty Wright, Donna Finnegan, Beverly Smith, Michael Lott, Matt Roland** and **Andrew Dolby**. At Valley Forge we thank: **Mike Bertram, Kathy King, Ron Grubb, Rick and Eleanor Wolf, Tim Clemens, Grant and Margie Lashbrook, Eli Phillip, Judy White, and Geoffrey Rogalsky**. We would also like to thank **Nicolas Bircher, Greg Shriver, and Sarah Goodwin** for their technical support.

Species of concern detected in Mid-Atlantic Network National Parks

SPECIES	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON	FREDERICKSBURG & SPOTSYLVANIA	VALLEY FORGE
<i>Watchlist Species</i>			
Blue-winged Warbler	0	0	1
Canada Warbler	6	0	0
Prairie Warbler	6	5	0
Worm-eating Warbler	0	2	0
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	1
Wood Thrush	75	66	20
<i>Stewardship Species</i>			
Acadian Flycatcher	38	42	0
Brown Thrasher	6	5	3
Carolina Wren	75	59	19
Eastern Towhee	13	3	18
Grasshopper Sparrow	13	2	0
Hooded Warbler	0	5	0
Indigo Bunting	63	39	8
Louisiana Waterthrush	25	0	0
Pine Warbler	13	7	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	63	34	46
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	2	0
White-eyed Vireo	0	0	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	2	0
Yellow-throated Warbler	0	0	1

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Mid-Atlantic Network:
www.nature.nps.gov/im/units/midn

Bird Monitoring Protocol:
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/midn/ProtocolBird.cfm>

Photos of Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee, Magnolia Warbler, and volunteers by Nicolas Bircher