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# Inland Flyway Review – Fall 2017 Report

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This, the third Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report for a fall season, continues to be pattered (with permission) after the highly successful and long-published Atlantic Flyway Review (AFR) reports. The 2017 Fall Report includes information from six stations, one from Michigan, one from Ohio, two from Illinois and two from Tennessee. Four of the six reporting stations have lengthy histories. Reports from other IBBA stations would be welcome additions to these annual spring and fall summaries.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for each of the six stations; three were in operation for 55 or more days and five utilized >2700 net-hr. Most reporters indicated that there were weather-related problems that affected their banding operations this year and that the total number of birds banded was down compared to past seasons.

Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species; however, no particular species stands out as being the overall most common, however, four species (Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee Warbler and American Goldfinch) were in the top ten for four of the six sites. The top ten species accounted for 56% or more of each station's total birds banded and for 65% of all birds banded.

Lake St. Clair Metropark (Michigan) has experienced some interesting changes since the banding site was changed within the park. Palatial Woods Estate (Ohio) finished its third full season and noted that several species were represented in lower numbers compared to the first two years. Sand Bluff Bird Observation (Illinois) expressed a frustrating season with low numbers of birds banded.

The Lincoln Land Community College Station (Illinois) had a mediocre season, although there were a few new high records as well as several "low" records (especially sparrows). The Whigg Meadow Station (Tennessee) reported that the number of birds banded was down from previous years but diversity of birds captured was up slightly. The Warner Park Nature Center (Tennessee) had a disappointing fall season, particularly after a stellar fall season in 2016.

All stations captured at least one interesting species and several reported good records for returning birds. Lake St. Clair Metropark had the oldest return: a Northern Cardinal banded in 2009. Nearly all stations included programs to which the public was invited or encouraged to participate.

Of course, many thanks to the compilers of these seasonal station reports. It was a pleasure to note the number of visitors welcomed to the various sites – especially interested college students.



**Northern Cardinal**  
Photo by R.Pantle

TABLE 1	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Station	Whigg Meadow	Warner Park Nature Center
	MI	OH	IL	IL	TN	TN
First Day	6-Aug-2017	15-Aug-2017	6-Aug-2017	21-Aug-2017	2-Sep-2017	19-Sep-2017
Last Day	4-Nov-2017	31-Oct-2017	17-Nov-2017	11-Nov-2017	1-Oct-2017	14-Nov-2017
Days Operated	26	55	55	65	30	9
Nets Used	17.5	9 to 15	10 to 40	12 to 24.5	9 to 14	6 to 7
Total Net-Hours	2754	3754	3896	4582	2701	205
Traps Used	0	0	3	0	0	3 to 4
% of Total Caught in Traps	0	0	2%	0	0	3%
Largest Daily Catch	146	22	192	147	139	26
Largest Daily Catch Date	9-Sep-2017	30-Sep-2017	12-Sep-2017	6-Nov-2017	16-Sep-2017	3-Oct-2017
Most Species on Any Date	35	12	30	32	20	11
Date of Most Species Banded	1-Sep-2017	30-Sep-2017	12-Sep-2017	13-Oct-2017	29-Sep-2017	3-Oct-2017
Commonest Species on Best Day	AMGO	SWTH	SWTH	SCJU	SWTH	MAWA
The # of that species banded	44	5	50	56	45	7
Best Day as % of total	30%	23%	26%	38%	18%	27%
<b># of birds Banded in 2016</b>	1065	738	3767	2318	1094	330
<b># of birds Banded in 2017</b>	1897	531	3295	2236	1027	78
<b># of species Banded in 2016</b>	72	59	138	78	50	39
<b># of species Banded in 2017</b>	82	57	109	79	54	22
<b>Birds/100nh in 2016</b>	52.9	21.3	144.0	45.0	35.4	130.4
<b>Birds/100nh in 2017</b>	83.8	14.1	85.0	49.0	38.0	38.0
Top 10 species as % of total	62%	59%	56%	77%	77%	79%

TABLE 2 -- Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species -- Fall 2016					
Lake St. Clair Metropark	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Station	Whigg Meadow	Warner Park Nature Center
MI	OH	IL	IL	TN	TN
AMGO -- 526	WOTH -- 80	SWTH -- 417	HOFI -- 390	TEWA -- 218	NOCA -- 16
SWTH -- 152	SWTH -- 73	AMGO -- 233	AMGO -- 300	SWTH -- 202	MAWA -- 11
RCKI -- 97	HOWA -- 26	GRCA -- 187	SCJU -- 296	BTBW -- 95	AMGO -- 9
RTHU -- 93	COYE -- 23	RCKI -- 171	AMRO -- 77	RCKI -- 60	BCCH -- 6
GCKI -- 81	GCTH -- 22	HOWR -- 169	RCKI -- 68	SCJU -- 55	INBU -- 6
NAWA -- 59	MAWA -- 21	SCJU -- 148	YRWA -- 66	HOWA -- 45	TEWA -- 4
WTSP -- 47	NOCA -- 19	GCKI -- 145	HOSP -- 60	CSWA -- 38	GCTH -- 3
HETH -- 46	OVEN -- 18	AMRE -- 133	NOCA -- 56	OVEN -- 33	MYWA -- 3
SOSP -- 46	EATO -- 17	MAWA -- 126	AMRE -- 53	GCTH -- 26	SWTH -- 2
GRCA -- 38	TEWA -- 16	TEWA -- 124	SOSP -- 51	BHVI -- 23	AMRE -- 2

**Lake St. Clair Metropark**      **423-0824**  
**(LSCMP)**

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

**Coordinator/Bander: Allen T. Chartier\***

Assistants: Jenifer Benke, John Bieganowski, Anna Boegehold, Serena Boegehold, Terri Chapdelaine, Jacob Charlebois, Mike Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Owen Faust, Jean Gramlich, Stevie Kuroda, Jac Kyle, Dave Lancaster, Steve Mangas, Mitchael Nielson, Hannah Pelkey, Matthew Porter, Alex Reiber, Anne Ross, Edie Schmitz, Michelle Serreyn, Bruce Watson, Blanche Wicke, Christian Zammit and Julian Zammit.

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Banding was conducted at the Meadow Station (LSCMP) at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb Co., MI, for the third consecutive year. The previous 20+ year history of banding in this park at another site 0.4 miles to the SW, the Marsh station (MBMP), and the reasons for moving to this station in 2016, were covered in the 2015 report and will not be repeated here. Locations for the 17.5 nets used at the site (within an area of approximately 1.2 ha) were established in Fall 2015. As with previous bandings at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week during August, September, October and the first week of November. Out of a possible 26 days during that period, the station was operated on 26 – with an 11-day gap in the middle of October due to rainouts and a lack of volunteers that was filled with rescheduled dates. There were daily visits by the public, as expected, and the station supported its annual hummingbird and monarch butterfly event that attracted a large number of visitors. Some well-timed cold fronts in September enhanced our numbers and diversity, perhaps offsetting days cancelled due to poor weather.

A total of 1,897 birds of 82 species was banded here this fall. That is one more species than the previous record, and, the number of birds banded was 9.6% above the 2004-2014 average at the Marsh Station and 78% higher than last fall. The capture rate of 83.8 birds/100 net-hr was much higher than fall of 2016, but below the Marsh Station average  
Jan - Mar 2018

of 112.1. The greater numbers and diversity were due to good migrations of warblers, thrushes and flycatchers. For the fourth fall in a row the sparrow numbers were low.

After some success last fall, this year audio luring for Northern Saw-whet Owls was attempted on eight mornings from 20 Oct to 4 Nov, with a total of 7.5 hr of effort; only one Eastern Screech-Owl was captured.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds moved through in large numbers, especially during August with the total of 93 – (the marsh station's average was 80.5). The total of 63 flycatchers of 8 species was better than last year and better overall than the marsh location. Last year's amazing record of 142 Swainson's Thrushes was broken again this year with 152. Numbers for Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush were also above the marsh station's average; however, the number of Hermit Thrushes was below the marsh station's average. The numbers for both kinglets were above the marsh station averages.

Vireos were well-represented this fall, possibly due to the very good crop of dogwood berries. Warbler numbers were good with 313 birds of 24 species banded; the four most commonly banded were Nashville (59), Magnolia (37), American Redstart (35) and Common Yellowthroat (20). Notable were record numbers of Orange-crowned (12) and Cape May (5). Sparrow numbers were rather low compared to past years with only 170 of 8 species banded.

Captures considered unusual were Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Woodcock, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher (4), Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo (2), Marsh Wren (5), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Golden-winged Warbler (first fall occurrence).

Interesting recaptures this fall involved birds originally banded at the Marsh station. A Northern Cardinal banded on 5 Apr 2009 was caught on 27 Oct; another banded on 26 Oct. 2012 was caught on 13 Aug; and a third banded on 28 Aug 2014 was caught again on 27 Oct. An SY-F Red-winged Blackbird banded on 31 May 2014 was recaptured on 13 Aug. An AHY-F American Goldfinch band-

ed on 15 Aug 2011 was recaptured on 3 Sep and five others recaptured had been banded in 2013 (1) and 2014 (4).

I want to thank the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017 for the operation of the station. Although 8 of these nets have already been destroyed (mostly by White-tailed Deer), this was a significant financial help for continuing research in the Metropark. Thank you also to the park management for giving permission to band in the park, and opening the park consistently for us at 6:00 am (EDT). And also thank you to the staff at the park nature center, especially Julie Champion, for supporting us for many years.

**Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) 391-0821  
Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier**

Assistants: Rebecca Wood

Address: 32840 Jourden Road, Albany, OH 45710

Email address: [placierr@hocking.edu](mailto:placierr@hocking.edu)

This was the third full season of fall migration banding at the Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE). The fall of 2016 was an exceptionally good year, apparently, when compared to the previous fall and this past year. 2016 saw a very strong thrush migration, and large numbers of locally produced hatch-year birds, likely a result of the Brood V emergence of periodic (17-yr) Cicadas. As noted in last fall's report, I manage the power line corridor adjacent to my 1,000 ft. lane as a stable shrubland and especially encourage the abundance of spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and other native fruiting species attractive to thrushes during their fall migration.

It appeared there would be another good spicebush crop this year. But then September turned unseasonably hot and dry, with winds coming mostly from the south. Much of the spicebush fruit shriveled and lost color during this period, perhaps the reason why the numbers of all migrant thrush species fell substantially from the previous year, and somewhat lower than in fall 2015.

But most species of migrant birds fell off substantially, not just the thrushes. Numbers of Tennessee, and Magnolia warblers and Ovenbirds, were no-

tably lower. White-throated Sparrows went from 39 in fall 2016 to only 6 in fall 2017. Increasing species were uncommon. Most surprising was the banding of 15 Eastern Phoebes, after only 3 had been captured over the previous two fall seasons. The best bird of the season was a hatch year Black-billed Cuckoo, the first ever banded at the PWE.

There were a number of visitors during the season, including families with young children, always welcome. Thanks to Rebecca Wood for her assistance.

**Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (SBBO) 422-0891**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

**Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman**

Assistants: Lee Johnson, Lynda Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Megan Pease, Dave Seal, Justin Keller, Nora Loncar, Sharon McCoy and especially Deb Eickman.

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As noted last spring, the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, located in northern Illinois on the Colored Sands Forest Preserve (a Forest Preserves in Winnebago County), is now managed by Mike Eickman through a Station Permit. The spring report provided habitat descriptions and other details.

This fall's banding season was a rather frustrating season; a wide range of weather influenced the total number of birds captured. Nine days were shortened by either excessive heat or rain. The station's best day was 192 birds; 50 Swainson's Thrushes accounted for 26% of the total catch that day. The season total was 472 birds fewer than that of last year and may be attributed to the lack of Chipping Sparrows: 341 in 2016 compared to only 29 in this year.

There were two encounters of special note: a Northern Saw-Whet Owl banded 28 Sep 2017 near Duluth, MN, was caught on 19 Oct 2017; another Saw-whet returned to SBBO where it was originally banded on the same date back in 2015 under Lee G. Johnson's permit. As usual, the assistance of many dedicated volunteers, in addition to those listed above, was very much appreciated.

**Lincoln Land Community College 394-0893  
Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)**

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

**Coordinator: Vernon Kleen**

Banders: Vernon Kleen and Anthony Rothering  
Assistants: Paul & Ruth Biggers, Chad Cremer,  
Joe Gardner, Wayne Huckabee, Ron Moorman,  
Nic Morgan, Jim Mordacq, Anastasia Rahlin,  
Bruce & Nancy Redman, Andrew Sharp, Susan  
Shaw, Kelsey Thornton and Phil Wheat.

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The Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station was initiated in the fall of 2012 and has been in operation each spring and fall ever since; 2017 marked the fifth full fall season. The station's habitats and general description were described in the 2015 IFR fall report. The 2017 season was typically windy, cool (even cold on some occasions) and damp. As in 2015 and 2016, migrant birds were slow to arrive and quick to depart. Several expected species were neither caught nor seen this fall. The capture of birds this year was definitely lower than previously experienced because of fairly strong to extremely strong winds, drizzles, rain or thunderstorms, deer-caused holes in the nets and the matted down prairie which normally would have captured an excellent number of prairie-type species – especially goldfinches and the less common, sparrows). However, the number of birds captured during the last week of operation (early November) enhanced the season results considerably.

The total number of birds banded in 2017 (2,236) was the third best in the five full years of operation. The number of species (79) was typical of the past four years and could have exceeded the record (80) if only a few of the “missed” species had been captured. In addition to the birds banded, another 66 were captured as returns and 425 as repeats.

This fall the station was in operation for 65 days; there were four days in which >100 birds were banded – the largest number was 147. In contrast, there were 3 days in which 5 or fewer birds were banded.

The station's only new species was a Broad-winged Hawk (the 119th station species). Record highs (even though the station has only been in operation for five years) were set for the Eastern Phoebe, both Kyinglets, Orange-crowned Warbler, Northern Parula, Fox Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Purple Finch, House Finch and Pine Siskin. Well-below typical numbers were noted for the Chipping, White-throated and White-crowned sparrows.

The oldest returns were of 8 birds banded in 2013 (two Downy Woodpeckers, a Slate-colored Junco, a Song Sparrow, a House Finch, an American Goldfinch and two House Sparrows) and 4 birds banded in 2014 (a Northern Cardinal and three House Finches).

The five issues that traditionally affect the banding operations each fall (and in some cases the number of nets used each day) were the wind, rain, leaves, people and deer. (The deer in the banding area are so tame, they do not even flee when you actively try to chase them away – even at close range). On the positive side, the banding station operates out of a student-constructed and fully functional building which is especially useful on damp, windy and/or cold days and serves as a “garage” for the station's bird-mobile (ATV).

Without the dedicated support of many volunteers, the station could not operate. Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered time at and visited the LLCC BBS. Special thanks 1) to the Lincoln Land Community College for permitting the station on its campus; 2) to Anthony Rothering of the LLCC biology staff for near-daily assistance; 3) to the many regular volunteer assistants (listed in the heading of this report); 4) to everyone who donated “wish list” items for the station; 5) to all of the station visitors (including many LLCC classes and independent students and faculty); 6) to the Rotary Club of Springfield South, and the Phillip's 66 Company for providing grants, and 7) to several individuals who made generous donations. A copy of the station's full report is available on request from vkleen@comcast.net.

**Whigg Meadow 351-0840**

Robbinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN

**Coordinators: Scott Rush and Jay Dedeker**

Assistants: Charlie Muise, Eric Soehren, Danielle Bunch

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Email address: scott.rush@msstate.edu

The number of birds banded was down from previous years but diversity of birds captured was up slightly. This includes two HY Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at the banding station outside of normal net operating hours. Totals of Tennessee, Palm (Western) and Bay-breasted warblers were up from past years, while totals of Cape May Warblers were down from past years.

**Warner Park Nature Center 363-0865**

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

**Coordinators/Banders: Sandy Bivens and Kathy Shaw**

Chief assistants: Ethel Kawamura, John Kell, Diana McLusky, Susan Bradfield, Laura Cook and Justin Hiltner.

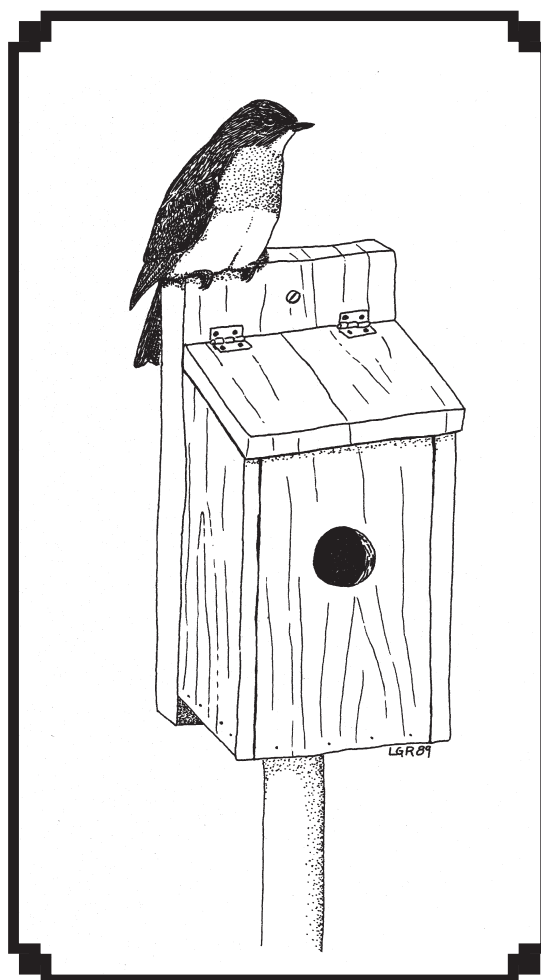
Address: 7311 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN

Email address: sandy.bivens@nashville.gov

The Warner Park Station, located in the 3005 acre Warner Parks, is in its 35th year of operation. The capture numbers for Fall Migration 2017 were disappointing, particularly after a stellar fall season in 2016. Nine sessions (205 net-hr and 9 trap-hr) yielded a total of 97 birds (78 new, 18 recaptures, and 1 unbanded). This was quite a drop in captures compared to 2016 with 366 birds caught. Rain was plentiful throughout the season; thus, birds were not dependent on the creek by which we hang our nets. Birds/100 net-hr in 2017 was only 46 compared to 146 in 2016. The day with the highest captures was 3 Oct with 26 birds. A total of 22 species was captured compared to 39 in 2016. Northern Cardinal was the most frequent species captured, followed by Carolina Chickadee and American Goldfinch. As always, our station is open for observation by the public, and 244 visitors came by the station, including elementary children

and high school students. A wonderful crew of staff and volunteers contribute hundreds of hours to bird counts, educational programs and banding. A special thanks goes to the Warner Parks, Friends of Warner Parks, and to Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for continued support.

[Other station activities include in a MAPS station (since 1991), an Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Program (since 1936), a Purple Martin Gourd program and hummingbird banding sessions (with 106 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded in 13 sessions)].



**Eastern Bluebird**