



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Inland Flyway Review – Spring 2018 Report

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This, the third spring-season Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report, again, is patterned, with permission, after the very successful reports of the Atlantic Flyway Review (AFR). The 2018 Spring Report includes information from seven stations: one each from Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama and two from Illinois. All had provided previous spring reports. The Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) station, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (SBBO) and Fort Morgan have lengthy histories. The Fort Morgan site is a second year restart (with one week of concentrated effort) at the site that had been operated by Bob and Maratha Sargent for many years. That one week in April (really, just five banding days) was an extremely productive period with 561 birds banded (with a high concentration of Gray Catbirds). Among the more interesting records for the Lake St. Clair Metro Park were several longevity and unusual occurrence records. The Palatial Woods Estate celebrated its second year of spring banding. The SBBO station reported three dates between 6 and 13 May with 170 or more birds banded; its report also included interesting returns of a migrant Sharp-shinned Hawk and Gray-cheeked Thrush. The Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS) added three new species to the station's growing list of species banded. The Migration Blitz at the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis completed its tenth season

of a ten-year project. The Warner Park Nature Center was proud to report the capture of its first snake in a mist net and the return of an adult Carolina Chickadee banded back in January 2010. And, of special interest, was the number of visitors welcomed to (and educated at) the various sites – especially interested college students.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the seven stations; six of the seven had >500 net-hr with the LLCC BBS reporting the highest at 5115. Only three stations were in operation 25 or more days (weather-related issues reduced the number of banding days at some stations). Most reporters mentioned that the weather (especially strong winds, rain and area flooding) had a detrimental effect on the success of the season. The combined number of birds banded at the seven reporting stations was 6571.

Table 2 identifies the top ten most commonly banded species. No particular species stands out as being the overall most common amongst the station reports; however, Swainson's Thrush and White-throated Sparrow were each included in the top ten at four stations. The top ten species accounted for 44% or more of each station's total birds banded except one and accounted for 54% of the 6571 birds banded.

Again, thinking to the future, this compilation may be able to provide meaningful discussions on changing populations as well as first time and irregular occurrences. It is also a forum for all IBBA stations to brag a little bit about their stations twice a year without jeopardizing their data or having to go into lengthy reports and details. The coordinators/banders at all stations/observatories,

etc., are encouraged to provide results from their stations to the IFR report. It is anticipated that some may participate in the Midwest Migration Network (MMN), which could be a possibility in the near future; however, not all stations, nor supplemental operations at some stations will meet the projected standards/protocol of the MMN, therefore, seasonal reports from all stations (to recognize local records and achievements regardless of whether or not they participate in the MMN) would be most welcome. Many thanks to the compilers of the current (and newly anticipated) station reports.

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

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Allen T. Chartier

Assistants: Jenifer Benke, John Bieganowski, Jacob T. Charlebois, Mike P. Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Tamika R. Jaja, Stevie M. Kuroda, Jac Kyle, Dave J. Lancaster, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Erin Rowan, Edie Schmitz, Michelle M. Serreyn, Bruce R. Watson, Blanche H. Wicke, Christian Zammit, Julian Zammit. Thank you all!

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Banding was conducted at the Meadow station (LSCMP) at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb Co., MI, for the third spring in a row. 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 the Meadow station in 2015, was covered in the IFR Spring 2016 report and will not be repeated here. The GPS coordinates for the “centroid” of the Meadow station are: 42° 34' 45.0" N, 82° 48' 9.2" W. Locations for a total of 17.5 nets were established in fall 2015, within an area of approximately 3 acres (1.2 ha).

An effort was made to adhere to the long-established protocol at this park to band two days each week during April, May, and the first week of June. Out of a possible 20 days during that period, the station was operated on 16 days (19 days in 2017) from 7 Apr to 3 Jun 2018. Two days were rained out and not rescheduled, and four days were operated with only 11.5 nets due to not having enough volunteers

to manage 17.5 nets. Conditions were very wet and muddy in the banding area throughout April and May. Temperatures were cool to moderate. Wintry conditions continuing past mid-April extended the presence of winter residents, and delayed the arrival (and perhaps enhanced the numbers captured) of several early spring migrants. Across southeastern Michigan, May was one of the wettest on record, which forced a number of banding days to be rescheduled, and a couple of cancellations. These cold April days and wet May days reduced the number of volunteers willing to come out to help operate the station, and was the main factor preventing full coverage this spring.

The 1199 individuals banded was the second highest number of individuals for any of the 22 spring seasons at the MBMP and LSCMP stations, and the 77 species captured was a spring record for both stations. It was a good spring for flycatchers, kinglets, warblers, and sparrows. Species captured in exceptionally good or record numbers included: Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker (8), Alder Flycatcher (15), Willow Flycatcher (10), “Traill’s” Flycatcher (16), Brown Creeper (14), Winter Wren (8), Golden-crowned Kinglet (77), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (59), Hermit Thrush (45), Orange-crowned Warbler (4), Yellow Warbler (78), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (52), (Western) Palm Warbler (20), American Redstart (30), American Tree Sparrow (18), Field Sparrow (4), (Red) Fox Sparrow (15), Song Sparrow (61), Lincoln’s Sparrow (20), Red-winged Blackbird (147), House Finch (7), and American Goldfinch (83).

A few species were banded in significantly lower than average numbers, including: Red-eyed Vireo (2), Black-capped Chickadee (3), Veery (1), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (3), Ovenbird (1), and Common Grackle (6). Expected species that were not captured included Downy Woodpecker (but two returns) and Blue-headed Vireo (4th year in a row).

Captures that were considered unusual included 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Blue-winged Warbler,

3 Northern Parulas, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Connecticut Warblers (4th, 5th, and 6th ever in spring), 2 Chipping Sparrows (first ever in spring), 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Orchard Orioles (4th and 5th ever in the park), and 5 Pine Siskins were the first ever in spring, and included a SY-M with a cloacal protuberance on 4 May and a HY-M on 3 Jun, providing the first evidence of breeding at this site, which is at least 100 miles south of the normal breeding range in Michigan.

Interesting recaptures involved a number of birds originally banded 0.4 miles away at the MBMP site, including: a Gray Catbird banded in 2014 (3 yr 11 mo), a female Northern Cardinal banded in 2012 (at least 5 yr 11 mo), a male Northern Cardinal banded in 2013 (at least 4 yr 11 mo), a female House Finch banded in 2013 (4 yr 10 mo), and 6 American Goldfinches including a female banded in 2011 (at least 7 yr 11 mo), another female banded in 2011 (6 yr 10 mo), a male banded in 2013 (5 yr 10 mo), another male banded in 2013 (4 yr 10 mo), a female banded in 2014 (3 yr 11 mo), and a male banded in 2013 (3 yr 10 mo). The 25 Yellow Warblers returning from previous years (as far back to 2014) was higher than last year here, and much higher than at the MBMP site.

Public access to the banding table (but not to the nets due to where we are set up) allowed many observers throughout the season to watch the process, and learn about the bird banding research that has been ongoing in this park since 1989. On a special Migration Day event, promoted by the park's nature center on 12 May, dozens of observers stopped by to watch and, hopefully, learn.

Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) 391-0821

Albany, Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: Bob Scott Placier

Assistants: Mike Wren, Rebecca Wood

Address: 32840 Jourden Road, Albany, OH 45710

Email address: placiterr@hocking.edu

Spring 2018 was the second spring season for migration banding at the PWE station. Despite being able to operate only 20 mornings this season, compared to 28 in 2017, both the number of species banded (52 and 47, respectively) and the number of

individuals (259 and 235, respectively) increased. This despite having only 69% of the net hours in operation in 2017. Species with notable increases included Swainson's Thrush (2018 = 15, 2017 = 2) and Slate-colored Junco (2018 = 12, 2017 = 0). White-throated Sparrow continued as the most common species banded here in spring (2018 = 29, 2017 = 19). The only notable decline in a species already low in number was Purple Finch (2018 = 1, 2017 = 6). Unfavorable weather toward the end of May caused an earlier closure to the operation than intended, but otherwise weather was not a factor either way. Thanks to the volunteer assistance of my friends Mike Wren and Rebecca Wood on several mornings.

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory 422-0891 (SBBO)

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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Like last year spring weather at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory was extremely frustrating compared to years past. Stationary fronts in the southern US seemed to hold back birds and station numbers were down for most of March and April. The local weather in March and April consisted of chilly, cold, wet, windy days. A couple days even had freezing rain and snow. Overall we lost 10+ days to weather.

Once weather patterns improved daily catches increased in May. Our big days for the spring were 6 May with 175 birds captured, 12 May with 170 birds and 13 May with 173 birds. Again, this spring, the Swainson's Thrush and Gray Catbirds topped the list. This year's total of 2002 birds of 99 species was up 484 birds from the 2017 total.

Special captures of note and interest were a recaptured male Sharp-shinned Hawk caught in the same net run as previously caught and a female Cooper's Hawk trapped at the Hawk Station in

the fall of 2017 that was recaptured in the nets on the hill this spring. Another migrant was a Gray-cheeked Thrush caught last fall and recaptured this spring. The catch of the season was a male Prairie Warbler in breeding plumage making it the second one caught in two years.

Finally, I want to thank all our volunteers and staff (listed above) for their work.

**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 Biggers, Mel Breyer, Joe Gardner, Wayne Huckabee, Anna Kozlov, Jim Mordacq, Nic Morgan, Asya Rahlin, Nancy Redman, Andrew Sharp, Susan Shaw and Kelsey Thornton.

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The Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS) has been in operation each spring and fall since the fall of 2012. The 2018 spring season was the sixth spring season. The station's habitats and general description were described in the 2015 IFR fall report and the net locations remained pretty much the same over the years. The 2018 season was typically windy, cool (even cold on some occasions) and damp. Migrant birds were slow to arrive and quick to depart and several expected species were neither caught nor seen this spring.

The total number of birds captured in 2018 (1687) was higher than average and the second best spring season overall. The number of species banded (87) surpassed the previous high of 82 species. In addition to the birds banded, another 146 (of 21 species, 14 of which were migratory) were captured as returns and approximately another 400 individuals were captured as repeats. For 17 species there was a notable increase in the number of birds caught; and, for eight species (mostly sparrows and finches), the numbers were considerably lower than in the past. Three new species were added

to the station list (Black-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet Tanager and Vesper Sparrow) bringing the station total to 122.

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 the many visitors to the station (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 other individuals who made generous donations.

World Bird Sanctuary 382-0903

Valley Park, St. Louis County, MO

Coordinator/Bander: Linda C. Tossing

125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road
Valley Park, MO 63088

Email address:

birdbanding@worldbirdsantuary.org

Assistants: Valerie Geile, Samantha Matchefts

The study area for the Migration Blitz is approximately 40 acres of the 310 acre World Bird Sanctuary. This is an oak-hickory forested dry creek northeast facing ravine in an undeveloped area of the sanctuary in the Meramec River Valley (part of the Meramec Valley Important Bird Area). These results are part of a 10-year study started in 2009, focusing on the use of migrants in the study area. For 2018, we had 54 different migrant species with special species: Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Ovenbird. We had 33 Wood Thrushes (one of our target species). In prior years, we have had significant numbers of Tennessee and Nashville warblers. This year, the Tennessee capture rate was triple the Nashville capture rate. During the blitz, we had four rain out dates, which is sort of normal for St. Louis weather.

Warner Park Nature Center 363-0865

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

**Coordinators/Banders: Sandy Bivens,
Laura Cook**

Assistant: Kathy Shaw

Address: 7311 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN

Email, address: sandy.bivens@nashville.gov;
lauracook@nashville.gov

We had beautiful weather for the 2018 Spring banding – no sessions were cancelled due to weather! We used Potter traps for 3 of our 5 sessions with a total of 64 captures and 20 species; 25 of which were recaptures. A big surprise from our Spring 2018 season included our first-ever snake caught in a net – a 19 inch midland water snake (*Nerodia sipedon pleuralis*)! One of our bird highlights was a recaptured Carolina Chickadee that we first banded on 05 Jan 2010 as an AHY – so this bird was at least 9 years old! All of the Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice we caught this season (13 total) were all recaptures. Banding sessions at Warner Park Nature Center are open to the public for observation and this season we had 465 visitors to the station.

Of note, our 2018 Winter Banding Season was also very successful with 10 sessions held in January and February with 271 birds of 16 species captured; 188 of which were recaptures. A highlight of the

season was a recaptured Tufted Titmouse that was originally banded in January 2013 at our station; so it was at least six years old; but even more remarkable is this bird has been captured every year since but only in January or February (even though we have spring, summer and fall banding seasons at Warner Park Nature Center). Our banding station is open to the public. During this winter season, we had 481 visitors.

Fort Morgan Banding Station 302-0880

Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, AL

Coordinators/Banders: Scott Rush

Assistant: Eric Soehren

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The Fort Morgan Banding Station is situated in an area where bird banding was conducted each spring for 20+ years. Previous banding at this station was conducted through Bob and Martha Sargent. After several years of not being operated, the station opened again for one week in 2017 and that was followed by one week in April 2018. Overall catch and diversity were down from previous seasons of operation but had excellent support from the local community with many visitors coming by to learn about birds and banding. We had the pleasure of banding 561 birds this year during that week of operation.



**Carolina chickadee
Photo R. Pantle**

Table 1	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Station	World Bird Sanctuary	Warner Park Nature Center	Fort Morgan
	MI	OH	IL	IL	MO	TN	AL
First Day	7-Apr-2018	10-Apr-2018	9-Mar-2018	19-Mar-2018	18-Apr-2018	3-Apr-2018	17-Apr-2018
Last Day	3-Jun-2018	20-May-2018	25-May-2018	26-May-2018	14-May-2018	28-Apr-2018	21-Apr-2018
Days Operated	16	20	46	52	27	5	5
Nets Used	11.5 - 17.5	15-Nov	14 - 40	15.5 - 28	25 - 31%	6	18
Total Net-Hours	1443	1060	3887	5115	3298	107	589
Traps Used	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
% of Total Caught in Traps	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	33%
Largest Daily Catch	169	24	175	125	80	26	257
Largest Daily Catch Date	4-May-2018	3-May-2018	6-May-2018	1-May-2018	2-May-2018	10-Apr-2018	20-Apr-2018
Most Species on Any Date	33	15	44	28	27	12	27
Date of Most Species Banded	6-May-2018	7-May-2018	12-May-2018	1 & 12 May 2018	1-May-2018	10-Apr-2018	20-Apr-2018
Most Common Species on Best Day	WTSP	HOWR	WTSP	SWTH	SWTH	AMGO	GRCA
The # of that species banded	27	5	19	29	15	6	63
Best Day as % of total	16%	21%	11%	23%	19%	23%	25%
# of Birds Banded in 2017	1301	235	1518	1106	409	57	153
# of Birds Banded in 2018	1199	259	2002	1687	826	37	561
# of Species Banded in 2017	74	47	104	76	45	19	29
# of Species Banded in 2018	77	52	99	87	65	15	39
Birds/100 nh in 2017	81.5	15.3	unknown	28	18	38	21
Birds/100 nh in 2018	104.8	24.4	51.5	33	25	34.5	95
Top 10 species as % of total	57%	44%	44%	52%	66%	81%	75%

TABLE 2 -- Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Spring 2018						
Lake St. Clair Metropark	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Community College	World Bird Sanctuary	Warner Park Nature Center	Fort Morgan
MI	OH	IL	IL	MO	TN	AL
RWBL -- 147	WTS -- 29	SWTH -- 139	SCJU -- 235	TEWA -- 155	WTSP -- 7	INBU -- 144
AMGO -- 83	WOTH -- 18	GRCA -- 119	SWTH -- 138	SWTH -- 110	NOCA -- 6	GRCA -- 90
YEWA -- 78	NOCA -- 15	WTSP -- 98	MYWA -- 72	OVEN -- 56	AMGO -- 4	WOTH -- 47
GCKI -- 77	SWTH -- 15	SCJU -- 96	AMRO -- 65	GCTH -- 44	MYWA -- 4	RTHU -- 33
SOSP -- 61	OVEN -- 13	SWSP -- 94	RCKI -- 65	NAWA -- 43	FISP -- 3	REVI -- 25
RCKI -- 59	INBU -- 13	FOSP -- 87	SOSP -- 59	TUTI -- 34	RCKI -- 2	WEVI -- 21
MYWA -- 52	JPWA -- 12	GCKI -- 78	WPWA -- 52	WOTH -- 33	HAWO -- 2	HOWA -- 19
HETH -- 45	SCJU -- 12	FISP -- 68	COYE -- 51	WTSP -- 28	BLJA -- 2	OVEN -- 18
COYE -- 43	AMGO -- 12	COYE -- 63	AMGO -- 50	NOCA -- 24		BLGR -- 14
SWSP -- 39	EATO -- 11	AMGO -- 60	GCKI -- 48	INBU -- 12		SCTA -- 12
			SWSP -- 48			