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## General call for abstracts for annual meeting of Inland Bird Banding Association

Papers on any aspect of bird banding are invited. All presenters are encouraged to submit an abstract for the meeting program and for publication in **North American Bird Bander**. Abstracts pertaining to posters will also be considered. Note that oral presentations to be delivered at the November meeting should aim to be 20 minutes in length, including questions. Abstract submission deadline is 1 November. Please submit abstracts electronically as a MS Word document to [scott.rush@msstate.edu](mailto:scott.rush@msstate.edu) or a paper copy may be submitted to:

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## *Inland Flyway Review – Fall 2018 Report*

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This report, the fourth for an Inland Flyway Review (IFR) fall season, includes information from eleven banding stations/observatories: three from Michigan, four from Ohio, two from Illinois and two from Tennessee. Reports from the new sites are definitely appreciated (and future reports from other sites are welcomed). Many of these eleven “sites” have long histories and it is interesting to read about the current season compared to past seasons, station highlights including new species captured, potential causes for new high or low numbers, issues that caused problems and how (or if) they were resolved, support from volunteers and programs for visitors.

**Table 1** provides a summary of the basic information for each of the eleven stations; five were in operation for 55 or more days and eight utilized 2300 or more net hours. Most reporters indicated that there were weather-related problems this year that affected their banding operations; however, the total number of birds banded was higher this year than last year for seven of the eleven reporting stations.

**Table 2** identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species. The Swainson’s Thrush was in the top ten for 8 of the 11 sites; the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and White-throated Sparrow were listed for 7 sites; they were followed by the American Goldfinch, Hermit Thrush and Myrtle Warbler at 6 sites. For the record, there were 3 species listed at 5 sites, 2 at 4 sites, 5 at 3 sites, 8 at 2 sites, and 17 at a single site. The top ten species accounted for 52% or more of each station’s total birds banded (with a high of 77%) and for 65% of all birds banded (the exact percentage as last year).

Lake St. Clair Metropark (MI) continues to experience a higher diversity of species captured since moving to its new location and an increased number of hummingbirds. It also enjoyed an excellent flycatcher, vireo, thrush and warbler migration. Although the Kalamazoo Nature Center (MI) lost 25 banding days due to weather or lack of available banders, it was pleasantly surprised with an excellent warbler migration and a large number of visitors. The Pitsfield (MI) station is approaching its 30th anniversary and recorded its 200th banded species (a Clay-colored Sparrow). The Black Swamp Bird Observatory (Navarre Banding Station) (OH), is also approaching its 30th anniversary; it was noted that banding conditions were only fair this fall (with ten days closed due to weather) although they did band 89 species and averaged 65 birds per 100 net-hours with most

Table 1. Fall 2017 Banding Summary

	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Pitsfield	Black Swamp Bird Observatory	Kelleys Island Jones Preserve	Springville Marsh Nature Preserve	Palatal Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Station	Whigg Meadow	Warner Park Nature Center
	MI	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	TN	TN
First Day	5-Aug-2018	25-Aug-2018	25-Aug-2018	13-Aug-2018	17-Sep-2018	18-Aug-2018	15-Aug-2018	3-Aug-2018	20-Aug-2018	31-Aug-2018	11-Sep-2018
Last Day	3-Nov-2018	31-Oct-2018	31-Oct-2018	30-Oct-2018	13-Nov-2018	2-Dec-2018	31-Oct-2018	17-Nov-2018	17-Nov-2018	30-Sep-2018	6-Nov-2018
Days Operated	26	47	59	69	31	12	59	65	65	27	10
Nets Used	11.5 to 17.5	15	30	23 to 23	8 to 16	15 to 16	11 to 15	6 to 40	12 to 27	9 to 14%	3 to 8
Total Net-Hours	2488	3250	8985	7025	957	892	3765	16,790	5670	2363	166
Traps Used	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0 to 6
% of Total Birds Caught in Traps	0	0.011	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	12%
Largest Daily Catch	319	99	225	297	84	87	36	239	174	138	19
Date of Largest Daily Catch	8-Sep-2018	7-Sep-2018	12-Oct-2018	26-Sep-2018	18-Sep-2018	15-Sep-2018	10-Sep-2018	6-Sep-2018	4-Oct-2018	22-Sep-2018	16-Oct-2018
Most Common Species on Best Day	SMTH & MAWA	RTHU	MYWA	BLPW	HETH	GRCA	REVI	SWTH	MYWA	TEWA	8
Number of Most Common Species	44	21	102	220	36	29	9	75	54	89	HOFI
Percentage of Most Common on Best Day	14% each	21%	45%	74%	43%	33%	25%	31%	31%	64%	42%
Most Species on Any Date	38	31	35	31	20	20	18	33	29	21	13
Date of Most Species Banded	8-Sep-2018	7-Sep-2018	7-Sep-2018	5-Oct-2018	19-Sep-2018	2 dates	10-Sep-2018	3 dates	28-Sep-2018	20-Sep-2018	18-Sep-2018
# of birds Banded in 2017	1901	2038	2333	3585	1025	824	531	3295	2236	1027	78
# of birds Banded in 2018	1762	2089	2589	4566	812	570	675	4011	2076	1200	103
# of species Banded in 2017	82	74	76	88	52	66	57	138	79	54	22
# of species Banded in 2018	80	81	89	89	40	61	62	104	79	45	27
Birds/100mh in 2017	83.8	86	36.2	62.2	107.1	92.4	14.1	85	49	35.4	38
Birds/100mh in 2018	82.8	64	28.8	65	84.8	63.9	17.9	23.9	36.6	50.7	62%
Top 10 Species as % of Total	57%	52%	55%	66%	71%	68%	58%	56%	61%	85%	77%

Table 2. List of 10 most commonly banded species, Fall 2018

	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Pitsfield	Black Swamp Bird Observatory	Kelleys Island Jones Preserve	Springville Marsh Nature Preserve	Palatal Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Lincoln Land Station	Whigg Meadow	Warner Park Nature Center
	MI	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	TN	TN
AMGO -- 259	AMGO -- 242	MYWA -- 298	MYWA -- 989	BLPW -- 142	GCKI -- 99	WOTH -- 70	SWTH -- 417	AMGO -- 229	TEWA -- 417	SWTH -- 13	
SWTH -- 149	COYE -- 124	WTSP -- 272	MYWA -- 389	HETH -- 91	COYE -- 59	MAWA -- 70	GRCA -- 321	SCIU -- 199	SWTH -- 145	MYWA -- 10	
MAWA -- 100	GRCA -- 115	RCKI -- 139	GRCA -- 344	MYWA -- 51	MYWA -- 51	SWTH -- 64	CEDW -- 309	CHSP -- 185	BTBW -- 120	HOFI -- 8	
RTHU -- 87	CEDW -- 98	GRCA -- 132	WTSP -- 294	RCKI -- 70	WTSP -- 49	HOWA -- 47	SCIU -- 251	MYWA -- 142	BHVI -- 91	NOCA -- 7	
HETH -- 82	BCCH -- 96	MAWA -- 118	SWTH -- 241	AMGO -- 34	NOCA -- 40	OVEN -- 32	HOWR -- 173	HOSP -- 128	SCIU -- 65	CEDW -- 6	
NAWA -- 81	TWEA -- 94	SWTH -- 96	GCKI -- 183	SCIU -- 34	SWSP -- 24	BBWA -- 31	TEWA -- 167	HOFI -- 94	HOWA -- 63	GCTH -- 5	
RCKI -- 76	RCKI -- 85	RTHU -- 93	HETH -- 174	WTSP -- 31	SOSP -- 18	REVI -- 24	RCKI -- 145	WPWA -- 84	BTNW -- 34	TUTI -- 5	
AMRE -- 64	WTSP -- 83	NAWA -- 91	RCKI -- 153	BRCR -- 30	SWTH -- 17	TEWA -- 23	AMGO -- 233	AMRO -- 79	MAWA -- 34	AMGO -- 5	
WTSP -- 57	AMRE -- 76	AMRE -- 90	AMRO -- 133	BCCH -- 26	RCKI -- 16	HETH -- 17	HETH -- 106	SOSP -- 65	BBWA -- 26	5 species -- 4	
GCKI -- 48	INBU -- 76	HETH -- 82	BBWA -- 129	MAWA -- 25	ATSP -- 16	EATO -- 15	WTSP -- 106	COYE -- 63	CSWA -- 24	-- 4	
<b>Total = 1003</b>	<b>Total = 1889</b>	<b>Total = 1411</b>	<b>Total = 3029</b>	<b>Total = 574</b>	<b>Total = 389</b>	<b>Total = 393</b>	<b>Total = 2228</b>	<b>Total = 1268</b>	<b>Total = 1019</b>	<b>Total = 79</b>	

species being close to or above average. The Kelleys Island (OH) station, in its 23rd year, recorded its first Whip-poor-will and Grasshopper Sparrow plus seven Purple Finches (significant since they only had a total of 2 previously). The Springville Marsh Nature Preserve (OH), in its 35th fall season, also banded its first Grasshopper Sparrow as well as its 41,000th bird (an Orange-crowned Warbler). This was the fourth fall season for the Palatial Woodland Estate (OH) and warblers made for a good fall season there plus a woodcock and a flicker (where he says he captures more Pileated woodpeckers than flickers). The Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (IL) has been in operation since 1967. Although the weather was cooperative, they had down-net time from the flooded river; however, they still managed 4000+ birds and 104 species and caught two foreign Northern Saw-whet Owls. The Lincoln Land Community College (IL) station completed its 7th fall season; both the number of birds and species banded were average. Highlights were the station's 123rd species (Summer Tanager) and 84 Palm Warblers and lowlights were low counts of several species especially the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (only four banded). The station also captured returns of 64 birds of 16 species. The Whigg Meadow (TN) station (completing its 20th year) noted that it had two shut-down periods (related to weather), but the number of birds banded was up from previous years and the diversity was down. It also added two new species to its total (Clay-colored Sparrow and Mourning Warbler) plus it banded four HY Northern Saw-whet Owls. The Warner Park Banding Station (TN) was in its 36th year of operation. On the second net-check run of the season there were three different thrush species in the same net; the season also included a return Tufted Titmouse that had been banded as an HY in 2008.

All stations captured and reported at least one interesting species, and several reported good records for returning birds. From the information provided it appears that Warner Park had the oldest return, a Tufted Titmouse from 2008. Nearly all the stations included programs to which the public was invited or encouraged to participate.

Of course, many thanks to the coordinators/banders for their fall station reports. It was a pleasure reading them and to particularly note the number of visitors and volunteers at the various sites – especially students.

**LAKE ST. CLAIR** **423-0824**  
**METROPARK (LSCMP)**

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

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

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Banding was conducted at Lake St. Clair Metropark "Marsh" station (2.8 ha), for the 4th consecutive fall season. The previous 20-year history of banding in this park at another site 0.4 mi to the SW, the Marsh station (MBMP), and the reasons for the move to the Meadow station (LSCMP) in 2015, was published in the Jul-Sep 2016 issue of **North American Bird Bander** (NABB 41:138-140).

In southeastern Michigan, 2018 had the second wettest fall season on record, which made it challenging to schedule banding days. As with previous banding at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week from early August to early November. Out of a possible 26 days during that period, 26 days were operated although the banding schedule was affected and altered regularly due to rain and difficulty getting enough volunteers to help, and 8 days were operated with a reduced number of nets (11.5 to 13.5 instead of 17.5). After 13 Oct, the maximum number of nets open was 17.0 because an 18-m net was destroyed by a deer and only a 12-m net was available to replace it. The average number of days the Marsh

station was operated over 10 fall seasons (2004-2014) was 23.5. With the banding table located in a visible site close to the park nature center, daily visits by the public are expected, but there is no effort to track their numbers, which ranges from a few to a dozen or more every day. The banding station supports an annual special event in early September highlighting hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies, and on that day (8 Sep), the station had at least 60 visitors, many of whom were able to watch a hummingbird being banded (8 banded). That was also our busiest (all-time record) banding day of the fall overall. Another field trip sponsored by Michigan Audubon and the Michigan DNR brought another 50 observers to the station on 26 Oct. Some very well-timed cold fronts in September surely enhanced our numbers and diversity, perhaps offsetting days rescheduled due to poor weather.

A total of 1762 birds of 80 species was banded during fall 2018. The number of species is the 3rd highest ever in the park, with all three highest being from the new Meadow station, indicating a somewhat higher diversity of species than at the Marsh station. The number banded was 2.8% above the 2004-2014 average (1714) at the Marsh station, and was 7.3% lower than last fall. The capture rate of 82.8/100 nh was only slightly lower than fall of 2017, but well below the Marsh station average of 112.1 (a maximum of 14 nets were operated there, contributing to the higher capture rate). The good numbers and diversity this fall were due to good migrations of warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers. For the 5th fall in a row, sparrow numbers were lower. Audio luring for Northern Saw-whet Owls was attempted on four mornings from 16 Oct - 3 Nov, with a total of 4.0 hr of effort. No Saw-Whets were captured, but a single Eastern Screech-Owl was banded and another owl captured which had been banded in 2016 as HY-U. Rain on two additional mornings during this period delayed the opening of nets until sunrise or later, and prevented audio luring.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds moved through in good numbers again, with the total of 87 banded, which is above the Marsh Station's average of 80.5. No hummingbirds were banded after 13

Sep, which is earlier than usual. A total of 112 flycatchers of 8 species banded was quite good, and twice as many as last fall's excellent total. Vireo numbers were very good, and higher than last fall's high totals, with 7 Blue-headed, 23 Warbling, 28 Red-eyed, and a record of 9 Philadelphia vireos this fall. Thrush numbers were again much higher than at the Marsh station for the 3rd year in a row, giving an early indication that the Meadow Station may be consistently better for most thrush species. Hermit Thrushes were consistently more numerous at the wetter Marsh Station, but this fall the 82 banded at the Meadow Station was slightly above the 2004-2014 Marsh Station average of 79.1. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets (48) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (76) were both above the Marsh Station averages.

Warbler numbers were excellent, with of 491 individuals of 25 species banded. This was largely due to the record banding day on 8 Sep, when 31% of the season's warblers were banded. The most numerous warblers of the season were Nashville (81), Magnolia (100), Bay-breasted (32), Blackpoll (24), American Redstart (64), and a record number of Wilson's (42). Also notable was a record number of Orange-crowned Warblers (13). On 8 Sep record single day totals for three warbler species were recorded: Magnolia (44), Bay-breasted (17), and Wilson's (14). Sparrow numbers were low again, as has been the case since banding began at the Meadow station in 2015, although the last season at the Marsh Station (2014) also saw fewer sparrows than in the previous 9 years, being less than half the annual average there, suggesting a longer term downward trend in sparrow numbers. Only 132 sparrows of 7 species were banded, which was even lower than last fall, but White-throated Sparrow numbers were up slightly to 57 (Marsh Station 10-yr average was 217).

Captures that were considered unusual included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 6 Great Crested Flycatchers, White-eyed Vireo (2nd ever banded in the park in fall, and late on 9 Oct), Golden-winged Warbler (2nd banded here since 2013, the 2nd in fall, and very late on 13 Oct), 2 Connecticut Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5



Indigo Buntings, and a Purple Finch. Unusually early was a heavily molting AHY Hermit Thrush on 8 Sep. Also, there were late bandings of Least Flycatcher (11 & 13 Oct), Ovenbird (13 Oct), Orange-crowned Warbler (3 on 26 Oct, 1 on 2 Nov, and 2 on 3 Nov), Nashville Warbler (3 Nov), Cape May Warbler (26 Oct), Blackpoll Warbler (3 Nov), and American Redstart (2 Nov).

Interesting recaptures this fall included a few birds originally banded at the marsh station. One Northern Cardinal recaptured on 18 Aug 2018 was banded on 28 Aug 2014 as HY-M, making him 4 yr 2 mo. Several American Goldfinches banded at the Marsh Station were recaptured, including one recaptured 7 Sep 2018 that was banded on 15 Aug 2011 as AHY-F (at least 8 yr 3 mo), one recaptured on 28 Sep 2018 that was banded on 21 Oct 2011 as AHY-F (at least 8 yr 3 mo). Four Goldfinches originally banded in 2013 were recaptured, ranging in age from 5 yr 3 mo to at least 7 yr 02 mo.

I want to thank the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017 for the operation of this station. Although 11 of these nets have already been destroyed, mostly by White-tailed Deer, this has been a significant financial help for continuing the research in this Metropark. Additional financial help was provided by donations for nets purchased from Oakland Audubon Society, and four banding volunteers which goes above and beyond the call of duty, and is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the park management for giving us permission to band in the park, and opening the park consistently at 06:00 a.m. (EDT) for us. And also thank you to the staff at the park nature center, especially Julie Champion, for supporting us for many years.

**KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER 422-0853**

Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

**Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith**

Chief Assistants: Aaron Yappert, Pam Woodruff, Nancy Ransom, Laura Porter, Carl LaRicca, Mikaela Kropp, Karen Kolbasa, Brenda Keith, Danielle Hawkins, John Brenneman and Todd Alfes.

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While the fall banding program has existed since 1974 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, a number of changes have occurred in recent years. In times past we ran as many as 120 nets and have reduced those numbers for a variety of reasons. Since 2016 we have run 16 nets in stable habitat managed for consistency. Two-thirds of the nets are around prairie habitat while one-third are adjacent to mature woods.

In 2018, 25 days were missed entirely. About half were due to weather and the other half for lack of a bander. No numerical records were set but given the reduced effort, if those numbers were adjusted for effort I think they would show an increase for many species. Warblers, in particular, have been a pleasant surprise with higher-than-anticipated numbers in the prairie habitat. Several hundred visitors, primarily school groups were also recorded in 2018.

**PITSFIELD BANDING STATION 421-0853**

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, MI

**Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith**

Chief assistants: Aaron Yappert, Pam Woodruff, Nancy Ransom, Laura Porter, Carl LaRicca, Mikaela Kropp, Karen Kolbasa, Rich Keith, Brenda Keith, Danielle Hawkins, John Brenneman and Todd Alfes.

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Fall migration banding has taken place at Pitsfield since 1990. The habitat was strongly successional in the beginning and is now being maintained in late successional form. Extensive timber logging was conducted in August 2018, which more than likely affected capture. In particular Red-bellied Woodpeckers at 17 was a new high. Other woodpeckers were well represented as well. Nine days were missed due to weather and a number of days were shortened. This is within the normal range for missed effort. One new species (Clay-colored Sparrow, the 200th species recorded for this site) was banded.

**BLACK SWAMP  
BIRD OBSERVATORY  
NAVARRE BANDING STATION**

**413-0830**

Lacarne, Ottawa County, OH

**Coordinators/Banders: Ashli Gorbet,  
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Chief Assistants: Alex Eberts, Kyleigh Godsey,  
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Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) has conducted banding operations at its Navarre Banding Station each spring and fall since 1990. Located on remnant beach ridge habitat along the southwest shore of Lake Erie, the station is comprised primarily of dogwood shrub-scrub, buttonbush marsh, and Carolinian forest. Due to its position along the lakeshore and relative isolation among an urban/agricultural landscape, the site is a concentrated stopover point for many migrants crossing Lake Erie.

The station operated for 69 days this fall, from 13 Aug to 30 Oct, with 10 days closed due to weather. 4,566 birds of 89 species were banded in 7,025 nh, representing a station effort of 65 birds/100nh.

Banding conditions were fair for fall, but noticeably warm for most of the season, with 80° F/26.6C days persisting into early October. Wind direction played a significant role in daily catches, with most of our biggest days occurring after southerly winds—a direction that tends to push birds back up to the lakeshore. Warmer temperatures, combined with many days of unfavorable winds, may have contributed to what felt like a “slow” season. While 4,566 is not too far off from our fall average (4,781) few days in September surpassed 100 new birds—a month that typically sees over a half dozen 100+ days in its latter half. Daily catches of 100-200+ did pick up in the beginning of October; however, we did not experience typical species pushes as expected. Other than American Robin and Fox Sparrow, thrushes and sparrows were below average and seemed to trickle through rather than make big pushes through the area. Gray-

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cheeked Thrush, in particular, was notably low with only 81 banded (average 183), as was Swamp Sparrow with 16 banded (average 66). Common Yellowthroat has continued to see a decline in recent years with 58 banded this fall compared to 78 (2017) and 137 (2016) and an overall average of 161.

Most species were close to or above average. Particularly high, though, was Bay-breasted Warbler which set a new fall record with 129 banded compared to a previous high of 58. We also saw our second-ever fall capture of a Prairie Warbler on 17 Sep. Particularly high, though, were cavity nesters (both local and migratory) with most species coming in or above average and, :Eastern Screech-Owl (4), Hairy Woodpecker (5), Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker (19), Prothonotary Warbler (26), and White-breasted Nuthatch (5) all setting new fall capture records.

Many thanks to our dedicated group of volunteers without whom this station’s efforts would not be possible. Thanks also to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for its continued support of this project and access to this incredible habitat.

**KELLEY’S ISLAND**

**413-0824**

**JONES PRESERVE**

Kelleys Island, Erie County, OH

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This is the 23rd year of banding on Kelley,s Island and the 12th Fall season. Email for a copy of the full 2018 report. Highlights for 2018 were our first Whip-poor-will at the late date of 29 Oct, our first Grasshopper Sparrow at the late date of 30 Oct., and 7 Purple Finches (we had only banded 2 previously).

**SPRINGVILLE MARSH**

**410-0832**

**STATE NATURE PRESERVE**

Springville, Seneca County, OH

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This was the 35th year of fall banding at the marsh. Contact the Bander/Coordinator for a full report of the 2018 banding results. Highlights of the season were a Grasshopper Sparrow on 14 Oct (a first for the station) and an Orange-crowned Warbler on 7 Oct (which was our 41,000th individual banded).

**PALATIAL WOODLAND 391-0821  
ESTATE (PWE)**

Albany, Vinton County, OH

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This was the fourth Fall season of banding at the PWE station in eastern Vinton County, one of the most heavily forested and least populated counties of Ohio, in the Appalachian foothills. As described in previous seasonal reports, the banding area is maintained along a ¼ mile driveway with a stable shrubland and encouragement to grow shrubs and small tree species such as Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sumacs (*Rhus* spp.), and dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) that bear fruit attractive to migrants such as thrushes, in the fall.

Weather was somewhat detrimental for banding this season. September had much more rain than usual. It was one of the wettest years on record for southern Ohio. That was followed by unseasonable hot weather during the first half of October, with high temperatures reaching the (80° F/26.6C) level or above, on many days, and only falling to (70° F/21.1C) by time to open nets each morning. Mosquitoes were abundant and voracious. Despite that, or perhaps because of it, the season was better than that of 2017.

A number of migrant species set new highs for the season, especially warblers. Notable were Magnolia Warbler at 70 with previous high 39; Hooded Warbler 47, previously 31; Bay-breasted Warbler 31, previously only 5; and Red-eyed Vireo at 24, previously 10. On the other hand, despite what appeared to be a decent soft mast season, especially of spicebush berries, thrush numbers fell for the second consecutive year. The percentage of hatching year Swainson's Thrushes (36%) was notably low.

Several species were new for the fall season, including the first three Western Palm Warblers ever, an American Woodcock (second for the station), and a Yellow-shafted Flicker. I have banded far more Pileated Woodpeckers than flickers here over the years. Also, the first season with multiple (2) Yellow-billed Cuckoos.

Many thanks to my assistants for the season, including Jake Goldman, a graduate student at nearby Ohio University, and Mike Wren, for their assistance. The operation was also visited by several families with children, always welcome.

**SAND BLUFF 422-0891  
BIRD OBSERVATORY**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

**Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman**

Chief Assistants: Lee Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Justin Keller, Nora Longcar, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Dave Seal, Lynda Johnson, Sharon McCoy.

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The 2018's fall report is the second since starting operation under a station permit. Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, located in northern Winnebago County just a mile south of the Illinois-Wisconsin state line, has been in operation since 1967. The site is located on Colored Sands Forest Preserves, a part of the forest preserves of Winnebago County. The unique feature of this area is its dry sand prairie, sand forest, and wet flood plain forest. The Sugar River flows gently through the preserve and offers a diverse habitat for all types of flora and fauna. It is especially attractive to migratory birds as a stop-over for food and shelter.

This fall was different than 2017 in that we had fewer rain outs on banding days and weekends. However, we did lose the use of six nets located in the flood plain for several weeks. The number of birds banded in 2018 increased to 4011, up from the 3295 birds in 2017. However, the number of species banded, 104, was down from last year. Swainson's Thrush continued to be the most common species banded with 481 and the Gray Catbird was second with 321 banded. This year there was a notable increase in Tennessee Warblers after a low for several years.



With additional efforts from a couple of sub-permittees and volunteers, the number of banded owls increased to 37 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 10 Long-eared Owls. Two saw-whet Owls were of special interest – both were ASY foreign recaptures: one from Minnesota and the other from northeastern Wisconsin. Another bird of interest was a Slate-colored Junco captured in November that had originally been banded at Sand Bluff as HY in 2016. Finally, many thanks to all the volunteers and visitors who make Sand Bluff a destination.

**LINCOLN LAND** **394-0893**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**BIRD BANDING STATION (LLCC BBS)**

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

**Coordinator: Vernon Kleen**

Banders: Vernon Kleen and Anthony Rothering  
Chief Assistants: Paul Biggers, Chad Cremer, Joe Gardner, Tim Hargrove, Wayne Huckabee, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Nic Morgan, Jim, Anastasia Rahlin, Nancy Redman, Andrew Sharp, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson.

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The LLCC BBS, initiated in the fall of 2012, was in its 7th Fall season of operation. The station's habitats and general description were provided in **NABB's** 2015 IFR Fall report. The seasonal "cold fronts", which often trigger birds to head south in mass numbers, were few and far between. Of the four or five that appeared on the radar screen as potentially good migration nights, only two turned out well; however, there were still three days in which 100 or more birds were banded. The 2,076 birds banded ranked 4th in the seven years of banding. The 79 species banded this year was a typical year and could easily have exceeded the record of 80. Based on the net evidence, some large birds (possibly hawks or a Great Blue Heron) may have flown into the nets but escaped. The lower number of birds this fall can be attributed to the markedly reduced number of (a) American Goldfinches (even though it was the most common bird banded); (b) grassland (prairie)

species (the typical sparrows and some warblers); and (c) several edge and woodland species such as the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (only four banded all season compared to 68 last fall), and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. Despite the "low" numbers for many species, there were several 2018 highlights including the station's first Summer Tanager - bringing the station total to 123. It was also a banner year for the Palm Warbler with 84 banded (previous high was 29).

The average of 31.9 birds per day this fall was 1.3 birds below the six-year average and 9.8 birds per day below the 41.7 record of 2014. However, this year's average (along with those of 2015 and 2016) included "shortened" days (both by fewer nets in operation and/or early shut-down of operation).because of rain or excessive wind.). In contrast to the most common birds, 16 species were represented by a single individual this fall and another 4 by just two birds. Other interesting fall captures included two Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Marsh Wrens (in the same net at the same time), single Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian warblers, and a Savannah Sparrow. This fall, 64 birds of 16 species were captured as "returns" [birds banded 90 or more days earlier]; the oldest: a chickadee banded in the spring of 2014 and a Blue Jay in the fall of 2014. Another 387 birds were captured as "repeats" [birds caught within 90 days of banding or a recapture date]-several of these were caught multiple times (some as many as eight times during that season).

November started off fine, but two inches of snow fell on 9 Nov. Temperatures then dropped into the teens between 11 and 13 Nov and another five inches of snow fell on 14 and 15 Nov (breaking a 1951 record for accumulated snow for the first half of the month). As a result of these inoperable conditions, banding operations were cancelled for five days. The return of a day of "favorable" weather on the 17 Nov, allowed the station to be closed as the final day of fall operations.

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; and this year there were at least four bucks chasing does throughout the banding area – hence, major loss of nets). 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](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net).

**WARNER PARK** **363-0865**  
**NATURE CENTER (WPNC)**

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

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This was the Warner Park Banding Station’s 36th year of operation. Despite the cold and wet season, none of the ten banding sessions were cancelled due to weather. Operations for the season looked good from the very beginning when on the second net-check run of the season Wood, Swainson’s and Gray-cheeked thrushes were in the same lower section of one net. Other seasonal highlights included good warbler days, nine Swainson’s Thrush during one session, several Acadian

Flycatchers, and a “return” Tufted Titmouse originally banded as a HY in 2008. Overall, we had fewer net hours (166) and, because of cold weather, more traps were used. We still captured 142 birds (103 new, 36 recaptures, and 3 left unbanded) of 27 species. The station was open for observation to the public and during this Fall’s session there were 433 visitors, including Walter H. Sakai, editor of the Western Section of the **North American Bird Bander**.

In addition to the seasonal migration banding, other WPNC projects include a MAPS station (since 1991); an Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Program (ongoing since 1936); a Barn Swallow Project (initiated 2018) and the fall banding of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (ongoing since 2002-with 121 banded this fall).

Warner Park Banding Station is grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers and staff who contribute hundreds of hours at the banding station, bird counts, and educational programs. A special thank you to Friends of Warner Parks and the staff of Warner Park Nature Center and Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for their continued support.

**WHIGG MEADOW** **351-0840**

Robbinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN

**Coordinators/Banders: Scott Rush and Jay Dedeker**

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This marked the station’s 20th year of operation. The number of birds banded this fall was up from previous falls but the diversity captured was down slightly. There were several days with high numbers of birds banded after a couple of slow weeks in early September. The station was closed for several days, during two periods due to 1) Hurricane Florence, and 2) strong rains in area. The two new species for the station were Clay-colored Sparrow and Mourning Warbler. There were also four HY Northern Saw-whet Owls banded this year.