

**BLACK SWAMP
BIRD OBSERVATORY
NAVARRE BANDING STATION**

413-0830

Lacarne, Ottawa County, OH

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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

Coordinator/Bander: H. Thomas Bartlett

Assistant: Paula Bartlett

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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

Coordinator/Bander: H. Thomas Bartlett

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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

Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier

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Albany, OH 45710

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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.