

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

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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.

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

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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.