

Chief Assistants: Alex Eberts, Kandace Glanville, Kyleigh Godsey, Laura Gooch, Barb Myers, Dan Myers, Arthur Sanchez Jr., Michelle Turner.

Address: 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Email address: ashligorbet@bsbo.org, ryanjacob@bsbo.org

Spring 2019 marked the 40th spring season for Black Swamp Bird Observatory at its Navarre Banding Station, and possibly its wettest. With Lake Erie at a record high and persistent northerly winds, the surrounding marshes of northwest Ohio (including the Navarre Marsh) were completely inundated, resulting in much of our first week in the station devoted to raising net lane boardwalks. Mist-netting efforts were finally able to commence on 12 Apr and lasted until 4 Jun. During this time, the station operated for 47 days with 7 days closed due to weather. Rain was the dominant cause for complete closures and led to a number of delayed opens and early shutdowns. Rain combined with flooding made for a distinctly wet season; however, we were closed three fewer days than in spring 2018.

In the 5,292(+) net hours, 6,266 birds were banded of 104 species plus one hybrid, representing a station effort of 118.4 b/100-nh. New birds banded was nearly 600 birds less than spring 2018, and about 20% below the overall spring average (7,768). While a few high-volume species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Gray Catbird did set new and near record-high spring captures (357 and 482, respectively), many other high to moderate-volume migrants were noticeably low, particularly among warblers, thrushes, and sparrows. Most notably of these were White-throated Sparrow with 354 banded (ave. 503), Magnolia Warbler with 281 (ave. 620), and Nashville Warbler with 81 (ave. 211). Water levels in the marsh may have had some role in this deficiency; however, how key a role remains unclear as many canopy foraging species were also low, and a few ground foragers were above average. Northerly winds were more persistent than usual this spring, and the low-pressure systems we look for to bring southern winds and migrants up to the lakeshore, were few

and far between. More so than high water, this lack of a tail wind may have been the greatest factor in bird movement throughout the region.

Despite the uncooperative winds, we did have a couple of surprise vagrants. 2019 marked the first-ever spring capture of Nelson's Sparrow, which was only the fourth individual to ever be processed at the station. Additionally, two Clay-colored Sparrows were banded (ave. <1), corresponding with numerous region-wide sightings throughout spring. And – while not a vagrant – two Brewster's Warblers were banded, compared to only one Golden-winged Warbler.

To finish off the season, we hosted a North American Banding Council (NABC) certification session, where one candidate was certified at the trainer level, five at the bander level, and three at the assistant level.

Many thanks to our dedicated group of volunteers and apprentices without whom this station's efforts would not be possible. Thanks also to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and First Energy for their continued support of this project and preservation of this incredible habitat.

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

Radcliff, Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier*

Chief Assistants: Aubrey Bartman and Rachel Brooks

*Address: 32840 Jourden Road, Albany, OH 45710

Email address: coturnicops@yahoo.com

Spring 2019 proved to be a very disappointing season at the PWE station. In 2018 it was one of the wettest years on record for Ohio, and the wet weather continued into the spring months of 2019. The station was still operated a reasonable number of days, but mornings during what should have been the peak of migration were wiped out. For the first time at this station the best day occurred in April and birds per net hour fell to less than half of what was recorded in 2018, with far fewer species netted as well. Two species showed substantial

changes from the previous year's numbers, with Wood Thrush nearly doubled – 35 in 2019, 18 in 2018 – and White-throated Sparrow nearly halved – 15 in 2019, 29 in 2018. The Best bird of the season was an Orange-crowned Warbler. Thanks to my assistants, Aubrey Bartman and Rachel Brooks, wildlife students at Hocking College, and to my regular visitors, Mike Wren and Rebecca Wood, who provided company in what was a pretty slow season.

**IL-SAND BLUFF 422-0891
BIRD OBSERVATORY**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman*

Chief Assistants: Dave Seal, Lee Johnson, Lynda Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Justin Keller, Nora Longcar, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Sharon McCoy and Deb Eickman. Much thanks for all of their support.

*Address: 11114 Harrison Road,

Rockton, IL 61072

Email address: redtail15@aol.com

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is located on Colored Sands Forest Preserve in cooperation with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County in northern Illinois. This area is in the Sugar River bottoms and consists of a sand prairie and hardwood forests. Banding has been conducted here since 1967.

Much like last year spring weather at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory was extremely frustrating and compared to 2018 this year's spring numbers were dismal.

Stationary fronts and storms in the southern US seemed to hold back birds and capture numbers were down for most of March and April. Our area weather for March and April consisted of chilly, cold, rainy, icy and windy days. A couple days were completely lost to freezing rain and snow. Overall, we lost 21 days to weather.

Once weather patterns improved daily catches increased at the end of April and first of May. Our total of 1,354 birds representing 88 species was down 648 birds from 2018's total of 2002 birds representing 99 species. Our big days for the spring were 9 May with 152 birds captured, 11 May with 131 birds and 15 May with 136 birds.

Again, this spring Gray Catbirds topped the list followed by Slate-colored Juncos. Missing in any quantity for 2019 were thrushes with Swanson's, Veery's, Hermit's and Gray-cheek's totaling only 66 birds combined. The same four species in 2018 totaled 275 birds.

IL-SAGAWAU NATURE CENTER 414-0875

Lemont, Cook County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Leslie DeCoursey

Chief Assistants: Lorrie Ward

Address: 12545 W. 111th St, Lemont, IL 60439

Email address: leslie.decoursey@cookcountyil.gov

IL-LINCOLN LAND 394-0893

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BIRD BANDING STATION (LLCC BBS)

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

Coordinators/Banders: Vernon Kleen* and Anthony Rothering

Chief Assistants: Paul Biggers, Joe Gardner, Wayne Huckabee, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Nancy Redman, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson.

*Address: 1825 Clearview Dr.,

Springfield, IL 62704 or P.O. Box 13442, Springfield, IL 62791

Email address: vkleen@comcast.net

The Lincoln Land Community College bird banding station (LLCC BBS), initiated in Sep 2012, began its fourteenth season of operations and seventh spring season on Thursday, 21 Mar 2019. The site was the same as in seasons past and mist nets were used to capture birds from near sunrise to about 11:00 hrs. on days without rain, strong winds or very cold temperatures. This spring an average of 22.7 nets were used on 49 mornings (practically all weekdays and most Saturdays) from 21 Mar through 24 May and, in most cases, in the same locations as previous seasons for 3635 nh of operation.

For the 2019 season there were no days in which 100 or more birds were banded; in contrast to past years, there were no days in which five or fewer birds were banded. The 83 species banded was second best for a spring season and could easily