
Inland Flyway Review - Fall 2019 Report

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This report, the fifth for an Inland Flyway Review (IFR) fall season, includes information from twelve banding stations/observatories: two from Michigan, three from Ohio, three from Illinois, one from Missouri, two from Tennessee and one from Alabama. Several of these have long histories while others are fairly new. Two sites, Phillips Tract Station (IL), and Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (MO), appear in the IFR report for the first time. Reports from additional sites would be welcome.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for each of the twelve stations; five were in operation for 49 or more days and eight utilized 1900 or more net-hours; the others operated periodically, on a weekly schedule or short-term. Most reporters indicated that weather-related problems affected their banding operations and six of the nine stations with totals for both 2018 and 2019 banded fewer birds this year than last year. This report represents 17,080 banded birds.

Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species at each of the 12 stations. For the seven stations with a thousand or more birds banded, the Swainson's Thrush was in the Top 10 at six, the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and White-throated Sparrow at five, and Hermit Thrush and American Goldfinch at four. For the record, there were three species listed at three sites, four at two sites, and 20 at a single site. The top ten species for all sites combined accounted for 53% or more of each station's total birds banded (with a high of 96% -- at one of the "late-start" stations) and for 63% of all birds banded (just 2% lower than the past two years).

Each station was asked to provide a brief summary of its 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. The next few paragraphs are brief accounts of those highlights. The stations are identified by their initials.

Michigan: LSCMP – There are interesting comparisons of birds and species captured at two different areas in the park over the first 20 years and the subsequent five years (especially the thrushes). The five Green Herons were a result of the wet conditions in the park. The 362 warblers of 21 species with high numbers of Yellow, Magnolia and American Redstarts, and a Northern Waterthrush banded on 4 Aug was recaptured on 26 Oct. KVBO had, in the past, operated as many as 120 nets; that number has been reduced to 15; despite the wet season, the station was able to operate on all but three days.

Ohio: KI –A Sharp-shinned Hawk was captured that had been banded at the Pelee Island Bird Observatory a month earlier. NBS – a lackluster season despite near perfect weather. A couple of the new high records included two Olive-sided Flycatchers and 26 Prothonotary Warblers plus the recapture of a bird banded in 2014. Lower than usual numbers were encountered for several species of warblers, some thrushes and both kinglets. PWE– a mostly dry (mosquito-free) season. Although only in its fifth year, six of the top ten species set new highs for a fall season and seven Scarlet Tanagers (of the nine banded this fall) were together in one net.

Illinois: SBBO –Weather was "blamed" for the lower than usual numbers banded (down seven species and more than a 1000 birds from last year). Some of the better "returns" from past bandings were: a catbird from 2013, a goldfinch from 2015 and two juncos from 2016. There were also two interesting foreign retraps – a saw-whet owl from Sand Bluff caught in Quebec and an American Redstart banded in British Columbia in August 2018 and caught at Sand Bluff 23 days later. PTBS - A new station initiated in late October.

The site is on an old farm owned by the University of Illinois about 6.436km northeast of the campus. On the first day of operation, 29 Oct., 90 birds were captured in just 8 nets. The plan is to operate the station one day per week during the migratory seasons. LLCC BBS -- This was the eighth fall season for the station and the poorest of all. The station normally has at least one day with 100 or more birds; however, there were only two days with 50 or more (the high was 90) and the highest one day total prior to 24 Oct was just 36. New seasonal highs were set for the American Robin, Hermit Thrush and House Wren and in contrast to the most common birds, there were 12 species represented by a single individual and another five by just two birds. A couple of the station's highlights were its first Bell's Vireo and first fall records of Kentucky and Connecticut warblers. As an "extra-curricular" activity, an attempt was made to catch saw-whet owls. Near the last hour of the fourth (last) scheduled night, one was successfully captured; an Eastern Screech Owl was caught on the third night. As an experiment to keep deer away from the nets cut-up bars of "Irish Spring" soap were placed at each of several nets – it seemed to help. For those interested, the final Report and Results for the fall season (or any past season) is available on request.

Missouri: LREC—A new station (in the St. Louis area).

Tennessee: WPNC—The banding season consisted of nine banding sessions, four in September and five in October. It also included hummingbirds with 91 banded to the delight of more than 1000 visitors. A seasonal highlight was the recapture (for the second time) of a Hermit Thrush banded as an HY on 10 Nov 2015. WM - The number and diversity of birds captured this fall was up from previous years with the greatest push in late September and early October. There were several days with high numbers banded. The Bay-breasted Warbler made the station's Top 10 for the first time, the Dickcissel was new for the station, and, despite several night's effort, no Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured.

Alabama: FMSBS – The fall banding effort was renewed after an absence of three years; initially the station was "re-opened" for the spring season only but the station's goal was to re-establish a fall banding effort as well for comparison to historical records. This year the station was in operation for six days during the second week of October. Two interesting recaptures were an after-hatch year Carolina Wren banded on 19 Apr 2017 and an after-hatch year Northern Cardinal banded on 16 Apr 2019.

MI—Lake St. Clair Metropark 423-0824 (LSCMP)

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Allen T. Chartier

Assistants: Cassandra Arsenault, Rich Ashcraft, John Bieganowski, Jacob Charlebois, Mike Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Rachel Darling, Lorie Dietz, Sam Heilman, Tamika Jaja, Ryan Jaja, Dave Lancaster, Joyce Lander, Ava Landgraf, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Steve Mangas, Katie-Ann McKlinsky, Barb Saul, Tom Schlack, and Blanche Wicke.

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Bird banding was conducted at Lake St. Clair Metropark "Marsh" station (2.8 ha), for the fifth consecutive fall season. 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 (LSCMP) in 2015, was published in the July-September 2016 issue of *North American Bird Bander* (NABB 41: 138-140).

The very wet spring continued through the summer, with Macomb County experiencing repeated rain events of one to 7.62cm. The result is that the banding area, formerly very dry, was very flooded. The level of nearby Lake St. Clair was high enough to hinder runoff after these rains. During August, the lake level dropped and some of the standing water in the park and banding area began to diminish. But the rain events continued, refilling the net lanes and trails between our banding days. We came close to meeting our twice-weekly

schedule, with seven days covered during August as we dodged rainy days, although one day the rain stopped only minutes before we opened the nets. We only operated 13 nets during August, instead of the 17.5 that have been operated since 2016. September was also rainy, but in smaller amounts. Once again, we covered seven days, but with 3 of those days experiencing either a brief shower or intermittent mist or light rain. We were able to open 14 to 16.5 nets during September; however, one set of nets was rearranged to avoid the deepest water. There were ten banding days possible in October but two were canceled due to rain and/or wind. The rain events were spaced out a bit more in October, but kept most of the banding area muddy and standing water still present in a few patches. The number of nets in operation dropped down to 14.5 for the month, and there was intermittent mist on one banding day. There was only one date available for banding in November which brought the season total to 23 out of a possible 27 days. Six days were available in the schedule in late October and early November for audio-luring of Northern Saw-whet and Eastern Screech-Owls, but one day was rained out resulting in a total of 7.5 hr of effort adjacent to 2.5 nets. With the banding table located in a visible site close to the park nature center, daily visits by the public were expected but there was no effort to track their numbers, which ranged 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 (7 Sep), the station had at least 30 visitors, many of whom were able to watch a hummingbird being banded (11 banded, the peak day of the season). Several other groups stopped by throughout the fall.

A total of 1437 birds of 75 species was banded during this fall. The number of species was the lowest at the Meadow station since 2016, but was above the 2004-2014 average (70) at the Marsh station. The number of new birds banded was 16.4% below the 2004-2014 average (1714) at the Marsh station, and was 18.8% lower than last fall at the Meadow station. The capture rate of

82.6/100 net-hours was only slightly below the fall of 2017, but well below the Marsh station 10-year average of 112.1.

The wet conditions this fall invited some interesting comparisons with the 2004-2014 Marsh station data, which generally was a much wetter site. All these observations and speculations are preliminary. The number of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes have been higher at this new Meadow station, but with the wetter conditions this year their numbers were notably lower than last year although still higher than the Marsh station ten-year average. Do they prefer drier woodlands during fall migration? The Hermit Thrush seems to be the opposite, as we would band more in the wetter Marsh station than we have at the Meadow. But this fall, Hermit Thrush numbers were the highest since we started here in 2016, and higher than the Marsh station's 10-year average, so perhaps Hermit Thrushes prefer wetter woodlands? White-throated Sparrows are puzzling. The ten-year average at the Marsh station was 217, but has only averaged 48.5 at the Meadow station since 2016. This suggests a strong preference for wetter (or perhaps more shrubby) habitat in migration. The 95 banded this fall at the Meadow station was an improvement, but not as much as we'd hoped or expected.

The record number of Northern Waterthrushes (24) banded this fall was three times above the Marsh station 10-year average, and eight times higher than the Meadow station average. This suggests a strong positive correlation with the wet conditions, to which many might reply, "no kidding"! The good number of Marsh Wrens (14) was also likely due to the higher water levels. The number of Black-throated Blue Warblers at the Meadow station has been only about 1/3 the number that was banded at the Marsh station, and at that site the swamp woods nets accounted for the majority of captures. There is no swamp woods at the Meadow station, and the wetter conditions this fall saw the lowest numbers ever at this site, suggesting that water is not the only factor influencing the distribution of this species during fall migration.

Wetter conditions changed the vegetation near some of the nets, and may have affected captures of some species. The Dogwood nets are set around a clearing about 25 x 40 m surrounded on three sides by dogwood, and on the fourth side by cottonwoods and a narrow channel (usually 1-5 m wide, but 20 m wide this fall). In fall, this clearing is normally chock-full of goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.) and other meadow flowers, but this fall it was very open, with only scattered clumps of cattail (*Typha* sp.). The Meadow and Pine nets had some goldenrods adjacent to the nets close to normal conditions, though the Meadow has not yet recovered its milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.) since the area was accidentally mowed to the ground in September 2015. Species that feed on insects, and their eggs and larvae, in the seed heads of goldenrod includes Nashville, Tennessee, and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. The numbers of all these were down significantly this year, and indeed we missed Orange-crowned Warbler entirely. But there must be something different about the migration biology of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet as they were banded in all-time record numbers for the park.

Normally in the top five species, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds dropped down to seventh place this fall with the 65 banded being well below the Marsh station's 10-year average of 80.5. The last ones (4) were banded on 26 Sep, a fairly typical last date. One of those banded that day, a hatch-year male, was recaptured on 3 Oct, providing the latest capture of that species ever in the park. In the seven days between banding and recapture, he gained 1.53 g, an amazing increase of 50.3%.

The 362 warblers of 21 species banded was about average, and lower in both numbers and diversity than last fall. The numbers of Tennessee, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue warblers, Ovenbird, and surprisingly Common Yellowthroat were lower than normal. The most numerous warblers banded were Yellow (84), American Redstart (55), Magnolia (47), and Yellow-rumped (35). The Yellow Warblers are perhaps most notable, as they have often migrated out of the banding area by early August, and almost none remain in southern Michigan by early September.

Most (74) were banded on the first two days of the season (4 & 9 Aug), and represents a record for the fall season. It is not clear if this is the result of an unusually good breeding season, or if this species prefers wetter habitats during migration, or maybe both.

The first Green Heron ever banded in the park was at the Marsh station in fall 2014, with the second in spring 2019 here at the Meadow station. So, the 5 banded this fall (all in the Dogwood nets) were surely a result of the wet conditions.

Captures that were considered unusual included: Green Heron (5), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Chipping Sparrow. Unusually early was a Northern Waterthrush on 4 Aug, but even more unusual was 2 (of 4) banded on 26 Sep that lingered into October, with the last one on 26 Oct. They both gained weight during their stopovers. Other late bandings included an Eastern Phoebe on 2 Nov, a Philadelphia Vireo on 12 Oct, a Red-eyed Vireo on 17 Oct, a House Wren on 12 Oct, a Swainson's Thrush on 19 Oct, a Gray Catbird on 17 Oct, a Chestnut-sided Warbler on 12 Oct, a Magnolia Warbler on 17 Oct, a Yellow-rumped Warbler on 2 Nov, a Palm Warbler on 19 Oct, an American Redstart on 17 Oct, and Common Yellowthroats on 19 and 24 Oct.

Interesting recaptures this fall included two birds originally banded at the Marsh station. One Northern Cardinal recaptured on 21 and 30 Aug 2019 was banded on 28 Aug 2014 as HY-M, making him 5 yr 2 mo. An American Goldfinch banded at the Marsh station on 6 Sep 2014 as HY-F was recaptured on 23 Aug and 3 and 5 Oct, making her 5 yr 4 mo.

I want to thank the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017 for the operation this station. Although 13 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 for purchasing nets was provided by donations from Oakland Audubon Society, and two 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 6 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.

**MI–Kalamazoo Valley
Bird Observatory/Kalamazoo
Nature Center (KVBO)**

422-0853

Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith

Assistants: Pam Woodruff, Laura Porter, Mikaela Kropp, Ivy Ciaburri, Lyn Brown, Rylann Williams, Brenda Keith, 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 but have reduced that number for a variety of reasons. Since 2016 we have run 15 nets in stable habitat managed for consistency. Two-thirds of the nets are around prairie habitat while one third is adjacent to mature woods. The Fall of 2019 was very wet yet we were able to open nets, some days for a short time. The nets were in operation in all but three days, two the last two days of the season.

**OH–Kelley’s Island,
Jones Preserve (KI)**

413-0824

Kelleys Island, Erie County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: H. Thomas Bartlett

Assistants: Paula Bartlett

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There were three records of significance, a Nashville Warbler banded on 1 Nov, and American Redstart banded on 6 Nov and a Sharp-shinned Hawk captured on the island a month after it had been banded at the Pelee Island Bird Observatory, Ontario.

**OH–Navarre Banding Station
Black Swamp Bird Observatory (NBS)**

413-0830

Lacarne,

Ottawa County, OH

Coordinators/Banders: Ashli Gorbet, Ryan Jacob

Assistants: Kyleigh Godsey, Laura Gooch, Nancy Howell, Barb Myers, Dan Myers, Yvonne Thoma-Patton, Michelle Turner, and Katie Ware

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2019 marked the 30th fall season for Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) at its Navarre Banding Station on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie. After an extremely wet spring, water levels in the marsh receded to more “normal” conditions, however, despite the return to normalcy and a close to perfect fall in terms of weather, migrant numbers were considerably low – which seems to be the region-wide consensus – at approximately 20% below the long-term average. The station operated 76 days this fall from 12 Aug to 30 Oct, with only four days closed due to rain/wind (primarily at the end of Oct). 3,800 birds were banded of 86 species over a total of 7,520 net-hours, representing a station effort of 50.5 birds/100nh. The station operated seven days more, with nearly 500 more net-hours than fall 2018, but banded almost 800 fewer birds.

Accounting for the bulk of this discrepancy were major-movement migrants, particularly Black-poll, Myrtle, and Magnolia Warbler which were ~40-55% below their seasonal averages. Other major-movement migrants were also low including Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but not as drastically below average. A possible explanation for these latter short-distance migrants could be the prolonged warmth into mid-Oct and delayed leaf-drop, extending their migration beyond our operating dates (this possibility is also supported by very few Fox Sparrow and no encounters of American Tree Sparrow).

Not everything was in the doldrums though this fall, as a number of species and families were

quite exceptional. For the second fall in a row, Prothonotary Warbler set a new high record with 36 banded (shattering last fall's 26 and skyrocketing past the average of eight); Prothonotary Warblers also showed a good return rate to the area, with at least three returns from 2018 and one from 2014. Wrens were well above average (including the seldom caught Marsh Wren) with Carolina Wrens showing some recovery following last winter's harsh conditions and a low 2019 spring season. And – while not a highly captured family in fall – flycatchers were well represented, including Eastern Wood-Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher setting new high records (26 and 2, respectively).

The bulk of our returns consisted of primarily breeding species, however, we did have one return Blackpoll Warbler originally banded 30 Aug 2017. Even more exceptional though, a Blackpoll Warbler banded at the station (26 Sep 2018) was recovered in Riverbend, AB, on 29 Aug 2019 – an 11 month and over 3,000 km indirect-recovery distance from the original banding site.

While this fall may have been somewhat lackluster, it is at least a reminder of the importance of consistent long-term monitoring and region-wide collaborations such as through the Midwest Migration Network, to begin to truly understand and analyze broader population dynamics.

We would like to thank our dedicated corps of volunteers, interns, and techs whose service makes this project possible and successful. We would also like to thank Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for its continued support of this research and management of habitat throughout the region; and FirstEnergy for its preservation of the incredible Navarre Marsh and their cooperation in allowing access to the area by numerous researchers.

OH–Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) **391-0821**

Bolin's Mills,
Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier

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This was the fifth fall season of banding at the PWE station in eastern Vinton County (in the Appalachian foothills), one of the most heavily forested and least populated counties of Ohio. As described in previous seasonal reports, the banding area is maintained along a 0.40225km gravel lane, with net lanes paralleled by a stable shrubland and deciduous forest. Invasive non-native species are controlled in both shrubland and forest, while shrub and small tree species such as Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sumacs (*Rhus* spp.), and dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) that bear fruit attractive to migrants in the fall are encouraged. It is difficult to say what effect weather had on banding efforts for the season. It was an exceptionally dry September, almost a drought, so almost no sessions were rained out, or even curtailed. But the drought did cause woody plants to lose leaves earlier than usual, and fruit to wither prematurely on some species. Then the first week of October saw record temperatures, climbing beyond 90° F (32° C) each day. Continued unseasonably hot weather resulted in closing nets earlier on multiple days, especially some that received direct sunlight by late morning. At least the dry conditions meant that mosquitoes were essentially absent, even in the woods.

Overall numbers of species and individuals were decidedly average, with the total number of birds banded being the third most of the five seasons. But, remarkably, six of the top ten species banded set new highs for the season: Wood Thrush at 121, previous high 101; Hooded Warbler 48, previous 47; Tennessee Warbler 47, previous 31; Scarlet Tanager 19, previous 7; Hermit Thrush 19, previous 17; and White-eyed Vireo 16, previous 10. Especially notable were the 9 Scarlet Tanagers banded on 21 Sep, 7 together in a net. It appeared they had flown out of a patch of Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) with ripe berries. There were no species recorded in unusually low numbers.

Many thanks to my friend Mike Wren for his assistance, company, and hot coffee deliveries. Visitors are always welcome, and I put a few to work carrying bagged birds on one of my busiest mornings of the season. And my friend Dr. Don Altoff brought his wildlife students from the University of Rio Grande (yes, it's in SE Ohio!) out to observe.

IL–Sand Bluff**422-0891****Bird Observatory (SBBO)**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman

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

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The North Central Illinois fall banding season at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory started on 15 Aug. This was the fourth fall season of operation under a Station permit. The first 50 years the station (at the same location) was operated under a master permit. Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is located one mile south of the Wisconsin state line, northwest of Rockton, IL. It is situated on Colored Sands Forest Preserve, one of Winnebago County's Forest Preserves, and is an educational facility used by schools and groups in the area. The site is prime for migratory birds because of the habitats associated with the Sugar River.

Again this year the weather was a major factor in total birds banded. Operations at the station were held up by wet weather and lack of cold fronts making migration slow. Many of the species we normally see developed late resulting in lower numbers. For the season we lost eleven days during the peak of migration because of rain. Numbers captured this year were 2964 birds of 97 species. Down more than a 1000 birds from the 2018 season. We did not operate the raptor station due to an illness. This usually counts for almost 100 additional birds per season.

As in years past, the usual species were captured. Gray Catbird topped the list with 231, Tennessee Warblers were second with 191 birds – an apparent recent increase but nothing compared to decades past. American Goldfinches was third with 186. A top-ten surprise was the Black-Capped Chickadees with 93. A few records of note of birds banded in previous years were: a Gray-Catbird from the fall of 2013, an American Goldfinch from 2015 and two Slate-colored Juncos from 2016. We were also notified by a Canadian bander that

they encountered one of our Northern Saw-whet Owls at their station Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac, Québec, located 1650 km northeast at the start of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Sometimes when looking back at retrapped records you find a band number that seems unusual. That occurred in 2018 when we caught an American Redstart. This bird had been banded on 3 Aug 2018 in Mackenzie, BC; it was caught at Sand Bluff on 26 Aug – 23 days later.

Next season, with a little luck, perhaps better weather will come our way. Thanks to all the volunteers and visitors who make Sand Bluff what we are.

IL–Lincoln Land**394-0893****Community College Bird Banding Station****(LLCC BBS)****Springfield, Sangamon County, IL****Coordinators/Banders: Vernon Kleen, Anthony Rothering**

Assistants: Paul Biggers, Lee Boblett, Mel Breyer, Joe Gardner, Tim Hargrove, Wayne Huckabee, Nicole Kinney, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Carla Potts, Nancy Redman, Sam Reif, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson., August Wells and Sue Ellen Weitekamp.

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This was the eighth fall season for the station. It was in operation for 69 days and there were no days (in contrast to other years) when 100 or more birds were banded; there were only two days with 50 or more (the high was 90). The highest one day total prior to 24 Oct was just 36. The 1289 birds banded was the poorest of the eight seasons (the previous low was 1902), and the 74 species banded was well below the annual range of 78 to 80. The number of birds captured as returns was also very low. However, new seasonal highs were set for the American Robin, Hermit Thrush and House Wren. In contrast to the most common birds, there were 12 species represented by a single individual and another five by just two birds. Some of the more interesting captures were two Sharp-shinned

Hawks, a Bell's Vireo (the station's first), a Marsh Wren, three Northern Parulas, a Blackburnian Warbler, and the stations first fall records of Kentucky and Connecticut warblers. As an "extra-curricular" activity, an attempt was made to catch saw-whet owls. Near the last hour of the fourth (last) scheduled night, one was successfully captured; an Eastern Screech Owl was caught on the third night.

The final Report and Results after each (and every) season (available to those who might be interested) includes a variety of interesting tables of comparisons. The Appendix provides the tabulation of each species banded (identifying new highs, etc.)

The station continued to have too many issues with deer (destroying nets and eating birds, the latter of which was minimal, but still an occasional issue). An experiment with the soap "Irish Spring" was tried this fall and, amazingly, seemed to help keep deer away from the nets.

The station is particularly thankful for the support of both the administration and staff of Lincoln Land Community College, for all the assistance from the above-listed (and unlisted) volunteers who perform a variety of station-related tasks, and for the financial support (both grants and donations) needed to keep the station in operation. Visitors were also welcomed.

**IL–Phillips Tract Banding Station 407-0888
University of Illinois (PTBS)**

Champaign, Champaign County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Tara Beveroth

Assistants: Janice Kelly, Todd Jones, Diane Roeder and Mike Avara

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The fall of 2019 was the pilot season for this new banding station with operations beginning near the end of October. The plan is to operate the station one day per week throughout the migratory seasons. This fall the station was in operation on four days with an excellent start. Weather varied but was usually from 4.44c to 10c and overcast. Banding was cancelled on one day due to rain. The site,

which is fenced, is located about 4 miles NE of the UIUC campus across the road from Trelease Woods and Prairie. It is surrounded on the other three sides by agricultural land. The 52.6 ha (130 acres) habitat is a former farm that contains reconstructed prairie, old field, and agricultural fields, rotating one to five year old successional old field plots, and oldfield/successional woods (released about 1970). Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) dominates the understory of most successional woods areas. The Saline Branch of the Salt Fork River runs through the property.

**MO–Litzsinger Road 383-0902
Ecology Center (LREC)**

St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Coordinator/Bander: Colleen Crank

Assistants: Jean Favarra, Linda Tossing

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This is the first report for this new station and a written summary was not provided.

**TN–Warner Park Nature Center 363-0865
(WPNC)**

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Coordinators/Banders: Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens

Assistants: Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, Susan Bradfield, Patty Ghertner, Justin Hiltner, Leah LaRocco, Emily Moorman, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Vera Roberts and Heather Gallagher.

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The Warner Park Banding Station completed its 38th year of operation. The station is open to the public and during the fall season 418 visitors including Walter H. Sakai (Editor for the WBBA portion of *NABB*) were recorded. The banding season consisted of nine banding sessions; during the hot and dry September, the four sessions averaged just 14 birds per session; however, with the October rains, the average for the five October

sessions increased to 22 birds per session. A highlight of the season was the 24 Oct 2017 (and again on 1 Nov 2019) capture of a Hermit Thrush that had been banded as an HY bird at the station on 10 Nov 2015. Along with the mist-netting operations, there was an active hummingbird program (with 91 banded) a MAPS station and other birding projects. The hummingbird program connected with 1027 park visitors including 909 on the Hummingbird Day Celebration (25 Aug). Warner Park Station is grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers and staff who contribute hundreds of hours at the banding station and the park's education programs. A special thank you to Friends of Warner Park and the staff of the Warner Park Nature Center and Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for their continued support.

TN–Whigg Meadow (WM) 351-0840

Robbinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN

Coordinators/Banders: Scott Rush, Jay Dedeker

Assistants: Kyle Shepherd, Eric Soehren, Danielle Bunch and Jared Feura

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The number and diversity of birds captured this fall was up from previous years and included several days with high numbers banded. The season began rather slowly followed by the greatest push in late September and early October. Weather conditions were favorable with no loss of banding days due to weather. Some ecological community management was conducted in 2018 to enhance herbaceous cover near the net lanes; however, it's not yet clear if the management affected captures. A first for the station (after 20+ years) was the Bay-breasted Warbler which made the station's Top 10; another first was the station's first Dickcissel. Despite several night's effort, no Northern Saw-whet Owls were captured at station and migrating Common Nighthawks were often observed foraging over the meadow.

**AL–Fort Morgan Stables 302-0880
Banding Station (FMSBS)**

Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, AL

**Coordinator/Banders: Emma Rhodes,
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Assistant: Kyle Shepherd

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With the passing of the major bander for the Fort Morgan Stables station in 2014 the site was closed for three years. The station re-opened in 2017 but was initially limited to just a spring effort. Historically, banding at this location occurred in both spring and fall. Therefore, the station's goal was to re-establish a fall banding effort so future data will be comparable between seasons with past banding efforts. Additionally, this effort is an outreach opportunity so that the public can learn more about banding and conservation. The station was in operation for six days beginning the second week of October. The weather was decent overall with no drastic weather changes conclusively affecting bird numbers. It did rain on the last morning which negatively impacted birds captured that day, however, this did not appear to significantly impact our numbers for the overall effort. There were two interesting recaptures during the banding effort: an AHY Carolina Wren that was banded on 19 Apr 2017 and an AHY Northern Cardinal banded on 16 Apr 2019 both of which were banded at the Fort Morgan Stables location. About 50 people visited the station. We look forward to continuing the fall banding effort and welcome the public is welcome to visit the station.



**Northern
Cardinal**

Table 1. Fall 2019 Banding Summary												
	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Kelley's Island	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Observatory	Phillips Tract Station	Lincoln Land Station	Litzinger Road Ecology Center	Warner Park Nature Center	Whigg Meadow	Fort Morgan
	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN	AL
First Day	4-Aug-2019	25-Aug-2019	16-Sep-2019	12-Aug-2019	21-Aug-2019	15-Aug-2019	29-Oct-2019	19-Aug-2019	5-Aug-2019	17-Sep-2019	31-Aug-2019	7-Oct-2019
Last Day	2-Nov-2019	1-Oct-2019	25-Nov-2019	30-Oct-2019	30-Oct-2019	24-Nov-2019	19-Nov-2019	19-Nov-2019	28-Oct-2019	5-Nov-2019	5-Oct-2019	12-Oct-2019
Days Operated	23	65	31	76	49	57	4	69	12	9	36	6
Nets Used	13 to 16.5	15	7 to 15	23	15	5 to 40	8	12 to 24	3 to 6	5.5 to 8.5	12 to 14	21.5
Total Net-Hours	1981	4862	2688	7520	3242	15,186	129	4549	189	219	3885	867
Traps Used	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
% of Total Caught in Traps	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	<1%	<1%
Largest Daily Catch	128	161	115	141	44	119	90	90	18	45	192	100
Largest Daily Catch Date	19-Oct-2019	8-Sep-2019	26-Oct-2019	1-Oct-2019	24-Sep-2019	7-Sep-2019	29-Oct-2019	29-Oct-2019	28-Oct-2019	5-Nov-2019	28-Sep-2019	8-Oct-2019
Most Species on Any Date	22	30	24	30	18	30	12	21	11	14	26	22
Date of Most Species Banded	7-Sep-2019	8-Sep-2019	17-Sep-2019	5-Oct-2019	8-Sep-2019	7-Sep-2019	29-Oct-2019	28-Oct-2019	28-Oct-2019	5-Nov-2019	25-Sep-2019	10-Oct-2019
Most Common Species on Best Day	HETH	TEWA	GCKI	BLPW	WOTH	TEWA	RCKI	SCJU	AMGO	CEDW	TEWA	WEVI
Number of Most Common Banded	37	36	51	21	16	42	29	20	7	15	137	49
Percent of Most Common on Best Day	29%	22%	44%	15%	36%	35%	32%	22%	37%	33%	71%	49%
# of birds banded in 2018	1762	2089	929	4566	675	4011	x	2076	x	103	x	x
# of birds banded in 2019	1437	2506	1114	3800	647	2964	178	1289	84	139	2554	368
# of species banded in 2018	80	81	58	89	62	104	x	79	x	27	45	x
# of species banded in 2019	75	80	60	86	59	97	18	74	22	37	56	41
Birds/100nh in 2018	82.8	64	35	65	17.9	23.9	x	36.6	x	62	50.8	x
Birds/100nh in 2019	82.6	51.5	41.4	50.5	20	19.5	139	28.3	44.4	65.5	65.7	42.4
Top 10 species as % of total	63%	58%	77%	57%	60%	53%	96%	55%	67%	81%	78%	81%

Table 2. Top 10 most commonly banded species -- fall 2019												
	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Kelley's Island	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Observatory	Phillips Tract Station	Lincoln Land Station	Litzinger Road Ecology Center	Warner Park Nature Center	Whigg Meadow	Fort Morgan
	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN	AL
AMGO - 205		AMGO - 388	GCKI - 229	SWTH - 392	WOTH - 121	GRCA - 231	RCKI - 43	WTSP - 104	AMGO - 20	NOCA - 19	TEWA - 712	WEVI - 106
RCKI - 121		COYE - 167	RCKI - 147	GRCA - 320	SWTH - 75	TEWA - 191	WTSP - 37	AMGO - 91	AMRO - 10	CEDW - 15	MAWA - 284	MAWA - 55
HETH - 106		RCKI - 159	MYWA - 115	WTSP - 310	HOWA - 48	AMGO - 186	HETH - 31	SCJU - 91	NOCA - 4	AMRO - 14	SWTH - 234	GRCA - 39
WTSP - 95		WTSP - 152	HETH - 74	BLPW - 255	TEWA - 47	SWTH - 172	AMRO - 26	AMRO - 90	CARW - 4	CACH - 10	BTBW - 155	WOTH - 19
SWTH - 84		GRCA - 133	SCJU - 71	GCKI - 196	OVEN - 31	HOWR - 162	GCKI - 13	HOWR - 78	INBU - 4	TUTI - 9	CSWA - 139	HOWA - 18
YEWA - 84		TEWA - 127	BRCR - 64	GCTH - 183	MAWA - 30	RCKI - 156	FOSP - 8	SOSP - 78	MAWA - 4	AMGO - 8	BTNW - 112	AMRE - 15
RTHU - 65		NAWA - 87	SWTH - 53	HETH - 135	SCTA - 19	SCJU - 148	NOCA - 6	SWSP - 552	CACH - 3	CARW - 7	HOWA - 94	SWTH - 14
AMRE - 55		MAWA - 83	WTSP - 49	RCKI - 134	HETH - 19	FISP - 138	DOWO - 2	HETH - 46	SOSP - 3	SOSP - 7	BBWA - 91	COYE - 11
MAWA - 47		AMRE - 79	COGR - 31	MYWA - 130	GCTH - 18	OVEN - 93	SSHA - 2	CHSP - 45	RBWO - 2	AMRE - 6	OVEN - 90	REVI - 11
GCKI - 37		MYWA - 66	WTWR - 24	AMRO - 128	WEVI - 16	BCCH - 93	WTWR - 2	SWTH - 39	SWSP - 2	SWSP - 6	BHVI - 77	BAWW - 9
										GCCTH - 6		
										FISP - 6		
Total = 899	Total = 1441	Total = 857	Total = 2183	Total = 424	Total = 1570	Total = 170	Total = 714	Total = 56	Total = 113	Total = 1988	Total = 297	