

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.

Address: 5750 East S Ave

Vicksburg Michigan 49097

Email: warblerrke@gmail.com

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

Address: 1833 South Winfield Drive,
Tiffin, OH 44883

Email: hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

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

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

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

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