



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

SPRING 1996 BIRD BANDING AT METRO BEACH METROPARK

For the seventh spring, nets were open at Metro Beach Metropark on Lake St. Clair, near Mt. Clemens, Michigan. In summary, banding was done on 11 days between 26 April and 1 June 1996; 794 individuals of 60 species banded during 829 net hours; 2117 individuals of 100 species observed.

Spring 1996 was quite eventful. The weather included many storm fronts and temperatures ranging from unseasonably cold to unseasonably warm. As a consequence, mist net use was erratic, canceled on some days and interrupted on others. Unfavorable flight conditions grounded many migrating birds, which dropped down seeking shelter and refueling. Banded totals on many days soared; on other days, totals were very low. The season's average (95.8 birds/100 net-hr) far exceeded any previous season.

Species with highest numbers banded included Swamp Sparrow, 64; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 60; Yellow Warbler, 54; American Goldfinch, 46; Swainson's Thrush, 42; Common Yellowthroat, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 37; Magnolia Warbler, 34; Wilson's Warbler, 34; Blue Jay, 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 28; and Red-winged Blackbird, 28.

Species with only one or two individuals banded included (1 each) Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Solitary Vireo, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Fox Sparrow, and (with 2 each) Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged, Blackburnian Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Tree Sparrow, and Common Grackle.

A Black-capped Chickadee, banded on 9 Sep 1989, has since flown into nets 18 times; he is at least 8 years of age.

There were 11 species that were mistnetted but not otherwise observed: Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1; Traill's Flycatcher, 5; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 2; Wood Thrush, 3; Solitary Vireo, 1; Lincoln's Sparrow, 4.

This area of Metro Beach Metropark is a resting and refueling site for migrating birds. The following data document a minimum length of stay for recaptured individuals: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2, 2; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 8, 1, 1; Hermit Thrush, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 2, 2, 2, 2; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2, 2; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 2; American Redstart, 7; Northern Waterthrush, 2, 1, 2, 7; Wilson's Warbler, 8, 8, 1, 2, 2, 2; and Canada Warbler, 1.

The members of the spring 1996 Volunteer Banding Team extend a voice of appreciation for great cooperation from Metro Beach administration and staff. Team members include Mary Brown, Russ Brown, Allen Chartier, Jim Ciplewski, Kathy Cooper, Linda Daniels, Margaret Gazette, Terry Halatek, Karen Konopka, Fred McDonald, Phyllis Schroeder, John Tyler and Jim Wheeler.

Ellie T Cox (21324)
18310 Sunderland
Detroit MI 48219
(313) 531-9221