



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

The following report comes by way of Robert D. Wapple, one of the editors (Alan Smith is the other) of *The Black & White Warbler*, a newsletter produced by Last Mountain Bird Observatory (LMBO). LMBO is operated by Nature Saskatchewan in co-operation with the Canadian Wildlife Service and Last Mountain Regional Park (at north end of Last Mountain Lake). For more information about LMBO contact Robert Wapple at address below.

1996 in Review at Last Mountain Bird Observatory

LMBO wrapped up its seventh full year of songbird banding this past October. Spring banding began on 9 May and continued until 30 May. We experienced a rather late spring migration which may have caused a below-average catch of 414 new birds of 44 species. Banding resumed on 4 Aug and continued until 7 Oct. Fall results were slightly above average, with 2662 birds of 73 species captured. The year-end totals were 3076 birds and 77 species.

There were several highlights this past year at LMBO. Three new species were added to our list of species captured: Red-tailed Hawk (released unbanded), Bank Swallow, and Le Conte's Sparrow. All-time totals are 24,300 birds and 106 species.

There were 7 days that had over 100 birds captured, with 21 Aug being our most productive

day with 147 birds of 31 species captured. This single day species total was one of the highest ever at LMBO. This year also saw several new highs for species captured (previous high given in parentheses):

Red-tailed Hawk	1	(new)
Olive-sd. Flycatcher	6	(4 in 1993,1994)
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	7	(6 in 1993)
Eastern Kingbird	26	(20 in 1992)
Tree Swallow	3	(1 in 1990,1991,1994)
Bank Swallow	2	(new)
Warbling Vireo	24	(20 in 1992)
Canada Warbler	29	(20 in 1994)
Savannah Sparrow	31	(23 in 1991)
Baird's Sparrow	14	(2 in 1994)
LeConte's Sparrow	3	(new)
Brown-hd. Cowbird	19	(16 in 1995)

Yellow and Yellow-rumped warblers have been the top two species captured at LMBO each year. Although Yellow Warblers were the most frequently caught species in 1996, Yellow-rumped Warblers have outnumbered Yellows every other year except 1990 and 1992. Top 10 species captured at LMBO in 1996 are listed here:

605	Yellow Warbler
330	Yellow-rumped Warbler
217	Dark-eyed Junco
183	Clay-colored Sparrow
159	Alder Flycatcher
126	Least Flycatcher
104	White-throated Sparrow
85	Swainson's Thrush
89	Tennessee Warbler
81	Orange-crowned Warbler
81	Blackpoll Warbler

This year there were 185 birds recaptured that were banded previously at LMBO. Of these, 162 (88%) were repeats (banded and recaptured within the same year). The remaining 23 birds were returns (banded in previous years and recaptured in 1996). Eleven of these returns were banded in 1995, 3 in 1994, 2 in 1993, 5 in 1992 and 2 in 1991. The Yellow Warbler banded on 21 August 1991 has returned every year since! Noteworthy survivorship for birds banded at LMBO that returned in 1996 are listed here:

Eastern Kingbird	AHY-M	17 May 1992-22 May 1996
Yellow Warbler	HY-M	19 Aug 1991-26 May 1996
Yellow Warbler	HY-M	21 Aug 1991-29 May 1996
Yellow Warbler	AHY-F	26 May 1992-27 May 1996
Yellow Warbler	AHY-M	15 May 1993-26 May 1996
Clay-colored Sparrow	AHY-M	15 May 1993-26 May 1996
Brown-hd. Cowbird	AHY-F	25 May 1991-15 May 1996
Brown-hd. Cowbird	AHY-F	28 May 1993-30 May 1996
Baltimore Oriole	ASY-M	28 May 1992-24 May 1996

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A Nature Note from Nebraska

On 24 July 1996, I banded two totally white Eastern Bluebirds in Sarpy County, Nebraska. Not only were the feathers totally white, but their feet and bills were white; their eyes were a pinkish red. These two birds were in a nest with two other normally plumaged siblings. The two white nestlings were just as well-developed as their "normal" sibs and were ready to fledge, which they did the following day.

I believe these birds fit the description of total *albinism* as defined by John Terres in *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. He defines total albinism as the rarest form, in which the bird has a complete absence of melanin from the eyes, skin and feathers. The following picture verifies this description.



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1996 Report from Dodge Nature Center

This is the first report from the Dodge Nature Center for IBBA. The nature center is located in suburban West St. Louis, MN. Once tilled and grazed, most of the land has been converted to natural woodlands, marshes and swamp streams, with six ponds and a restored prairie. The center is privately owned, but contracts with several school districts to provide a graduated program of environmental education for kindergarten through sixth grade. Additionally, the center provides a variety of environmental programs for high schools and the local community. There is a model farm on this property consisting of resident farmhouse, large barn, pens for waterfowl, poultry and raptors, pasture for domestic animals and a small demonstration garden. The banding station is located on a small portion of the main property, which is about 60 ha. The banding station operates out of a beekeeping demonstration shed, adjacent to a newly planted apple orchard.

The primary purpose and focus of the banding station is educational, giving young students an opportunity to see hand-held, wild birds and learn the reason for banding. The station has been a MAPS station for seven years.

1996 was the twelfth year of banding at the nature center. Spring banding for school classes began 29 Apr and continued three days/week until 30 May; 28 demonstrations were given. For spring banding, nets were placed in locations consistent with previous years. Because our spring banding is strictly to educate 3rd and 4th graders, not every bird is banded. However, every bird is recorded and processed on field sheets. The program has been well received and continues to be extremely popular. Summer banding follows MAPS protocol.



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The Dodge Nature Center Bird Banding Station												
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Days of Operation	36	20	19	20	23	19	29	23	19	20	22	22
Av. # Nets	11.7	11.8	13.6	9.65	7.43	7.5	7.99	6.67	8.18	7.61	6.72	7.36
Net Hrs.	1775	1114.5	1171	878.25	669.4	815.89	1240.95	800.88	847.35	790.45	708.41	806.77
Brds Band	968	727	617	526	346	381	549	325	213	184	226	254
Birds Recap.	143	96	84	71	67	55	69	59	77	41	55	44
Birds Unbanded	0	0	0	0	32	43	57	36	115	128	155	148
Total	1111	823	701	597	445	479	675	420	405	353	436	446
# of Spec.	74	61	59	63	52	57	59	49	45	40	49	49
#/100 NH	63	50.3	42	49.66	66	52.85	54	52	47.82	44.68	62	55.22
Volun. Hrs	962	582.25	542.25	404.75	401	393.75	488.25	409	366	367.75	496.5	487.5