



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Dodge Nature Center Bird Banding Station 1997 Summary Report Spring Migration and Summer Residents

The year 1997 was the thirteenth of station banding at the Dodge Nature Center (445-0930). There were nine days of spring banding for the school classes, 28 Apr through 22 May, and 16 bird banding demonstrations were given. During the same period in 1996, the station was open 14 days and presented 28 demonstrations.

Location of mist nets were the same as in 1996. The station continued its participation in MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). The program began 3 June with 12 nets (nine 9-m and three 12-m) placed in seven locations consistent with previous years and MAPS protocol. In addition, the station cooperated with Point Reyes Bird Observatory and San Francisco State University in a study of genetic markers as a way to link breeding and wintering populations of migratory birds. One of the target species, Yellow Warbler, is a summer resident.

The 44 recaptured birds were all banded at the station. The most commonly banded birds were the Song Sparrow (22), the Swamp Sparrow (19), and the Black-capped Chickadee (18). A Brown Thrasher was banded 29 April; this species had not been banded since May 1993. Also of note was

a Hairy Woodpecker, banded 3 June, not recorded since July 1992. The number of species banded, 39, was down from 49 of last year.

Days of Operation	16
Average Number of Nets Used	6.73
Net Hours	521.25
Trap Hours	7
Average Number of Traps Used	1
Largest Daily Catch (20 May)	35
Birds Banded	195
Birds Recaptured	44
Birds Escaped or Released Unbanded	71
Number of Species	39
Avg. Number of Birds per Banding Day	19.38
Birds per 100 Net Hours	59.5
Volunteer Hours	383

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**METRO BEACH METROPARK
1997 REPORT**

Banding studies monitoring spring and fall birds at Metro Beach Metropark, off Lake St. Clair, east of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, have recorded a nine-year-old Black-capped Chickadee. Initially banded 9 Sep 1989, this male chickadee has since found his way into Metro Beach mist nets 23 times! On 27 Sep 1997, he appeared bright-eyed, strong, and healthy.

Minimum age and sex of some of the older repeats in 1997 include the following:

Downy Woodpecker, 3 yr M
Black-capped Chickadee 9 M, 4+ F, 3+F
Gray Catbird 4+ U
Yellow Warbler 7+ F, 6+ M, 6+ M, 6+ F,
6 M, 5 M, 3+ F, 3 F, 3 M
Common Yellowthroat 6 M, 4+ M, 4+ F,
4 F
Song Sparrow 5 M, 3+ F
Swamp Sparrow 3+ M
Red-winged Blackbird 4+ M, 3 F
Brown-headed Cowbird 7+ F
Baltimore Oriole 4 F
American Goldfinch 7 M

Mist nets were up 11 days in spring (25 Apr - 1 Jun) and 14 days in fall (23 Aug - 5 Oct). While totals of banded individuals for both spring and fall were down from previous years, spring banding captured 94.7 birds/100 net hr (only slightly below 1996) and fall banding only 39.6 birds/100 net hr (lowest in 8 years).

These studies were made possible with the excellent cooperation of Metropark authorities and dedicated, hard-working assistants: C. Barlow, M. Brown, R. Brown, A. Chartier, K. Cooper, L. Daniels, M. Gazette, T. Halatek, F. Hull, M. Johnston, K. Konopka, M. McCullough, F. McDonald, J. Pease, J. Rebitzke, P. Schroeder, J. Tyler, J. Wheeler, S. Wright, J. Young, and J. Zinisek.

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IDENTIFYING HY SPARROWS

The identification of adult (AHY) Song, Swamp, and Lincoln sparrows is not difficult for a knowledgeable birder. But in late summer and fall, the immatures (HY) are very confusing and need to be scrutinized carefully.

Young Song Sparrows have a very buff breast, lack the dark black center-of-breast spot (that adult Song Sparrows have), and have coarse breast streaks. Lincoln's Sparrows have more fine streaks than do immature Song Sparrows, whose streaks are a little broader by comparison.

Most bird guides state that the throat of Lincoln's Sparrows is streaked and that this streaking is a dependable field mark. My experience denies this. Some throats are streaked, but close to half of the immatures have unstreaked throats. This is not helpful. Young Swamp Sparrows have a wash across the upper breast but the breast is unstreaked. I find that Lincoln's Sparrows have a crown of darker brown than that of Song Sparrows. There are other subtle differences in color of the roof of the mouth and in the formula of primary feathers. For example, Song Sparrows have P5 longer than P9; in Lincoln's Sparrows, P5 is about equal to P9. Swamp Sparrows have P5 greater than P9 by 3 to 8 mm.

The best way to separate Lincoln's Sparrows from Song Sparrows in every case is tail measurement, which almost always settles the issue. If tail measures more than 60 mm, it is a Song Sparrow; if less than that, it is a Lincoln's Sparrow. Swamp Sparrow tails can range from 50 to 65 mm, but absence of definite breast streaks separates Swamp Sparrows from the other two.

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