



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

1998 BIRD MONITORING AT METRO BEACH METROPARK

The bird monitoring program initiated during fall 1989 in a southwest portion of Metro Beach Metropark continued during spring and fall 1998. Counts of observed birds and mist net captures and measurement data were recorded on 25 days, 24 April - 7 June and 29 August - 4 October.

The spring 1998 capture rate, 35.3 birds/100 net-hr, dropped substantially below the 94.7 value for spring 1997. The fall 1998 capture rate, 52.6 birds/100 net-hr, exhibited an increase from the fall 1997 figure, 39.6. These figures suggest that, aside from variables of weather and other possible contributing factors, a reduced fall 1997 migration pointed to a reduced spring 1998 migration. It will be of interest to learn whether the capture rate for spring 1999 will reflect an increase following the fall 1998 upswing. The highest numbers of birds banded during spring 1998 included: 69 Red-winged Blackbird, 34 Swamp Sparrow, 27 American Robin, 20 American Goldfinch, 14 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, 13 Yellow Warbler, 12 Common Yellowthroat, 11 Magnolia Warbler, 10 Lincoln's Sparrow, 8 Gray-cheeked Thrush, and 8 Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Top numbers during fall 1998 included: 67 Magnolia Warbler, 48 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 44 White-throated Sparrow, 28 American Redstart, 24 Song Sparrow, 21 Blackpoll Warbler, 20 Swamp Sparrow, 16 Hermit Thrush, 16 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 15 Wilson's Warbler, and 15 Golden-crowned Kinglet. Same-season recaptures of birds banded during spring 1998 showed that 41 individuals of 15 species used the banding area of Metro Beach Metropark for reproduction and for resting and refueling during periods of at least 1 to 44 days.

Spring 1998 recaptures of 42 individuals of 14 species banded in previous seasons established ages from 2 to 8+ years, including an after-7-year-old (A7Y) female Warbling Vireo, 2 A7Y male Yellow Warblers, 2 A8Y female Yellow Warblers, and an 8-year-old male American Goldfinch. During fall 1998, migration recaptures revealed that 32 individuals of 14 species banded earlier in the season used this essential portion of Metro Beach Metropark for from 1 to 35 days for resting and refueling. Known migrants included: 2 Gray-cheeked Thrush (each for 8 days), 1 Swainson's Thrush (1 day), 2 Hermit Thrush (9 & 2 days), 7 Magnolia Warbler (1 to 7 days), 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler (1 day), 1 Black-and-white Warbler (7 days), 1 Canada Warbler (8 days), and 3 White-throated Sparrow (each for 8 days). Same-season fall 1998 recaptures of banded known migrants documented the minimum length of time that each individual utilized this vital stopover site for resting and refueling.

The dedicated, hard-working 1998 all-volunteer Metro Beach Bird Banding Team included: J. Backe, L. Blanchard, M. Brown, R. Brown, A. Chartier, J. Ciplewski, K. Cooper, L. Daniels, M. Gazette, S. Hibbard, T. Halatek, K. Horton, C. Kloka, K. Konopka, M. Livingston, F. McDonald, N. Murray, J. Pease, P. Scheidt, P. Schroeder, H. Sell, J. Tyler, J. Tyrrell, and J. Weaver. A strong voice of appreciation is extended to the administration and staff of Metro Beach Metropark for cordial, ongoing cooperation and support.

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