



# *Inland Regional News*

## *Inland Bird Banding Association*

### **1999 Metro Beach Bird Banding**

During spring and fall 1999, bird banding in a small natural area of Metro Beach Metropark, near Mt. Clemens, Michigan, was carried out for 13 weekends. Nets were opened and monitored during Apr - Jun and Aug - Oct. Netted birds were removed carefully from nets, data recorded, birds released, and essential records filed with the Bird Banding Laboratory.

The high capture rate in fall 1998 (52.6 birds banded/100 net hr in fall 1998, up from 39.6 birds/100 net hr during fall 1997) was followed by large numbers in spring 1999 (50.3 birds/100 net hr over the spring 1998 total of 35.3 birds/100 net hr). However, fall 1999 capture rate dropped to the lowest level (26.6 birds/100 net hr) recorded since 1990. A more detailed analysis of bird banding data gathered at Metro Beach Metropark since fall 1989 is being planned.

During spring 1999, 27 individuals of 12 species, banded from 1 to 9 years ago, utilized the area. These included a female Yellow Warbler more than 9 years old, a male Swamp Sparrow 7 years old, and a Blue Jay and a Gray Catbird, each more than 6 years old. During fall 1999, 5 banded individuals of 3 species were known to use the area: 2 were second-year birds; 3 were older. There were 59 individuals of 26 species known to have remained in the area for 1 to 43 days. Of these, 12 individuals of 11 species are known migrants. Individuals of some species known to nest locally were believed to have set up nesting territories in the study area.

The species most frequently banded in spring 1999 included: Red-winged Blackbird (51), Swamp Sparrow (47), Yellow Warbler (31), Common Yellowthroat (30), Magnolia Warbler (25), White-throated Sparrow (25), American Robin (24), American Redstart (23), Gray Catbird (22), and Lincoln's Sparrow (22).

Most frequently banded during fall 1999 were: Magnolia Warbler (42), White-throated Sparrow (37), Swainson's Thrush (36), Black-capped Chickadee (15), Wilson's Warbler (14), American Redstart (12), Gray Catbird (10), Black-throated Blue Warbler (9), Hermit Thrush (6), Common Yellowthroat (6), and Song Sparrow (6).

This field research has been carried on with the cordial cooperation of the Metro Beach Metropark administration and staff. The banding crew of volunteers once again extends deep appreciation. The 1999 All-volunteer Banding Team included: B. Adams, J. Backe, M. Backe, M. Brown, R. Brown, A. Chartier, K. Cooper, E. Cox, L. Daniels, B. Dixon, M. Dixon, M. Gazette, A. Grier, T. Halatek, F. Hibbard, S. Hibbard, B. Johnson, J. Jozwiak, K. Konopka, N. Kowai, F. McDonald, N. Murray, J. Pease, K. Reese, M. Reese, J. Roeser, B. Scheidt, H. Sell, J. Tyler, J. Wheeler, and S. Wright.

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