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News, Notes, Comments

Breeding Site Fidelity of a Male Louisiana Waterthrush

In 1999, a MAPS station was established at the Indiana Audubon Society's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. This sanctuary, located southeast of Indianapolis, is about 10 km southwest of Connersville, Fayette Co., Indiana. On 12 Jun 1999, an AHY-M Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) in breeding condition was captured in Net 1 and banded. On 12 Jun 2000, exactly one year later, this individual was again captured in Net 1 along with a female and juvenile Louisiana Waterthrush. The female and juvenile are presumed to be its mate and young respectively.

Net 1 is located in a well-maintained trail through a deciduous woodland bordering a small pond with a narrow wetland edge. At this point, the trail and net cross a shallow intermittent stream that runs into the pond. The edge of the pond is less than 6 m from the net. All three birds were caught together in the early morning hours (prior to 0800) while moving upstream from the pond toward the woodland. According to data posted on the BBL web page, a total of 109,499 Louisiana Waterthrushes were captured and banded between 1914 and 1998. Of

these, only 67 have been recovered, representing a recovery rate of 0.061%. These figures do not include individuals that are banded on their breeding territory and recaptured in subsequent years.

The Louisiana Waterthrush winters from southern Texas through Central America to northern South America; only 13 Christmas Bird Count sites have reported this species in the U.S., mainly from Galveston, Texas, eastward along the southern border of the U.S. (Root 1988). It is unlikely that this bird was resident at or near the MAPS station over the intervening winter.

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Ronald A. Weiss, Ed. D.
Chipper Woods Bird Observatory
10329 N. New Jersey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46280