



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Inland Flyway Review – Fall 2022 Report

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Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding
Station (LLCC BBS)
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This is the eighth fall-season report for the Inland Flyway Review (IFR) and includes information from 16 banding stations: three from Michigan, five from Ohio, four from Illinois, one from Missouri, two from Tennessee and one from Alabama. Fortunately, the COVID restrictions that hindered station operations the past couple of years were nearly gone and banding was back to normal or near normal. Reports were received from all long-term stations except one; there were no new reporting stations. Reports from additional spring and fall IBBA stations would be welcome.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for each station. Six were in operation for 40 or more days and eight accumulated 2000 or more net hours with two even exceeding 10,000 net hours. The remaining stations operated on a one- or two-days per week, a short-term basis, or with few nets. Except for a late summer dry spell at some stations, the weather was not considered an issue this fall. The season's summary for these stations accounts for 22,400 birds banded this fall – 1145 fewer than last year's 16 reporting stations. There were more than 2000 birds banded at five stations with Ohio's Navarre Banding Station banding the greatest number, 4860.

Table 2 identifies each station's "Top Ten" most commonly banded species. The Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was the most common at four stations; Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird and American Goldfinch tied for second (the top species on two lists). The remaining six were on the top of single lists. Overall, 47 species, a typical number, were represented in the Top Ten. Swainson's Thrush and White-throated Sparrow were in the top ten most often, 12 times, followed by Gray Catbird and American Goldfinch on nine lists; Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler, 8 lists; Magnolia Warbler, 7 lists; and Swamp Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Slate-colored Junco and Ovenbird, 6 lists. The total number of "top ten" birds banded from this fall's 16 reporting stations was 13,945 or 62.2% of the total birds banded. This percentage is very similar to that of the past five years. Except for the 45% at one station, the Top Ten species accounted for 52% or more of the birds banded at each station. Counting only the numbers in the top ten lists for the 16 stations, there were 1000 or more birds banded for five species, Swainson's Thrush (1761), White-throated Sparrow (1544), Myrtle Warbler (1348), Gray Catbird (1099) and American Goldfinch (1047).

Each station was asked to provide a brief summary of its station highlights including new species captured, potential causes for high or low numbers, issues that caused problems and how (or if) they were resolved, support from volunteers and programs for visitors. The next few paragraphs are brief capsules (by state) of each station's highlights. A few stations provided limited (or

no) summaries. The stations are identified by their initials.

- MI **LSCMP** – Lake St. Clair Metropark, MI
- PBS** – Pitsfield Banding Station, MI
- KNC** – Kalamazoo Nature Center, MI
- OH **KI** – Kelley’s Island, OH
- NBS** – Navarre Banding Station/Black Swamp Bird Observatory, OH
- PWE** – Palatial Woods Estate, OH
- CRPL** – Conservation Reserve Program Land, OH
- BF** – Bowyer Farm, OH
- IL **SBBO** – Sand Bluff BO, IL
- PTBS** – Phillips Tract Banding Station, IL
- LLCC BBS** – Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station, IL
- JFBS** – Jubilee Farm Banding Station, IL
- MO **LREC** – Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, MO
- TN **WPNC** – Warner Park Nature Center, TN
- WM** – Whigg Meadow, TN
- AL **FMBS** – Fort Morgan Banding Station, AL

Michigan – **LSCMP**: the 83 species and 2369 birds banded, the 96.1 birds/100 net-hr and the 2970 net-hr were new site records; Ruby-throated Hummingbird which normally makes the top ten list missed this year because of record numbers of other species; the unexpected banding of 32 Black-capped Chickadees; a record number (9) of Red-breasted Nuthatches; a Sedge Wren (the bird of the season); a near-record number for the thrushes; an above average number of warblers; nearly four times the previous high of House Finches; and a fall Clay-colored Sparrow. **PBS**: No separate details. **KNC**: No separate details.

Ohio – **KI**: numbers were down because of too many days with west or southwest winds; the oldest bird of the 146 recaptures was a Black-capped Chickadee banded as an HY in 2016. **NBS**: The 4860 birds banded was slightly above the long-term average; many long-distance migrants were below average in numbers which made for a slow September and there was only one 100-bird day in September; the Black-throated Blue Warbler set a

new record high for the fall with 113 birds (140% above the long-term average and was just short of the top ten list); American Robin set another new record high with 222 banded (well above the long-term average of 69); there were no large, single-day numbers of short-distance migrants typical of past years; and a Broad-winged Hawk was a station first. **PWE**: despite the unseasonable heat wave and excessive winds of mid-October, it was a very good season for migrant thrushes; however, few warblers were captured (the best were Tennessee, Magnolia and Bay-breasted). **CRPL**: This is the third IFR report; systematic migration banding was initiated at the site in 2020. **BF**: The fall season was cut short because of two emergency surgeries.

Illinois – **SBBO**: Many of Sand Bluff’s nets are set on stakes that have been there for over 30 yr; habitat is maintained by the removal of invasive shrubs and plants, Sand Bluff’s 2022 season was an improvement compared to the past two years; two primary species with fewer than normal numbers were Northern Saw-whet Owl and Red-tailed Hawk; Gray Catbird made another good showing and came in second on the top 10 list; two unusual birds were an HY Blue Grosbeak and a 6 Nov Blackpoll Warbler. **PTBS**: many university students visited the station; season highlights were Brown Creepers (6), Fox Sparrows (5), Winter Wrens (3), Connecticut Warbler (1), the station’s first Black-throated Blue Warbler and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. **LLCC BBS**: The 78 species banded was typical for a fall season but ten fewer than the fall record; 15 of these species were represented by a single bird; the 1568 birds banded was the penultimate lowest fall season; highlights included the station’s first Pine Warbler, another Great Blue Heron, a record number of Myrtle Warblers, the first fall Clay-colored Sparrow and the second Vesper Sparrow; the oldest return was a Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2016; and, the station’s deer problem continued. **JFBS**: 2022 was the second fall season for the station and operated one day each week with eight nets; compared to last year there was a low number of American Goldfinches, most warblers and all flycatchers.

Missouri – LREC: Weekly banding ran from 1 Aug through 17 Oct and the 2022 fall season marked the second year of daily mist netting from 15-30 Sep. First-time captures included Clay-colored Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sedge Wren, Warbling Vireo and, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Tennessee – WPNC: The fall of 2022 marked the 41st year of operations; there were above normal captures of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Veeries; and 54 birds of six species were radio-tagged. **WM:** 500 fewer Tennessee Warblers were captured than last year; seasonal highlights were an inter-annual recapture of a Magnolia Warbler first banded at the station on 7 Sep 2021 as an HY-U and three station firsts: an HY Merlin, Black-billed Cuckoo and, Northern Flicker.

Alabama – FMBS: the total number of birds banded this fall (654) was up from last year (436) but the number of species banded was ten fewer (47 compared to 57); seasonal highlights were a Yellow-green Vireo, two Eastern Whip-poor-wills and a Chuck-will's widow.

Station Accounts

MI – Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) 423-0824

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI
Coordinator/Bander: **Allen T. Chartier**
Primary Assistants: Cassandra F. Arsenault, Amy Beaulac-Harris Jacob T. Charlebois, Michael J. Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Gabrielle Grobbel, George Harris, Stevie M. Kuroda, Dave J. Lancaster, Ava M. Lau, Rose Lau, Guy M. Lenk, Nolan Lenk, Rebecca J. Lubbers, Thea A. Seid (intern), Michelle M. Serreyn, Katri C. Studtmann, Caroline Tang, Lily Tang, Ethan Urban, Bruce R. Watson, Blanche H. Wicke, Susan B. Wright.
Thanks to everyone!
Address: 1442 West River Park Dr.,
Inkster, MI 48141

Bird banding was conducted at Lake St. Clair Metropark “Meadow” station (1.2 ha), for the 8th consecutive fall season. The station’s banding history (and an earlier “Marsh” location) was
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published in **NABB** 41: 138-140, 2016. Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, safety restrictions were followed. Only volunteers who were fully vaccinated were allowed to help, and a soap and water hand washing station was set up in the field. Training of new volunteers, including an intern from Kalamazoo College, was done on a limited basis. Approximately 140 visitors came by the station to see what we were doing, were kept at least 2 m away from the banding table, and stayed from a few minutes to several hours.

The 83 species banded this fall was a new record since banding began in 1989; this increased the fall average for the Meadow station to 78 (well above the 2005-2014 average of 70 at the Marsh station). The 2369 birds banded was also a record for the Meadow station and the 2nd highest season since banding began in 1989. It was also well above the 2005-2014 average (1714) at the Marsh station. This fall there were seven days in which 100 or more birds were banded and one of those was over 200. The Meadow station has proven to be consistently better for most warblers, flycatchers, and thrushes while the Marsh station was consistently better for sparrows. The capture rate of 96.1 birds/100 net-hr was also a record for the Meadow station, but was below the 2004-2014 Marsh station average of 112.1.

An effort was made to adhere to the long-established protocol at this park to band two days each week during August, September, October, and the first week of November. In 2022, thanks to the flexibility of experienced banding volunteers, the twice per week effort was achieved with 27 banding days between 31 Jul and 5 Nov. As in prior years, the Meadow Nets were “baited” with bird feeders; two hummingbird feeders and an oriole feeder during August, two hummingbird feeders and two thistle socks during September, and two thistle socks during October and November. Near-drought conditions across southeastern Michigan began in summer and extended throughout the fall banding season. As a result the banding area was completely dried out to pre-2019 conditions and the vegetation near some of the nets had changed. All 17.5 nets were able to be opened every day

of operation this fall for a record of 2970 net-hr. Only 157.5 net-hr were lost due to rain-outs and 17.5 net-hr were lost due to early closures due to excessive heat. Early morning audio-luring for owls was initiated on 14 Oct with 7 nets. This was the most successful year for trying this with four Northern Saw-whet Owls banded between 22 Oct and 5 Nov (in 66.25 net-hr included in the 2970 noted above). Despite the near-normal number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded this fall (76), it did not make the top ten list for the first time in many years due to several species being banded in exceptionally good, or even record numbers. Flycatchers were banded in about average numbers, with a record number of Eastern Wood-Pewees (17) and near-record number of Eastern Phoebe (15) the only exceptions. Vireo numbers were above average for all species, with a record-tying 9 Blue-headed Vireo. Unexpected was a record for Black-capped Chickadees (32), and it was clearly an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with a record of 9 banded. All five wren species captured were banded in above average numbers, with the Sedge Wren on 15 Sep being only the second ever banded in the park and probably the “bird of the season”; the first being banded in spring 1994. Both species of kinglet, and Brown Creepers were all banded in above average numbers. All four *Catharus* thrush species were banded in well above average to near-record numbers, while Wood Thrush numbers (2), were average. The 594 warblers of 24 species banded was above average. Twelve warbler species were banded in above average to near-record numbers. Most notable of these was the 27 Cape May Warblers, which smashed the previous record of 5 set in fall of 2017. Inquiries to friends in Ontario, who are studying “winter finches”, provided information on locations where Spruce Budworm Moth (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) outbreaks were greater than they have been in decades. They thought there could be a correlation with these locations favoring greater breeding success for Cape Mays than for the other two Spruce Budworm specialists, Bay-breasted and Tennessee warblers, both of which were banded in average to above average numbers respectively. Another interesting

aspect is that these outbreaks could be the result of a lack of spraying due to a lack of staff in 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It would be interesting to know if numbers at other banding stations in eastern North America also experienced significant increases in Cape May Warblers as eBird reports this fall also seem to correlate. Another strong correlation was seen between the local habitat in the 1.2-ha banding area and the number of Northern Waterthrushes banded, with only one banded this fall. Record numbers of Northern Waterthrushes had been banded during the flooded conditions in fall of 2019, 2020, and 2021. Other warblers banded in good numbers included Tennessee (12), Northern Parula (8), Chestnut-sided (10), Magnolia (79), Yellow-rumped (82, record), Black-throated Green (7), Blackburnian (4), Black-and-white (10), American Redstart (90, near record), Ovenbird (29, near record), Mourning Warbler (7), and Common Yellowthroat (45). The numbers of four sparrow species were higher than they have ever been at the Meadow Station, but still a bit lower than the typical numbers banded at the Marsh Station (2004-2014). Last year’s significant increase in Swamp Sparrows was attributed to the flooded conditions in the banding area, but this year with everything dried out, even more were banded. White-throated Sparrows were banded at twice the previous high for the Meadow Station but still below the Marsh Station 10-year average of 212. Song Sparrows showed a similar step-up in numbers last year, and this year, as did Swamp Sparrows. Red-winged Blackbirds are often missed by our fall banding efforts, as they move out of the marshes and wetlands and into agricultural fields in late summer, where they remain until they depart in November. But this fall, an amazing 95 were banded, with the majority of them hatching year on 31 July and during August, but surprisingly a few were captured later than normal in September and even as late as 14 Oct. The 59 House Finches banded this fall was almost four times the previous all-time record in the park, while American Goldfinches were still fairly low in number, but at least better than the past two years. A Tennessee Warbler on 5 Aug was unusually early. Unusually

late captures included an Eastern Wood-Pewee (6 Oct), Blue-headed Vireo (22 Oct), House Wren (14 Oct), Marsh Wren (14 Oct), Nashville Warbler (22 Oct), Magnolia Warbler (20 Oct and recaptured on record-late 22 Oct), American Redstart (14 Oct), Common Yellowthroat (22 Oct), Indigo Bunting (9 Oct), and Field Sparrow (27 Oct). Brown-headed Cowbird was the only expected species that was missed completely this fall. Captures that were considered unusual included: Northern Saw-whet Owl (4), Red-breasted Nuthatch (9), Sedge Wren, Brown Thrasher, Golden-winged Warbler, Cape May Warbler (27!), Blackburnian Warbler (4), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting (4), Eastern Towhee, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. Many thanks to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017, and 4 nets in 2020 for the operation this station. Although most of these nets have now been destroyed by White-tailed Deer, this has been a significant financial help for continuing the research in this Metropark. Thank you also to the park management for giving permission to band in the park, and opening the park consistently at 0600 EDT. Thanks, too, to the staff at the park nature center, especially Erin Parker, for supporting the project.

MI – Pitsfield Banding Station (PBS) 421-0853

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinators/Banders: **Rich and Brenda Keith**

Primary Assistants: John Brenneman, Pam Woodruff, Belinda Wilson, Kylie Blake, Megan Heft, Mike Meadows, Christina Burt, Amy Vida, Stacy Burton, Talus Rutgers, Zoe Korpi, and Andrew Staufer.

Address: 5750 East S Ave,

Vicksburg, MI 49097

Email: warblerrke@gmail.com

MI – Kalamazoo Nature Center 422-0853

(KNC) Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: **John Brenneman**

Primary Assistants: Richard Keith, Brenda Keith, Megan Heft, Bob Nixon, Seth Chapman, Amy Vida, Daniel Sullivan, Liam Brenneman, Pamela Rups, Jean Lundberg, Stacy Burton, Talus Rutgers, Andrew Staufer.

Address: 5750 East S Ave,

Vicksburg, MI 49097

Email: warblerrke@gmail.com

OH – Kelley’s Island

413-0824

(KI) (Jones Preserve)

Kelleys Island, Erie County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: **H. Thomas Bartlett**

Primary assistants: Paula Bartlett, Alexi Panehal, Tyler McClain, Chris Ashley

Address: 1833 South Winfield Dr,

Tiffin, OH 44883

Email: hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

Banding on KI was initiated in 1996. It began with only one or two days and has grown to over 5 weeks. Although this fall (2022) there was a near average number of days for recent years. Because of poor wind direction on many days (primarily from the west or southwest) numbers were down. During the 30 days of banding there were 146 recaptures. The oldest bird was a Black-capped Chickadee banded as an HY in the fall of 2016 (so it was 6 yr old).

OH – Black Swamp Bird Observ. 413-0830

Navarre Banding Station (NBS)

Lacarne, Ottawa County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: **Ryan Jacob**

Primary Assistants: Annalise Bokenkamp,

Yvonne Thoma-Patton

Address: 13551 W State Route 2,

Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Email: ryanjacob@bsbo.org

The fall of 2022 marked the 32nd year for passerine banding operations at Black Swamp Bird Observatory’s Navarre banding station. Temperatures seemed a bit warmer than usual and winds tended to be southerly. Although weather was not the most conducive for southbound migrants, 4,860 birds were banded by the end of the season, just above the long-term fall average of 4,780.

Compared to other years where mid- to late-September experiences the first bursts of migrants (largely due to Blackpoll Warblers and Swainson’s Thrushes), most activity did not pick up until October once short-distance migrants began moving through the region. In fact, the first 100-

bird day did not occur until 27 Sep (one of the latest dates for a first 100 bird-day) with the rest of our 100 bird days occurring in October. Owing to this slow start there were fewer long-distance migrants, notably Blackpoll Warbler (375), Swainson's Thrush (398), and Gray-cheeked Thrush (123). Of these, Blackpoll Warbler experienced the most difference from its long-term average of 562. With many long-distance migrants below average in numbers it made for a slow September. Of special note though was Black-throated Blue Warbler which set a new high record for fall with 113 birds banded (140% above the long-term average). Had there been a fewer Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Black-throated Blue Warbler would have cracked the top ten species banded for the first time ever. And, while not a long-distance migrant, American Robin set another new high record for the season with 222 birds banded, well above the previous high set in 2021 (197) and the long-term average of 69. Much of the season's numbers came during October (more than half of the fall's birds were banded in October). Leading the way were White-throated Sparrow (582), Golden-crowned Kinglet (413), and Hermit Thrush (274). Unlike other years, there were not any big pushes of these short-distance migrants on any one day. In many years, there will be close to 100 (or more) kinglets on a given a day, or White-throated Sparrow or Myrtle Warbler, and then they would peter out as the season progressed. Instead, throughout October there were consistent days of a couple dozen or more of these species. Rather than big pushes, there was a steady stream of these short-distance migrants throughout October (possibly due to a lack of direct northerly winds), leading to many of these migrants being above average. The other very interesting part of this fall was the number of "big" birds encountered. The first ever Broad-winged Hawk for the station was banded; the fifth ever Red-tailed Hawk for fall; the sixth ever Cooper's Hawk for fall; the third and fourth ever Northern Saw-whet Owls for fall; the second ever Eastern Whip-poor-will for fall; and 14 American Woodcock (24% of all the woodcocks ever banded in fall were banded this season). Many thanks to

the dedicated corps of volunteers, interns, and techs whose service made this project possible and successful. Thanks, too, to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for its continued support of this research and management of habitat throughout the region; and FirstEnergy for their preservation of the incredible Navarre Marsh and their cooperation in allowing access to the area by

OH – Palatial Woodland Estate 391-0821 (PWE)

Bolin's Mills, Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: **Bob Scott Placier**

Primary Assistants: None

Address: 32840 Jourden Road,

Albany, OH 45710

Email: coturnicops@yahoo.com

This was the eighth season of operation for PWE. The station is located in the heavily forested and hilly country of southeastern Ohio. Vinton County is one of the poorest and least populated counties in Ohio. Banding was conducted on my 4.5-ha, mostly-forested property. A 400-m powerline parallels my lane and I maintain the vegetation under the powerline as a stable shrubland. Nets are placed in a mowed strip that separates the shrubland from the adjoining deciduous forest. This fall was rather typical weather-wise; however, the number of nets used was occasionally reduced during the unseasonable heat wave and excessive winds of mid-October. For the most part it was a very good season, and especially so for migrant thrushes (the second best for Swainson's and Gray-cheeked). Except for the nesting Ovenbirds, few warblers were captured (which is typical for the station). The three most common warblers this fall were Tennessee, Magnolia and Bay-breasted. In establishing the station's "stable" shrub habitat, it was intended to attract declining species, especially sparrows; unfortunately, it does not appear to be working (yet) as these species have continued to decline (or, at least avoid the nets).

OH – -SW Ohio, Conservation Reserve 392-0835 Program Land (CRPL)

Clarksville, Clinton County, OH
Coordinator/Bander: **Robert G. Thobaben, Jr**
Primary Assistants: Steve Lee, Elvina Gibbons and Kyle Briggs
Address: 1835 S.R. 380, Wilmington, OH 45177
Email: tbthobaben@gmail.com

This is the third IFR report for CRPL. The site consists of 3.2 ha of tall grass prairie with wooded fencelines surrounded by Non-GMO corn. The fall season was cut short because of two emergency surgeries.

OH – Bowyer Farm (BF) 392-0841

Mason, Warren County, OH
Coordinator/Bander: **Sylvia Hadley**
Primary Assistants: none
Address: 78 McClure Road, Lebanon, OH 45036
Email: sylviahadley2@gmail.com

As previously reported, the site is located on a 243 ha property owned by the Cincinnati Zoo with the stipulation that it not be developed. The habitat for the banding station consists of 14.6 ha of restored wetlands and 7.3 ha of prairie surrounded by agricultural lands. Systematic migration banding was initiated at the site in 2020.

IL – Sand Bluff Bird Observatory 422-0891 (SBBO)

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL
Coordinator/Bander: **Mike Eickman**
Primary Assistants: John Longhenry, Dave Seal, Debra Eickman, Dave Huffman, Steve Gent, Donna Hilton, Stacy Taritas, Jane Jegerski, Anna Gray, Sharon McCoy, Ivy Otto, Steve Reischel, Thelma Bottom, Reita Baird, Lee Johnson, Kathy Hoel, Ashlyn Rogers, Danni Brosend, Steve Haas, Ethan Brown, Cindy Brown, Dawn Skupien, Nora Loncar and Esther Schippers
Address: 11114 Harrison Road, Rockton, IL 61072
Email: redtail15@aol.com

Colored Sands Forest Preserve, located in Northern Illinois' Winnebago County, is home to the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory. Banding has been conducted at the observatory since 1967. Founded by Lee G. Johnson the facility operated under his

Master's Permit until 2016; since then it has been in operation under a Master Station Permit. Many of Sand Bluff's nets are set on stakes that have been there for over 30 years. Personnel of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves maintain the habitat by removing invasive shrubs and plants. The observatory is in an area especially attractive to birds migrating through river bottoms and hardwood forests. Occasional rare birds are among the 90+ species captured at the observatory each year. Compared to the last two fall seasons, Sand Bluff's 2022 season was an improvement. There were 3022 newly banded birds of 89 species plus another 712 repeats and returns. Weather was a major factor with moderate temperatures and mild winds. The two primary species with lower than normal numbers were the Northern Saw-whet Owl and Red-tailed Hawk. The owls failed to arrive (too warm and strong south winds) and the lack of hawks. However, the number of Bald Eagles in the area was quite prevalent. Two unusual birds for the season included an HY Blue Grosbeak (possibly the result of nesting in the area) and a late Blackpoll Warbler caught on 6 Nov. Gray Catbird made another good showing this fall and came in second on the top 10 list just behind Slate Colored Junco; and, Swainson's Thrush made a very strong third-place showing. Some of the retrapped birds included Northern Cardinals, Black-Capped Chickadees and American Goldfinches. Also returning was a three-year-old Hooded Warbler in beautiful male plumage. The banding season could not have been successful without the valued volunteers (see the primary assistants list above) who helped in many ways to make the operations go smoothly. THANK YOU to the volunteers.

IL – Phillips Tract Banding Station 407-0888 (PTBS)

Urbana, Champaign County, IL
Coordinator/Bander: **Tara Beveroth**
Primary Assistants: Janice Kelly, Mike Avara, Kristen Ragusa and Grant Witynski
Address: 1816 S Oak St, Champaign, IL 61820
Email: beveroth79@gmail.com

The fall of 2022 was packed with many new visitors at the station. University wildlife society

members visited the station weekly to observe and learn about banding operations. Many graduate and undergraduate students continued to volunteer at the station and their assistance was appreciated. The banding site, a 52.6 ha former farm, continues to undergo invasive plant removal, and has regular prairie burns that are on a cycle. The area contains reconstructed prairie, old field, and agricultural fields, rotating 1 to 5-year-old successional old field plots, an old field/successional woods (released about 1970). Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) dominates the understory of most successional wood's areas; however, it has been systematically removed from the banding area over the past year. Considerable honeysuckle has been removed from the edges, so it will be interesting to see how this affects future banding efforts. Although more than a 100 House Wren boxes were added to the site, few wrens were caught this fall, which was somewhat surprising. Season highlights were Brown Creepers (6) Fox Sparrows (5), Winter Wrens (3), Connecticut Warbler (1) the station's first Black-throated Blue Warbler and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Unfortunately, there was a predation event; a Barred Owl killed two birds before bouncing off the net and flying off.

**IL – Lincoln Land 394-0893
Community College Bird Banding Station
(LLCC BBS) Springfield, Sangamon County, IL**
Coordinators/Banders: *Vernon Kleen* and
Anthony Rothering*

Primary Assistants: Camille Brandt, Joe Gardner, Lewis Hakam, Eli Hersh, Betty Kleen, Natalia Maass, Jim Mordacq, Carla Potts, Nancy Redman, Nadia Sotnychuk, Holly Thompson, and Sue Ellen Weitekamp.

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Email: vkleen@comcast.net

The LLCC BBS, initiated in Sep 2012, began its 20th season of operations and 11th fall season on Thursday, 18 Aug 2022. The placement of nets were the same as in seasons past. This fall the site's "prairie" habitat was much-improved

over the last two seasons but was still not up to par. An average of 22.5 nets were in operation for 68 days (practically all weekdays and most Saturdays) from 18 Aug to 11 Nov with an accumulation of 5863 net-hr. There were five rain-out days. There were two days when 100 or more birds were banded and four days when five or fewer were banded, including the first time (in any season) when none were banded. The 78 species banded was typical for a fall season but ten fewer than the fall record; 15 of these species were represented by a single bird. The 1568 birds banded was the penultimate lowest fall season with only the 1289 of 2019 lower. Despite the two 100+ days, the daily average was only 23.1; again, only 2019 was lower. This fall there were also 58 returns and 322 repeats. The oldest return was a Black-capped Chickadee from 2015. Highlights included the station's first Pine Warbler (species #134), another Great Blue Heron, a record number of Myrtle Warblers (244 - 83 of which were on 7 Oct), the first fall Clay-colored Sparrow and the second Vesper Sparrow. None of the station's Top 10 species were new to the list and the American Goldfinch and Slate-colored Junco have been on that list every year. Myrtle Warbler continued an interesting fall trend since 2013 - high numbers (more than 100) banded in the even-number years and low numbers (fewer than 100) banded in the odd-number years; and, except for the Myrtle Warbler there were no species this fall with higher than usual numbers banded; however, there were fewer than usual numbers of most species groups (especially the kinglets and thrushes); the warblers were the only exception. An interesting side note, there were 190 fewer birds banded in 68 days this fall than there were in 51 days this spring. And, the station's deer problem continued (despite a 60-day bow-season in the area – which forced us all to wear blaze-orange vests beginning 1 Oct). The banding station appreciates the support of the administration and staff of the Lincoln Land Community College, many dedicated volunteers and generous donors.

IL – Jubilee Farm (JFBS) 394-0894

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: **Anthony Rothering**

Primary assistants: Jim Mordacq, Samantha Reif, Grace Norris, Kayla Ferron, Matt Hayes, Lee Boblitt, Frances Whalen, Logan McHenry

Address: 810 Redwood Drive, Auburn, IL 62615

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Twenty two thousand twenty two was the second fall season for the station, and the fourth migration banding season. The JFBS is located on a 64.7 ha parcel owned by the Dominican Sisters within which the tillable portion has been restored to native vegetation. The station was in operation one-day each week, usually Wednesdays, with eight nets, five within riparian corridors and three along the prairie/woodland edge. There were no loss/altering days because of rain; however, one day was abbreviated because of wind and excessive leaves in the nets. The number of birds banded (315) was substantially lower than the number banded during the fall 2021 season (413). The greatest decrease in captures was noted for the following species/families: American Goldfinches, most warblers, and all flycatchers. This fall, there were 27 recaptures (20 returns and 7 repeats). As the sisters welcome all visitors to the farm, there were many individuals of all ages stopping by practically every day that the station was in operation. Many thanks to our crew of banding assistants/extractors and to the Dominican Sisters for their dedication to sustainable restoration and

MO–Litzsinger Road Ecology Ctr. 383-0902 (LREC)

St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Coordinator/Bander: **Colleen Crank**

Primary Assistant: Samantha Matchefts

Address: 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road, Valley Park, MO 63088

Email: crankcolleen@gmail.com

Weekly banding ran from 1 Aug through 17 Oct and the 2022 fall season marked the second year of daily mist netting from 15-30 Sep. First-

time captures included: Clay-colored Sparrow (also a first-time visitor for the site), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sedge Wren, Warbling Vireo and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. According to state records, Clay-colored Sparrows and Sedge Wrens are rare fall migrants in Missouri. Returns of 2021 banded birds included American Goldfinch, Carolina Chickadees, Indigo Buntings and Song Sparrow. Another Carolina Chickadee had been banded as an adult in 2019. Banding was done in conjunction with the World Bird Sanctuary and funding was provided by the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center Foundation. Many thanks to the staff, volunteers and friends of the WBS and LREC and the latter for providing space and equipment.

TN – Warner Park Nature Center (WPNC) 363-0865

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Coordinators/Banders: **Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens**

Primary Assistants: Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, Susan Bradfield, Patty Ghertner, Leah LaRocco, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Vera Roberts, TahiraMohyuddin, Rachael Patton, Thomas Copeland, Teresa Marchetti

Address: 7311 Highway 100 Nashville, TN 37221

Email: laura.cook@nashville.gov and sandy.bivens@nashville.gov

The fall of 2022 marked the 41st year of operation for the Warner Park Banding Station with 607 visitors being accommodated. The weather this year was interesting. June and July experienced above average temperatures and drought conditions. August was a beautiful month with below average temperatures. And the fall months were cooler than normal and dry. Vaughn's Creek, located next to the net lanes, had very low water levels and in October was completely dry. Given those conditions, it was believed that the area may have had fewer fruit and insects available for the birds. For the season there were above normal captures of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Veeries. This may have been due to the placement of additional field nets and initiating fall banding efforts a week earlier in August. This fall 54 birds were radio-tagged with LifeTags from

Cellular Tracking Technologies as part of a Motus study (7 Swainson's Thrushes, 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 6 Veeries, 4 Hermit Thrushes, 10 Wood Thrushes and 24 Purple Martins). Some summer non-migration IFR projects at WPNC included an Eastern Bluebird Nest Box program, Barn Swallow project, Purple Martin Nest monitoring and a Northern Saw-whet Owl project.

TN – Whigg Meadow (WM) 351-0840
Robinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN
Coordinators/Banders: **Scott Rush***, **Jay Dedeker**
Primary assistants: Charlie Muise, Eric Soehren and Danielle Bunch

*Address: Dept Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, MS State, MS, 39762
Email: scott.rush@msstate.edu

Through continued support from the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, a full season of migration monitoring was achieved at the station. The total number of birds banded was down from 2021 with 500 fewer Tennessee Warblers captured. Despite this decline, conditions at the site were favorable for this species during migration. One Tennessee Warbler banded at the site was recaptured 16 days later, increasing from 8.2 grams to 13.0 grams over this period, a near 59% gain in mass. Another highlight was an inter-annual recapture of a Magnolia Warbler (2900-98175) first banded at the station on 7 Sep 2021 as a HY-U. More Swainson's Thrushes were captured in 2022 than in 2021 but comprised a lower percentage of HY in 2022 versus 2021. Weather conditions were generally favorable but led to the cancellation of six days of banding, four days due to conditions from Hurricane Ian. Some ecological community management to enhance herbaceous cover near net lanes was conducted in 2018. Highest capture rates among species in nets was associated with these managed areas, but the trend was consistent with areas of greatest capture before the management was carried out. One Northern Saw-whet Owl was captured providing further evidence the species is a resident breeder at this site. An HY male Merlin, captured on 24 Sep was the first of this species banded at this station despite relatively frequent occurrence

Apr - Sep

as flyovers during banding each fall. Black-billed Cuckoo and Northern Flicker (both captured on 7 Oct) were also firsts of these species banded at this station..

AL – FORT MORGAN 302-0880
BANDING STATION (FMBS)

Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, AL
Coordinators/Banders: **Emma Rhodes and,**
Kyle Shepard

Primary Assistants: none
Address: 17375 Tallasee Blvd, Foley, AL 36535
Email: emma@bandingcoalition.org

This fall 654 individuals of 47 species were banded between 29 Sep and 7 Oct and approximately 800 people visited the station. The success of the season was enhanced by the visitors and supporters. Although a few birds were banded on set-up day (29 Sep), those numbers were not included in the totals or data calculation. Interestingly, the total number of birds banded this fall (654) was up from last year (436) but the number of species banded was ten fewer (47 compared to 57). The season's most productive day was 30 Sep with 125 birds banded including Alabama's third record of a Yellow-green Vireo. Of note, Alabama's second record of Yellow-green Vireo was banded at another BCA site located in Orange Beach, Alabama, in 2021. The station's top five species in descending order this year were: Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, American Redstart, and Magnolia Warbler. Other species of note for the fall season included two Wilson's Warblers, one Eastern Whip-poor-will and one Chuck-will's-widow. For more information, including banding dates, visit the station's website at: bandingcoalition.org.



	Lake St. Clair	Kalamazoo	Keller's Island	Navarre Banding Station	Patatal Woodland Estate	SUN Ohio, Bower Farm	SW Ohio CRP Land	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Phillips Tract Banding Station	Lincoln Land Banding Station	Jubilee Farm Banding Station	Litzinger Road Ecology Center	Warner Park Nature Center	Whigg Meadow	Fort Morgan	
	MI	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN	AL	
First Day	31-Jul	11-Aug	25-Aug	18-Sep	15-Aug	22-Aug	1-Sep	1-Sep	14-Aug	23-Aug	18-Aug	17-Aug	1-Aug	30-Aug	3-Sep	29-Sep
Last Day	5-Nov	27-Oct	27-Oct	20-Nov	2-Nov	31-Oct	8-Nov	21-Oct	13-Nov	8-Nov	11-Nov	9-Nov	17-Oct	15-Nov	8-Oct	7-Oct
Days Operated	27	60	50	30	72	44	29	17	41	13	68	13	26	17	30	9
Nets Used	175	30	15	105 to 16	23	9 to 15	5	5 to 6	9 to 40	10	17 to 25	8	3 to 5	2 to 10	9 to 14	27
Total Net-hours	2971	10042	4419	2158	7416	2676	426	246	19,339	573	3663	546	386	464	2,879	1881
Traps Used	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
% Caught in Traps	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	32%	0%	0%
Largest Daily Catch	204	113	155	92	198	37	56	31	173	67	121	53	54	27	94	125
Largest Daily Catch Date	15-Sep	16-Oct	6-Oct	27-Oct	27-Oct	28-Sep	1-Nov	21-Sep	4-Sep	31-Aug	7-Oct	26-Oct	27-Sep	18-Oct	16-Sep	30-Sep
Most Species on Any Date	record -- 42	23	26	19	29	15	14	13	34	14	21	16	13	19	19	30
Date of Most Species Banded	15-Sep	16-Oct	2 & 4 Sep	18 & 20 Sep	26-Sep	13-Sep	6-Sep	21-Sep	4-Sep	2 dates	22-Sep	26-Oct	27-Sep	20-Sep	24-Sep	30-Sep
Most Common Species on Best Day	SWTH	MNWA	CEDW	GCKI	GCKI	SWTH	WTSP	COVE	SWTH	2 species	MNWA	WTSP	AMGO	HOFI	TEWA	WOTH
Number of Most Common Banded	record -- 54	40	43	25	58	11	33	18	64	14	83	27	44	7	43	26
Percent of Most Common on Best Day	27%	35%	28%	27%	29%	33%	68%	58%	37%	21% each	69%	51%	82%	37%	46%	21%
# of birds banded in 2021	1913	2373	1862	872	5938	516	384	686	2710	561	1863	413	550	96	1582	436
# of birds banded in 2022	2373	2540	2106	1482	4860	533	547	279	3022	484	1568	315	544	202	891	654
# of species banded in 2021	81	77	79	56	90	53	40	51	90	50	77	62	45	30	56	57
# of species banded in 2022	record -- 83	78	81	60	92	51	46	33	89	46	78	51	42	42	52	47
birds/100 net-hours in 2021	87.8	23.6	61	0.4	88.5	21.8	138.6	112	13.1	117.3	30.2	75.9	116.5	22.6	60	27.6
birds/100 net-hours in 2022	96.2	25.3	48	0.71	65.5	19.9	128.4	113.4	15.2	84.5	26.7	57.6	140.9	43.5	30.9	34.8
Top 10 species as % of total	52%	62%	60%	45%	67%	77%	71%	80%	54%	77%	62%	66%	88%	53%	89%	74%

Species Snapshot: Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) – 1960 to 2022

This is the 15th installment in our regular feature presenting a brief synopsis of the banding and encounter records submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory for a particular species. Each installment will feature a new species; suggestions for species to be covered or data to be presented are welcome (swgabrey@gmail.com). Space limitations of **NABB** prohibit any in-depth analysis of the data and these notes are not meant to show any trends in population parameters such as population density or growth rate, geographic distribution, etc. and should not be viewed as a definitive analysis of the status of the species. Although the banding program began in the 1920s, the currently available digital records for banding data include only those records from 1960 to the present (pre-1960 banding data are available in other formats, however). All encounters, including those of birds banded before 1960, are available in digital format. More than 890,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds have been banded since the 1920s. The following summary includes only those birds banded and encountered from Jan 1960 through Dec 2022. A companion summary of encounters of birds banded in 1959 or earlier will be presented in the next **NABB**.

Banded birds

Numbers and Age and Sex Categories.– Since 1960, 885,655 Brown-headed Cowbirds have been banded in the United States, Canada, and Mexico (Table 1). Sex was identified (either at banding or upon encounter) for 91% (n = 809,035); of these, 66% were males (n = 537,774) and 34% were females (n = 271,261). Eleven percent of the males were aged as HY, L, or J (n = 57,707), 70% were aged as AHY, SY, ASY, TY, or ATY (n = 378,070), and 19% were aged as U (n = 101,997). Seven percent of the females were aged as HY, L, or J (n = 17,643), 70% were aged as AHY, SY, ASY, TY, or ATY (n = 190,597), and 23% were aged as U (n = 63,021). Forty three percent of the 76,620 cowbirds for which sex was not identified were aged as HY, L, or J (n = 32,582), 5% were aged as AHY, SY, ASY, TY, or ATY (n = 4,228), and 52% were aged as U (n = 39,810).

	Kalamazoo				Navarre			Palatial		Sand Bluff			Phillips Tract			Lincoln Land		Jubilee Farm		Litzinger Road		Warner Park	
	Nature Center	Island	Banding Station	Woodland Estate	SW Ohio, Bower Farm	SW Ohio, CRP Land	Bird Observatory	Banding Station	Station	IL	IL	IL	IL	IL	IL	IL	MO	Nature Center					
AMGO - 186	MYWA - 449	MYWA - 254	GCKI - 130	WTSP - 582	SWTH - 132	MYWA - 90	COYE - 43	SCIU - 316	SWTH - 82	MYWA - 214	GRCA - 52	AMGO - 353	NOCA - 20										
WTSP - 184	SWTH - 194	AMGO - 236	HETH - 112	GCKI - 413	WOTH - 75	WTSP - 75	FSP - 40	GRCA - 272	AMRO - 62	SCIU - 204	WTSP - 49	COYE - 26	AMGO - 18										
SWTH - 163	GRCA - 157	WTSP - 160	MYWA - 100	SWTH - 398	TEWA - 51	SOSP - 54	INBU - 30	SWTH - 270	OVEN - 52	AMGO - 117	COYE - 21	INBU - 20	WTSP - 14										
SWSP - 120	RTHU - 156	RCKI - 141	SCIU - 86	BLPW - 375	OVEN - 35	NOCA - 30	NOCA - 25	WTSP - 166	WTSP - 42	WTSP - 84	MAWA - 19	SOSP - 18	TUTI - 11										
RCKI - 110	TEWA - 137	SWTH - 136	RCKI - 53	GRCA - 323	GCTH - 31	SWTH - 28	SOSP - 21	OVEN - 116	GRCA - 39	AMRO - 80	AMRO - 17	NAWA - 14	MYWA - 10										
SOSP - 109	WTSP - 135	GRCA - 85	BRGR - 47	MYWA - 322	HOWA - 29	GRCA - 26	GRCA - 21	HETH 103	MAWA - 35	TEWA - 57	HOWR - 14	SOSP - 13	HOFI - 10										
HETH - 103	RCKI - 106	CEDW - 85	NOCA - 44	HETH - 274	MAWA - 19	AMGO - 23	AMGO - 14	MAWA - 102	GCKI - 21	HOSP - 54	SCIU - 12	HOWR - 12	CACH - 9										
RWBL - 95	AMRO - 87	MAWA - 70	WTSP - 43	RCKI - 223	BBWA - 18	FSP - 23	WTSP - 10	RCKI - 98	RCKI - 18	SWTH - 48	OVEN - 9	EAPH - 10	DOWO - 8										
AMRE - 90	GCKI - 78	BCCH - 50	GCTH - 23	AMRO - 222	EATO - 12	SOSP - 21	SWSP - 10	CEDW - 96	VEER - 12	HOFI - 46	NOCA - 8	OVEN - 8	WBNU - 8										
MYWA - 82	HETH - 69	SCIU - 49	SWTH - 23	GCTH - 123	HETH - 9	COYE - 20	TEWA - 10	AMGO - 93	AMRE - 10	CHSP - 44	AMGO - 7	DOWO - 7	AMRO - 8										
Total = 1132	Total = 1568	Total = 1266	Total = 661	Total = 3255	Total = 411	Total = 390	Total = 224	Total = 1632	Total = 373	Total = 948	Total = 208	Total = 481	Total = 116										