



Fort Morgan Fall 2021 Bird Banding Report



Property of Banding Coalition of the Americas (BCA)

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Since our initial pilot-run in 2019 of a fall banding station at the Fort Morgan State Historic Site, BCA had been working on preparations for a fully operational station for fall 2021 through the newly founded 501(c)(3) non-profit, Banding Coalition of the Americas (BCA). The BCA crew, made up of all volunteers, included folks from all over Alabama and from afar representing a variety of backgrounds including academic professionals, birding enthusiasts, and undergraduates and graduates from universities. The undergraduates that attended are being trained through a bird banding program operated by Emma Rhodes at Auburn University. Training is a part of a larger project that BCA is working on to give committed volunteers free opportunities to participate in long-term banding projects and to teach competitive banding skills for professionals.



Figure 1: Adult female Wilson's Warbler banded at Fort Morgan on 10/07/21.



Figure 2: Hatching-year female Rufous Hummingbird banded on 10/04/21.

The BCA crew set up the banding station at the Stables, the primary location where the Sargents operated the banding for nearly 30 years with the Hummer/Bird Study Group. We banded for a short period the first day after we set up on September 30th for the VIP sponsors event and banded through October 7th. In total, we banded 436 birds comprised of 57 species (Table 1) with roughly 400 visitors throughout the week. We had great weather for most of our banding days. A front moved in early in the week and brought in rain and as a result, we banded 129 birds on October 5th, our busiest bird day. Our top five species by highest number banded were: Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, and White-eyed Vireo. Our most notable records were a Blackpoll Warbler on October 1st, Rufous Hummingbird on October 4th, and a Wilson's Warbler on October 7th. The Blackpoll Warbler may be the latest record for this species in the fall in Alabama. The Rufous Hummingbird was a pleasant surprise. This



bird was captured using a soft-sided hummingbird trap. While this species does occur in Alabama commonly in the winter, this is a rare species to encounter during our migration effort at Fort Morgan. Wilson's Warblers breed in the Western U.S and further north in Maine all across the boreal forest to Alaska and typically do not travel along the Mississippi Flyway in the fall. Occasionally a few individuals, however, will be shifted off course during fall migration.



Table 1: Species and individuals banded from Sept. 30th through October 7th.

Species	Count		
Acadian Flycatcher	7	Northern Parula	4
American Redstart	33	Northern Waterthrush	9
Black-and-white Warbler	16	Ovenbird	16
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	18	Pine Warbler	2
Blackburnian Warbler	4	Prairie Warbler	1
Blue Grosbeak	1	Prothonotary Warbler	5
Blue Jay	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Blackpoll Warbler	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Brown Thrasher	9	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	Red-eyed Vireo	18
Blue-winged Warbler	5	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2
Carolina Chickadee	2	Rufous Hummingbird	1
Carolina Wren	1	Red-winged Blackbird	29
Common Yellowthroat	11	Scarlet Tanager	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	Summer Tanager	7
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7	Swainson's Thrush	20
Great-crested Flycatcher	2	Tennessee Warbler	30
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	Traill's Flycatcher	1
Gray Catbird	13	White-eyed Vireo	27
Golden-winged Warbler	3	Worm-eating Warbler	4
Hooded Warbler	19	Wilson's Warbler	1
House Wren	3	Wood Thrush	5
Indigo Bunting	2	Western Palm Warbler	3
Kentucky Warbler	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Least Flycatcher	2	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4
Magnolia Warbler	47	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Marsh Wren	1	Yellow Warbler	1
Northern Cardinal	11	Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Northern Mockingbird	5		
		Total Species: 57	Total Banded: 436

Table 2: List of birds recaptured during the effort. We captured three birds that were “Foreign Recaptures” meaning we were not the original banders. We also had 13 repeats of birds we banded during the week and recaptured some days later.

Foreign Recaptures	Recapture Date
Northern Cardinal	10/02/2021
Carolina Wren	10/01/2021
Carolina Wren	10/03/2021

Repeats	Banded Date	Recapture Date
House Wren	10/02/2021	10/05/2021
Gray Catbird	10/01/2021	10/05/2021
Ovenbird	10/02/2021	10/05/2021
White-eyed Vireo	10/01/2021	10/05/2021
Common Yellowthroat	10/01/2021	10/05/2021
Red-eyed Vireo	10/04/2021	10/05/2021
White-eyed Vireo	10/02/2021	10/05/2021
Carolina Wren	10/04/2021	10/06/2021
American Redstart	10/04/2021	10/06/2021
Ovenbird	10/04/2021	10/06/2021
Red-eyed Vireo	10/04/2021	10/06/2021
White-eyed Vireo	10/02/2021	10/04/2021
White-eyed Vireo	09/30/2021	10/04/2021