
Inland Flyway Review – Fall 2021 Report

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This Report, the seventh for an Inland Flyway Review (IFR) fall season, includes information from 15 banding stations/observatories (a record number): four from Michigan, five from Ohio, four from Illinois, one from Missouri and two from Tennessee. At least three more were possible but did not get included because 1) the bander's computer with all the information broke down; and 2) the station did not meet minimum standards for inclusion. Although covid was still an issue, it had little effect on fall banding operations. Reports were received from most long-term stations as well as from two first-timers: Alma College Bird Observatory (MI) and Jubilee Farm (IL). Reports from additional fall and spring IBBA banding stations would be welcome.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for each of the 16 stations; six were in operation for 40 or more days and eight utilized 2000 or more net hours. Two even exceeded 10,000 net hours. The remaining stations operated on a one-or-two days per week schedule, short-term basis or with few nets. Nearly all reporters indicated that weather was not a major issue this fall. The season's summary lists 23,545 birds banded (nearly 7000 more than last year's 14 stations).

Table 2 identifies each station's "Top Ten" most commonly banded species. The American Goldfinch was the most common at four stations; the Gray Catbird and Tennessee Warbler tied for second (the top species on two lists). The remaining eight were at the top of single lists. Overall, 45 species were represented in the Top Ten; 28 in the Top Five and 11 as the Top Species. Of the 28 species in the Top Five lists, three appeared most often: Swainson's Thrush (9 times), White-throated Sparrow (9) and American Goldfinch (7). The total number of "top ten" birds banded at this year's 16

reporting stations was 14,853 or 63.1% of all birds banded this fall (almost the exact same percentage for the past four years). Except for the 47% at one station, the Top Ten species accounted for 50% or more of the birds banded at each station. Adding all stations together, there were 1000 or more birds banded for six species: Swainson's Thrush (1892), Tennessee Warbler (1230), Gray Catbird (1166), American Goldfinch (1139), Myrtle Warbler (1055) and White-throated Sparrow (1011). Each station was asked to provide a brief summary of its station highlights including new species captured, potential causes for low or high 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 summaries (by state) of each station's highlights. The stations are identified by their initials.

Michigan: ACBO – This is the first IFR report for the station. The rate of birds captured averaged ~60 birds/100 net hours. A seasonal highlight was the capture of a foreign American Goldfinch that had been banded in 2016 – the station's third foreign recovery since it started in 1966. LSCMP – It completed its seventh year at the "meadow" location. New records were set for the number of new birds banded (1913) and the capture rate of 87.8 birds per 100 net hours. PBS -- This was the station's 32nd fall season of banding operations. KNC – This fall was the 48th fall season for the banding station. Of all species captured, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (188) stands out the most. During September birds were banded every day without any recaptures. Work also continued on Motus in Michigan. With grants from USFWS and Michigan Army National Guard 14 more stations were erected in 2021. When the Ann Arbor station is completed there will be 22 Motus stations in place.

Ohio: KI – It was an excellent season for Golden-crowned Kinglets. NBS -- Fall 2021 marked the station's 31st fall season and a return to normal banding operations. The season was slightly above average for bird captures, and had the feeling of

a normal to busier-than-average season. Three species set significantly new high records (above 100), three more were well above average and most species were about or slightly above average this season with only a few notable below average. The fall 2021 season was more than just a return to “normal.” It was a reminder of the importance of consistency when attempting to compare to the past. While long-term monitoring and a seven-days per week effort may not be applicable everywhere, consistency from year-to-year and region-wide collaborations such as through the Midwest Migration Network prove their merit when unexpected circumstances present gaps in the dataset. PWE -- This was the seventh fall season for the PWE Station in SE Ohio. The season produced a record high of Tennessee Warblers (58) and very low numbers of Wood Thrushes. Even though the total number of net hours was below normal, the 2021 season was only slightly below average for many species; the Indigo Bunting (with only one banded) was an exception. BF -- This is the third fall season for the Bowyer Farm station. 384 birds of 40 species were banded this fall. CRPL -- Of the 26 returns of previously banded birds, the oldest were a cardinal (4 yr 5 mo), and a Song Sparrow (3 yr 4 mo).

Illinois: SBBO – 2021 was a year of the Good, Bad and Ugly. The Bad, only 1039 birds were banded in the spring; the Good, 2710 new birds were captured this fall; and the Ugly, poor raptor banding at the station. Except for the high number of Gray Catbirds (330) there were few station surprises. However, the nocturnal banding for Northern Saw-whet Owls did well as 41 new birds and three foreign encounters were captured. PTBS -- The fall season started off very productive with more birds than expected but then the numbers dropped off. A fall-out day occurred on 22 Sep. Even though rain delayed the start that day, the day’s capture rate was nearly 5 birds/net hour. Some of the seasonal highlights were three species of warblers (Black-throated Blue, Golden-winged and Mourning) plus two Sharp-shinned Hawks. LLCC BBS -- This was the tenth fall season for the station. It was in operation for 73 days (from 19 Aug thru 13 Nov); there was only one day when

100 or more birds were banded (137 on 13 Oct). The season total of 1863 birds was only the fourth time that fewer than 2000 had been banded; and the 77 species was the second lowest. This year 54 birds were captured as returns; the oldest were a Blue Jay from 2015 and a Tufted Titmouse from 2016. JFBS – This is the second fall season of operation and the first year for a report from this new station. A highlight of the season was the capture of its first Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Missouri: LREC – This was the station’s third fall season of operation. Banding occurred primarily on a once-a-week basis; however, it was expanded to daily operations from 15-30 Sep. Highlights included the banding of three new station species.

Tennessee: WPNC – This was the site’s 40th year of operation. As part of this fall’s banding operations, 12 thrushes of four species were radio-tagged with LifeTags from Cellular Tracking Technologies as part of a Motus migration study. In addition to regular banding 178 hummingbirds and one saw-whet owl were banded. WM -- The number of birds banded was up from last year and there was a greater percentage of hatch-year birds within some species. The continued capture of Northern Saw-whet Owls confirms the annual recruitment to the resident population. New station bandings included two hawks and a warbler.

Acknowledgments: Many thanks to all station coordinators/compilers for providing timely reports. Here is wishing all banders a fun, safe, healthy and prosperous year and ideal banding in 2022.

MI – Alma College 432-0844

Bird Observatory

Forest Hill Nature Area (ACBO)

Forest Hill, Gratiot County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: **Mike Bishop**

Assistants: none

Address: 619 Gratiot Ave, Alma, MI #####

Email address: bishop@alma.edu

This is the first IFR report for the Alma College Bird Observatory (ACBO). The site (which includes one major and two other lesser locations) is located at the Forest Hill Nature Area, a 37.68-ha property

owned by the Gratiot County and Isabella County Regional Education Service District. It is operated as an Environmental Interpretive Center for the public schools in Gratiot and Isabella counties, as well as homeschoolers, and the general public.

Classes and groups come out to Forest Hill for full- and half-day experiences in which they cycle through various activities and are introduced to the flora and fauna that occur at the site.

The property is former farmland abandoned in the late 1970s - early 1980s. Currently it is a mixture of old fields (27.3 ha), wetlands (2.18 ha), open water ponds (2.49 ha) and early successional forest (7.89 ha). The banding station, made up of 10 12-m, 30-mm mesh nets, is located within a 1.44-ha area dominated by old fields, pond edge, cattail marsh and copses of cottonwood, red-osier dogwood and willow.

Regular spring and fall banding have been conducted as a part of the bander's normal, seasonal, migration research at the primary site since the fall of 2017. However, for 11 fall days, banding was also conducted as a part of the educational programming that occurs at the nature center. On those days fewer nets were opened to ensure the safety of the birds as well as the quality of the data being collected.

The specific birds captured, their biology, bird conservation and the process and purpose of bird banding were discussed with the school groups. Students were given their own data sheets on which to record information being collected for selected birds being processed. These data were then compared to the stations long-term data for those species.

The rate of capture of birds at the Forest Hill Nature Area is quite a bit greater than at the other two sites. It averages ~60 birds/100 net hours, compared to ~25 birds/100 net hours at the other sites. Interestingly, the species richness is quite a bit lower than the other sites. The absolute number of species averages a bit lower, particularly among parulids, but most of the species are one- or two-hit-wonders, with a few of the same species dominating the total captures. For example, both

Common Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow clearly use this site as a stop-over. While both are resident breeders, the number caught in the fall far surpasses the birds that are caught during breeding operations and seems greater than what would be likely from the young birds fledged on site during the summer. Furthermore, there are few recaptures during the fall of the birds that were banded during the breeding season. Therefore, it seems logical that this location is a great place to hang around in preparation for their ultimate departure south.

This fall there were 46 recaptures of 40 previously banded birds; four of these were recaptured more than once. Thirty-nine of these captures were returns, the other was a foreign recovery. Of the 39 returns, 31 were originally banded this year, three were originally banded in 2020, three in 2019, one in 2018 and one in 2017. The bird originally banded in 2017 was an American Goldfinch then aged as an ASY-M, now, making it at least six-years old. The foreign recovery was only the third for this bander since beginning in Michigan in 1996. It was an American Goldfinch banded 26 Sep 2016 as an AHY-M at the Burke Lake banding station of the Michigan State Bird Observatory. It was recaptured on 3 Sep, the first day of our fall banding. This was also at least a six-year-old bird!

MI – Lake St.

423-0824

Clair Metropark (LSCMP)

Harrison Twp.,

Macomb County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: **Allen T. Chartier**

Chief Assistants: Cass Arsenault, Melissa Bobowski, Mary Buchowski, April Campbell, Mike Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Brittany Drouilliard, Monica Dubray, Rachel Endicott, Briana Fisher, Molly Hill, Dave Lancaster, Ava Landgraf, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Tom Schlack, Tom Stoye, Katri Studtmann, Blanche Wicke, and Sue Wright.

Address: 1442 West River Park Dr.,

Inkster, MI 48141

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Bird banding was conducted at the Lake St. Clair Metropark "Meadow" station for the 7th consecutive fall season. The history of banding

at this site (and an earlier site) was published in the Jul-Sep 2016 issue of **North American Bird Bander** (NABB 41: 138-140).

Due to the continuing Covid restrictions only volunteers who were fully vaccinated were allowed to help at the station and visiting members of the public were kept at least 2 m away from the banding table. 14.5 to 16.5 nets were established within an area of approximately 3 acres (1.2 hectares). The nets were placed in 6 general “groups”, which were described in detail in the spring 2016 banding report.

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. Owing to the flexibility of volunteers, the planned weekly banding days could be changed if necessary due to bad weather conditions. 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.

Fall banding for 2021 was conducted on 27 days between 1 Aug and 6 Nov. The 2637 net hours was the second highest for the Meadow station. Again, this fall, an attempt was made to track causes to hours and net hours lost through the season. Overall, 148.75 net hours were lost to flooding, 45.5 net hours lost to heat, 15.5 net hours lost to rain, and 6.75 net hours lost to deer destroying a net.

The 81 species banded this fall was the second highest for the station increasing the average to 77 and the 1913 new birds banded was a new record. This station is proving to be consistently good for most warblers, flycatchers and thrushes. The capture rate of 87.8 birds per 100 net hours was also a record. Days with 100 birds banded are infrequent, but more often occur in the fall. This year, at least 100 birds were banded on 5 days, including the earliest ever on 5 August. Yellow Warblers were a clear standout this fall, smashing all previous records, with 165 banded, including an astounding 94 on 5 August. Other warblers

banded in good numbers included Northern Parula (9, record), Magnolia (78), Blackburnian (7), Bay-breasted (21), Blackpoll (38), American Redstart (67), Northern Waterthrush (37, record), and FOUR Connecticut Warblers! Once again, a good number of thrushes were banded except Hermit which returned to low numbers after a record high last year. The 45 Swainson’s Thrushes banded on 9 Sep was a record for a single day. It appears that thrushes prefer the wetter conditions. Perhaps also assisted by higher water levels, Swamp Sparrows were banded in the greatest numbers ever (94) while White-throated Sparrows (53) were only slightly higher than last year. The record 9 Indigo Buntings (5 on 7 Oct) and 21 Baltimore Orioles do not seem related to any weather or habitat conditions. American Goldfinches were banded in even lower numbers than last year.

Expected species that were missed completely this fall were Carolina Wren, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Common Grackle (all were present but not captured). Captures that were considered unusual included: Eastern Screech-Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird (2), White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher (3), Blue-winged Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow. This fall, an American Goldfinch banded on 7 Jan 2021 (as SY-F) at Sandusky (OH) was captured on 14 Apr then recaptured again on 1 Aug and 2 Sep indicating that it is a locally breeding bird, not a migrant through the park.

A few more returns captured this fall were at least 5 years old, including a Black-capped Chickadee, an American Robin, a Baltimore Oriole, a Northern Cardinal, and two American Goldfinches. Most interesting of the recaptured birds was an American Tree Sparrow, an overwintering species that is typically captured early in the spring or late in the fall; it was banded on 23 Apr 2021 and apparently returned to its winter site when it was recaptured on 4 Nov. Many thanks to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017 and four more in 2020 to help in station operations. Thank you also to 1) the park management for providing permission to band in the park and consistently opening the

gate at 0600; 2) to the park nature center staff, especially Julie Champion (who retired in August), for supporting the banding station for many years; 3) Tom Schlack, who donated funds to help purchase a mist net this fall; and 4) the volunteer photographers, Qiang (Kevin) Song, and Tom Stoye, for providing photos of in-hand birds for the blog on days that were too busy for photography by the bander and banding assistant.

MI – Pitsfield Banding Station (PBS) 421-0853

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: **Rich and Brenda Keith***

Chief assistants: John Brenneman, Caleb Park, Holly Hooper, Megan Heft, Pam Woodruff, Karen Kolbasa, Bob Nixon, Seth Chapman, Ashley Cole-Wick, Daniel Sullivan, Liam Brenneman, Maci Bennett, and Pamela Rups.

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Email address: warblerrke@gmail.com

2021 was the 32nd fall migration in which banding was conducted at the Pitsfield Banding Station. (See the Kalamazoo Nature Center narrative for more details.)

MI – Kalamazoo Nature Center 422-0853

(KNC) Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: **John Brenneman**

Chief assistants: Rich Keith, Brenda Keith, Caleb Park, Holly Hooper, Megan Heft, Pam Woodruff, Karen Kolbasa, Bob Nixon, Seth Chapman, Ashley Cole-Wick, Daniel Sullivan, Liam Brenneman, Maci Bennett, and Pamela Rups.

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Kalamazoo, MI #####

Email address: warblerrke@gmail.com

This fall was the 48th fall season for the banding station. Banding was conducted at both PBS and KNC daily from 25 Aug to 31 Oct (weather-permitting). Both stations experienced reduced staff due to covid restrictions. In addition to the three staff banders there was assistance from one intern and 8 long term volunteers. The fall weather was unremarkable and if anything birds north of the station were late moving. This has happened before. It is thought that they may be in

better condition and can fly over our station when in better condition. Of all the species captured, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (188) stands out. During September birds are banded nearly every day with almost no recaptures. Prior to being able to band them we didn't realize how many pass this inland site each year. Work continues on Motus here in Michigan. With grants from USFWS and Michigan Army National Guard 14 more stations were placed in 2021. Our line of receiving stations now runs from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron with just one remaining to install in the Ann Arbor area. Three more were placed in the Upper Peninsula and a few other random locations in the state. There will be 22 Motus receiving stations when Ann Arbor is completed.

OH – Kelley's Island (KI) 413-0824

Kelley's Island, Erie County, OH

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

Chief assistants: Paula Bartlett, Alexi Panehal, Chris Ashley

Address: 1833 South Winfield Drive,

Tiffin, OH 44883

Email address: hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

It was an excellent season for Golden-crowned Kinglets: 349 banded (69 on 23 Oct).

OH – Navarre Banding Station 413-0830

Black Swamp Bird Observatory (NBS)

Lacarne, Ottawa County, OH

Coordinators/Banders: **Ryan Jacob**

Assistants: Anne Mauro

Address: 13551 W. State Route 2,

Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Email address: ryanjacob@bsbo.org

Fall 2021 marked the station's 31st fall season and a return to normal banding operations for Black Swamp Bird Observatory at its Navarre Banding Station on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie. With a complete shutdown in 2020 due to COVID-19, the station eased back into operations during spring 2021 with a limited banding season, primarily focused on establishing a Motus tower at the station and deploying nanotags on Prothonotary Warblers, but by fall, conditions allowed us to

feel that we could safely return to full banding operations. Missing the fall 2020 banding season unfortunately throws off the rhythm of consecutive banding years and having a gauge on migration. While we did perform daily point counts in 2020 (a practice that is part of our standard protocol) and these results did give some insight into migration, our last banding numbers are from fall 2019 – which was a particularly slow year. With that caveat in mind, fall 2021 was slightly above average for bird captures, and had the feeling of a normal to busier-than-average season. The station operated for 65 days from 17 Aug to 31 Oct, with a total of 5,938 birds of 90 species banded. Twenty-three mist-nets were operated for a total of 6,636 hours, representing a station effort of 89.5 birds/100nh. The station operated 11 days less than 2019, with approximately 884 fewer net hours, but with 2,138 more birds banded. Most species were about or slightly above average this season with only a few notable below average species. Of our usual top-ten contenders, Myrtle Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were the only two species (that we typically see major movements from) with noticeably below average numbers (40% and 36% below average, respectively). Other than those two species, other major-movers were quite abundant this fall, including Blackpoll Warbler (79% above avg.), Swainson's Thrush (68% above), and Golden-crowned Kinglet (62% above). Noteworthy record-setting high-captures included American Robin 198 (previous record 138), Bay-breasted Warbler 132 (129), and Red-eyed Vireo 114 (103). What is interesting to note with these three record-setting species is their average banding rate over the previous 30 years: American Robin avg. 64, Bay-breasted Warbler avg. 35, and Red-eyed Vireo avg. 64. American Robin and Bay-breasted Warbler, in particular, have been experiencing a steady increase at the station in recent years. The fall 2021 season was more than just a return to "normal." It was a reminder of the importance of consistency when attempting to compare to the past. While long-term monitoring and a seven-days per week effort may not be applicable everywhere, consistency from year-to-year and region-wide collaborations

such as through the Midwest Migration Network prove their merit when unexpected circumstances present gaps in your dataset.

We would like to thank our dedicated corps of volunteers, interns, and techs whose service makes this project possible and successful. We would also like to thank the staff at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for their 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 numerous researchers.

**OH – Palatial Woodland Estate 391-0821
(PWE)**

Bolin's Mills, Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: **Robert Scott Placier**

Assistant: none

Address: 32840 Jourden Road,
Albany, OH 45710

Email address: coturnicops@yahoo.com

This was the seventh season of fall migration banding at the PWE Station. The station is located in the hilly and heavily forested (over 70%) southeastern portion of Ohio. Vinton County has the distinction of being the least populated county in the state, with only one traffic light. The station is on my own property of about 4.4 ha (almost entirely forested). Nets are located along a 400-m strip of maintained shrubland with non-native species aggressively removed to allow the growth of desirable native species. The nets were placed in a mowed strip between the shrubland and adjacent mature deciduous forest. This management is especially conducive to attracting migrant thrushes as well as other frugivorous species. For personal health reasons the number nets in operation was reduced from 15 to 13 which, along with above normal bad weather days, significantly reduced the total number of net hours and birds captured. Despite the unfavorable conditions, it was the best season ever for Tennessee Warblers (58) and Winter Wrens matched its previous high of eight. Thrush numbers were much lower than in 2020; however, the season produced record numbers for several species and the 2021 averages were fairly

close to those of the past six seasons. The most notable missing species was Indigo Bunting with only one banded.

OH — SW Ohio, Bowyer Farm 392-0841

Mason, Warren County, OH

(BF)

Coordinator/Bander: *Sylvia Hadley*

Assistants: Elvina Ewing-Gibbons

Address: 78 McClure Road,

Lebanon, OH 45036

Email: sylviahadley2@gmail.com

This year was the second year of systematic migration banding at Bowyer Farm. The banding station is located on a 243+ ha property given to the Cincinnati Zoo with the stipulation that the land not be developed. The property, formerly agricultural, now includes 14.6 ha of restored wetlands and 7.3 ha of prairie. The site also hosts a native plant program which propagates thousands of native plants each year for the zoo's landscape, the restoration project and sale to the public. Birch, willow and hackberry are also grown there as "browse" food for the zoo animals. The habitat for the banding station consists of wet sedge meadow and hedge row bordered by agricultural fields. 384 birds of 40 species were banded this season.

OH – SW Ohio, Conservation 392-0835

Reserve Program Land (CRPL)

Clarksville, Clinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: *Robert G. Thobaben, Jr.*

Assistants: Steven Lee, Elvina Gibbons, Kyle Briggs, Jeff Hays

Address: 1835 S.R. 380,

Wilmington, OH 45177

Email address: tbthobaben@gmail.com

The banding station consists of ten acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP – tall grass prairie) land surrounded by a single fence row and non-gmo soy beans. Of the 26 returns of previously banded birds, the oldest were a cardinal (4 yr 5 mo), and a Song Sparrow (3 yr 4 mo). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds reached their peak migration during the second week of September and there were no captures of either American Tree or Fox sparrows this fall.

IL – Sand Bluff

422-0891

Bird Observatory (SBBO)

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: *Mike Eickman*

Chief Assistants: Deb Eickman, John Longhenry, Dave Seal, Jane Jegerski, Dave Huffmn, Stacey Bivens, Stacy Taritas, Thelma Bottum, Anna Gray, Donna Hilton, Debbie Johnson, Kristine & Gracie McMahon, Kathy Hoel, Rita & Becky Baird, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Sharon McCoy, Esther Shippers, Nora Loncar and Steve Haas.

Address: 11114 Harrison Road,

Rockton, IL 61072

Email address: redtail15@aol.com

In the spring of 2021, before nets were put up, Natural Resource personnel from the Forest Preserves mowed all invasive vegetation from the station's net runs along the roadside. This area had always been highly productive. As a result, spring banding produced very few captures in this area.

Over the summer the vegetation improved and fall banding numbers showed an increase in activity. 2021 was a year of the Good, Bad and Ugly. The Bad, only 1039 birds were banded in the spring; the Good, 2710 new birds were captured this fall; and the Ugly, poor raptor banding at the station.

The fall season began on 8 Aug (with ten nets in operation); on 13 Aug all 40 nets were in use. 96 birds were captured on the first day of operation and over the next three months (56 days of operation), the average banding was about 48 birds per day.

The last banding day was 7 Nov (when one of the volunteers came down with Covid from an outside source). Except for the high number of Gray Catbirds (330) there were few station surprises. However, most fall numbers were better than 2020 (which pleased the volunteers). Diurnal raptor banding was almost nil – many days were spent looking at empty skies. Only eight Red-tailed Hawks were netted and more Bald Eagles were observed than hawks of any species. The nocturnal banding for Northern Saw-whet Owls did well as 41 new birds and three foreign encounters were captured.

IL — Phillips Tract Banding Station 407-0888

(PTBS) Urbana, Champaign County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: *Tara Beveroth*

Chief assistants: Todd Jones, Janice Kelly, Mike Avara, AsyaRahlin, Ian Souza-Cole, Alex DiGiovanni, Claire Johnson, Evalynn Trumbo

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Champaign, IL 61820

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The PTBS banding site is a 52.6 ha (130 acres) former farm that continues to undergo invasive plant removal, and cyclic prairie burns. The area contains reconstructed prairie, old field, and agricultural fields, rotating 1 to 5-year-old successional old field plots, and old field/successional woods (released about 1970). Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) dominates the understory of most successional woods areas, however it has been actively removed from the banding area over this past year, especially last winter. This removal opened up more of the understory, especially around the perimeter of the banding area. In addition, more than 100 House Wren boxes were placed in the banding area; as a result, that led to more House Wren captures. Another nearby project in the forest plots is the killing of some trees in an attempt to draw in more woodpeckers. These changes, and how the birds respond, will be monitored.

The fall season started off really productive with more birds than expected. However, the number captured dwindled fast as November approached and a couple of banding weeks were lost due to bad weather. A fall-out day occurred on 22 Sep. Even though rain delayed the start that day, the day's capture rate was nearly 5 birds/net hour. Some of the seasonal highlights were three species of warblers (Black-throated Blue, Golden-winged and Mourning) and two Sharp-shinned Hawks.

IL – Lincoln Land 394-0893

Community College

Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

Coordinators/Banders:

Vernon Kleen and Anthony Rothering*

Chief Assistants: Chad Cremer, Joe Gardner,

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Wayne Huckabee, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Carla Potts, Noah Price, Nancy Redman, Samantha Reif, Susan Shaw, Holly Thompson and Frances Whalen.

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This was the tenth fall season for the station. The station was in operation for 73 days (from 19 Aug through 13 Nov); there was only one day when 100 or more birds were banded (137 on 13 Oct). The total of 1863 birds was the only the fourth fall season that fewer than 2000 were banded; and the 77 species banded was the second lowest.

New season highs were set for eight species including Least Flycatcher (17), Nashville Warbler (58), Chestnut-sided Warbler (19), Magnolia Warbler (69) and Chipping Sparrow (188). In contrast to the most common species, there were 12 species represented by a single bird.

There were no new stations species this fall. Of the 54 birds captured as returns, the oldest were a Blue Jay from 2015 and a Tufted Titmouse from 2016; interestingly, nine of the returning species were migrants and four of those returns (juncos) had been banded at the station as returning winter residents banded from one to three years previously.

As an “extra-curricular” activity, a third-year attempt (on five nights) was successfully made to catch saw-whet owls; the final tally: one (returning) Eastern Screech-owls (caught twice) and three Northern Saw-whet Owls (one of which had been banded near Duluth, MN, two years earlier).

The station is particularly thankful for the support of both the administration and staff of Lincoln Land Community College, for all the assistance from the above-listed (and unlisted) volunteers who perform a variety of station-related tasks, and for the financial support (both grants and donations) needed to keep the station in operation.

IL – Jubilee Farm (JFBS) 394-0894

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL
Coordinator/Bander: *Anthony Rothering*
Chief assistants: Jim Mordacq, Samantha Reif,
Grace Norris, Nancy Redman
Address: 810 Redwood Drive,
Auburn, IL 62615
Email address: arothering94@gmail.com

This is the first report for this station. The Jubilee Farm Banding Station is located on a 64.7-ha parcel owned by the Dominican Sisters. The sisters have invested considerable effort to return the tillable portion of this property to native vegetation. The predominant habitat types in the banding area include two riparian oak/hickory corridors surrounded by restored prairie. There has also been extensive removal of the non-native, invasive understory in the woodland corridors. Of the eight nets in operation, five were within the riparian corridors and the other three placed along the prairie/woodland corridor edge.

The station followed the Midwest Migration Network protocol and operated one day each week throughout the fall season. No banding days were lost to adverse weather conditions; however, on two days the wind velocity progressively increased throughout the morning hours. This fall, there were 31 recaptures (18 returns and 13 repeats). The station’s first Sharp-shinned Hawk was also banded (12 Oct). Since the sisters welcome all visitors to the farm, many, of all ages, stopped by practically every day the station was in operation. Many thanks to the station’s crew of banding assistants/extractors and to the Dominican Sisters for their dedication to sustainable restoration and conservation!

MO – Litzsinger Road 383-0902

Ecology Center (LREC)
St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Coordinator/Bander: *Colleen Crank*
Assistants: Samantha Matchefts and Linda Tossing
Address: 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road,
Valley Park, MO 63088
Email address: crankcolleen@gmail.com

In addition to the weekly banding sessions from August – October, a pilot study was initiated last year at the Center where mist netting was run on a daily basis during the estimated height of migration, 20 Sep to 3 Oct (based on results from past banding years at the Center and eBird sightings). In 2021, the dates were modified to 15 Sep – 30 Sep. In 2020, 32 species were captured during the daily sessions; this, season (2021) 39 species were captured during the concentrated daily sessions. Notable captures for the 2021 season were a Black-throated Green Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, and Veery, The Philadelphia Vireo and Veery were first-time species for the station and the Black-throated Green Warbler, while not new to the LREC, was a first time banding. An adult female American Goldfinch banded as a HY in 2017 was recaptured and returns were recorded for a Carolina Chickadee and Downy Woodpecker that had been banded as adults in 2020.

Funding for this mist netting project was provided by the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center Foundation and was done in partnership with World Bird Sanctuary, a non-profit organization located in Valley Park, MO.

TN – Warner Park 363-0865

Nature Center (WPNC)
Nashville, Davidson County, TN
Coordinators/Banders: *Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens*
Assistants: Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, Susan Bradfield, Patty Ghertner, Leah LaRocco, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Vera Roberts, Tahira Mohyuddin, Rachael Patton, Thomas Copeland, and Alan Plummer
Address: 7311 Hwy 100,
Nashville, TN 37221
Email address: laura.cook@nashville.gov and sandy.bivens@nashville.gov

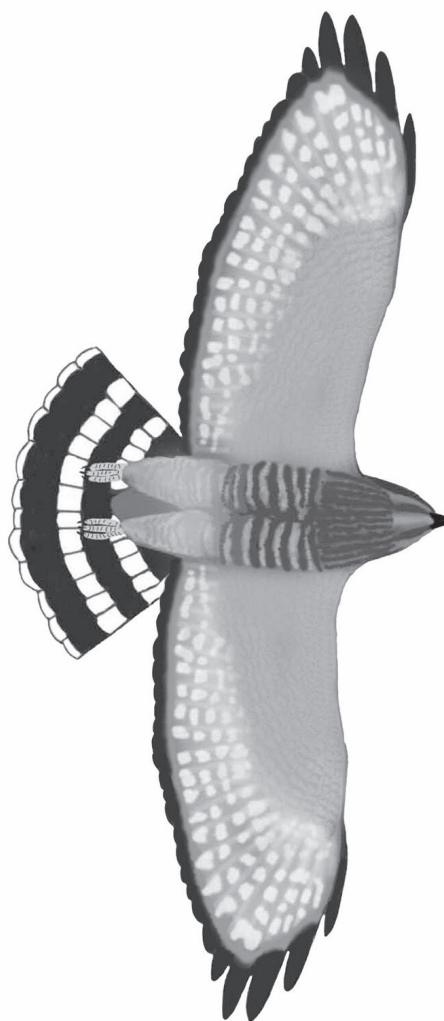
The fall of 2021 marked the 40th year of operation for the Warner Park Banding Station. Due to Covid restrictions the annual fall migration public banding day was not held; but, throughout the season there were 471 park visitors at the station. The fall weather in Nashville was ideal with average precipitation and no extreme or extended

high temperatures. Vaughn Creek, located next to the net lanes, had good water levels, the habitat around the station had abundant fruit and insects, and leaves remained on the trees through November. 2021 was a very slow season with a low capture rate including one day (23 Sep -- prime migration time for Nashville) with only one bird captured. Despite the overall low capture rate, 12 thrushes of four species were radio-tagged with LifeTags from Cellular Tracking Technologies as part of a Motus migration study. The hummingbird project (initiated in 2002) operated one day per week at WPNC (7 sessions) with 93 new birds banded (led by Heather Gallagher with assistance from staff and 10 dedicated volunteers); 82 more were banded at three other Nashville-area nature centers (Bells Bend Park, Shelby Bottoms Park and Beaman Park). The Northern Saw-whet Owl project (initiated in 2007) has had limited success with single birds banded in 2007, 2020 and 2021. In the three other years that attempts were made (2008, 2009 and 2012) no birds were captured.

TN – Whigg Medow (WM) 351-0840
Robinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN
Coordinators/Banders: **Scott Rush***, **Jay Dedeker**
Chief assistants: Charlie Muise, and Eric Soehren.
*Address: Dept Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, MS State, MS 39762
Email address: scott.rush@msstate.edu

Through continued support from the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, and despite Covid limitations, a full season of migration monitoring was completed at the station. The number of birds banded was up from last year and there was a greater percentage of hatch-year birds within some species (e.g., Tennessee Warbler, Swainson's Thrush). Weather conditions were generally favorable but one banding day was cancelled and limited net openings occurred several other days. As a result of some ecological community management to enhance herbaceous cover near net lanes conducted in 2018 there was a higher capture rate among species in nets associated with those managed areas. Several night's effort provided

capture of two Northern Saw-whet Owls and a third captured during regular banding hours. The continued capture of these owls at this site confirms the annual recruitment to the resident population. A HY male Northern Harrier, caught in a net and banded on 17 Sep, an AHY Broad-winged Hawk, captured on 4 Sep, and a HY male Orange-crowned Warbler captured on 2 Oct, were the first of these



Broad wing Hawk CanStock Studios

Table 1

	Alma College Bird Observatory	Lake St Clair Metropark	Pitsfield	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Kelley's Island	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	SW Ohio, Bowyer Farm	SW Ohio, CRP Land	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Phillips Tract Banding Station	Lincoln Land Station	Jubilee Farm Banding Station	Litzinger Road Ecology Center	Warner Park Nature Center	Whigg Meadow
	MI	MI	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN
First Day	31/Aug	1/Aug	25/Aug	25/Aug	19/Sep	17/Aug	23/Aug	2/Sep	2/Sep	5/Aug	24/Aug	19/Aug	24/Aug	2/Aug	6/Sep	8/Sep
Last Day	13/Nov	6/Nov	31/Oct	31/Oct	17/Nov	31/Oct	31/Oct	10/Nov	10/Nov	7/Nov	9/Nov	13/Nov	16/Nov	25/Oct	16/Nov	2/Oct
Days Operated	23	27	62	54	31	65	42	17	24	56	11	73	13	27	13	28
Nets Used	2 to 10	14.5 to 16.5	30	12	12 to 16	23	9 to 13	5	4 to 10	4 to 40	8 to 10	12 to 26.5	8	5 to 6	6 to 11	12 to 14
Total Net-Hours	495	2637	10,037	3031	2340	6636	2368	277	611	20,649	478	6017	544	472	424	2857
Traps Used	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0
% of Total Caught in Traps	0	0.00%	6.00%	0.05%	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0.10%	0	0	0	0	3.20%	0
Largest Daily Catch	47	167	159	179	161	338	44	62	66	142	127	137	57	67	39	137
Largest Daily Catch Date	16-Nov	5-Aug	16-Oct	15-Oct	23-Oct	26-Sep	25-Sep	4-Oct	16-Sep	14-Oct	22-Sep	15-Oct	9-Nov	13-Sep	16-Nov	17-Sep
Most Species on Any Date	13	32	29	24	30	30	16	15	21	33	19	26	24	25	13	22
Date of Most Species Banded	16-Nov	26-Sep	29-Sep	31-Aug	23-Sep	24-Sep	9-Sep	4-Oct	16-Sep	5-Sep	22-Sep	15-Sep	28-Sep	15-Sep	16-Nov	Sep-30
Most Common Species on Best Day	ATSP	YEWA	MYWA	AMGO	GCKI	BLPW	WOZH	TEWA	AMGO	RCKI	MAWA	AMGO/MMWA	GRCA	AMGO	FISP	TEWA
Number of Most Common Banded	37	94	73	44	69	181	9	24	29	29	52	23	15	30	11	90
Percent of Most Common on Best Day	79%	56%	46%	25%	43%	51%	20%	39%	44%	20%	41%	17%	26%	45%	28%	66%
# of birds banded in 2020	611	1297	3310	1471	1774	N/A	849	467	779	2512	573	1947	N/A	321	239	1036
# of birds banded in 2021	375	1913	2373	1862	1486	5938	516	384	651	2710	833	1863	413	550	96	1582
# of species banded in 2020	57	73	86	85	70	N/A	70	54	56	90	50	88	N/A	38	42	52
# of species banded in 2021	56	81	77	79	65	90	53	40	50	91	63	77	62	42	30	56
Birds/100h in 2020	51	77.2	34	52	76.3	N/A	25	150	124	23	131.9	34	N/A	x	77.9	45
Birds/100h in 2021	73	87.8	24	61	63.5	89	22	139	107	13	174	31	6	117	23	55
Top 10 species as % of total	77%	54%	64%	60%	80%	65%	68%	78%	73%	52%	47%	59%	59%	83%	71%	81%

Table 2

Alma College Bird Observatory	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Pitsfield	Kalamazoo Nature Center	Kelley's Island	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	SW Ohio, Boyer Farm	SW Ohio, CRP Land	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Phillips Tract Banding Station	Lincoln Land Station	Jubilee Farm Banding Station	Litzinger Road Ecology Center	Warner Park Nature Center	Whigg Meadow
MI	MI	MI	MI	OH	OH	OH	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN
ATSP - 85	YEWA - 165	MYWA - 449	AMGO - 227	GCKI - 364	BLPW - 982	WOTH - 81	TEWA - 64	AMGO - 112	GRCA - 330	MAWA - 77	AMGO - 306	GRCA - 72	AMGO - 286	FISP - 15	TEWA - 733
SWSP - 41	SWTH - 155	RTHU - 188	WTSP - 145	MYWA - 162	SWTH - 801	SWTH - 80	MYWA - 52	SOSP - 69	SWTH - 235	SWTH - 69	CHSP - 188	AMGO - 34	NAWA - 39	AMGO - 13	SWTH - 166
COYE - 37	AMGO - 147	SWTH - 178	RCKI - 137	BLPW - 158	GRCA - 432	TEWA - 58	FISP - 47	INBU - 68	SCJU - 229	OVEN - 60	SCJU - 121	NOCA - 27	SOSP - 29	MAWA - 8	BTBW - 84
SOSP - 36	SWSP - 94	WTSP - 115	GRCA - 130	RCKI - 134	GCKI - 404	HOWA - 31	SOSP - 37	FISP - 44	CHSP - 124	AMRO - 32	MYWA - 93	WTSP - 25	INBU - 27	SWTH - 7	BHVI - 53
WTSP - 23	GCKI - 89	RCKI - 110	SWTH - 123	WTSP - 112	WTSP - 341	OVEN - 27	WTSP - 25	WTSP - 41	FISP - 94	WTSP - 30	TEWA - 70	HOWR - 16	COYE - 26	SOSP - 6	OVEN - 47
SCJU - 17	RCKI - 82	NAWA - 109	MYWA - 96	SCJU - 85	TEWA - 198	MAWA - 24	NOCA - 21	GRCA - 41	RCKI - 89	GRCA - 29	WTSP - 70	EWPE - 14	CACH - 15	AMRO - 6	BBWA - 46
AMGO - 14	SOSP - 81	GCKI - 102	TEWA - 89	HETH - 65	AMRO - 197	BBWA - 17	GRCA - 19	NOCA - 32	OVEN - 88	RCKI - 29	MAWA - 69	CEDW - 14	EWPE - 12	WTSP - 5	MAWA - 45
FISP - 14	MAWA - 78	MAWA - 95	CEDW - 60	BRGR - 40	MYWA - 180	EATO - 16	CACH - 13	COYE - 28	AMRE - 87	VEER - 22	HOSP - 67	COYE - 14	GRCA - 9	MYWA - 3	HOWA - 43
LISP - 13	RTHU - 71	GRCA - 94	NAWA - 59	SWTH - 37	GCTH - 173	GCTH - 13	SWSP - 11	EATO - 20	MAWA - 87	NAWA - 21	NAWA - 58	SOSP - 14	HOWR - 8	HETH - 3	SCJU - 40
GRCA - 10	AMRE - 67	OVEN - 78	COYE - 57	BCCH - 25	HETH - 148	HETH - 9	HOWR - 9	TEWA - 18	HOWR - 79	MYWA - 20	HOFI - 50	AMRE - 12	ACFL - 7	GCTH - 3	WPWA - 32
Total = 290	Total = 1029	Total = 1518	Total = 1123	Total = 1182	Total = 3856	Total = 356	Total = 298	Total = 473	Total = 1442	Total = 389	Total = 1092	Total = 242	Total = 458	Total = 68	Total = 1289

Species Snapshot: Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)

This is the 13th installment in our regular feature presenting a brief synopsis of the banding and encounter records submitted to the Bird Banding Lab 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. The following summary includes only those birds banded and encountered from 1960 through Apr 2021 in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

Thousands of Cooper's Hawks have been banded as part of numerous captive breeding, rehabilitation, and translocation programs. For simplicity and brevity, any records of these birds (n = 8,539) have been excluded from the following discussion, which includes only those birds banded with a bird status code of 3 (Normal, wild bird, released in same 10-minute block as captured and held 24 hours or less).

Banded birds

Numbers and Age and Sex Categories.— Since 1960, 160,418 Cooper's Hawks (with a bird status of 3) have been banded in the United States, Canada, and Mexico (Table 1). Sex was identified (either at banding or upon encounter) for 94% (n = 150,881); of these, 49% were males (n = 73,973) and 51% were females (n = 76,908). Seventy-three percent of the males were aged as HY or L (n = 54,059), 27% were aged as AHY, SY, ASY, TY, or ATY (n = 19,863), and <1% were aged as