

1982

## Central Flyway Review: Spring 1982

North American Bird Bander

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

---

### Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1982) "Central Flyway Review: Spring 1982," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 7 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol7/iss4/14>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@usf.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

officers. New Board Members replacing Dorothy Flentge, IL and Gene Burns, IA are Norm Sloan, MI and Henry West, IN.

In addition to the extensive collection of bird study skins, a variety of materials was on display, including publications, bird art, banding equipment, bird feeders, materials offered in a silent auction, and several tables full of door prizes contributed by almost 40 individuals, companies, or other organizations. It seemed that almost all registrants left with a valued door prize. Display highlights included several items of IBBA memorabilia and a live Red-cockaded Woodpecker that accompanied IBBA Editor Jerry Jackson on his long trek to Nebraska from Mississippi.

The 60th Anniversary Banquet featured Nebraska beef, colorful table decorations, imaginative table favors, and concluded with Jon Farrar presenting a beautiful slide show on the Sandhills of Nebraska.

Next year's annual meeting will be hosted by Terry Ingram and the Eagle Valley folks in southwestern Wisconsin.



Figure 3. Left to right: Norman Sloan and Balazs Elody, Houghton, MI; Mark Brogie, Wayne, NE; Ed Schulenberg, Admire, KS

## Central Flyway Review: Spring 1982

Greg W. Lasley, Coordinator  
7402 Shadywood, Austin, TX 78745

Nine banding stations from within the IBBA area contributed data to the first "Central Flyway Review." The reporting stations represent five states, and include stations from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border. There are many more banders and banding stations operating within the IBBA area than the nine reporting stations would indicate, and I certainly hope that other stations will add their support to this review in the future.

Even though this is the first review for this vast area, several very interesting trends are already developing. Especially intriguing is the build up of migrants at some of the inland banding stations such as Olive Park in Chicago. A record of 563 birds per 100 net-hours is almost unbelievable and illustrates the importance of proper habitat to migrating birds even within urban areas. Other interesting observations have been obtained from the four Texas stations that reported. Two of

Table 1. Central Flyway Summary

|                         | Fort Bolivar<br>TX | Galveston<br>TX | Pipe Creek<br>TX | Driftwood<br>TX | Lake Hubert<br>MN | Ottawa Co.<br>OH |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Days of operation       | 31                 | 52              | 31               | 51              | 18                | 23               |
| Number of nets used     | 1-15               | 3-7             | 8                | 5-25            | 8                 | 2-9              |
| Total net-hours         | 2690               | 2316            | 650              | 2852            | 576               | 742              |
| Largest daily catch     | 973                | 127             | 10               | 71              | 30                | 403              |
| Birds banded, 1981      | 5755               | 588             | 104              | 693             | 126               | 2150             |
| Different species, 1981 | 83                 | 65              | 34               | 79              | 32                | 92               |
| Birds/100 n.h., 1981    | 213.9              | 25.4            | 16               | 24.3            | 21.9              | 289.6            |

the Texas stations are on the Gulf, and two are inland on the Edward's Plateau. Some very notable differences occurred regarding the species handled on the coast and those handled inland. Of the *Empidonax* group, the only species banded at Bolivar was Acadian and 150 individuals were handled. The Galveston station banded Acadian and Yellow-bellied, but neither of these coastal sites banded a Least or "Traill's." The two inland Texas stations showed a marked difference in that Acadian and Yellow-bellied were seldom encountered, while Least and "Traill's" were common, especially at Driftwood where Least was the fourth most common species banded with a total of 33 individuals during the season. The same phenomenon was noted in a few other species, especially the Nashville Warbler. Nashville's were banded at neither coastal site, while this species was the most common species handled at Driftwood (80 banded). It appears that these records further document trends of some species to choose inland migration paths, while others use a trans-gulf route.

Some reporting stations from northern areas indicated that they encounter spring migrants well into June; for that reason, I will extend the spring season from 1 March to 15 June for future spring reports.

The Central Flyway Review needs the support and cooperation of more IBBA members if it is to be a worthwhile project. This review is one good way to make the banding data of different areas more available to banders and also serves as an indicator of the migrational movements in the center of North America. The fall season extends from 1 August through 30 November. I hope that more stations that operated this fall, and who will be operating in the spring, will send reports to me. Please send the fall reports to me by 31 January each year, and spring reports by 31 July. Refer to NABB Apr - June 1982, page 69 for a list of the information I would like to have from you. Once I have received a report from a banding station, I will keep a file for that station and keep you informed of changes, deadlines, and other information.



**Table 1. Central Flyway Summary**

|                         | Olive Park<br>Chicago | Arlington Hts<br>IL | Baldwin City<br>KS |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Days of operation       | 34                    | 21                  | 81                 |
| Number of nets used     | 1-2                   |                     | 1-3                |
| Total net-hours         | 191                   | 897                 |                    |
| Largest daily catch     | 76                    |                     | 66                 |
| Birds banded, 1981      | 1076                  | 369                 | 899                |
| Different species, 1981 | 65                    | 53                  | 24                 |
| Birds/100 n.h., 1981    | 563                   | 41.1                |                    |

**Bolivar Field Station, Port Bolivar, Texas 292-0944**  
**Tony Gallucci, Greg Lasley, David Ferry**

Migration studies have been conducted at this coastal site for a two-year period. The banding area consists of approx. 2 acres of live oak, hackberry, and china berry trees with a thick under-story of honeysuckle, oleander, and a variety of fruiting vines. The site is approximately .8 km (½ mi) from the Gulf Coast and is 1 of about 20 small woodlots on the upper Texas coast that offer cover and food for trans-gulf migrating birds. The area surrounding the banding site is mostly pasture and marsh, so these woodlots are unique in this area.

The primary research at this time is documenting the body fat of migrating passerines upon their arrival into the woodlot, and through recapturing the previously banded birds in the following days, determining their length of stay, and build up of fat during their stay. Strong, cold fronts often hit this area in spring, forcing the birds crossing the Gulf to seek the first available cover when they reach a landfall. Many of these birds have depleted their fat stores while crossing the Gulf, and spend several days in a single woodlot to replenish their fat, and rest. By showing how important these isolated woodlots are, we hope to be able to help in establishing these areas as permanent refuges through purchases by conservation-minded groups and citizens and preventing developers from destroying them.

In addition to the usual migrants that are encountered here, a MacGillivray's Warbler was caught, far east of its typical range. A foreign-banded Indigo Bunting was also caught but as of this writing we do not know where it was originally banded.

**Galveston, Texas 291-0944**  
**W.B. Quay**

This is the first year of operation for this station, a private yard in a residential area at the east end of Galveston with a total area of 168 sq. meters. Water and feed (mixed grain) have been available here nearly continuously for over 4 years. Flowering trees and shrubs attract many insects and insectivorous birds during the spring season.



**Table 2. Most commonly banded species at each station**

| Port Bolivar<br>TX | Galveston<br>TX  | Pipe Creek<br>TX | Driftwood<br>TX   | Lake Hubert<br>MN | Ottawa Co.<br>OH  |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1180 Ind Bunting   | 44 Sw Thrush     | 11 Cardinal      | 80 Nashville Warb | 36 Balt Oriole    | 276 Yel-rump Warb |
| 775 Gray Catbird   | 41 Gray Catbird  | 10 Paint Bunting | 55 Cedar Waxwing  | 16 Yel-rump Warb  | 214 Magnolia Warb |
| 369 Wood Thrush    | 40 House Sparrow | 8 Bew Wren       | 36 Sw Thrush      | 13 Tree Sparrow   | 148 W-thr Sparrow |
| 307 Magnolia Warb  | 38 Ind Bunting   | 6 Field Sparrow  | 33 Least Flyc     | 9 Cedar Waxwing   | 83 Tenn Warb      |
| 255 Ovenbird       | 29 Magnolia Warb | 6 Linc Sparrow   | 32 Field Sparrow  | 6 W-b Nuthatch    | 81 Tree Sparrow   |
| 227 Hood Warbler   | 29 Tenn Warb     |                  | 31 Linc Sparrow   |                   | 80 Nashville Warb |
| 221 Kent Warbler   | 26 Summ Tanager  |                  | 29 Paint Bunting  |                   | 79 Yellow Warb    |
| 183 R-b Grosbeak   | 20 E W Pewee     |                  | 25 Cardinal       |                   | 74 Ovenbird       |
| 165 B-and-w Warb   | 20 B-and-w Warb  |                  | 22 Traill's Flyc  |                   | 73 Canada Warb    |
| 155 N Waterthrush  | 10 Inca Dove     |                  | 20 Balt Oriole    |                   | 73 Am Redstart    |

**Pipe Creek, Texas 294-0895**  
**David Ferry**

This station is located in the hill country of the Edward's Plateau in eastern Bandera County. Habitat consists primarily of live oak and second growth juniper. An intermittent creek bed bisects the 6-acre banding site.

My main project is documenting the populations and distributions of birds in this area. I am interested in the breeding success and territory requirements of the permanent and summer residents. The migration timing and populations are poorly known in this area, especially among the *Empidonax* flycatchers.

The two most unusual birds banded this spring were an AHY male Varied Bunting banded 11 April 1982 and a MacGillivray's Warbler on 9 May 1982. Both birds were photographed and constitute the first Bandera County records. The bunting is the first documented Edwards Plateau record.

**Driftwood Bird Banding Station, Texas 300-0980**  
**Don Connell, Greg & Becky Lasley**

The Driftwood Bird Banding Station is located on 78 acres of the eastern aspect of the Edwards Plateau of central Texas, between Austin and San Antonio. It is composed primarily of three types of land: (1) rocky limestone hills with cactus, live oak, juniper, and Texas persimmon, (2) fields with 15-20 species of grasses and intermittent trees which are primarily juniper, (3) riparian woodlands located along 1.2 km (¾ mi) of ephemeral creeks with deciduous elm, pecan, mulberry, hackberry, and sycamore with low thickets. Our nets are divided evenly among the 3 areas with 4 of our 5 aerial nets (ranging from 5 to 10 m [15 to 30 feet] in height) in the riparian woodlands. We also operate several Potter traps and multi-catch traps in winter and early spring. This station has been in operation since the fall of 1981.

Of special interest were the large numbers of *Empidonax* flycatchers of four species (Least, "Traill's," Acadian, Yellow-bellied) that were caught here this spring. The Least Flycatcher is unusual on the Texas coast, but we find it to be a common migrant in central Texas. "Traill's" flycatchers were previously undocumented for this area.

**Lake Hubert, Minnesota 462-0941**  
**Charles E. Corchran**

My banding station at Lake Hubert has been in operation since 1969. Most banding is done from early May through mid-September. During the past 13 years 5,613 birds have been banded, representing 90 species, primarily passerines.

Mist nets are set from the beach area of the lake back into forest openings and in a brush-covered marsh 2/5 km (¼ mi) from the lake. The total banding area consists of 7 acres.

This is a heavily wooded section of Minnesota, predominantly large conifers (white and red pine), with a mixture of oak, birch, and maple. Forest floor is thickly covered with small trees, shrubs, and close ground cover. The entire area has excellent wild fruit and berry production and some weed seed production, providing a good food supply for wildlife.

Lake Hubert is 240 km (150 mi) north north-west of Minneapolis, 19 km (12 mi) west of the Mississippi River and about 145 km (140 mi) south of the Canadian border. Lakes, marshes, and other wet-lands are numerous from this area northward to Canada.

Current banding objectives include a study of the nesting population decrease that occurred during a drought that began in 1975 and continued through the spring of 1981. Good recovery began in 1982, but it may take several years to prove that this area is back to normal for all nesting species.

Much of May 1982 was cold and wet, conditions that kept warblers 80 to 160 km (50 to 100 mi) south of this area. When the weather cleared, most of the migrants headed for Canada and over-flew my station.



**Table 2. Most commonly banded species at each station**

| Olive Park<br>Chicago | Arlington Hts<br>IL | Baldwin City<br>KS |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 247 Swamp Sparrow     | 48 Tenn Warb        | 378 Pine Siskin    |
| 116 C Yellowthr       | 38 Am Goldfinch     | 261 Am Goldfinch   |
| 76 Hermit Thrush      | 23 Nashville Warb   | 137 Purple Finch   |
| 52 W-thr Sparrow      | 20 Am Redstart      | 60 Blue Jay        |
| 51 Linc Sparrow       | 18 Yel-rump Warb    | 13 Com Grackle     |
| 49 W-c Sparrow        | 17 W-thr Sparrow    |                    |
| 42 Mourn Warb         | 17 Magnolia Warb    |                    |
| 40 Wilson's Warb      | 16 Sw Thrush        |                    |
| 33 Brown Thrush       | 15 Ovenbird         |                    |
| 27 Gray Catbird       | 14 Am Robin         |                    |

**Ottawa County, Ohio 413-0831**  
**Mark Shieldcastle**

Since 1978 I have been working on a migrational movement study on the south shore of Lake Erie at 2 study areas about 8 km (5 mi) apart. The first is within the Navarre Unit of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. This area consists of about 30 acres of remnant beach ridge dominated by cottonwood and hackberry with an understory of grape, dogwood, and buttonbush. The second study site is a 7-acre remnant beach area owned and maintained by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This area is part of the 2,600-acre Magee Marsh which houses the division's Crane Creek Wetlands Research Station. The "Bird Trail," as the 7-acre area is known, may contain the largest number of birds and birders in the Midwest during the spring with weekends in May seeing 700 to 1,000 visitors a day.

The primary research study at this time concerns the timing and movement of passerines migrating through northern Ohio. During spring 1982 the migration was normal overall. Increases in Chestnut-sided Warbler, Canada Warbler, Ovenbird, and House Wren were noted. Only the Cape May Warbler was down. Thirteen birds banded in previous springs were recaptured in the spring of 1982.

**Olive Park, Chicago, Illinois 415-0873**  
**Sebastian Patti**

This (1982) was the first year of banding operations in Olive Park — a public park on Chicago's lakefront that is well known as a resting and feeding ground for migrating passerines.

The banding area is small (several hundred meters in width and length) and has a canopy of locust trees and a ground cover of planted shrubs and bushes with an average height of about 1 m (3 ft).

One or two nets were used during the spring season. The park is on fill land on the shore of Lake Michigan, a natural migratory path. It is located in an urban environment and provides the only habitat for migrants within a 5-8 km (3-5 mi) radius. Because of these factors, very large concentrations of migratory birds can be encountered. The 563 birds per 100 net-hours emphasizes the point.

**Arlington Heights, Illinois 420-0875**  
**Terry Carter**

My banding station is about 41 km (27 mi) northwest of Chicago, on a 3-acre lot at the bottom of my garden. My 8 nets cover only about ½ acre of this area. The woods there are overgrown and neglected and are the remains of an orchard and an evergreen nursery. There is also a 20-acre open field adjacent to the woods. The entire area is surrounded by a mixture of old and new housing, making it the only island of natural trees for several miles. Most of the trees are willow and elm.

Banding is done from dawn to dusk on most weekends, and in late afternoon on many weekdays. There were no returns this year, but 2 new species for this station were banded: Hairy Woodpecker and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**Baldwin City, Kansas 384-0951**  
**Katherine B. Kelley**

My banding station is in our back yard at 911 Dearborn, near the center of town but only a block from a small wooded stream. There are many large trees and small bushes in the yard. I primarily use ground and feeder traps in the yard, but usually 1 or 2 nets are also in use.

Projects include color-marking of nesting adult and young Purple Martins and color-marking Pine Siskins to follow winter feeding patterns.

Recoveries this spring included a Pine Siskin (#1580-71643) banded 21 June 1981 in Aberdeen, South Dakota, caught in Baldwin City 15 April 1982; Pine Siskin 1590-19794 banded in Baldwin City, recaptured in Lawrence, Kansas 3 Feb. 1982; and Pine Siskin 1620-91107 banded in Baldwin City 20 March 1982 and recaptured in Glenham, South Dakota on 15 May 1982.

