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Central Flyway Review: Fall 1982

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The Central Flyway Review has now completed its first full year of banding summaries for the IBBA area. There are reports from 8 banding stations in this review, most of which contributed to the spring report as well. I welcome 2 new stations: Austin Springs, Tennessee, and Walton, Kentucky. These 2 stations represent 2 new reporting states as well. Some stations operate only in the fall or only in the spring; others operate during both seasons. I urge all banders in the Central Flyway who are members of IBBA to participate in this review during either or both of the seasonal reports each year.

By its very definition, the IBBA area is just that: inland. We lack the mountain ranges that tend to concentrate migrating passerines. Except for the Gulf of Mexico that borders only our most southern reporting states, we lack an ocean front that so often sets the boundary for a migrational path. We are sandwiched between the mountains and the oceans, and it is difficult to find locations where birds are concentrated during migration for many banders in the interior states. However, the Central Flyway is an important migrational area for many of the breeding birds of North America and should be monitored closely.

This is the first fall report, and our number of reporting stations and reported birds banded will be relatively low. I hope that more IBBA members will participate in the Central Flyway Review during the seasons to come.

Central Flyway contributors banded 3,273 new birds and used 10,691 net-hours during the fall of 1982. These totals reflect an

overall average of 30.6 birds per 100 net-hours. These numbers do not include the Baldwin City, Kansas station, since that station primarily uses traps rather than nets.

It is difficult to summarize the most commonly banded species for the entire reporting area. The vast differences in geography, habitat, and weather make such a summary unmeaningful at this time. Some of the most common species at the northern stations do not occur in southern areas, (e.g., Black-capped Chickadee) and vice versa (e.g., Inca Dove). Obviously, reports by sub-region would solve some of the problems created by the diversity of the Central Flyway. Sub-regional reporting areas for this review are desirable, yet we do not have enough reporting stations now to provide adequate sub-regional information. I welcome suggestions from readers concerning ways to improve the review and develop regional reports. Until it is possible to break the Central Flyway into sub-regions, I will continue to report the banding totals for the IBBA area as a whole.

Despite the differences in the IBBA area, however, several species appeared in the 10 most commonly banded species list for 50% or more of the reporting stations. These species include Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (5 reports), American Goldfinch (4 reports), and American Robin (4 reports). Several other species were among the most commonly banded at 3 of the 8 reporting stations. These species include Field Sparrow, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Red-eyed Vireo. The only *Tyrannidae* to be reported in a station's top 10 were Least Flycatchers at Driftwood, Texas.

Austin Springs Banding Station, Tennessee 362-0822 **Rick Knight**

The Austin Springs banding station is located on bottomland along the Watauga River, 3 miles north of Johnson City, Tennessee. The habitat consists primarily of thickets and fallow fields, with marsh interspersed in both. Ponds, puddles, and open water make this area attractive to birds and birders.

Banding was carried out on 28 days between 8 September and 2 November, representing the third consecutive fall banding season. There were 414 birds of 36 species banded. Although these totals represent a 40% decline in individuals, there was an overall increase of 225% in species from 1981. Reasons for the drop in individual numbers include a 16% decrease in net-hours and the early summer mowing of the nearby fields that eliminated tall weed patches that had produced many sparrows last year. Placement of all nets in the thickets probably contributed to the increased diversity. Peak capture dates were 21 September with 31 birds, 4 October with 27 birds, and 14 October with 28 birds.

As in the past fall banding seasons, Song Sparrows and American Goldfinches were the most abundant species. Song Sparrows made up 43% of the total catch in 1982, 45% in 1981, and 27% in 1980. American Goldfinches made up 20% in 1982, 21% in 1981, and 48% in 1980. Both of these species nest in the area and also winter in large numbers here. Highest ever were the numbers of warblers: 38 individuals of 10 species. Orange-crowned Warbler was unusual for this station.

There were 9 returns that had been banded at Austin Springs. Most interesting was an American Goldfinch banded 26 September 1980 (HY) that was recaptured 2 October 1981, and again on 2 November 1982. Other returns included a Carolina Wren, a Field Sparrow, a Swamp Sparrow, and 4 Song Sparrows that were banded in 1981. Except for the Swamp Sparrow, all could be permanent residents.

Several members of the Lee R. Herndon Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society visited the station.

My thanks to Vernon Humphreys for permission to band on his property.

Table 1. Central Flyway Summary, Fall 1982

	Austin Springs TN	Baldwin City KS	Arlington Hts IL	Galveston TX	Driftwood TX	Magee Marsh OH	Walton KY	Lake Hubert MN
Days of operation	28	110	48	88	42	16	14	34
Number of nets used	1-3	1-2	3-7	6-9	8-30	6-8	4	8
Total net-hours	254	—	1512	3959	2913	555	138	1360
Largest daily catch	31	6	—	51	57	174	17	24
Birds banded	414	72	452	492	510	1099	71	235
Different species	36	20	50	68	71	58	21	39
Birds/100 n.h.	163	—	30.7	12.4	17.5	197.8	51.4	17.2

Baldwin City, Kansas 384-0951
Katharine B. Kelley

My banding station was operated all day most of the time. I use a variety of traps and 1 or 2 nets; I do not keep track of birds per net-hour. I banded the same number of birds as I did last year, but banding has decreased since the fall of 1978 when I banded 149 birds. It was another unexciting fall migration for the most part. Weather was mostly mild; there were no early fronts of snow or ice to bring the birds into town and there was plenty of food in the wild.

Pine Siskins were absent this fall, but I usually band many of them in winter and early spring. I was recently notified of the recoveries of 3 of my banded Pine Siskins. One was banded here 24 January 1982 and recovered 19 May 1982 in Fairbury, Nebraska; another banded 31 December 1981 and recaptured near Brookings, South Dakota 5 May 1982; and the third banded 19 April 1982 and recovered in Rapid City, South Dakota, 9 May 1982. That makes a total of 6 of my Pine Siskins recovered this year, 4 of them from South Dakota and Nebraska.

Arlington Heights, Illinois 420-0875
Terry Carter

My station was in operation from 8 August until 28 November for a total of 49 days. Banding was done most weekends and on week days from 1500 hours until dark. I use from 3 to 7 mist nets that have been in the same locations for the past 5 years. I did not have any returns or foreign recaptures, but I did have 25 repeats. My best days were 4 September with 48 new birds and 30 October with 46.

Warblers were down 40% from last year, with my net-hours only decreased by 10%. Thrushes were down in numbers, and no winter finches (except Purple Finch) were found in the

area. The fall migration was slow with few or no cold fronts coming through.

In conjunction with a color-banding project of Purple Martins initiated by the Banding Office, I was notified of a Purple Martin banded near this station on 12 June 1979 (recaptured at the same location 27 June 1980 and 26 June 1981), found dead in a martin house near Noblesville, Indiana, 11 April 1982. The bird was found with 30 other dead Purple Martins after a late winter storm. After 7 years and over 1200 Purple Martins banded, this is only the second encountered away from the original banding site.

Galveston, Texas 281-0944
Dr. W. B. Quay

This is the second autumn of banding at this station, but the first autumn for a full report. The banding station is a yard in a residential area at the eastern end of Galveston. Water and feed (mixed grain) have been available here nearly continuously for over 4 years. This is responsible for the large number of Inca Doves (under personal study) and House Sparrows. This autumn the roof top was also used for netting which increased netting success, especially for Myrtle Warblers, Northern Flickers, Inca Doves, and vireos. In addition, dawn netting on the roof top yielded a Belted Kingfisher and a Sora.

Banding was done on a nearly daily basis with exceptions of the periods: 3-5 August; 13-20 August; 7-15 September; 9-11 November; 18-22 November. Patterns of daily banding activity included full-days and part-days, with the latter mostly from sunrise to early morning and late afternoon to after sunset. The days when most new individuals were banded were: 7 August (13 new birds), 18 September (12), 12 October (51), and 13 November (38). From mid-October through November, days of increased migrant influx (and banding success) usually

Table 2. Most commonly banded species at each station, fall 1982.

Austin Springs TN	Baldwin City KS	Walton KY	Lake Hubert MN	Arlington Hts IL	Galveston TX
178 Song Sparrow	11 Am Goldfinch	12 Yel-rump Warb	48 Am Goldfinch	93 Am Redstart	120 Inca Dove
83 Am Goldfinch	8 Am Robin	8 Tuft Titmouse	39 B-c Chickadee	64 Am Goldfinch	72 House Sparrow
38 Swamp Sparrow	6 D-e Junco	8 Am Robin	27 Nashville Warb	28 Am Robin	26 Am Robin
14 Field Sparrow	5 Tuft Titmouse	4 Red-eyed Vireo	17 Tenn Warb	25 Magnolia Warb	25 R-c Kinglet
14 C Yellowthr	5 E. Bluebird	4 Song Sparrow	11 Red-eyed Vireo	21 Sw Thrush	21 Yel-rump Warb
11 Ind Bunting	5 B-c Chickadee	4 E. Bluebird	8 N Oriole	18 Gray Catbird	18 N Flicker
10 Savannah Sp	4 Brown Creeper	4 Field Sparrow	7 Yel-rump Warb	18 D-e Junco	14 Red-eyed Vireo
9 Linc Sparrow	3 W-b Nuthatch	4 House Wren	6 R-b Nuthatch		13 Mockingbird
8 Palm Warbler	3 Blue Jay	3 G-c Kinglet	6 Cedar Waxwing		11 Brown Creeper
6 Yel-rump Warb	3 House Wren	3 Barn Swallow			1 Y-b Sapsucker

corresponded to days of, or following, cold fronts and decreases in morning temperature.

Species-related information of interest includes the following ratios: American Robins, HY:AHY = 21:5 and M:F = 11:12 (excluding 3 U); Black-and-white Warblers, M:F = 1:7; Northern Flickers, ratio of red-shafted to yellow-shafted = 1:19; Myrtle Warblers, HY:AHY = 17:3 (excluding 1 U); Ovenbirds, HY:AHY = 1:6; Red-eyed Vireos, HY:AHY = 9:5; Ruby-crowned Kinglets, M:F = 11:14; Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, HY:AHY = 9:2, M:F = 9:1 (excluding 1 U).

Other captures and bandings of interest include 4 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (3 HY, 1 AHY), probably attracted by heavy infestation of neighbor's pecan trees by tent caterpillars; 5 Lincoln's Sparrows; and 1 Chuck-will's-widow.

Lake Hubert, Minnesota 462-0941
Charles E. Corchran

My fall season was from 1 August through 23 September. During these 54 days, banding was possible on only 34 days due to wet and windy weather much of the time. Banding was done from dawn until noon on most days. Warblers and vireos accounted for 39% of the total birds banded this fall. This was also a good year for American Goldfinches, with 48 banded compared to a previous high of 7.

The best return for 1982 was a female Hairy Woodpecker (77-190469) recaptured 9 September 1982. She had originally been banded 28 April 1973 as an AHY bird, so is now at least 10 years and 4 months old. I have recorded 5 previous returns of this bird.

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area
Ottawa County, Ohio 413-0831
Mark C. Shieldcastle

The fall of 1982 represents the first full migration banding operation at Magee. In past years only portions of the season have been monitored. Banding was conducted on weekends during the morning hours and into mid-afternoon. Except for Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, which were nearly absent, it was a good migration. There was no major movement of birds until the Labor Day weekend. Increases of note occurred in Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers, Brown Creepers, and Fox Sparrows.

Major banding days included 25 September (174 birds; 473.5 per 100 net-hours), 26 September (160 birds; 326.5 per 100 net-hours), and 11 October (129 birds; 215 per 100 net-hours).

Two new species were added to the fall list, Purple Finch and Connecticut Warbler. There was one foreign recovery of an American Goldfinch, and there were no returns.

Age ratios of dominant species (HY/AHY) included: Myrtle Warbler 10.67:1; Magnolia Warbler 3.35:1; Bay-breasted Warbler 2.46:1; Blackpoll Warbler 3.05:1; Black-throated Green Warbler 5.00:1; American Redstart 5.60:1; Brown Creeper 4.14:1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 15.29:1; and Swainson's Thrush 3.77:1.

Walton, Kentucky 385-0843
Ezra E. Ditterline

My banding station consists of 2 acres of land around my home in a rural area. Trees and shrubs in the area are high bush cranberry, oak, black cherry, and maple. I use 4 mist nets, each 60 feet long.

Driftwood Bird Banding Station
Hays County, Texas 300-0980
Don Connell, Greg and Becky Lasley

The habitat and net placement at Driftwood during the fall period were the same as reported in the spring report. Driftwood began operation in September 1981, so we are just beginning to learn what patterns and trends are to be expected. Although eastern banding stations have reported low numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets in recent years, we were very encouraged by the strong movement of kinglets at this station. We banded 81 Ruby-crowned Kinglets this fall, and many more were observed but not captured. The peak day for Ruby-crowns was 21 October when 18 were banded.

Banding was done on as many days as was possible. Nets were usually open from dawn until about 1000 hours; on cloudy days, nets were sometimes left open all day. Our best day was 11 October with 57 new birds, followed by 21 October with 45.

There were no foreign recoveries, but we had several returns of birds banded in the fall of 1981. These included Savannah Sparrow, Rufous-sided (spotted) Towhee, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, and Orange-crowned Warbler. New fall records for this station were Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, Say's Phoebe, and Swamp Sparrow.

Table 2. (Cont.)

Driftwood BBS TX	Magee Marsh OH
81 R-c Kinglet	185 G-c Kinglet
39 Nashville Warb	137 R-c Kinglet
21 Orange-cr Warb	87 Magnolia Warb
21 Field Sparrow	77 Blackpoll Warb
21 Least Flyc	66 Am Redstart
20 Linc Sparrow	62 Sw Thrush
19 Vesper Spar	45 Bay-b Warb
18 Hermit Thrush	36 Brown Creeper
16 House Wren	35 Yel-rump Warb
	30 Bl-thr Grn Warb

