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Central Flyway Review

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This is the third migrational banding summary for the Central Flyway Review. We had a modest increase in contributors to bring our total to 12 reporting stations. Central Flyway contributors tallied 9644 net hours to band 7327 birds during spring, 1983, an overall average of 76 birds per 100 net hours, excluding birds captured in traps or by other methods. The figures are derived from capture rates that range from a low of 15.5 birds per 100 net hours at Driftwood, Texas, to a high of 690.8 birds per 100 net hours at Olive Park in Chicago, Illinois. This again suggests differences in bird movements at various locations in the IBBA area.

In general, the spring was characterized as dry and warm in southern areas such as Texas. Strong southerly winds did not ground migrants to any degree at any of the Texas reporting stations and the migrants passed by easily. The stations from the Mid-west all declared the spring a success both in variety and numbers of birds banded. Our only station reporting from near the Canadian border experienced above normal rain and cold temperatures which reduced numbers of migrants netted. The same cold and wet conditions that reduced migrant numbers in the far north are needed on the Gulf Coast to force migrants down, greatly increasing the numbers observed there.

I welcome any bander in the IBBA who operates a station on a regular basis during one or both of the migration seasons to contribute to the Central Flyway Review. We will look closely at ratios of HY vs. AHY birds banded in fall at CFR stations in the future to see if our numbers are any different from those of east coast stations. Initial evidence suggests that we band more AHY birds in the fall in Texas than is typical in the east. I look forward to hearing from those of you who would like to contribute to the report each season.

Arlington Heights, Illinois 420-0875
Terry Carter

During this spring my banding was done in the same areas as previously reported. Nets were operated from 24 April to 6 June. Record rain during April and May often made netting impossible. Only 137 warblers were netted.

Two new birds for the station this spring were Red-headed Woodpecker and Kentucky Warbler. The Kentucky Warbler was the 30th warbler species for this station in 7 years.

Interesting returns and recoveries included the following: Mourning Dove banded 4 April 1976 recaptured 14 May 1983, Gray Catbird banded 13 May 1977 recaptured 10 May 1983, Gray Catbird banded 13 May 1980 recaptured 9 May 1983, and an American Robin banded here 9 August 1982 found dead in Shreveport, Louisiana on 10 February 1983.

Olive Park, Chicago, Illinois 415-0873
Sebastian Patti

The 1983 spring season was an unqualified success. Most surprising and most exciting was the capture of a Cassin's Sparrow, which was photographed for a new state record. Spring migration in Chicago was characterized by extensive hold-overs caused by colder than normal temperatures. This is the second year of banding operations at this location, so trends are not safely quantifiable. Nonetheless, this year's results further document the high concentrations of migrants in Olive Park resulting in the very high bird per 100 net hour ratio. Only 2 nets were used at any time and the resulting capture rate helps illustrate the "oasis" effect of this small urban park. Literally among the skyscrapers, Olive Park is along the shore of Lake Michigan in downtown Chicago. The banding area is located in a brushy area several hundred meters in length and width. The lakefront tends to be a funnel for migrants, and this park offers the only habitat available to birds between Lincoln Park (approx. 3.2 km north), and Grant Park (approx. 2.4 km south). Appreciation is extended to the Chicago Park District for allowing me to band birds on District lands.

Lake Hubert, Minnesota 462-0941
Charles E. Corchran

This was the 14th year of banding at this location in north-central Minnesota. I was able to band only from 18 May through 15 June, during which the weather limited my banding to 15 days. The season was cold with above average rain and high winds. For the second consecutive year, migrating warblers stayed in southern Minnesota quite late into the season and then overflowed this area.

I recorded 41 recaptures this spring, 19 of which were local Black-capped Chickadees. The oldest recaptured chickadee was a female banded 5 September 1977. Another recapture was a male Hairy Woodpecker #772-21035, banded 23 May 1972 as an AHY, recaptured 4 June 1983. Assuming a hatching date of June 1971, this bird is now over 12 years old. This old bird was in excellent condition, although the upper mandible was broken half way up from the tip and measured only 15mm in length while the lower mandible measured 33mm. His weight of 84.1 g compares favorably with previous recapture weights, which range from 83.3 to 84.8 g.

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

The 1983 spring season was noteworthy for its unpredictable weather patterns. Several times following severe northeast winds I noted waves of birds moving back to the south. In spite of this abnormal weather the time and number of migration peaks were normal.

Table 1. Summary

	Arlington Hts IL	Olive Park IL	Lake Hubert MN	Magee Marsh OH	Walton KY	Jackson Co. MO
Days of operation	28	34	15	27	24	24
Number of nets used	5-7	2	8	2-8	4	6-14
Total net-hours	841	174	304	630	172	1105
Largest daily catch	—	113	16	418	14	120
Birds banded, 1983	285	1202	89	3050	70	1026
Birds banded, 1982	369	1076	126	2150	—	—
Different species, 1983	—	73	22	91	32	81
Different species, 1982	53	65	32	92	—	—
Birds/100 n.h., 1983	33.8	690.8	29.3	484	40.7	92.9
Birds/100 n.h., 1982	41.1	563	21.9	289.6	—	—

	Lincoln Co. MO	Baldwin City KS	Packery Channel TX	Pipe Creek TX	Driftwood BBS TX	Brackenridge Lab TX
Days of operation	8	89	10	22	38	35
Number of nets used	8-16	—	3-5	11	5-30	2-12
Total net-hours	288	—	276	979	4025	850
Largest daily catch	45	82	43	53	58	45
Birds banded, 1983	213	1789	119	249	626	398
Birds banded, 1982	—	899	—	104	693	—
Different species, 1983	51	26	45	38	88	53
Different species, 1982	—	24	—	34	79	—
Birds/100 n.h., 1983	74.0	—	43.1	25.4	15.5	46.8
Birds/100 n.h., 1982	—	—	—	16	24.3	—

Table 2. Most commonly banded species at each station, spring 1983.

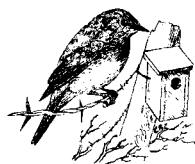
Arlington Hts IL	Lincoln Co MO	Baldwin City KS	Packery Channel TX	Pipe Creek TX	Driftwood BBS TX
23 Tenn Warb	39 Yel-rump Warb	1217 Am Goldfinch	12 N Oriole	96 Chip Sparrow	80 Nashville Warb
22 Magnolia Warb	20 Blue Jay	329 Purple Finch	12 Yel-rump Warb	27 House Finch	45 Linc Sparrow
18 Am Redstart	14 Sw Thrush	121 Blue Jay		25 Linc Sparrow	41 Least Flyc
14 Sw Thrush	12 Cardinal	45 D-e Junco		12 Clay-c. Sparrow	33 Yel-rump Warb
13 W-thr Sparrow		25 Cardinal			32 Paint Bunting
12 Am Robin		10 Com Grackle			24 B-ch Humm
11 B-and-w Warb					21 C Yellowthr
11 N Waterthrush					20 Cedar Waxwing
11 R-c Kinglet					16 W-thr Sparrow
					16 R-c Kinglet

Brackenridge Lab TX	Olive Park IL	Lake Hubert MN	Magee Marsh OH	Walton KY	Jackson Co. MO
45 Mourn Warb	253 Swamp Sparrow	16 Am Goldfinch	294 Magnolia Warb	22 Am Robin	93 Sw Thrush
42 Traill's Flyc	114 W-c Sparrow	14 B-c Chickadee	206 R-c Kinglet		79 C Yellowthr
34 Cardinal	79 Nashville Warb	13 N Oriole	147 W-thr Sparrow		68 N Oriole
32 Car Wren	64 Linc Sparrow		136 Am Redstart		62 Am Goldfinch
21 C Yellowthr	62 C Yellowthr		125 Sw Thrush		45 Wilson's Warb
19 Gray Catbird	61 Hermit Thrush		113 Brown Creeper		41 Gray Catbird
17 Canada Warb	60 Gray Catbird		110 Yel-rump Warb		28 Ind Bunting
13 MacG Warb	42 Tenn Warb		109 Yellow Warb		27 Yellow Warb
13 Ovenbird	39 Brown Thrush		102 G-c Kinglet		24 Ovenbird
12 Sw Thrush	26 Sw Thrush		97 Nashville Warb		23 Warb Vireo

Most banding was done on weekends and evenings. A statistically significant higher catch has been noted prior to 1100 as compared with all-day outings. Compared with last spring, increases occurred in all flycatchers, Lincoln's Sparrows, both kinglets, Brown Creepers, and Blackburnian, Yellow, and Mourning warblers. A decrease occurred in Myrtle and Palm warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Wood Thrushes.

The biggest day of the season for numbers was 14 May when 418 birds were netted, a capture rate of 653.1 birds per 100 net hours. The highest capture rate of the season occurred 7 May with 844.2 birds per 100 net hours recorded.

Thirty returns were encountered, 11 of which were Yellow Warblers. Some highlights of the returns include 2 Prothonotary Warblers, and 2 Indigo Buntings (one of which was banded in 1979). Rarities captured included 2 Brewster's and 1 Lawrence's hybrid, and a Gambel's race of the White-crowned Sparrow. Two new species were added to the station's spring capture list: Eastern Kingbird, of which 9 were caught, and Tufted Titmouse, which is rare along the lake shore.



Jackson County, Missouri 390-0942
Jim and Mary Louise Myers

Although we had banded for 28 years in one location in Johnson County, Kansas, this was only the second year for banding at our new Missouri location. We banded at 3 locations this spring. A brief description of each follows:

La Benite Park — The park is located along the Missouri River and is an excellent spot for migrants that congregate and feed among the abundant willows, soft maples, cottonwoods, and box-elders. The river, in its overflows, has deposited masses of driftwood and sand in the area, and the only flourishing undergrowth is poison-ivy and nettles. This was our primary banding location: we banded here 20 of our 24 banding dates.

River Bluff Park — This area is located on the high river bluff not far from La Benite Park. The area is entirely different from La Benite and hardwoods such as oaks, hickory, walnuts, and hard maples are common. Wildflowers are abundant along a creek that runs down to the river, and there are many open grassy areas. The park is undeveloped and sees little public use. The area provided some protection for nets on windy days.

The Alfalfa Field — This was a banding location for only one day but provided an opportunity to net Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and both Northern and Orchard orioles. It also provided our most interesting and exciting catch of the season, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Nelson's race), which is a very low-density migrant in this area. The bird was photographed.

This was an unusually good spring migration with large numbers of warblers observed throughout the area. Cold temperatures held the birds down for longer than usual. All of the "waves" were preceded by high fronts accompanied by southerly winds. At dawn these days, our nets began filling up with birds while we were still in the process of putting them up.

One of the most exciting things about this year's banding was the number of returns that we obtained from the previous year's banding: Warbling Vireo 16 (of 48 banded in 1982); Northern Oriole 11 (44); Yellow Warbler 5 (38); American Robin 6 (12); E. Wood Pewee 1 (3); House Wren 1 (7); Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 (13); American Goldfinch 1 (44); Gray Catbird 1 (11).

All of the above are migrant species that possibly nest in the area. In addition to the migrant returns, we recorded 8 resident returns including 3 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Tufted Titmice, 1 Cardinal, and 1 Downy Woodpecker.

We express our appreciation to the Jackson County Parks Department for the privilege of setting up nets and banding birds in the two park locations.

W.A. Knox Farm
Foley, Lincoln County, Missouri 390-0904
W.B. Quay

This is the first report for this banding station. The purpose of our spring banding operations here was in part to evaluate this family-owned farm as a long-term banding station in the Mid-Mississippi Valley. Flooded Mississippi bottomlands are .8-1.0 km east of the netting circuit. Nets were up continuously from 30 April to 7 May and were checked day and night. Diverse habitats were sampled on a continuous basis: field/woodland junctions, second-growth stream valley bottomlands, artificial pond and marsh edges, oak-hickory-ash-basswood woodlands, open fields, and fence rows. Bad weather during the first two days diminished potential captures by at least ½. Nocturnal and crepuscular netting yielded 1 Chuck-will's-widow and 4 Whip-poor-wills.

Baldwin City, Kansas 384-0951
Katharine B. Kelley

This spring was unusually cold and wet in my area. Although warblers were quite common in the woods around Baldwin, I did not have many in my yard. I had no Pine Siskins this spring, but American Goldfinches and Purple Finches were more abundant than ever before. I primarily use traps at my back yard station. My traps are set whenever I am at home.

My only foreign recovery this year was that of a Purple Finch banded in Jay, Oklahoma, 2 February 1979 and caught in Baldwin City on 5 January 1983.

Walton, Kentucky 385-0843
Ezra E. Ditterline

My banding station is located on 2 ha around my farm home in a rural area 4.8 km north of Walton, Kentucky and 32 km south of Cincinnati, Ohio. Number of nets and placement were the same as previously reported. I generally band in the morning until the wind speed makes the nets move too much.

This spring bird activity was about the same as in past years. We have many periods of heavy rain and wind which decreased the time I was able to open nets. Due to heavy rain, I missed much of the warbler migration. My best day was 14 May when 14 birds were banded.

Packery Channel County Park
Nueces County, Texas 273-0971
Sumner Dana

Packery Channel is a small county park located on the northern end of Padre Island, just south of Corpus Christi. The park consists of numerous small stands of scrub oak that often serve as refuge for migrating passerines as they make landfall after a trans-gulf migration. The park has been used as a banding station on several occasions in past years, but not on a regular basis.

During the 1983 spring we banded at Packery 10 days between 2 April and 1 May. Most banding was done on weekends. Overall the spring was quite slow, with few major movements of birds detected. Winds were generally southerly and warm, which encourages birds to continue inland for considerable distances before coming down to rest or feed. Our best day was 22 April when 43 birds were netted. We hope to use this park in years to come as a banding site. Bird movement at Packery can be spectacular if the right conditions exist.

Pipe Creek, Texas 294-0985
David R. Ferry

This spring was characterized by a prolonged dry spell through much of April and early May. Numbers of migrants were down from 1982, but enormous numbers of wintering sparrows, particularly Chipping Sparrows, remained until mid-April. I recorded 112 recaptures, most of which were permanent residents or over-wintering birds. The most exciting return was that of a Painted Bunting banded 4 July 1982 as an AHY-U (green plumage) and recaptured 15 May 1983 in adult male plumage!

My banding setup and location was essentially unchanged from previous descriptions except for the installation of a very large aerial net, 24 m by 10 m, consisting of 8 standard sized mist nets, 4 nets high by 2 long. It almost completely bisects an isolated grove of live oak trees and has been quite effective in capturing birds not easily caught in lower nets, including an Eastern Screech-Owl the first night the aerial net was up.

The low points of this spring's banding have to be the captures of my first ever Brown-headed Cowbird and House Sparrow, and my wife breaking her foot while tripping over a stump as she helped me untangle the aforementioned aerial net from a tree.

Future plans include banding Cliff Swallows this summer and awaiting the return of many of the winterers banded during the past season. I might put up another big net, but my wife has declined to help.

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

Net placement and number at Driftwood remained the same as in previous reports. Since this was only the second spring migration monitored here I cannot plot trends. The habitat at our station (riparian woodlands, juniper-live oak woodlands, and floodplain fields) contributes to the diversity of species. This spring we banded 88 species, 1 superspecies (Traill's Flycatcher), and 2 races (Bullock's Oriole and Audubon's

Warbler) for a total of 91 taxa reportable to the Bird Banding Laboratory. Lack of geographical features that would concentrate migrants makes Driftwood a low density banding station. We had 28 species that were represented by only a single individual.

In spite of low numbers, we did observe some notable differences when compared with last year's spring banding.

Species that surprised us with high numbers included: Myrtle Warbler (33), Yellow-breasted Chat (15), and Lincoln's Sparrow (45).

Species that surprised us with low numbers included: Traill's Flycatcher (13), House Wren (3), Swainson's Thrush (8), Veery (0), and Baltimore Oriole (6).

New species banded at the station included: Black-chinned Hummingbird (banded by Nancy Newfield of Metairie, Louisiana), Ash-throated Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Black-capped Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler (our biggest surprise), House Sparrow (we didn't invite them), Western Meadowlark, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Our birds per 100 net hour rate dropped from 24.3 in the spring of 1982 to 15.5 this spring. Lack of any significant cold weather fronts or rain during the period likely contributed to this drop in numbers. April was dry and warm with strong southerly winds, a condition unfavorable for observing or banding spring migrants in this area. Our best day was 11 May when 58 birds of 22 species were banded for a capture rate of 36 new birds per 100 net hours.

We had 4 returns from the previous spring or summer: 3 Painted Buntings (all had been banded in May 1982 as ASY males), and one Summer Tanager (an ASY male that nested at our station in 1982). We also recorded numerous permanent resident recaptures. An American Robin that was banded at our station on 7 March 1983 was killed by a car in Riverview, Michigan on 18 April 1983 for the first recovery of a Driftwood bird away from our station.

Numerous banding lectures and demonstrations were given to college ornithology classes and Audubon groups during the spring. Thanks go to Ann, David, and Sarah Connell, Steve Janda, and Bob Barth for their help with the nets and record keeping.

Brackenridge Field Laboratory, Austin, Texas 301-0974
Tofer Thompson

Brackenridge Field Laboratory (BFL) is a biological study area which consists of approximately 32 ha of undisturbed native growth along the north shore of Town Lake in the city of Austin. BFL is owned by the University of Texas at Austin and serves as a research area for numerous biological projects.

A bird-banding program was conducted at BFL this spring as a supplement to an ongoing spot-mapping breeding census of the area. Birds were captured by mist nets operated primarily mornings from 23 April to 5 June. We sighted 17 species and netted 15 species not previously documented for the area. Five of these species may breed at BFL.

Banding of 13 MacGillivray's Warblers documented the species as a relatively common spring migrant through Travis County. Four species of *Empidonax* flycatchers were netted.