

2004

Inland Bird Banding Association

Glenn Gabanski

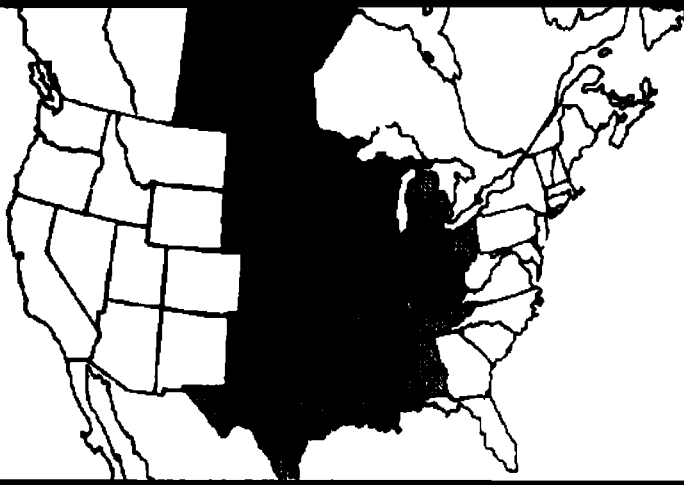
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Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve: 2004 Report on the MAPS Study

This report presents several summary results through 2004 of the mist netting of birds that has been done at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in DuPage Co., IL. This mist netting was done as a part of the nationwide effort to provide data for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Project which is run by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), Point Reyes, CA. The purpose of this project is to collect data on nesting birds throughout the country. The interval for collecting data goes from 21 May to 8 Aug. This interval is subdivided into eight 10-day periods and a six-hr trapping operation is performed during each interval.

The Chicagoland Bird Observatory (CBO) has been banding birds at Waterfall Glen in the MAPS program since 1991 using ten mist nets in the same locations each year. The nets were operated from 0600 to 1200 on eight different days starting on 29 May and ending on 6 Aug. Birds that were netted were fitted with a numbered metal leg band supplied by the U.S. Geological Survey. Before being released, data were recorded identifying the species, gender, age, condition of its feathers, and evidence of breeding.

Since not all birds breeding at our site will get caught in the nets, records are also made of birds seen and heard during our banding hours. This information is available via the web and will not be

reported here. See the end of this article for information on accessing this data through the IBP website.

The 82 birds trapped in 2004 was the second highest total for all years. There were 75 newly banded birds and seven retrapped individuals that had been banded in previous years. Birds retrapped multiple times in the same season are not included in our totals. A regression line does suggest an increasing number of birds caught over time, though the evidence is not statistically very strong.

Of particular interest were three retrapped birds that show longevity. A Gray Catbird banded on 26 May 2002 as an after-hatching-year (AHY) male is now in at least his fourth year of life. He was also retrapped in 2003. A Black-capped Chickadee that was banded on 23 Jun 2001 as a second-year (SY) male is now in his fifth year. This bird also was retrapped in 2003. Finally, a Downy Woodpecker banded on 6 Jun 2001 as an after-third-year (ATY) female is now in at least her seventh year.

For all the birds trapped this year, 11 were hatching-year (HY) birds and the others were adults. Twenty-six of those adults were known to be SY birds. There were 28 males, 33 females, and 21 of unknown sex. Our most common bird this year was again the Gray Catbird (2004 Total = 20, Yearly Average = 10.15). For the last five years this species has been caught consistently in high numbers. Much of the habitat at our MAPS site in

Waterfall Glen consists of dense, shrubby areas which the catbird prefers. It should also be noted that the restored understory, largely destroyed by deer overgrazing in the previous decade, has probably contributed to the increase in catbirds. Our most common bird overall is still the Black-capped Chickadee (2004 Total = 19, Yearly Average = 13.46). It was good to see their numbers bounce back after a below-average showing in 2003. Both Downy Woodpecker (2004 Total = 10, Yearly Average = 4.62) and Wood Thrush (2004 Total = 5, Yearly Average = 1.15) showed above-average numbers. Wood Thrushes were virtually absent until 1999, and it is nice to see and hear their presence. Their reappearance might also be due to regrowth of the understory following efforts to reduce the overpopulation of white-tailed deer in the 1990s. It was another below-average year for Indigo Bunting (2004 Total = 1, Yearly Average = 4.85). This is the fourth straight year we have netted few indigos even though they are usually heard singing on territory.

Our report does not include everything we submit to IBP. More information is available through an interactive web site at: <http://www.birdpop.org/nbii/default.asp>

The IBP has become a partner with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) / Biological Resources Division (BRD) in the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) web-based electronic information network. This has allowed IBP to make available on-line the annual reports of the MAPS program. Through this web-based query interface, MAPS data covering the period 1989-1998 and station information covering the period

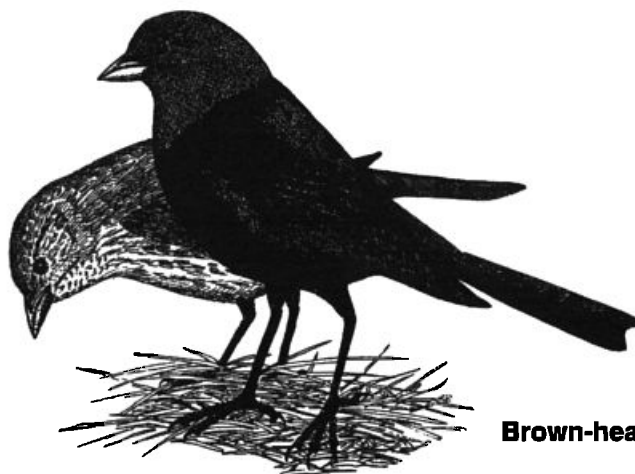
1989-2000 are available on line. Here you will find breeding and habitat data for our MAPS site and rigorous analyses of productivity and survivorship for individual species by geographical region. For reference when using the site, we are station "M1—", our location is "WATE", and our region is "NC North-central".

Use of the web site is free, but the first time you must register your e-mail address and affiliation (say Chicagoland Bird Observatory if you like) and your reason for viewing the site. Once you gain access, select the area of interest from the menu on the left side. For example, to see the breeding status of any birds heard or seen at our study site select "Breeding Status" and select "M1—" from the pop-up list. If you click on "Survivorship" and enter our region (NC) and a species, say Black-capped Chickadee, you can see that the probability of an adult chickadee surviving to and returning in a particular year to an area where it was present in the previous year is 38.2%.

The Chicagoland Bird Observatory would like to thank the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in Illinois for granting us permission to conduct research in Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve.

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Brown-headed Cowbird by George West