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Fall 2009 Report from Margery Adams Bird Banding Station (MABBS) Springfield, IL

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**Fall 2009 Report from
 Margery Adams Bird Banding Station
 (MABBS) — 394-0893
 Springfield, IL**

Bander/Coordinator: *Vernon Kleen (08355)*
Volunteers: *Steve Coogan, Thad & Jan Edmonds, and Clark Olson*

Although birds had been banded at the Illinois Audubon Society's Adams Wildlife Sanctuary (on the east side of Springfield, IL) during the falls of 1989 and 2008 and in the spring of 2009, the Margery Adams Bird Banding Station (MABBS) was not officially "formalized" until this fall (2009). The site is a 40-ac plot situated in and surrounded by a highly developed urban area. The banding habitat consisted of about 25 ac of regenerated woods (allowed to grow unchecked

since the 1930s) and 4 - 5 ac of restored prairie. The remaining acres, not yet used for banding, were just converted (summer 2009) from sparse, scrubby second-growth to a wetland and more (anticipated) prairie habitat. The understory of the woods was heavily infested with winter creeper, bush honeysuckle, and other exotics that had "taken over." However, from a migratory bird's point of view, the sanctuary was a stopover haven after flying countless miles over treeless farmland and then limited habitat in city landscapes.

The 2009 migration-monitoring season at MABBS began on 31 Aug and concluded on 18 Nov. From 12 to 27 mist nets were used during 54 mornings (weekdays and Saturdays), producing a total of 5042 net hours of operation. Several days were lost to rain, including a six-day stretch from 14 - 19 Oct. This fall, 1599 birds of 72 species were banded; repeats and returns accounted for another 235 birds handled.

Banding was fairly slow through 14 Sep, with a maximum of 32 birds on the 7th; however, the average number of newly banded birds per day of operation during the last half of September was 34. Early October was also rather slow, averaging only 18 birds/day (through 13 Oct) followed (after the six-day rain-gap) by 13 birds/day (20 - 23 Oct). Then, from 24 - 31 Oct, the average jumped to 110 birds/day. The month of November (after an excellent conclusion to October) was a disappointment: only 147 birds banded in 12 days (average = 12/day). The seasonal high of birds banded in a single day was 138 (on 28 Oct). The greatest number of species caught on a single day was 23 (also on 28 Oct).

	2009	2008	1989
Species Banded	72*	69	72
Birds Banded	1599*	1281	2064
Banding Days	54	38	44
Total Net Hrs.	5042	3180	4246
Birds/Net Hr.	0.32	0.40	0.49
* Includes Hummingbirds.			

Although the fall of 2009 was the first “official” season of MABBS operation, a few comparisons may be made to the 2008 and 1989 seasons:

A major difference that may have been responsible this year for the lower number of birds (per net hour) was the loss of the highly productive “edge” habitat that resulted from the improvements to the prairie and wetlands this summer.

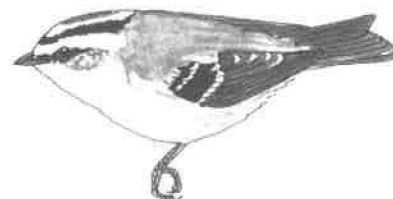
Notably absent from this year’s top ten list are the Gray Catbird, American Robin, Golden-crowned

Kinglet, and Orange-crowned Warbler. A pleasant surprise for the season was the banding of 24 warbler species, including six Black-throated Blues. A few species that were probably present in the banding area but not captured were: both cuckoos, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Philadelphia and Warbling vireos, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree and Chipping sparrows, cowbird, and House Finch.

We hope MABBS can continue as a meaningful and productive banding and educational site.

The top ten most commonly banded species:

	Number of Birds - Rank		
	2009	2008	1989
Yellow-rumped Warbler	179-1	40-9	154-3
White-throated Sparrow	105-2	129-2	261.1
Hermit Thrush	98-3	-	122-4
Nashville Warbler	94-4	-	-
American Goldfinch	91-5	183-1	229-2
Magnolia Warbler	73-6	48-8	-
Ovenbird	70-7	72.4	-
Swainson's Thrush	62-8	37-10	71-9
Brown Creeper	58-9	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	43-10	-	113-5
Gray Catbird	-	105-3	-
Northern Cardinal	-	60-5	65.10
American Robin	-	57-6	87-6
Song Sparrow	-	47-7	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	82-7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	78-8



Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets
by George West