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2009 Banding at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, Ohio

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Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Letter from the President

This past November, I was elected President of Inland Bird Banding Association at the annual meeting in St. Louis. It was an outstanding meeting; but I must admit, I have never been to a disappointing IBBA meeting. I always learn something.

I banded my first bird (a Red-tailed Hawk) in the spring of 1971. I have been an IBBA member since 1972 and have been active on the Board since 1990. I believe in the organization and what it has to offer. What disappoints me is that not enough banders use it. We are an organization of 300+ banders with many years of experience and tons of data sitting in our files. We need to share that experience and data. We need to learn from others and improve what we are doing and how we collect the data.

One of things that I have tried to do already is to see that IBBA pages have IBBA information in each issue. Each Board member is responsible for an

article at least once a year. Look for these articles, read them, and make comments. If you have questions or concerns, contact me or a Board member and we will try to address them. I would like to see some of the concerns/questions published in *NABB* along with suggested answers. Then other members could comment or make suggestions. I would like to see reports from the various banding stations in our region.

Too often, banders stay obscure and no one knows what we are doing. Unless we get our findings out to others, it is useless. If you have data and do not know how to write them up, contact us. Peter Lowther, our editor, is more than glad to help as are any of your Board members. We want those data out there.

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2009 Banding at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, Ohio

The year 2009 marks the 26th year of this bird banding/avian research project at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve in Ohio. This year banding was conducted on 38 days— four days during the spring, nine days during summer, and 15 days in the fall. For 2009 there was a total of 2107 net-hours of effort, which is our third highest effort in 26 years. We have averaged 28.5 days of banding per year over the 26 years (34.6 days/yr over the last 10 years). We have averaged 1121 net-hr/yr over

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the 26 years (1915 net-hr/yr over the last 10 years). Birds handled this year were 2175; however, some of these birds were handled more than once during the year. Eighty-two species of 1,653 individual birds were banded during the year for an average of 0.78 b/nh, making 2009 a below-average year. The 26 year average capture rate was 0.93 b/nh (0.82 b/nh for just the last 10 years). The 82 species banded ties for fifth in number of species banded in a year with 2006.

No new species were banded at the marsh this past year. We have banded 119 species at the marsh in 25

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years. Uncommonly banded species this year included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8th), Louisiana Waterthrush (6th), and Hooded Warbler (7th). Four species reached all-time highs for a year. Those were Hermit Thrush (40 – 26-year average is 13 and 10 year average is 22), Wood Thrush (16 – average is five and 10-year average is 7.5), Orange-crowned Warbler (4 – average is 0.7 and 10-year average is 1), and Brown-headed Cowbird (56 – average is 23 and 10-year average is 40).

As of 31 Dec 2009, we have banded 27,015 individual birds of 119 species. On 23 May 2009 a second-year male Wood Thrush was the 26,000th individual banded at the marsh. On 28 Nov 2009, a hatch-year female American Goldfinch was the 27,000th individual banded at the marsh in the 26 years of this study.

The Top Ten Banded Species for 2009 were:

Gray Catbird	225
White-throated Sparrow	118
Swamp Sparrow	109
Common Yellowthroat	96
Yellow-rumped Warbler	94
Song Sparrow	80
American Tree Sparrow	71
Golden-crowned Kinglet	56
Brown-headed Cowbird	56
Northern Cardinal	46
American Robin	46

These 10 species represented 60% of the birds banded at the marsh this year. Seven of these species have been in the top ten each year for the last five years. Those are Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Fourteen species were represented by only one individual and 11 species were represented by two individuals.

Of the 2175 birds handled this year, 497 were recaptures of banded birds, representing 339 individuals of 38 species. This is our fourth highest number of recaptures and birds handled in one year in the 26 years of this study. Of these 339 individuals, 171 were banded earlier in 2009. Ninety were banded in 2008, 33 in 2007, 26 in 2006, 12 in 2005, four in 2004, one in 2003, one in 2002, and one in 1999.

The oldest individual was a Blue Jay banded 16 May 1999 as an after-hatch year female, and recaptured 6 Jun 2009; this means she was a minimum of 11 years old. An adult male Gray Catbird recaptured 10 May and 13 Jun was originally banded 6 Jul 2002; this individual is a minimum of 8 years old. An after-second year male Baltimore Oriole recaptured on 24 May was originally banded on 18 May 2003 (at least seven years old). Three more individuals were a minimum of six years old. Of the 339 individuals recaptured, 77 were recaptured twice, 22 recaptured three times, six recaptured four times, and one individual (Downy Woodpecker, banded 11 Sep 2008) was recaptured six times. She must like the nets! One foreign recovery was made during the year and no reports were received of our birds from outside the banding site. The data from the foreign recovery are not known as of this date other than it was a hatch-year Swamp Sparrow captured on 10 Oct 2009.

Twenty individual birds were released or escaped before being processed. Five individuals died during the capture or processing period. These specimens were deposited at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Our casualty rate was 0.2 % of birds handled.

In total, 158 species of birds were observed at the marsh this year during the 40 census days. This number is below average. The average over the last few years has been 170 species. The breakdown by season was 29 species during the winter, 147 during the spring, 80 during the summer, and 100 during the fall. One new species was added to the list of species observed over the last 26 years. This was a

male Eurasian Wigeon which spent about a week at the marsh this spring. This was a first Seneca County record but a second individual was also found in the northeastern part of the county at the same time.

The list of species at the marsh currently stands at 245, with two additional races and two exotic or escaped species. Uncommon species observed this year include Eurasian Wigeon (spring), Common Goldeneye (winter), Wild Turkey (spring), Semipalmated Plover (summer), Least Sandpiper (summer), Pectoral Sandpiper (summer), Whip-poor-will (fall), Olive-sided Flycatcher (spring), Louisiana Waterthrush (spring), Summer Tanager (summer), Purple Finch (spring and fall), and Pine Siskin (spring).

The **2009 Banding Team, Banders** were: H. Thomas Bartlett, David Dariano, James Marshall, Dan Webb; **Extractors:** Yvonne Cecil, Steve Henthorne, John Lortz, Brian McClain, Eric Mullholand, Ron Minard, Shane Roberts, Bob Sams; **Assistants:** Zac Baker, Paula Bartlett, J R Drushel, Kim Howard, Pete Klopp, Laura Roberts, Ron Saklosky

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2009 Banding at Kelleys Island, Ohio

The year 2009 marks the 14th year of this bird banding/avian research project on Kelleys Island. The banding project began in the spring of 1996 in conjunction with the Kelleys Island Audubon Club's "Nest with the Birds" program. The monthly census route was begun in November of 1997. All research activities have been sponsored and supported by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Helen Morse, Pat and Lori Hayes, Lee and Sandy Tkach, Bill and June Campbell, Delores Cole, Fred Walcott, Kyle and Jeri Yuest, and the Kelleys Island School.

Passerine banding activities this year were conducted primarily on Long Point at the Jones Preserve owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and land owned by Helen Morse. In addition, feeder banding was conducted at the Inn on Kelleys Island owned by Pat and Lori Hayes. Owl banding was conducted at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Scheele Preserve. There were also three days of special banding projects involving Purple Martins and Tree Swallows. Purple Martin banding was conducted at the Kyle and Jeri Yuest colony on the east side of the island. For the year, 63 species and 520 individual birds were banded over 25 days.

The plan was to attempt more owl banding in March and April, but weather conditions and the ferry schedule prevented any attempts in March and one night in April did not produce any owls. Fall owl banding began on the evening of 24 Sep and basically ended on 28 Nov. One night was attempted in September on Long Point, seven nights in October at Scheele Preserve, and eight nights in November at Scheele Preserve. In September, only one owl was captured, a red phase Eastern Screech-Owl. In October, four owls were captured (two Eastern Screech-Owl and two Northern Saw-whet Owls), all at the Scheele Preserve. In November, 33 owls were captured. Of these, five were saw-whet owls banded earlier in the season, so 28 Northern Saw-whets Owls were banded this month. Owl banding throughout the Midwest was somewhat of a disappointment for most banders, but on Kelleys we had a fairly good fall. This was our second best owl banding season to date.

The passerine banding on Long Point began on 15 May. We banded for seven days on Long Point this year. We had two days in the spring, two days in the summer for a class from Stone Lab, and three days in the fall. In that time, we banded 301 individuals of 53 species. This is the second most birds we have banded on Long Point since we began in 1996. It brings the total number of birds banded on Long Point to 2917 individuals. In addition, we banded eight days at the feeders at the Inn on Kelleys Island.