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Inland Flyway Review: Spring 2016

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resident species captured that we were not familiar with (which we did not band)—and the field guides back then were not always adequate for prompt identification (the available guides were the *Birds of Columbia* and the *Birds of Mexico*); such species included antbirds, hummingbirds (and more hummingbirds), creepers, flycatchers, gnatwrens, seedeaters, grassquits, saltators, tanagers, xenops, etc. In the winter of 2014 (45 years later) I was able to make a repeat visit to the Cerro Punta area and even found the old Florida Audubon

Society “cabin”. What fond recollections; unfortunately, the entire area is now commercialized. Should anyone be interested, a report of that 1967 trip was printed in *EBBA News*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (July-August 1969).

Enjoy the birds! Finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the year to enjoy the birds (even if just for a little bit).

Vernon Kleen
IBBA President

Inland Flyway Review – Spring 2016 Report

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This is the first spring attempt to put together the “seasonal” Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report, again, patterned—with permission—after the very successful reports of the Atlantic Flyway Review (AFR). The 2016 Spring Report includes information from six stations, three from Missouri and one each from Michigan, Illinois, and Tennessee. Only the Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) station has a lengthy history and even that has recently changed. Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the six stations; only three had more than 500 net hours and only the Illinois station was in operation more than 25 days during the season. Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species. No particular species stands out as being the overall most common amongst the station reports. But the total number of the top 10 species banded at each station was 60% or greater of the station’s total catch. Again, thinking to the future, this assemblage of station reports should be able to provide meaningful discussions on changing populations as well as first time and irregular occurrences.

Of course, many thanks to the compilers of these seasonal station reports. It was a pleasure to note the number of visitors to the various sites, especially interested college students.

Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) 423-0824
Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI
Coordinator: **Allen T. Chartier**
Bander: **Allen T. Chartier**
Assistants: John Bieganowski, Andrea Charlebois, Jacob Charlebois, Annie Crary, Caitlyn Hogan, Stevie Kuroda, Dave Lancaster, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Marie McGee, Katie-Ann McKlinsky, Ann Ross, Edie Schmitz, Joan Tisdale, Bruce Watson, Blanche Wicke, Christian Zammit, Julian Zammit.
Address: 1442 West River Park Dr.
Inkster, MI 48141
Email address: amazilia3@gmail.com

Banding was conducted by Ellie T. Cox (deceased in 2012) at this location, then named Metro Beach Metropark (MBMP: 423-0824), from 1989-1999, in an area of swamp woods transitioning to wet meadow and cattail marsh (Point Rosa Marsh) at the end of a maintenance road in the park. She ran 11-14 nets over those years. The banding at this location was resumed by Allen T. Chartier in 2004 and continued through 2014, running 14 nets in the same area covering approximately seven acres, using as many of the previous net locations as was practical. The GPS coordinates of the “centroid” of the net setup are: 42° 34' 29.9" N, 82° 48' 31.5" W. In 2014, efforts to restore the hydrology of the marsh succeeded and flooded out the banding area year-round, which had always been difficult to access (very muddy with lots of water) in spring anyway. A comparison between these two decades of banding effort is being compiled, verified, and prepared for eventual publication.

Table 1. Spring 2016 Banding Summary

	Lake St. Clair Metropark MI	Lincoln Land Station IL	World Bird Sanctuary MO	Bruns Track Conservation Area MO	Mora Conservation Area MO	Warner Park Nature Center TN
First Day	3 Apr 2016	21 Mar 2016	21 Apr 2016	1 Apr 2016	3 Apr 2016	5 Apr 2016
Last Day	2 Jun 2016	27 May 2016	15 May 2016	8 May 2016	10 May 2016	30 Apr 2016
Days Operated	12	56	25	14	14	5
Range of Nets Used	17.5	11 to 28	25 to 28	12.5	12.5	5.5 to 6.5
# of Net Hours	1,298	5,162	3,067	433.5	359	139
# of Traps Used	0	0	0	0	0	3
# of Total Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0	0	4
Highest Daily Catch	127	127	60	35	19	20
Highest Daily Catch Date	16 Apr 2016	4 Apr 2016	26 Apr 2016	8 May 2016	10 May 2016	26 Apr 2016
Most Species on Any Date	30	22	17	16	12	10
Date of Most Species Banded	26 May 2016	19 Apr 2016	26 Apr 2016	8 May 2016	10 May 2016	30 Apr 2016
Most Common Species on Highest Day	GCKI	SCJU	WTSP	COYE	COYE	NOCA
The Number of that Species Banded	32	100	12	8	4	4
Which Was What % of Total on HD	25%	79%	20%	23%	21%	20%
# Birds Banded in 2015	n/a	1,065	400	99	90	n/a
# Birds Banded in 2016	783	1,858	551	146	92	70
# Species Banded in 2015	n/a	75	38	21	22	n/a
# Species Banded in 2016	70	79	51	29	26	19
Birds/100nh in 2015	n/a	22	13	31.4	34.7	n/a
Birds/100nh in 2016	60.3	36	18	33.7	25.6	26.6
Percent of total that were top 10 species	60%	63%	75%	73%	79%	81%

Table 2. Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species - Spring 2016

Lake St. Clair Metropark, MI	Lincoln Land Station, IL	World Birds Sanctuary MO	Bruns Track Cons. Area MO	Mora Cons. Area MO	Warner Park Nature Center, TN
RWBL - 135	SCJU - 494	SWTH - 78	AMGO - 19	SWSP - 17	AMGO - 12
YEWA - 68	WTSP - 128	WTSP - 68	SWSP - 18	FISP - 12	KEWA - 10
RCKI - 46	SWSP - 91	GCTH - 62	RWBL - 13	AMGO - 11	TUTI - 9
GCKI - 41	GRCA - 88	TEWA - 61	COYE - 10	NOWA - 10	NOCA - 8
AMRO - 39	WCSP - 87	OVEN - 30	BRTH - 10	SOSP - 6	WTSP - 6
SWSP - 32	SWTH - 79	NOCA - 30	BHCO - 9	WCSP - 5	CACH - 3
SOSP - 30	COGR - 59	NAWA - 27	DICK - 7	COYE - 4	WBNU - 3
HETH - 28	MYWA - 55	MYWA - 26	NOCA - 7	GRCA - 3	FISP - 2
WTSP - 27	NOWA - 51	CARW - 17	SAVS - 7	LISP - 3	DOWO - 2
COYE - 25	SOSP - 47	INBU - 15	WCSP - 7	BEVI - 2	GCTH - 2
Total = 471	Total = 1,179	Total = 414	Total = 107	Total = 73	Total = 57

During 2015 (mostly in fall), preliminary banding efforts were undertaken at a new location within the park boundaries (LSCMP). Although the Lat-Long coordinates are the same for this new site as the old site (MBMP), it is about 0.64 km NE of MBMP. The habitat is mainly old field and meadow (some seasonally wet), with dogwood and sumac thickets, cottonwood rows, and a row of planted (in the 1990s) pines, adjacent to the "Meadow Loop" trail in the nature area. A large cattail marsh is approximately 100 m to the north and west, and a channel about 10 m wide is along the southern boundary of the area. Locations for a total of 17.5 nets were established, within an area of approximately three acres.

The GPS coordinates of the "centroid" are: 42° 34' 45.0" N, 82° 48' 9.2" W. Results of this preliminary effort in 2015 included 73 birds of 23 species banded on a single spring day (9 May), and 632 birds of 54 species banded on 14 fall days (6 Sep - 25 Oct); 1006 net hours, and a capture rate of 66.9 b/100nh. Four birds were recaptured that had originally been banded at MBMP in previous years: Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and American Goldfinch.

As with previous banding at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week during Apr, May, and the first week of Jun in 2016. Out of a possible 18 days during that period, only 12 days were operated due partly to not getting enough volunteers out to set up the site (which must be taken down completely each day), but mostly due to uncooperative weather. Wintry conditions returned for the first half of Apr, and wetter and cooler than normal conditions forced an 11-day gap in coverage in early May. The average number of days the MBMP station was operated over 10 spring seasons was 15.

With this being the first full season of effort at this new site, it makes no sense to compare numbers to the old site which, although very close by, has different habitat. Some differences were noted, however, that may or may not prove to be consistent over time, perhaps based on habitat. The 68 (5.24/100nh) Yellow Warblers was well above the 10-year average at MBMP of 37.4, and even exceeded the record of 59 (4.75/100nh) there. This seems even more remarkable given that this area is half the size of the MBMP site. The

number of Golden-crowned Kinglets (41) also exceeded all previous spring (but not fall) records at MBMP. A third species in this category is Baltimore Oriole, with the 24 banded at LSCMP exceeding the MBMP 10-yr average of 10.3, and also breaking the record of 15. Captures that were considered unusual included a Black-billed Cuckoo, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, an Eastern Kingbird, 5 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and a female Blackpoll Warbler. Both the total banded in spring 2016, and the number of species captured, was above the 10-yr average for MBMP.

Interesting recaptures involved a number of birds originally banded 0.4 mi away at MBMP, including: a Downy Woodpecker banded in 2010, a Warbling Vireo banded in 2014, a Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2014, a House Wren banded in 2014, an American Robin banded in 2013, three Gray Catbirds banded in 2014, a Yellow Warbler banded in 2012 and another banded in 2014, a Northern Cardinal banded in 2012 and another banded in 2014, two Song Sparrows banded in 2014, six Red-winged Blackbirds (one in 2010, three in 2012, one in 2013, and one in 2014), a Baltimore Oriole banded in 2014, and 8 American Goldfinches (two in 2010, one in 2011, one in 2012, two in 2013, and two in 2014).

**Lincoln Land Community College 394-0893
Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)**

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

Coordinator: **Vernon Kleen**

Banders: **Vernon Kleen and Anthony Rothering**
Assistants: Tyler Beckerman, Paul Biggers, Mel Breyer, Stevie Emmons, Libby Errickson, Joe Gardner, Mike Kennedy, Jim Mordacq, Ron Moorman, Nancy Redman, Lizzie Roehrs, Susan Shaw and Kelsey Thornton.

Address: 1825 Clearview Dr.,

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or P.O. Box 13442,

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The Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS) was initiated in the fall of 2012 and has been in operation each spring and fall ever since; 2016 marked the fourth full spring season. The station's habitats and general description were described in the

2015 IFR fall report. The 2016 season was cool, damp and windy and, like 2015, migrant birds were slow to arrive and quick to depart. Several expected species were neither caught nor seen this spring. The capture of birds this year was less than it could have been because of 1) fairly strong to extremely strong winds on 12 days and moderate winds on another 29 days, 2) drizzles, rain or thunderstorms on nine more days, forcing the cancellation or early shut down of station operations; and 3) the annual spring burn of at least half of the prairie (which is usually the best habitat for several species, especially goldfinches and the less common sparrow). Only five (of 11) nets in the woodlands could be considered consistently productive.

Despite the negative aspects of the 2016 spring, more birds were caught (1858) this year than any previous spring; however, 494 of them were juncos. The 79 species banded was the station's second best season (and four additional species were known to have been in the nets but escaped prior to extraction). In addition to the birds banded, another 198 were captured as returns (four from the fall of 2012) and another 788 as repeats. This spring was a good season for several groupings of birds, especially kinglets, thrushes, mimids, common warblers, blackbirds and some sparrows, but a very poor season for flycatchers, vireos, most warblers and the sparrows. New species banded at the station were Prairie Warbler (not caught in the prairie) and Dickcissel, bringing the station total to 115. Of the three known casualties, one was killed by a deer attempting to eat it (personal observation); another was the victim of a Cooper's Hawk (one of the four species above in the net that escaped prior to extraction). There was only one day this spring with 100 or more birds banded: 4 Apr (127 - 100 of which were juncos). Of course, there were several days in which five or fewer birds were banded. The American Goldfinch is often the most common bird banded; however, because of this year's change in the prairie habitat, its numbers were way down and it only ranked as the 12th most common species this spring.

The four issues that traditionally affect the banding operations each spring (and in some cases the number of nets used each day) were wind, rain, people and deer. On the positive side, the station now operates out of a student-constructed and fully functional banding

facility which is especially useful on damp, windy and/or cold days and serves as a "garage" for the station's bird-mobile (ATV).

Acknowledgments. Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered time at and visited the LLCC BBS. Special thanks to 1) the Lincoln Land Community College for permitting the station on its campus; 2) Anthony Rothering of the LLCC biology staff for near-daily assistance; 3) the many regular volunteer assistants (listed in the heading of this report); 4) the students and staff at the LLCC Work Force Careers Center for completing the construction of the "banding facility"; 5) everyone who donated "wish list" items for the facility; 6) everyone else who helped and/or visited the station (including many LLCC classes and independent students and faculty; and 7) the Rotary Club of Springfield South and the Phillip's 66 Company for providing grants.

World Bird Sanctuary (Migration Blitz) 383-0903

Valley Park, St. Louis County, MO

Coordinator: **Linda C. Tossing**

Chief assistants: Valerie Geile, Jean Favara, Colleen Crank, Pat Lueders

Address: 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road,
Valley Park, MO 63088

Email address: birdbanding@worldbirdsantuary.org

The "Migration Blitz" banding site at the World Bird Sanctuary is approximately 27 acres in an undeveloped area of the sanctuary's 310 acres. The site consists of an oak-hickory, forested, dry creek on a north-east facing ravine in the Meramec River Valley. The 2016 spring results are part of a 10-yr study initiated in 2009 that focuses on the use of the study area by passing migrants. This year 39 migrant species were captured; some of the special interest species were: Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler and Western Palm Warbler. We also had 10 Wood Thrush (one of our target species). In years past, we have had significant numbers of Tennessee and Nashville warblers. This year, the capture rate of Tennessee Warblers was double that of the Nashville Warbler. The 2016 migration season appeared to be more "spread out" compared to years past and, during the blitz, there were two rained-out dates and another with a significant thunderstorm.

Bruns Tract Conservation Area 383-0932

Green Ridge, Pettis County, MO

Coordinator: **Veronica Mecko**

Chief assistants: Araks Ohanyan and Katie Leonard

Address: Missouri River Bird Observatory,

P. O. Box 16,

Arrow Rock, MO 65320

Email address: veronica.mecko@mrbo.org

This was the third year (2016) for spring migration banding at Bruns Tract Conservation Area. The station is in the center of a 40-acre prairie reconstruction with vegetation that is predominantly native grasses and forbs except for the woody shrubs and a few small trees that grow along the draw that bisects the property from northeast to southwest.

Some of the station's more interesting bandings for the season included an ASY male Sora and first-time captures of a Myrtle Warbler, Traill's Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Northern Waterthrush (4) and Wilson's Snipe (2). Some of the more noteworthy returns from previous spring bandings were two Eastern Meadowlarks (a male and female from 2014 and 2015, respectively); two male Common Yellowthroats from 2015; two male Dickcissels from 2014; a Savannah Sparrow from 2015 and two Swamp Sparrows from 2015. A SY male Red-winged Blackbird with a deformed foot (from a previous injury that had healed) was also captured.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to Ryan Steffens and other members of the Hi-Lonesome chapter of Master Naturalists who have volunteered at the banding station.

Mora Conservation Area 383-0931

Cole Camp, Benton County, MO

Coordinator: **Veronica Mecko**

Chief assistants: Araks Ohanyan, Katie Leonard

Address: Missouri River Bird Observatory

P. O. Box 16, Arrow Rock, MO 65320

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This was the fourth season (2016) for spring migration banding at Mora Conservation Area. The southern half of the banding station is prairie restoration that has eastern red cedar and sericea lespedeza encroaching on the native vegetation. The northern half is shrubby and has small deciduous trees scattered throughout. A

shallow draw runs between the southern and northern areas and creates standing water in the northern area when there is a lot of rain. A gravel road crosses the northern area.

Some of the station's more interesting bandings for the season included ten Northern Waterthrushes (compared to only one for all of the first three years), and first-time captures of a Downy Woodpecker, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Nashville Warbler. Some of the more noteworthy returns from previous spring bandings were a Bell's Vireo (banded in 2013 and captured every year since), two male Common Yellowthroats (banded in 2013 and 2015), two Field Sparrows (both males, one that had been banded in 2013 and captured every year at least once) and a female Northern Cardinal (banded in 2015).

For the third year in a row the biology class from Calhoun High School visited the site for a banding demonstration.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to Ryan Steffens and other members of the Hi-Lonesome chapter of Master Naturalists who have volunteered at the banding station.

Warner Park Nature Center 363-0865

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Coordinators: **Sandy Bivens and Kathy Shaw**

Chief assistants: Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, Susan Bradfield, John Kell, Lauren Hoffman, Kim Bailey

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The Warner Park Nature Center Banding Station was established in 1982 with support from Dr. Katherine Goodpasture, Michael Bierly, Dr. Charles Farrell, Dr. Ann Tarbell, the Warner Park Nature Center staff and the Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation Department. The banding station is on the nature center grounds and available to the public for observation and education. This past April, 596 visitors attended banding programs and/or learned about birds and bird research at the station.

Some of the more noteworthy returns from previous spring bandings were a Red-bellied Woodpecker (banded in 2012), a Kentucky Warbler (banded as an ASY M in 2015) and two White-throated Sparrows (banded in April 2010).