

2018

Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2018 Report- Lake St Clair Metropark

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etc., are encouraged to provide results from their stations to the IFR report. It is anticipated that some may participate in the Midwest Migration Network (MMN), which could be a possibility in the near future; however, not all stations, nor supplemental operations at some stations will meet the projected standards/protocol of the MMN, therefore, seasonal reports from all stations (to recognize local records and achievements regardless of whether or not they participate in the MMN) would be most welcome. Many thanks to the compilers of the current (and newly anticipated) station reports.

**Lake St. Clair Metropark 423-0824
(LSCMP)**

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Allen T. Chartier

Assistants: Jenifer Benke, John Bieganowski, Jacob T. Charlebois, Mike P. Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Tamika R. Jaja, Stevie M. Kuroda, Jac Kyle, Dave J. Lancaster, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Erin Rowan, Edie Schmitz, Michelle M. Serreyn, Bruce R. Watson, Blanche H. Wicke, Christian Zammit, Julian Zammit. Thank you all!

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Banding was conducted at the Meadow station (LSCMP) at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Macomb Co., MI, for the third spring in a row. The previous 20-year history of banding in this park at another site 0.4 miles to the SW, the Marsh station (MBMP), and the reasons for moving to the Meadow station in 2015, was covered in the IFR Spring 2016 report and will not be repeated here. The GPS coordinates for the "centroid" of the Meadow station are: 42° 34' 45.0" N, 82° 48' 9.2" W. Locations for a total of 17.5 nets were established in fall 2015, within an area of approximately 3 acres (1.2 ha).

An effort was made to adhere to the long-established protocol at this park to band two days each week during April, May, and the first week of June. Out of a possible 20 days during that period, the station was operated on 16 days (19 days in 2017) from 7 Apr to 3 Jun 2018. Two days were rained out and not rescheduled, and four days were operated with only 11.5 nets due to not having enough volunteers

to manage 17.5 nets. Conditions were very wet and muddy in the banding area throughout April and May. Temperatures were cool to moderate. Wintry conditions continuing past mid-April extended the presence of winter residents, and delayed the arrival (and perhaps enhanced the numbers captured) of several early spring migrants. Across southeastern Michigan, May was one of the wettest on record, which forced a number of banding days to be rescheduled, and a couple of cancellations. These cold April days and wet May days reduced the number of volunteers willing to come out to help operate the station, and was the main factor preventing full coverage this spring.

The 1199 individuals banded was the second highest number of individuals for any of the 22 spring seasons at the MBMP and LSCMP stations, and the 77 species captured was a spring record for both stations. It was a good spring for flycatchers, kinglets, warblers, and sparrows. Species captured in exceptionally good or record numbers included: Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker (8), Alder Flycatcher (15), Willow Flycatcher (10), "Traill's" Flycatcher (16), Brown Creeper (14), Winter Wren (8), Golden-crowned Kinglet (77), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (59), Hermit Thrush (45), Orange-crowned Warbler (4), Yellow Warbler (78), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (52), (Western) Palm Warbler (20), American Redstart (30), American Tree Sparrow (18), Field Sparrow (4), (Red) Fox Sparrow (15), Song Sparrow (61), Lincoln's Sparrow (20), Red-winged Blackbird (147), House Finch (7), and American Goldfinch (83).

A few species were banded in significantly lower than average numbers, including: Red-eyed Vireo (2), Black-capped Chickadee (3), Veery (1), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), Black-throated Blue Warbler (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (3), Ovenbird (1), and Common Grackle (6). Expected species that were not captured included Downy Woodpecker (but two returns) and Blue-headed Vireo (4th year in a row).

Captures that were considered unusual included 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 1 Brown Thrasher, 1 Blue-winged Warbler,

3 Northern Parulas, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Connecticut Warblers (4th, 5th, and 6th ever in spring), 2 Chipping Sparrows (first ever in spring), 1 Savannah Sparrow, 2 Orchard Orioles (4th and 5th ever in the park), and 5 Pine Siskins were the first ever in spring, and included a SY-M with a cloacal protuberance on 4 May and a HY-M on 3 Jun, providing the first evidence of breeding at this site, which is at least 100 miles south of the normal breeding range in Michigan.

Interesting recaptures involved a number of birds originally banded 0.4 miles away at the MBMP site, including: a Gray Catbird banded in 2014 (3 yr 11 mo), a female Northern Cardinal banded in 2012 (at least 5 yr 11 mo), a male Northern Cardinal banded in 2013 (at least 4 yr 11 mo), a female House Finch banded in 2013 (4 yr 10 mo), and 6 American Goldfinches including a female banded in 2011 (at least 7 yr 11 mo), another female banded in 2011 (6 yr 10 mo), a male banded in 2013 (5 yr 10 mo), another male banded in 2013 (4 yr 10 mo), a female banded in 2014 (3 yr 11 mo), and a male banded in 2013 (3 yr 10 mo). The 25 Yellow Warblers returning from previous years (as far back to 2014) was higher than last year here, and much higher than at the MBMP site.

Public access to the banding table (but not to the nets due to where we are set up) allowed many observers throughout the season to watch the process, and learn about the bird banding research that has been ongoing in this park since 1989. On a special Migration Day event, promoted by the park's nature center on 12 May, dozens of observers stopped by to watch and, hopefully, learn.

Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) 391-0821
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Spring 2018 was the second spring season for migration banding at the PWE station. Despite being able to operate only 20 mornings this season, compared to 28 in 2017, both the number of species banded (52 and 47, respectively) and the number of

individuals (259 and 235, respectively) increased. This despite having only 69% of the net hours in operation in 2017. Species with notable increases included Swainson's Thrush (2018 = 15, 2017 = 2) and Slate-colored Junco (2018 = 12, 2017 = 0). White-throated Sparrow continued as the most common species banded here in spring (2018 = 29, 2017 = 19). The only notable decline in a species already low in number was Purple Finch (2018 = 1, 2017 = 6). Unfavorable weather toward the end of May caused an earlier closure to the operation than intended, but otherwise weather was not a factor either way. Thanks to the volunteer assistance of my friends Mike Wren and Rebecca Wood on several mornings.

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory 422-0891 (SBBO)

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman

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Like last year spring weather at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory was extremely frustrating compared to years past. Stationary fronts in the southern US seemed to hold back birds and station numbers were down for most of March and April. The local weather in March and April consisted of chilly, cold, wet, windy days. A couple days even had freezing rain and snow. Overall we lost 10+ days to weather.

Once weather patterns improved daily catches increased in May. Our big days for the spring were 6 May with 175 birds captured, 12 May with 170 birds and 13 May with 173 birds. Again, this spring, the Swainson's Thrush and Gray Catbirds topped the list. This year's total of 2002 birds of 99 species was up 484 birds from the 2017 total.

Special captures of note and interest were a recaptured male Sharp-shinned Hawk caught in the same net run as previously caught and a female Cooper's Hawk trapped at the Hawk Station in