

2018

## Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2018 Report- Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

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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**  
Albany, Vinton County, OH

**Coordinator/Bander: Bob Scott Placier**

Assistants: Mike Wren, Rebecca Wood

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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**

Assistants: Lee Johnson, Lynda Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Megan Pease, Dave Seal, Justin Keller, Nora Loncar, Sharon McCoy and especially Deb 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

Finally, I want to thank all our volunteers and staff (listed above) for their work.

**Coordinator: Vernon Kleen**

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The total number of birds captured in 2018 (1687) was higher than average and the second best spring season overall. The number of species banded (87) surpassed the previous high of 82 species. In addition to the birds banded, another 146 (of 21 species, 14 of which were migratory) were captured as returns and approximately another 400 individuals were captured as repeats. For 17 species there was a notable increase in the number of birds caught; and, for eight species (mostly sparrows and finches), the numbers were considerably lower than in the past. Three new species were added

Without the dedicated support of many volunteers, the station could not operate. Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered time at and visited the LLCC BBS. Special thanks (1) to the Lincoln Land Community College for permitting the station on its campus; (2) to Anthony Rothering of the LLCC biology staff for near-daily assistance; (3) to the many regular volunteer assistants (listed in the heading of this report); (4) to everyone who donated “wish list” items for the station; (5) to the many visitors to the station (including many LLCC classes and independent students and faculty); (6) to the Rotary Club of Springfield South and the Phillip’s 66 Company for providing grants, and (7) to several other individuals who made generous donations.

Assistants: Valerie Geile, Samantha Matchefts

The study area for the Migration Blitz is approximately 40 acres of the 310 acre World Bird Sanctuary. This is an oak-hickory forested dry creek northeast facing ravine in an undeveloped area of the sanctuary in the Meramec River Valley (part of the Meramec Valley Important Bird Area). These results are part of a 10-year study started in 2009, focusing on the use of migrants in the study area. For 2018, we had 54 different migrant species with special species: Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Ovenbird. We had 33 Wood Thrushes (one of our target species). In prior years, we have had significant numbers of Tennessee and Nashville warblers. This year, the Tennessee capture rate was triple the Nashville capture rate. During the blitz, we had four rain out dates, which is sort of normal for St. Louis weather.