

2017

Inland Flyway Review Fall 2016 Report

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of NABB. The report includes results from five stations. In the years ahead it is hoped that more stations will participate. To be included, Inland station operators should request the report form (a very simple, easily-completed, one-page form) by either snail mail or email. Many thanks for your interest and support.

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 – Fall 2016 Report

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This is the second attempt to put together a “fall seasonal” Inland Flyway Review (IFR) Report. The first fall report included information from four stations; three (both of the Michigan stations and the Tennessee station) had long histories (including 25-year averages); the one from central Illinois had just completed its third year. For 2016 only two (the Illinois and Tennessee) stations submitted results again this year, plus, there were three new stations (one each from Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee). Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the five 2016 stations reporting.

Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species. American Goldfinch was at the top species list at two of the stations and Swainson’s Thrush was at the top species at the other three. At the Tennessee station, six of the top 10 species were warblers including Hooded, Cape May and Black-throated Blue for which a single representative of any of these at the Illinois station would have been noteworthy. Thrushes dominated at the Michigan and Ohio stations.

As usual, it is interesting to see how many volunteers assist at the stations and the large number of visitors which often include students (including college/university classes) being exposed to banding operations. Of course, many thanks to the compilers of these seasonal reports.

I hope the number continues to grow and that both long-standing as well as “young” stations provide regular seasonal reports.

**Lake St. Clair
Metropark (LSCMP)** 423-0824
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Assistants: Jenifer Benke, John Bieganowski, Terri Chapdelaine, Jacob Charlebois, Mike Charlebois, Carol Goodman, Jean Gramlich, Jim Greer, Stevie Kuroda, Dave Lancaster, Ava Lau, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Tessa Lau, Kim Patrick, Bruce Watson, Blanche Wicke, Julian Zammit.

The early banding history of Metro Beach Metropark (MBMP: 423-0824), from 1989-1999 conducted by Ellie T. Cox (deceased in 2012), its transition to Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP), the habitat descriptions and station operations appeared in the 2016 IFR Spring Report (NABB 41: No. 3).

As with previous banding at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week during Aug, Sept, Oct, and the first week of Nov in 2016. Out of a possible 26 days during that period, only 23 days were operated partly due to not getting enough volunteers to help set up the site (which must be taken down completely each day), but also due to uncooperative weather, which abbreviated efforts on four days.

With this being the first full fall season of effort at this new site, it might not make sense to compare numbers to the old site which – although very close by – has different habitat. Some interesting differences were noted, however, that may or may not prove to be consistent over time, which may be related to habitat. More relevant is a comparison with the 14 “experimental” days banding at this

Table 1--IBBA Fall Summary 2016

Fall 2016 Banding Summary					
	Lake St. Clair Metropark MI	Palatial Woodland Estate OH	Lincoln Land Station IL	Whigg Meadow TN	Warner Park Nature Center TN
First Day	7-Aug-2016	15-Aug-2016	22-Aug-2016	3-Sep-2016	20-Sep-2016
Last Day	6-Nov-2016	31-Oct-2016	18-Nov-2016	2-Oct-2016	8-Nov-2016
Days Operated	23	54	73	30	10
Range of Nets Used	17	9 to 15	10 to 27	9 to 14%	4 to 6.5
# of Net Hours	2241	3471	5100	3131.5	253
# of Traps Used	0	0	0	0	3
% of Total Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0	1%
Largest Daily Catch	93	63	241	84	80
Largest Daily Catch Date	11-Sep-2016	25-Sep-2016	19-Oct-2016	12-Sep-2016	8-Nov-2016
Most Species on Any Date	25	18	32	19	15
Date of Most Species Banded	04&11 Sep 2016	25-Sep-2016	13-Oct-2016	26-Apr-2016	12-Oct-2016
Most Common Species on Best Day	SWTH--both days	SWTH	WTSP	SWTH	AMGO
The # of that species banded	10 & 20	28	65	21	27
Which was What % of Total on Best Day	18 & 22%	44%	27%	25%	34%
# of Birds Banded in 2015	632	449	2047	1149	n/a
# of Birds Banded in 2016	1065	738	2318	1094	330
# of Species Banded in 2015	54	46	80	48	n/a
# of Species Banded in 2016	72	59	78	50	39
Birds/100nh in 2015	66.9	15.1	36	40.9	n/a
Birds/100nh in 2016	52.9	21.3	45	35.4	130
The Top 10 Birds Banded were what					
%age of the total birds banded					
	59%	66%	67%	80%	88%

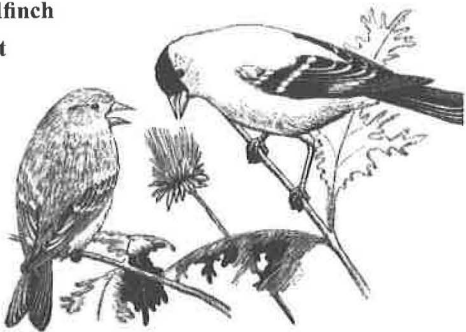
TABLE 2 -- Top Ten Most Commonly Banded Species -- Fall 2016

Lake St. Clair Metropark MI	Palatial Woodland Estate OH	Lincoln Land Station IL	Whigg Meadow TN	Warner Park Nature Center TN
SWTH -- 142	SWTH -- 129	AMGO -- 336	SWTH -- 218	AMGO -- 119
RCKI -- 91	WOTH -- 101	SCJU -- 269	TEWA -- 200	MYWA -- 43
GCKI -- 75	MAWA -- 39	HOFI -- 250	BTBW -- 70	NOCA -- 21
HETH -- 69	WTSP -- 39	CHSP -- 163	MAWA -- 67	AMRO -- 18
RTHU -- 59	GCTH -- 36	WTSP -- 158	BHVI -- 61	CACH -- 18
GCTH -- 48	TEWA -- 31	MYWA -- 120	HOWA -- 61	TUTI -- 16
AMRO -- 44	HOWA -- 31	HOSP -- 80	CMWA -- 53	TEWA -- 15
AMGO -- 42	OVEN -- 31	SWSP -- 68	WOTH -- 52	CEDW -- 12
NAWA -- 29	TUTI -- 26	SOSP -- 60	OVEN -- 48	INBU -- 11
WTSP -- 29	NOCA -- 24	COYE -- 54	SCJU -- 47	SWTH -- 8
				CGTH -- 8
Total = 628	Total = 487	Total = 1558	Total = 877	Total = 289



Swainson's Thrush
by George West

American Goldfinch
by George West



new site in fall 2015 (6 Sep – 25 Oct). Although number of net hours was 125% higher than in 2015, the total number of birds was only 63% higher, and the overall capture rate was actually lower (see Table 1).

This fall's 142 (6.34b/100nh) Swainson's Thrush was well above the 10-yr average at MBMP of 34.7 (2.73b/100nh), and last fall's total of 32 (3.18 b/100nh) here, and even exceeded the annual record of 53 (3.00b/100nh) at MBMP from 2009. This seems even more remarkable given that this new site covers half the area of the MBMP site. Equally amazing was the record number of Gray-cheeked Thrush: 48 (2.14 b/100nh) this fall, compared with 16 (1.59 b/100nh) last fall, and the MBMP record of 32 (3.00 b/100nh) from 2005. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglet (75; 3.35b/100nh) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (91; 4.06b/100nh) were both above the 10-yr average at MBMP (66: 5.19 b/100nh and 48; 3.80 b/100nh, respectively). Warbler numbers were considered low, with 178 individuals of 18 species (143 individuals of 18 species in 2015 with only partial effort). Most notable was only 29 (1.29b/100nh) Nashville Warblers this fall, after a total of 46 (4.56 b/100nh) last fall. By any measure, sparrow numbers were abysmal. The 10-yr average for White-throated Sparrow at MBMP is 217 (17.1 b/100nh), and in the partial season last year, 61 (6.07 b/100nh) were banded; only 29 (1.29 b/100nh) were banded this fall. Song and Swamp sparrows were much less numerous than at MBMP, but this is expected due to the drier habitats at LSCMP. The total number banded at LSCMP in fall 2016 (1065) was far below the 10-yr average for MBMP (1714), but the number of species captured (72), was above the 10-yr average (70.3).

Captures that were considered unusual included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, 2 Northern Saw-whet Owl (a first for either site!), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Thrasher and Purple Finch. Given that this site is fairly new, there were no interesting recaptures this fall.

Palatial Woodland Estat(PWE) 391-0821
Radcliff, Vinton County, OH
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Assistant: Rebecca Wood

The Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) is located in the unglaciated hill region of southeastern Ohio. Over 70% of the county is forested, much of the land being in state forests and wildlife areas, as well as paper industry holdings. There are no large towns, only one traffic light in the county, and it is the last county in Ohio to have a McDonald's opening a couple of years back.

Fall 2016 was only the second season in operation for the PWE station, following my retirement from teaching in May 2015. Nets are located along the lane leading to the house, approximately 1000 ft in length, which is also the right-of-way for the power line to the home. The property is at the end of the township road, so there is no traffic. I maintain the habitat as a stable shrubland under the powerlines, with the gravel lane on one side and a bush-hogged net lane between the shrubs and forest. Fifteen nets are used, three sets with three nets each and three of two nets. This was two more nets than used in 2015. The shrub layer under the powerline and the forest edge is dominated by spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), which makes it a very productive habitat for banding thrushes in the fall, with bright red fruit maturing by September. And thrushes, predictably, were the most numerous species by far banded in 2016, as they were the previous year. Hermit Thrush are always the least numerous, perhaps since by the time they arrive the fruit is gone. Wood Thrush numbers are high due to them being both an abundant local breeding species and a common migrant. I manage the shrub layer to increase the spicebush, dogwoods (*Cornus spp.*) and sumacs (*Rhus spp.*), while eradicating invasives.

Vinton County was also within the region for the Brood V emergence of periodic (17-yr) cicadas. They were gone by the time of fall migration, but the number of resident species individuals banded was also up dramatically from the previous year.

The cicada abundance seems to have benefitted both year-round residents such as Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker, but also Neotropical breeders such as Hooded Warbler and Ovenbird. An Ohio University ornithologist researching Hooded Warblers in a nearby state forest told me the species had zero nest failures for their first attempts, astonishing in comparison to her previous multiple years of studying there.

Uncommon species banded this season were a Connecticut Warbler, only my third ever and first in fall, and a Philadelphia Vireo. Thanks to a number of visitors I had through the season, and to the assistance of my friend Rebecca Wood, who came often to help out despite her broken foot.

Lincoln Land Community College 394-0893
Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)
Springfield, Sangamon County, IL
Banders: Vernon Kleen and Anthony Rothering
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Assistants: Paul & Ruth Biggers, Stevie Emmons, Wayne Huckabee, Logan McHenry, Mike Kennedy, Ron Moorman, Angie Muhs, Jim Mordacq, Bruce & Nancy Redman, Andrew & Bob Sharp and Susan Shaw.

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 fall season. The station's habitats and general description were described in the 2015 IFR Fall Report (*NABB* 41:No.1). The 2016 season was warm, wet and windy, and, like 2015, migrant birds were slow to arrive and quick to depart. During the season there were four days in which 100 or more birds were captured and the highest number (241) was set on 19 Oct. In contrast, there were six days in which five or fewer birds were captured. The 78 species banded this year was typical for a fall season but could easily have been much higher with several expected species avoiding the nets this fall.

The average of 31.8 birds per day was typical to past fall seasons but well below the 41.7 of 2014

and could have been higher had it not been for "shortened" days because of strong winds and rain. Although the station is still rather "young", it is difficult to add new species – but three new species were captured (Belted Kingfisher, Grasshopper Sparrow and Eurasian Tree Sparrow) this fall. In terms of species caught, there were 32 woodpeckers (of four species), 28 flycatchers (of four species), nine vireos (of four species), 72 wrens (of four species), 131 thrushes (of seven species), 347 warblers (of 19 species), and 775 sparrows (of 13 species). Several hummingbirds caught in special traps were also banded at the station but not included in the station report.

The five issues that continued to affect results were wind, rain, leaves in the nets, people and deer. Very little could be done about the wind and rain (which either cancelled operations on some days or forced early shut-downs on other days); leaves caused two problems: the birds avoided nets full of leaves and nets where people ("leaf-extractors") had a prolonged presence. As for people, there were five types: full classrooms (that were welcome), interested students (who were also welcome), periodic wanderers, leaf extractors (a must have) and those walking dogs. The periodic wanderers usually just passed through and had little impact on moving birds; however, those with dogs that were permitted to run free were responsible for some damaged nets (but not as bad as the deer). At the LLCC BBS station, deer are so tame they are almost petable.

Two wonderful assets the station has been blessed with are the availability of a lighted, "student-built" banding facility with indoor and outdoor banding arrangements, and a "bird-mobile" (Polaris) for use in operating and checking nets in a more distant habitat.

Acknowledgments: 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) and the students and classes that visited the station; 4) everyone who donated "wish list" items for the facility; and 5) those who provided grants and special donations.

Whigg Meadow **351-0840**
Robbinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN
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Mississippi State, MS 39762
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Assistants: Charlie Muise, Eric Soehren

The number of birds banded and species diversity were down from previous years but the number of visitors to the site was good: about 250 people visited the station to learn about bird migration, bird banding and Whigg Meadow. Included among these visitors were classes from several schools and universities located in surrounding states. The number of Cape May Warblers banded exceeded those of the past few years, while the totals for Tennessee and Bay-breasted warblers were down from past years.

Warner Park Nature Center **363-0865**
Nashville, Davidson County, TN
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Chief assistants: Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, Susan Bradfield, John Kell, Lauren Hoffman, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Heather Gallagher, Vera Vollbrecht, Denise Weyer, Allison Salsa, Llalura Cook, Justin Hiltbner and Jo Newmaier.

The Fall of 2016 was the most productive fall migration banding season in many years. The

drought and the almost completely dry creek with a few small pools of water in the banding area contributed to higher numbers of birds captured. There were at least 748 visitors to the station this year with notable groups such as Belmont University. Public educational programs were provided for all ages during Metro Schools Fall Break.

Notable recaptures included a Hermit Thrush banded as an HY/U on 10 Nov 2015 and recaptured as AHY/U on 8 Nov 2016; a Carolina Chickadee banded as AHY/U on 5 Jan 2010 and recaptured as AHY/U on 12 Oct 2016; a Tufted Titmouse banded as HY/U on 2 Jul 2012 and recaptured as AHY/U on 27 Sep 2016; and a Blue Jay banded as SY/U on 21 Apr 2015 and recaptured as ASY/U on 4 Oct 2016 in same net. Some interesting captures were a Wilson Warbler and five Purple Finches.

In addition to the fall mist-netting operations, more than 200 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded in four nearby locations through the coordinated efforts of Heather Gallagher, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw and their support team of volunteers.

Acknowledgments: Thank-you to the dedicated volunteers and staff who help run this banding station and make it an educational experience for all the visitors. Thanks, also, to the Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks and the Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for their perennial support.

Winter Banding at Warner Park Nature Center

The 2017 winter banding season marks the 35th year for the Warner Park Nature Center banding station in Nashville, Davidson County, TN. Bird research is just one of the many research projects conducted in the park that help to supplement knowledge for park management and year-round educational programs provided in this 3005 acre Metro Nashville Park.

Eight banding sessions were held during the winter season (Jan-Feb). This winter was a warm one with temperatures during banding only once below 40° F and some days above 60° F. In typical winters, potter traps are used on feeders, but because of warmer temperatures, one net was

employed on three days and two nets on another three days. Traps were open for a total of 291 trap-hr; nets were up for 41 nh. A total of 319 birds of 17 species were captured (121 banded, 195 recaptured, 3 unbanded). Capture rate was 84 b/100 net-hr and 185 b/100 nh.

Our best day was 4 Feb with 75 birds of 14 species captured, compared to our slowest day, 22 Feb with 20 birds of 6 species captured. The most common captures were 97 Carolina Chickadees (18 new, 79 recaptures), and 85 Tufted Titmice (15 new, 70 recaptures), and 34 American Robins (32 new, 2 unbanded). We were happy with 5 Purple Finches (4 new, 1 recapture), 4 Myrtle Warblers (2 new, 2