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Inland Flyway Review Fall 2016 Report- Lincoln Land Community College Bird Banding Station

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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

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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 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.