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Inland Flyway Review- Fall 2018 Report, Lake St Clair Metropark

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species being close to or above average. The Kelleys Island (OH) station, in its 23rd year, recorded its first Whip-poor-will and Grasshopper Sparrow plus seven Purple Finches (significant since they only had a total of 2 previously). The Springville Marsh Nature Preserve (OH), in its 35th fall season, also banded its first Grasshopper Sparrow as well as its 41,000th bird (an Orange-crowned Warbler). This was the fourth fall season for the Palatial Woodland Estate (OH) and warblers made for a good fall season there plus a woodcock and a flicker (where he says he captures more Pileated woodpeckers than flickers). The Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (IL) has been in operation since 1967. Although the weather was cooperative, they had down-net time from the flooded river; however, they still managed 4000+ birds and 104 species and caught two foreign Northern Saw-whet Owls. The Lincoln Land Community College (IL) station completed its 7th fall season; both the number of birds and species banded were average. Highlights were the station's 123rd species (Summer Tanager) and 84 Palm Warblers and lowlights were low counts of several species especially the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (only four banded). The station also captured returns of 64 birds of 16 species. The Whigg Meadow (TN) station (completing its 20th year) noted that it had two shut-down periods (related to weather), but the number of birds banded was up from previous years and the diversity was down. It also added two new species to its total (Clay-colored Sparrow and Mourning Warbler) plus it banded four HY Northern Saw-whet Owls. The Warner Park Banding Station (TN) was in its 36th year of operation. On the second net-check run of the season there were three different thrush species in the same net; the season also included a return Tufted Titmouse that had been banded as an HY in 2008.

All stations captured and reported at least one interesting species, and several reported good records for returning birds. From the information provided it appears that Warner Park had the oldest return, a Tufted Titmouse from 2008. Nearly all the stations included programs to which the public was invited or encouraged to participate.

Of course, many thanks to the coordinators/banders for their fall station reports. It was a pleasure reading them and to particularly note the number of visitors and volunteers at the various sites – especially students.

**LAKE ST. CLAIR 423-0824
METROPARK (LSCMP)**

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

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Banding was conducted at Lake St. Clair Metropark "Marsh" station (2.8 ha), for the 4th consecutive fall season. The previous 20-year history of banding in this park at another site 0.4 mi to the SW, the Marsh station (MBMP), and the reasons for the move to the Meadow station (LSCMP) in 2015, was published in the Jul-Sep 2016 issue of **North American Bird Bander** (NABB 41:138-140).

In southeastern Michigan, 2018 had the second wettest fall season on record, which made it challenging to schedule banding days. As with previous banding at this park, an effort was made to band two days each week from early August to early November. Out of a possible 26 days during that period, 26 days were operated although the banding schedule was affected and altered regularly due to rain and difficulty getting enough volunteers to help, and 8 days were operated with a reduced number of nets (11.5 to 13.5 instead of 17.5). After 13 Oct, the maximum number of nets open was 17.0 because an 18-m net was destroyed by a deer and only a 12-m net was available to replace it. The average number of days the Marsh

station was operated over 10 fall seasons (2004-2014) was 23.5. With the banding table located in a visible site close to the park nature center, daily visits by the public are expected, but there is no effort to track their numbers, which ranges from a few to a dozen or more every day. The banding station supports an annual special event in early September highlighting hummingbirds and Monarch butterflies, and on that day (8 Sep), the station had at least 60 visitors, many of whom were able to watch a hummingbird being banded (8 banded). That was also our busiest (all-time record) banding day of the fall overall. Another field trip sponsored by Michigan Audubon and the Michigan DNR brought another 50 observers to the station on 26 Oct. Some very well-timed cold fronts in September surely enhanced our numbers and diversity, perhaps offsetting days rescheduled due to poor weather.

A total of 1762 birds of 80 species was banded during fall 2018. The number of species is the 3rd highest ever in the park, with all three highest being from the new Meadow station, indicating a somewhat higher diversity of species than at the Marsh station. The number banded was 2.8% above the 2004-2014 average (1714) at the Marsh station, and was 7.3% lower than last fall. The capture rate of 82.8/100 nh was only slightly lower than fall of 2017, but well below the Marsh station average of 112.1 (a maximum of 14 nets were operated there, contributing to the higher capture rate). The good numbers and diversity this fall were due to good migrations of warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers. For the 5th fall in a row, sparrow numbers were lower. Audio luring for Northern Saw-whet Owls was attempted on four mornings from 16 Oct - 3 Nov, with a total of 4.0 hr of effort. No Saw-Whets were captured, but a single Eastern Screech-Owl was banded and another owl captured which had been banded in 2016 as HY-U. Rain on two additional mornings during this period delayed the opening of nets until sunrise or later, and prevented audio luring.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds moved through in good numbers again, with the total of 87 banded, which is above the Marsh Station's average of 80.5. No hummingbirds were banded after 13

Sep, which is earlier than usual. A total of 112 flycatchers of 8 species banded was quite good, and twice as many as last fall's excellent total. Vireo numbers were very good, and higher than last fall's high totals, with 7 Blue-headed, 23 Warbling, 28 Red-eyed, and a record of 9 Philadelphia vireos this fall. Thrush numbers were again much higher than at the Marsh station for the 3rd year in a row, giving an early indication that the Meadow Station may be consistently better for most thrush species. Hermit Thrushes were consistently more numerous at the wetter Marsh Station, but this fall the 82 banded at the Meadow Station was slightly above the 2004-2014 Marsh Station average of 79.1. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets (48) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (76) were both above the Marsh Station averages.

Warbler numbers were excellent, with of 491 individuals of 25 species banded. This was largely due to the record banding day on 8 Sep, when 31% of the season's warblers were banded. The most numerous warblers of the season were Nashville (81), Magnolia (100), Bay-breasted (32), Blackpoll (24), American Redstart (64), and a record number of Wilson's (42). Also notable was a record number of Orange-crowned Warblers (13). On 8 Sep record single day totals for three warbler species were recorded: Magnolia (44), Bay-breasted (17), and Wilson's (14). Sparrow numbers were low again, as has been the case since banding began at the Meadow station in 2015, although the last season at the Marsh Station (2014) also saw fewer sparrows than in the previous 9 years, being less than half the annual average there, suggesting a longer term downward trend in sparrow numbers. Only 132 sparrows of 7 species were banded, which was even lower than last fall, but White-throated Sparrow numbers were up slightly to 57 (Marsh Station 10-yr average was 217).

Captures that were considered unusual included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, 6 Great Crested Flycatchers, White-eyed Vireo (2nd ever banded in the park in fall, and late on 9 Oct), Golden-winged Warbler (2nd banded here since 2013, the 2nd in fall, and very late on 13 Oct), 2 Connecticut Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 5

Indigo Buntings, and a Purple Finch. Unusually early was a heavily molting AHY Hermit Thrush on 8 Sep. Also, there were late bandings of Least Flycatcher (11 & 13 Oct), Ovenbird (13 Oct), Orange-crowned Warbler (3 on 26 Oct, 1 on 2 Nov, and 2 on 3 Nov), Nashville Warbler (3 Nov), Cape May Warbler (26 Oct), Blackpoll Warbler (3 Nov), and American Redstart (2 Nov).

Interesting recaptures this fall included a few birds originally banded at the marsh station. One Northern Cardinal recaptured on 18 Aug 2018 was banded on 28 Aug 2014 as HY-M, making him 4 yr 2 mo. Several American Goldfinches banded at the Marsh Station were recaptured, including one recaptured 7 Sep 2018 that was banded on 15 Aug 2011 as AHY-F (at least 8 yr 3 mo), one recaptured on 28 Sep 2018 that was banded on 21 Oct 2011 as AHY-F (at least 8 yr 3 mo). Four Goldfinches originally banded in 2013 were recaptured, ranging in age from 5 yr 3 mo to at least 7 yr 02 mo.

I want to thank the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority for purchasing 15 nets at the beginning of 2017 for the operation of this station. Although 11 of these nets have already been destroyed, mostly by White-tailed Deer, this has been a significant financial help for continuing the research in this Metropark. Additional financial help was provided by donations for nets purchased from Oakland Audubon Society, and four banding volunteers which goes above and beyond the call of duty, and is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the park management for giving us permission to band in the park, and opening the park consistently at 06:00 a.m. (EDT) for us. And also thank you to the staff at the park nature center, especially Julie Champion, for supporting us for many years.

KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER 422-0853

Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith

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While the fall banding program has existed since 1974 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, a number of changes have occurred in recent years. In times past we ran as many as 120 nets and have reduced those numbers for a variety of reasons. Since 2016 we have run 16 nets in stable habitat managed for consistency. Two-thirds of the nets are around prairie habitat while one-third are adjacent to mature woods.

In 2018, 25 days were missed entirely. About half were due to weather and the other half for lack of a bander. No numerical records were set but given the reduced effort, if those numbers were adjusted for effort I think they would show an increase for many species. Warblers, in particular, have been a pleasant surprise with higher-than-anticipated numbers in the prairie habitat. Several hundred visitors, primarily school groups were also recorded in 2018.

PITSFIELD BANDING STATION 421-0853

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, MI

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Chief assistants: Aaron Yappert, Pam Woodruff, Nancy Ransom, Laura Porter, Carl LaRicca, Mikaela Kropp, Karen Kolbasa, Rich Keith, Brenda Keith, Danielle Hawkins, John Brenneman and Todd Alfes.

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Fall migration banding has taken place at Pitsfield since 1990. The habitat was strongly successional in the beginning and is now being maintained in late successional form. Extensive timber logging was conducted in August 2018, which more than likely affected capture. In particular Red-bellied Woodpeckers at 17 was a new high. Other woodpeckers were well represented as well. Nine days were missed due to weather and a number of days were shortened. This is within the normal range for missed effort. One new species (Clay-colored Sparrow, the 200th species recorded for this site) was banded.