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Inland Flyway Review- Fall 2018 Report, Pitsfield Banding Station

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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

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

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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

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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.