

2020

Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report

Vernon Kleen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb>

Recommended Citation

Kleen, Vernon (2020) "Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 45 : Iss. 1 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol45/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in North American Bird Bander by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.



Inland Regional News

Founded 1922

Inland Flyway Review – Spring 2019 Report

Vernon Kleen, Coordinator

Lincoln Land Community College
Bird Banding Station (LLCC BBS)
1825 Clearview Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
vkleen@comcast.net

This, the fourth spring-season IFR (Inland Flyway Review) report, includes information from eleven stations (four more than last year): three from Illinois, two from Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, and one each from Missouri and Alabama. First-time reports, received from Camp Sagawau Nature Center (IL) and Greenway Farms Banding Station (TN) and two reports, the World Bird Sanctuary (MO) and Ft. Morgan (AL), are from stations that report only spring banding operations. The following stations have long banding histories: the Lake St. Clair Metropark station (MI), the Pitsfield Banding Station (MI), Navarre Banding Station (also known as the Black Swamp Bird Observatory; OH), Palatial Woodland Estate (OH), Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (SBBO; IL) and Fort Morgan (AL). The Fort Morgan site was in its third year as a restart with five days of concentrated effort at the site. The best “compiler-choice” words to describe the 2019 spring season in addition to cold, wet and windy were: disappointing, frustrating and dismal; however, there were still interesting records.

Table 1 provides a summary of the basic information for the eleven stations; eight of the eleven reported 500 or more net hours of operation with Sand

Bluff Bird Observatory (IL) reporting the highest (13,713) and five were in operation 25 or more days. Weather-related issues (especially strong winds, rain and area flooding) had a detrimental effect on the success of the season and reduced the number of banding days at some stations.

Table 2 identifies the Top Ten most commonly banded species at the eleven stations. White-throated Sparrow was reported from the most stations (8); next high were Gray Catbird (6), Common Yellowthroat (5) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Goldfinch and Swainson’s Thrush (4). The top ten species accounted for 50% or more of each station’s total birds banded. The total of all “top ten” birds banded was 6886 and they accounted for 57% of the 12,163 total birds banded this spring. **(Both tables Page 52)**

Some of the more notable records or occurrences for each of the banding stations are highlighted in this paragraph. For the LSCMP (MI) it was a good spring for flycatchers and warblers but a poor season for sparrows and thrushes; captures that were considered unusual included a Green Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, and Field Sparrow. There were also several interesting returns including 23 Yellow Warblers. The spring season for the Pitsfield Banding Station (MI) was an experiment to determine whether or not spring operations should resume after several years of absence (it was agreed that the station should resume). Despite the uncooperative winds, rain and very high water at the Navarre Banding

Station (OH) there were a couple of surprise vagrants – the first-ever spring Nelson’s Sparrow and two Clay-colored Sparrows; and, while not a vagrant, two Brewster’s Warblers were banded compared to only one Golden-winged Warbler. At Palatial Woods Estate (OH) the best day of the season occurred in April (for the first time ever) and two species there showed substantial changes from the previous year’s numbers – Wood Thrush nearly doubled and White-throated Sparrow nearly halved. March and April weather at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (IL) consisted of chilly, cold, rainy, icy and windy days; a couple days were completely lost to freezing rain and snow; overall, 21 days were lost to weather, however, three days in May exceeded 130 birds banded and at the other extreme, only ¼ as many small thrushes were caught as were in 2018. At LLCC BBS (IL) there were 138 birds captured as “returns”; one (a Black-capped Chickadee) banded in the fall of 2012 plus another 525 “repeats”; a couple of the more interesting “returns” were an Eastern Kingbird (from 2014), and a Sharp-shinned Hawk (from last spring). Banding at World Bird Sanctuary (MO) completed its eleventh year of a fifteen year “Migration Blitz” program; its largest volume of birds were Tennessee and Nashville warblers and Swainson’s and Gray-cheeked thrushes. Warner Park Banding Station (TN) was in its 38th year of operation and held its regular six scheduled banding sessions this spring; this year it engaged 1276 park visitors in bird-related programs. This is the first report for Greenway Farms Banding Station (TN); it has been in operation since 2004. The highlight of the spring season was the banding of a female Painted Bunting – the first Painted Bunting ever banded in Tennessee according to the Bird Banding Lab. The highlight of the renewed spring banding operation at Fort Morgan Banding Station (AL) was the return of a White-throated Sparrow banded in the spring of 2010. And, of special interest overall, was the number of visitors welcomed to (and educated at) the various sites – especially interested college students.

Once again, this twice-a-year IBBA-wide compilation can be a forum for all IBBA stations to brag a little bit about their stations without jeopardizing their data or having to go into lengthy reports and to provide interesting accounts of first

time and irregular occurrences. The coordinators/banders of all stations, observatories, nature centers, etc., are encouraged to provide results for the IFR report. Many thanks to the compilers of the current (and newly anticipated) station reports.

MI-LAKE ST. CLAIR METROPARK (LSCMP)

423-0824

Harrison Twp., Macomb County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Allen T. Chartier

Assistants: Paige Ackerman, Cassandra F.

Arsenault, John Bieganski, Karen Blenc, Jacob T. Charlebois, Mike P. Charlebois, Guadalupe Cummins, Rachel Darling, Dave J. Lancaster, Ava R. Landgraf, Harry Lau, Rose Lau, Steve A. Mangas, Anne B. Ross, Kyle J. Schanta, Tom A. Schlack, Edie Schmitz, Michelle M. Serreyn, Blanche H. Wicke, Christian Zammit, and Julian Zammit. Thank you all!

Address: 1442 West River Park Dr.,
Inkster, MI 48141

Email address: amazilia3@gmail.com

Banding was conducted at the Meadow station at Lake St. Clair Metropark (LSCMP) for the fourth spring in a row. The previous 20-year history of banding in this park at another site 0.4 miles to the SW, the Marsh station (MBMP), and the reasons for moving to the Meadow station in 2015, were reported in the 2016 report. Locations for 17.5 nets were established in fall 2015, within an area of approximately 3 acres (1.2 ha).

An effort was made to adhere to the long-established protocol at this park to band two days each week during April, May, and the first week of June. The station was in operation on 15 days (out of a possible 20) from 13 Apr - 2 Jun 2019. Rainy days and a funeral in April resulted in only four days of operation that month. The rain continued (even increased) in May (it rained on 24 days) and flooded net lanes forced the reduction of nets in operation from 17.5 to 12 on seven out of ten period days. On the last day of banding (2 Jun), the temperature range was from 10c to 15.5c, with a north wind, and rain ending just before sunrise. Because of the flexibility of volunteer schedules, some days that had to be cancelled could be rescheduled. Temperatures throughout April and

May were -12.2c to -9.4c below normal. Although the rain and cool temperatures were a negative influence on the station's banding operations this spring (especially reducing effort), the timing of some rain events actually brought good numbers of migrants into the area which resulted in typical numbers of most species, and unusually high numbers of a few.

The 1154 individuals of 71 species banded was fairly typical of the past 4 seasons at the LSCMP station, but higher than any spring season at the old Marsh station. It was a good spring for flycatchers and warblers, and a poor season for sparrows and thrushes. Perhaps the high water levels negatively influenced our captures of ground-feeding species like sparrows and thrushes, and undoubtedly contributed to the capture of the second Green Heron ever banded in the park! That particular net lane was closed during much of May as Mallards and Canada Geese found it to their liking. Species captured in exceptionally good numbers included: Ruby-throated Hummingbird (18), Alder Flycatcher (8), Willow Flycatcher (12), Tree Swallow (15), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (19), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (71), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5 all on one day!), Brown Thrasher (3), Yellow Warbler (70), Magnolia Warbler (32), Cape May Warbler (3), Yellow-rumped Warbler (51), Palm Warbler (20), American Redstart (45), Common Yellowthroat (62), and Red-winged Blackbird (225).

A few species were banded in significantly lower than average numbers, including: Downy Woodpecker (2), Black-capped Chickadee (4), Brown Creeper (2), Winter Wren (1), Golden-crowned Kinglet (6), Swainson's Thrush (12), Black-and-white Warbler (2), Northern Cardinal (2), and Fox Sparrow (1). There were also several expected species that were not captured.

Captures that were considered unusual included a Green Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatches (2), Blue-winged Warblers (2), Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, and Field Sparrow.

Interesting recaptures involved a number of birds originally banded at the old site (0.6436km away)

including: a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird from 2014, a male Red-winged Blackbird banded from 2010 (almost 10 years ago), and three female Red-winged Blackbirds (from 2012 and 2 from 2013). The 23 Yellow Warblers returning from previous years (as far back as 2016) was similar to last year here, and much higher than the previous site.

Public access to the banding table (but not the nets) on a daily basis, 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 11 May, dozens of observers stopped by to watch and, hopefully, learn, and Audubon Great Lakes brought a field trip to the station on 18 May. The staff of the park's Nature Center also brought several school groups by the banding table as part of their general programs.

MI-PITSFIELD 421-0853 BANDING STATION

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith*

Chief assistants: Pam Woodruff, Brenda Keith and John Brenneman

*Address: 5750 East S Ave, Vicksburg Michigan 49097

Email address: warblerrke@gmail.com

Pitsfield has run fall migration nets since 1990 as part of the banding program of the Kalamazoo Valley Bird Observatory. Spring banding has been conducted a few years but not for several years. 2019 was run for a few days to see if a full scale spring operation would be feasible – it is. The next question is will there be adequate resources available to support a spring season? In addition to several returns from previous years one hybrid sparrow was banded in this spring. Feathers are being examined and results will be published.

OH-NAVARRE 413-0830 BANDING STATION (BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY)

Lacarne, Ottawa County, OH

Coordinators/Banders: Ashli Gorbet, Ryan Jacob

Chief Assistants: Alex Eberts, Kandace Glanville, Kyleigh Godsey, Laura Gooch, Barb Myers, Dan Myers, Arthur Sanchez Jr., Michelle Turner.

Address: 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Email address: ashligorbet@bsbo.org, ryanjacob@bsbo.org

Spring 2019 marked the 40th spring season for Black Swamp Bird Observatory at its Navarre Banding Station, and possibly its wettest. With Lake Erie at a record high and persistent northerly winds, the surrounding marshes of northwest Ohio (including the Navarre Marsh) were completely inundated, resulting in much of our first week in the station devoted to raising net lane boardwalks. Mist-netting efforts were finally able to commence on 12 Apr and lasted until 4 Jun. During this time, the station operated for 47 days with 7 days closed due to weather. Rain was the dominant cause for complete closures and lead to a number of delayed opens and early shutdowns. Rain combined with flooding made for a distinctly wet season; however, we were closed three fewer days than in spring 2018.

In the 5,292(+) net hours, 6,266 birds were banded of 104 species plus one hybrid, representing a station effort of 118.4 b/100-nh. New birds banded was nearly 600 birds less than spring 2018, and about 20% below the overall spring average (7,768). While a few high-volume species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Gray Catbird did set new and near record-high spring captures (357 and 482, respectively), many other high to moderate-volume migrants were noticeably low, particularly among warblers, thrushes, and sparrows. Most notably of these were White-throated Sparrow with 354 banded (ave. 503), Magnolia Warbler with 281 (ave. 620), and Nashville Warbler with 81 (ave. 211). Water levels in the marsh may have had some role in this deficiency; however, how key of a role remains unclear as many canopy foraging species were also low, and a few ground foragers were above average. Northerly winds were more persistent than usual this spring, and the low-pressure systems we look for to bring southern winds and migrants up to the lakeshore, were few

and far between. More so than high water, this lack of a tail wind may have been the greatest factor in bird movement throughout the region.

Despite the uncooperative winds, we did have a couple of surprise vagrants. 2019 marked the first-ever spring capture of Nelson's Sparrow, which was only the fourth individual to ever be processed at the station. Additionally, two Clay-colored Sparrows were banded (ave. <1), corresponding with numerous region-wide sightings throughout spring. And – while not a vagrant – two Brewster's Warblers were banded, compared to only one Golden-winged Warbler.

To finish off the season, we hosted a North American Banding Council (NABC) certification session, where one candidate was certified at the trainer level, five at the bander level, and three at the assistant level.

Many thanks to our dedicated group of volunteers and apprentices without whom this station's efforts would not be possible. Thanks also to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and First Energy for their continued support of this project and preservation of this incredible habitat.

OH-PALATIAL

391-0821

WOODLAND ESTATE (PWE)

Radcliff, Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier*

Chief Assistants: Aubrey Bartman and Rachel Brooks

*Address: 32840 Jourden Road,

Albany, OH 45710

Email address: coturnicops@yahoo.com

Spring 2019 proved to be a very disappointing season at the PWE station. In 2018 it was one of the wettest years on record for Ohio, and the wet weather continued into the spring months of 2019. The station was still operated a reasonable number of days, but mornings during what should have been the peak of migration were wiped out. For the first time at this station the best day occurred in April and birds per net hour fell to less than half of what was recorded in 2018, with far fewer species netted as well. Two species showed substantial

changes from the previous year's numbers, with Wood Thrush nearly doubled – 35 in 2019, 18 in 2018 – and White-throated Sparrow nearly halved – 15 in 2019, 29 in 2018. The Best bird of the season was an Orange-crowned Warbler. Thanks to my assistants, Aubrey Bartman and Rachel Brooks, wildlife students at Hocking College, and to my regular visitors, Mike Wren and Rebecca Wood, who provided company in what was a pretty slow season.

**IL-SAND BLUFF 422-0891
BIRD OBSERVATORY**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman*

Chief Assistants: Dave Seal, Lee Johnson, Lynda Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Justin Keller, Nora Longcar, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Sharon McCoy and Deb Eickman. Much thanks for all of their support.

*Address: 11114 Harrison Road,

Rockton, IL 61072

Email address: redtail15@aol.com

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is located on Colored Sands Forest Preserve in cooperation with the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County in northern Illinois. This area is in the Sugar River bottoms and consists of a sand prairie and hardwood forests. Banding has been conducted here since 1967.

Much like last year spring weather at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory was extremely frustrating and compared to 2018 this year's spring numbers were dismal.

Stationary fronts and storms in the southern US seemed to hold back birds and capture numbers were down for most of March and April. Our area weather for March and April consisted of chilly, cold, rainy, icy and windy days. A couple days were completely lost to freezing rain and snow. Overall, we lost 21 days to weather.

Once weather patterns improved daily catches increased at the end of April and first of May. Our total of 1,354 birds representing 88 species was down 648 birds from 2018's total of 2002 birds representing 99 species. Our big days for the spring were 9 May with 152 birds captured, 11 May with 131 birds and 15 May with 136 birds.

Again, this spring Gray Catbirds topped the list followed by Slate-colored Juncos. Missing in any quantity for 2019 were thrushes with Swanson's, Veery's, Hermit's and Gray-cheek's totaling only 66 birds combined. The same four species in 2018 totaled 275 birds.

IL-SAGAWAU NATURE CENTER 414-0875

Lemont, Cook County, IL

Coordinator/Bander: Leslie DeCoursey

Chief Assistants: Lorrie Ward

Address: 12545 W. 111th St, Lemont, IL 60439

Email address: leslie.decoursey@cookcountyl.gov

IL-LINCOLN LAND 394-0893

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BIRD BANDING STATION (LLCC BBS)

Springfield, Sangamon County, IL

Coordinators/Banders: Vernon Kleen* and Anthony Rothering

Chief Assistants: Paul Biggers, Joe Gardner, Wayne Huckabee, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Nancy Redman, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson.

*Address: 1825 Clearview Dr.,

Springfield, IL 62704 or P.O. Box 13442, Springfield, IL 62791

Email address: vkleen@comcast.net

The Lincoln Land Community College bird banding station (LLCC BBS), initiated in Sep 2012, began its fourteenth season of operations and seventh spring season on Thursday, 21 Mar 2019. The site was the same as in seasons past and mist nets were used to capture birds from near sunrise to about 11:00 hrs. on days without rain, strong winds or very cold temperatures. This spring an average of 22.7 nets were used on 49 mornings (practically all weekdays and most Saturdays) from 21 Mar through 24 May and, in most cases, in the same locations as previous seasons for 3635 nh of operation.

For the 2019 season there were no days in which 100 or more birds were banded; in contrast to past years, there were no days in which five or fewer birds were banded. The 83 species banded was second best for a spring season and could easily

have been higher. The total of 1421 birds banded was the third-best spring season. Two species, Barn Swallow and Connecticut Warbler, were new for the station bringing the cumulative total to 125 species banded.

This year's average of 29.0 birds per day ranked fourth (for the six years of records since 2014). Seasonal highlights included returns of several species banded as early as the fall of 2012 and above average numbers (compared to past years) for the Eastern Phoebe, Veery, Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal and Indigo Bunting. Overall, there were new all-time highs set for nine species and ties for another seven.

An important aspect of the banding program is the capture of birds banded in seasons past. This spring, 138 were captured as "returns"; one (a Black-capped Chickadee) had been banded in the fall of 2012. Another 525 birds were captured as "repeats". Several birds were caught multiple times (some as many as eight times). Some of the most interesting returns were an Eastern Kingbird (from 2014), a Sharp-shinned Hawk (from last spring), the Black-capped Chickadee (from the fall of 2012), a Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal and House Sparrow (from 2013), Gray Catbirds (from 2015 and 2016), the Common Yellowthroat (from last fall), 8 Chipping Sparrows (from 2016 through 2018) and a Winter Wren and Red-breasted Nuthatch (from last fall).

Four issues that affected banding operations (and, in some cases, the potential number of nets used each day) were wind, rain, people and deer. Very little could be done about the wind and rain except to furl nets that had already been opened (before the late morning showers began), or, call off operations before dawn; there was an over-abundance of rain this spring. As for visiting people, there were four types: full classrooms, interested students (some earning extra classroom credits), periodic wanderers, and those with dogs. The classroom groups, students and periodic wanderers did not affect banding operations except for isolated occasions when they lingered for extended periods or staged as a group in close proximity to active

nets, especially nets close to the campus lake. Then there were two categories of people with dogs: 1) those whose dogs were either on leashes or trained not to stray and 2) those who permitted their dogs to run freely. Fortunately none of the nets were known to be damaged by running dogs this spring. And finally, there were the deer (and more deer). The only hope remained that the deer learned where the nets were when furled (and readily visible) and avoided them when unfurled (not visible). Deer were definitely responsible for the complete destruction/loss of nets (more than usual) and for large, gaping holes in others. When the deer were caught off-guard (which they sometimes were), or were in pursuit of other deer, they dispersed quickly, and a net in their dispersal path did not stop them. The deer at the banding station are so tame, they do not even flinch when someone actively tried to chase them away. On occasion deer were observed using their noses to lift up the bottom trammel of the net and slither underneath before scampering away; however, on "too many" occasions they were observed running through the nets. In addition, a hand-full of birds were also lost by deer eating them in the nets.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who volunteered time at and visited the LLCC banding station. Special thanks to a) Lincoln Land Community College for permitting the project to continue; b) Anthony Rothering (LLCC Biology Faculty) for near-daily assistance in all aspects of the project from beginning to end, for the meaningful lectures to visiting classrooms, for the presentation to the LLCC Board on the status of the station, for maintaining the feeding station and for keeping the bird feeders full; c) many regular assistants, notably Paul Biggers – including arrangements to get the "bird-mobile" to and from the shop, Joe Gardner, Wayne Huckabee along with Jim Mordacq who regularly arrived early on Wednesdays to set up the nets and for helpful improvements for station operations and safety, Carla Potts, Nancy Redman, Andrew Sharp, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson; d) all who donated wish-list items and necessities for the facility and station; and e) everyone else who helped and/or visited the station (including dozens of LLCC classroom

students and at least eight LLCC classes) any time during the season. Thanks, too, to everyone who provided financial support, especially to The Rotary Club of Springfield South for another grant, the Redmans for unique grants and several anonymous donors.

MO--WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY 382-0903

Valley Park, St. Louis County, MO

Coordinator/Bander: Linda C. Tossing

Assistants: Valerie Geile, Samantha Matchefts

Address: 125 Bald Eagle Ridge Road,
Valley Park, MO 63088

Email addr: birdbanding@worldbirdsantuary.org

The study area for the Migration Blitz is approximately 16.1ha of the 125.4ha World Bird Sanctuary. This is an oak hickory forested dry creek north-east facing ravine in an undeveloped area of the sanctuary in the Meramec River Valley (part of the Meramec Valley Important Bird Area). The results are a 5 year extension of the 10 year study started in 2009, focusing on the use of migrants of the ravine. For 2019, we had 58 different species. We continue to have a volume of Tennessee and Nashville warblers and Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes. This year we also had two Wood Thrush returns. The cooler weather in April seemed to impact the migration thru St. Louis and we did not experience the volume of birds until the beginning of May.

**TN--WARNER PARK 363-0865
NATURE CENTER (WPNC)**

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

Coordinators/Banders: Sandy Bivens*, Kathy Shaw and Laura Cook

Chief assistants: Ethel Kawamura, John Kell, Diana McLusky, Susan Bradfield, Leah LaRocco and Patti Ghertner.

*Address: 7311 Hwy 100,
Nashville, TN 37221

Email address: sandy.bivens@nashville.gov and laura.cook@nashville.gov

Warner Park Banding Station is in its 38th year of operation. The weather cooperated nicely, and we were able to hold all six of our scheduled sessions. While our first banding session of the year netted

the most birds, a quarter of the birds caught were White-throated Sparrows, a winter resident in our area. By our last session at the end of April, we had fewer captures but our highest diversity of species. On that day, 30 Apr, we recaptured an ASY male Kentucky Warbler that we had previously caught, on the same day, in 2016. Since then, we have captured him every spring between March and June. Warner Park Banding Station is open for observation to the public and during this spring banding season, we engaged 1,276 park visitors in bird related research and programs.

In addition to our historical spring migration banding, the WPNC Banding Station engaged in several other research programs including the first Mobile Spring Migration Banding. This new spring migration project will compare species numbers and composition at a less public, more interior park location with our traditional banding station at Warner Park. During five banding sessions 39 birds of 16 species were captured along with three recaptures. A highlight included the capture of three thrush species: Wood, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked.

Warner Park Banding Station is grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers and staff who contribute hundreds of hours at the station, bird counts, and educational programs. A special thank you to Friends of Warner Parks and the staff of Warner Park Nature Center and Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for their continued support.

**TN--GREENWAY FARMS 375-0851
BANDING STATION**

Hixson, Hamilton County, TN

Station Compiler: David Aborn

Address: Dept. of Biol., Geol., and Env. Sci., Univ. of Tennessee,
615 McCallie Avenue,
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Email address: david-aborn@utc.edu

Greenway Farms is a 220ha city park in Hixson, TN. Most of the habitat is oak-hickory forest (~40-50 years old), but there is also a 12ha overgrown field, and 11ha of mowed turf grass. The park is bounded by the North Chickamauga

Creek, as well as suburban development. There are trails throughout the park, and it is popular with runners, hikers, and dog walkers. Five nets are run in wooded habitat and three are in the overgrown field. Since 2004, banding operations have occurred here from late-March through late-May and late-August through late October, three days per week from sunrise until ~4 hours post-sunrise. Banding demonstrations are periodically conducted for school groups or the local bird club. This year, relentless rain in February and March flooded the banding site and delayed the start of spring banding by 2 weeks. 38 birds were captured which is a 40% increase from 2018, and a 90% increase from 2017. The spring average for all years is 86 birds. The season's best capture was a female Painted Bunting, caught on 3 May 2019. After submitting the spring records to the Bird Banding Lab, I was informed that this was the first Painted Bunting ever banded in Tennessee!

**AL-FORT MORGAN
BANDING STATION**

302-0880

Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, AL

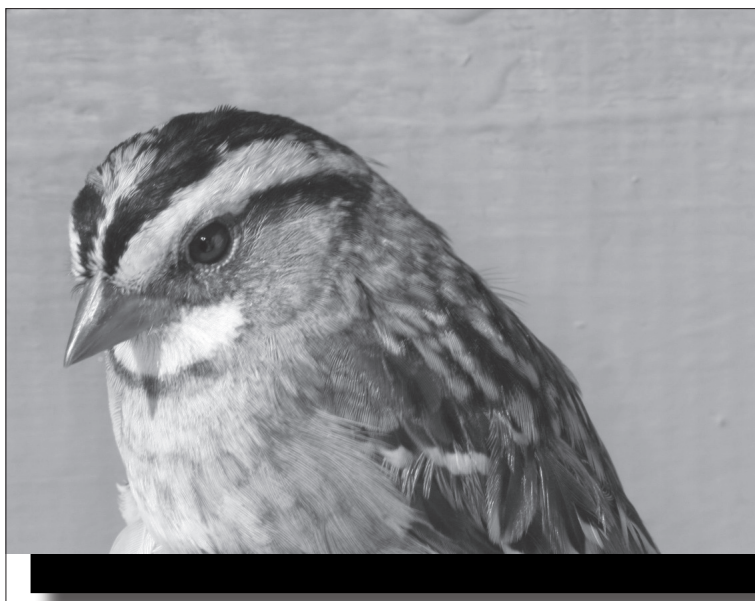
Coordinator/Bander: Scott Rush

Assistant: Eric Soehren and Emma Rhodes

Address: Box 9690, Mississippi State University,
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Email address: scott.rush@msstate.edu

After 20+ years of operation, this station closed in 2014, re-opening again in 2017. Following low numbers of captures in 2017 (comparable to what was captured in 2019), there were considerable captures over the same week period in 2018. Presence of a high-pressure front over the area may have hindered many birds, or assisted migration east or west of the banding station. A significant recapture of 2018 was a White-throated Sparrow banded as an AHY on 27 Mar 2010 at the station, recaptured on 18 Apr 2018. Although fewer birds were banded at the station in the spring 2019 than the spring 2018, there were 525 human visitors in the spring 2019.



White Throated Sparrow photo R.Pantle

Table 1. Spring 2019 Banding Summary

	Lake St. Clair Metropark	Pitsfield	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Sagawau Nature Center	Lincoln Land Community College	World Bird Sanctuary	Warner Park Nature Center	Greenway Farms	Fort Morgan
	MI	MI	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN	AL
First Day	13-Apr-2019	18-Mar-2019	12-Apr-2019	7-Apr-2019	17-Mar-2019	17-Apr-2019	21-Mar-2019	19-Apr-2019	2-Apr-2019	11-Apr-2019	16-Apr-2019
Last Day	2-Jun-2019	15-May-2019	4-Jun-2019	27-May-2019	25-May-2019	1-Jun-2019	24-May-2019	16-May-2019	2-May-2019	20-May-2019	20-Apr-2019
Days Operated	15	16	47	28	33	13	49	25	6	21	5
Nets Used	12 to 17.5	3 to 21	23	5 to 15	2 to 38	4 to 6	18 to 28	14 to 27	5.5	8	18
Total Net-Hours	1268	954	5292	1853	13,713	50	3635	2711	144	84	729
Traps Used	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
% of Total Caught in Traps	0	0	0	0	0	1%	0	0	0	0	1%
Largest Daily Catch	218	124	488	27	152	48	67	59	22	10	41
Largest Daily Catch Date	10-May-2019	8-May-2019	3-May-2019	30-Apr-2019	19-May-2019	11-May-2019	9-May-2019	10-May-2019	2-Apr-2019	24-Apr-2019	16-Apr-2019
Most Species on Any Date	33	28	53	15	39	15	29	20	10	4	18
Date of Most Species Banded	10-May-2019	8,11 & 12 May 2019	15-May-2019	30-Apr-2019	18-May-2019	17-Apr-2019	10-May-2019	0/09-2019	30-Apr-2019	24-Apr-2019	16-Apr-2019
Most Common Species on Best Day	MYWA	NAWA	WTSP	WOTH	WTSP	BAOR	COYE	TEWA	NOCA	WTSP	WOTH
Number of Most Common Banded	43	40	95	7	18	21	12	17	6	6	5
Percent of Most Common on Best Day	20%	32%	20%	26%	12%	44%	18%	29%	27%	60%	12%
# of birds banded in 2019	1200	not available	6850	259	2002	not available	1687	826	37	27	561
# of species banded in 2018	1154	620	6266	206	1354	174	1421	719	62	38	149
# of species banded in 2019	77	not available	104	52	99	not available	87	65	15	10	41
Birds/100mh in 2019	71	62	104	43	88	28	83	58	19	11	45
	104.9	not available	142.8	24.4	11.2	not available	33	25	34.5	not available	0.95
	112.7	65	118.4	11.1	9.9	3.48	39	26	42.9	45	0.2
Top 10 species as % of total	63%	66%	56%	60%	47%	78%	51%	63%	85%	95%	53%

Table 2. Top 10 most commonly banded species -- spring 2019

Lake St. Clair Metropark	Pitsfield	Navarre Banding Station	Palatial Woodland Estate	Sand Bluff Bird Observatory	Sagawau Nature Center	Lincoln Land Community College	World Bird Sanctuary	Warner Park Nature Center	Greenway Farms	Fort Morgan
MI	MI	OH	OH	IL	IL	IL	MO	TN	TN	AL
RWBL - 225	WTSP - 144	YWA - 536	WOTH - 35	GRCA - 123	BAOR - 43	SCIU - 245	TEWA - 120	WTSP - 18	NOCA - 11	GRCA - 14
AMGO - 74	SCIU - 63	GRCA - 482	WTSP - 15	SCIU - 115	BHCO - 18	COYE - 68	SWTH - 80	NOCA - 14	WTSP - 11	PROW - 13
RCKI - 71	NAWA - 50	TRFL - 461	OVEN - 15	COYE - 73	INBU - 15	GRCA - 65	WTSP - 79	AMGO - 10	CARW - 3	NOCA - 10
YWA - 70	WPWA - 28	RCKI - 357	FISP - 11	FISP - 62	CHSP - 15	SWSP - 60	NAWA - 62	INBU - 2	GRCA - 3	WEVI - 8
COYE - 62	OVEN - 23	WTSP - 354	INBU - 11	BAOR - 59	AMGO - 12	NOCA - 51	GCTH - 39	BHCO - 2	GCTH - 2	MODO - 7
MYWA - 51	RCKI - 20	MYWA - 295	SWTH - 10	WTSP - 52	OROR - 10	CHSP - 49	INBU - 17	SUTA - 2	NOWA - 2	NOWA - 6
AMRE - 45	GRCA - 20	COYE - 284	EATO - 7	AMTO - 40	WCSP - 6	SWTH - 47	OVEN - 15	LOWA - 2	BRTH - 1	WOTH - 6
SWSP - 44	RWBL - 15	MAWA - 281	BWVA - 7	OVEN - 36	DOWO - 6	MYWA - 46	REVI - 15	RBWO - 1	HETH - 1	BLJA - 5
MAWA - 32	AMRO - 15	AMRE - 263	COYE - 6	TRFL - 36	FISP - 5	WTSP - 46	RCKI - 13	REVI - 1	KEWA - 1	GCFL - 5
AMRO - 25	HOWR - 12	SWTH - 214	WEVI - 6	AMRO - 36	TRES - 5	AMGO - 46	KEWA - 12	SWSP - 1	WEVI - 1	INBU - 5
WTWA - 25							WOTH - 12			
Total = 724	Total = 390	Total = 3527	Total = 123	Total = 632	Total = 135	Total = 723	Total = 464	Total = 53	Total = 36	Total = 79