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Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report- Lake St Clair Metropark

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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

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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!

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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

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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