

2020

Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report- Pitsfield Banding Station

Rich Keith

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

Recommended Citation

Keith, Rich (2020) "Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report- Pitsfield Banding Station," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 45 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol45/iss1/10>

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.

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