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Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report- Navarre Banding Station (Black Swamp Bird Observatory)

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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*

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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

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

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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

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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