

2020

Inland Flyway Review- Spring 2019 Report- Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

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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.

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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

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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.

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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