

2015

## Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2015- McGill Bird Observatory

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### Recommended Citation

Gahbauer, Marcel A.; Frei, Barbara; and Duval, Simon (2015) "Atlantic Flyway Review: Region II (North Central)- Fall 2015- McGill Bird Observatory," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 40 : Iss. 4 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol40/iss4/13>

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with the exception of the last week in Sep, when I had good capture totals.

Agricultural practices are changing the southern tier of New York state, and fields that were fallow for many years around the five acre plot that I band on are being cultivated and corn planted to be used for ethanol. Field birds, like Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Field Sparrows, and Savannah Sparrows which were once common are now missing. In addition, the patches of wood lots that are left are growing back to mature forest. As a result, I band fewer and fewer warbler species here at Northview.

Of the 11 returns, one Northern Cardinal (9 years old) had an aluminum band, worn very thin, which was replaced with a stainless steel band. In addition, there was a 3-year-old Blue Jay, two 2-year-old Gray Catbirds, a 2-year-old Common Yellowthroat, a 2-year-old Black-capped Chickadee, and a 2-year-old Song Sparrow.

Thanks to my sub-permittee, Anne Cooke, for her help aging, sexing, and recording this fall.

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McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) in Montreal is a full member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, and the only station in Quebec to conduct standardized spring and fall migration banding programs. MBO is operated by the Migration Research Foundation (MRF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of wildlife movements, especially as they relate to population monitoring and conservation.

In 2015, MBO operated its eleventh full Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP), covering for the first time our usual 13-week period from 1 Aug through 30 Oct and an extra week from 31 Oct to Nov 6, recognizing that some species are moving earlier than when we started in 2005. A one-hour

Oct. - Dec. 2015 & Jan. - Mar. 2016

census trail was walked daily, and nets were open for five hours beginning at sunrise except when limited by inclement weather; three days were lost and 33 days of banding were partly shortened due to rain and/or high winds. As a result of the generally favorable conditions, the banding effort of 7,093 net hours was above average. Typically all 16 nets were operated daily this fall. All nets are 12-m Manomet passerine nets, on standard 3-m poles. This fall, bander-in-charge duties were primarily handled by Simon Duval and Gay Gruner.

The total of 3,151 individuals banded during the FMMP and 2015 was below the long-term average, of 3,870 for the season and even well below the average of 3,348 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Repeats (724) were average while returns (66) were a little bit above. The 84 species banded is well above the average range, while the number of species observed (151) is above the ten-year fall mean of 144.

White-throated Sparrow took first place this fall with 326 individuals banded, while American Robin came in second with 263 individuals banded and Ruby-crowned Kinglet closed the top three with 257 individuals banded. No new species were banded this fall. The MBO total still stands at 115 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at:

<http://www.oommbo.org/results/banding-totals/>

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-Sep to mid-Oct, and our tenth week (3 Oct – 9 Oct) was the busiest, with 352 individuals banded. This fall was all about diversity; on a record 44 days, the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including nine days with more than 60 and one day at 70 species. No new species were observed for the site, so the all-time checklist for MBO still stands at 212 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program, during which we banded 273 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus three foreign recoveries. Only one other owl species was banded, an Eastern Screech-Owl, on 6 Oct.



Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program.

As always, other research activities and educational programs were integrated with the banding

program. We provided ongoing training to more than 50 volunteers this fall, and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing Piranga online photo library at:

(<http://www.natureinstruct.org/piranga/>)



# *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

**Founded 1922**

## **President's Notes**

**2015 Annual Meeting!** Many thanks to Dr. Scott Rush and his associates for sponsoring a great meeting along Mississippi's Gulf coast. Several participants were treated to their "lifer" Yellow Rails and all appreciated the opportunity to see at least one Le Conte's and many Henslow's sparrows along with a Sedge Wren in the hand. The minutes for the meeting are accompanying this message.

**Website!** Many thanks, too, to Erika Dittmar (even though she is currently working in Hawaii) for maintaining our website; please check it out every so often and provide her with some photos or other information she could add to the site.

**2016 Meeting!** It is not too early to think about 2016; the annual meeting is scheduled for the second weekend in November (11-13 Nov 2016) at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in east-central Indiana. Put the date in your calendars and plan to be there. I have been informed that one of the target species for banding that weekend is the Saw-whet Owl.

**Inland Flyway Review!** In my last report I made reference to a potential "Inland Flyway Review", similar to that of EBBA, for regular appearance in NABB. After discussing the possibility with several banders and being told by

the operators of several banding stations that they would participate. Let us get it going. I am using the same format as that already established by EBBA (with approval from Elizabeth Brooks). The one page report form (mostly fill-in-the-blank) for the 2015 fall season is ready to send out. A note to Inland station operators, please request the form; it can be provided by snail mail or email. Many thanks for your interest and support.

**Enjoy the birds!** Finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the year to enjoy the birds (even if just for a little bit).

*Vernon Kleen*

## **Inland Bird Banding Association 2015 Annual Meeting**

Inland Bird Banding Association met at Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Moss Point, MS, from 13 - 15 Nov 2015. The meeting was hosted by Scott Rush of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS. Friday activities included a meeting of IBBA's Board of Directors, general registration and reception, and night surveys for Yellow Rail and other species at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife