

**Whigg Meadow** 351-0840  
Robbinsville, NC, Monroe County, TN  
**Coordinators: Scott Rush and Jay Dedeker**  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Mississippi State University,  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
scott.rush@msstate.edu  
Assistants: Charlie Muise, Eric Soehren

The number of birds banded and species diversity were down from previous years but the number of visitors to the site was good: about 250 people visited the station to learn about bird migration, bird banding and Whigg Meadow. Included among these visitors were classes from several schools and universities located in surrounding states. The number of Cape May Warblers banded exceeded those of the past few years, while the totals for Tennessee and Bay-breasted warblers were down from past years.

**Warner Park Nature Center** 363-0865  
Nashville, Davidson County, TN  
**Coordinators: Sandy Bivens and Kathy Shaw**  
7311 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN  
sandy.bivens@nashville.gov  
Chief assistants: Diana McLusky, Ethel Kawamura, Susan Bradfield, John Kell, Lauren Hoffman, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Heather Gallagher, Vera Vollbrecht, Denise Weyer, Allison Salsa, Llalura Cook, Justin Hiltbner and Jo Newmaier.

The Fall of 2016 was the most productive fall migration banding season in many years. The

#### Winter Banding at Warner Park Nature Center

The 2017 winter banding season marks the 35th year for the Warner Park Nature Center banding station in Nashville, Davidson County, TN. Bird research is just one of the many research projects conducted in the park that help to supplement knowledge for park management and year-round educational programs provided in this 3005 acre Metro Nashville Park.

Eight banding sessions were held during the winter season (Jan-Feb). This winter was a warm one with temperatures during banding only once below 40° F and some days above 60° F. In typical winters, potter traps are used on feeders, but because of warmer temperatures, one net was

drought and the almost completely dry creek with a few small pools of water in the banding area contributed to higher numbers of birds captured. There were at least 748 visitors to the station this year with notable groups such as Belmont University. Public educational programs were provided for all ages during Metro Schools Fall Break.

Notable recaptures included a Hermit Thrush banded as an HY/U on 10 Nov 2015 and recaptured as AHY/U on 8 Nov 2016; a Carolina Chickadee banded as AHY/U on 5 Jan 2010 and recaptured as AHY/U on 12 Oct 2016; a Tufted Titmouse banded as HY/U on 2 Jul 2012 and recaptured as AHY/U on 27 Sep 2016; and a Blue Jay banded as SY/U on 21 Apr 2015 and recaptured as ASY/U on 4 Oct 2016 in same net. Some interesting captures were a Wilson Warbler and five Purple Finches.

In addition to the fall mist-netting operations, more than 200 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded in four nearby locations through the coordinated efforts of Heather Gallagher, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw and their support team of volunteers.

**Acknowledgments:** Thank-you to the dedicated volunteers and staff who help run this banding station and make it an educational experience for all the visitors. Thanks, also, to the Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks and the Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for their perennial support.

employed on three days and two nets on another three days. Traps were open for a total of 291 trap-hr; nets were up for 41 nh. A total of 319 birds of 17 species were captured (121 banded, 195 recaptured, 3 unbanded). Capture rate was 84 b/100 net-hr and 185 b/100 nh.

Our best day was 4 Feb with 75 birds of 14 species captured, compared to our slowest day, 22 Feb with 20 birds of 6 species captured. The most common captures were 97 Carolina Chickadees (18 new, 79 recaptures), and 85 Tufted Titmice (15 new, 70 recaptures), and 34 American Robins (32 new, 2 unbanded). We were happy with 5 Purple Finches (4 new, 1 recapture), 4 Myrtle Warblers (2 new, 2

recaptures) and 1 new Hermit Thrush that are typically infrequent winter visitors to the feeders.

Interesting recaptures were a Tufted Titmouse captured 4 Feb 2017, originally banded during MAPS banding as AHY U on 23 Jun 2008; a Carolina Chickadee captured 24 Jan, originally banded as unknown age on 4 Oct 2010; a chickadee captured 4 Feb, originally banded as AHY on 5 Jan 2010; and a chickadee captured 14 Feb, originally banded as HY on 21 Sep 2010. In addition, two titmice and a chickadee were recaptured from 2011, and two titmice were recaptured from 2012.

All sessions were open to the public. A total of 388 park visitors observed banding, including 309 participants in the Winter Bird Day that provided a variety of educational experiences for visitors.

#### Species Snapshot No. 2: Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

This is the second installment in our regular feature presenting a brief synopsis of the banding and encounter records submitted to the Bird Banding Laboratory for a particular species. Each installment will feature a new species; suggestions for species to be covered or data to be presented are welcome. Space limitations of **North American Bird Bander** prohibit any in-depth analysis of the data and these notes are not meant to show any trends in population parameters such as population density or growth rate, geographic distribution, etc. and should not be viewed as a definitive analysis of the status of the species.

Although the banding program began in the 1920s, the currently available digital records for banding data include only those records from 1960 to the present (pre-1960 banding data are available in other formats, however). All encounters, including those of birds banded before 1960, are available in digital format. As no Le Conte's Sparrows banded before 1960 have been encountered, the following summary includes only those birds banded and encountered between 1960 to 7 Apr 2017 (date of data request to Bird Banding Laboratory).

#### **Banded birds:**

##### **Numbers and Age and Sex Categories**

Since 1960, 3,434 Le Conte's Sparrows have been banded in the United States, Canada, and Mexico (Table 1). Sex was recorded for only 13% (n = 462)

Greatly appreciated are our fabulous volunteer and staff crew members who help with set-up, banding, record keeping and visitor education. Thanks to sub-permittees Diana McLusky, Susan Bradfield, Heather Gallagher, Ethel Kawamura and John Kell, and to trainees and aides, Allison Salas, Justin Hiltner, Jo Neumaier, Laura Cook, Kim Bailey, Lauren Hoffman and Rachel Anderson. A special congratulations to John Kell who received a sub-permit under Cyndi Routledge. John volunteers with several research projects throughout middle Tennessee.

#### **Sandy Bivens, Bird Research Coordinator**

Kathy Shaw, Assistant  
Warner Park Nature Center 7311 Hwy 100  
Nashville, TN 37221  
sandy.bivens@nashville.gov

of the banded sparrows; of these, 75% (n = 350) were males and 25% were females (n = 112). All but two males and one female were aged as AHY, SY, or ASY when banded; the remaining three were banded as HY or U. Sixty percent (n = 1,800) of those sparrows for which sex was unknown were aged as AHY (n = 1,531), SY (n = 142), or ASY (n = 127) when banded. The remainder were aged as HY (n = 606), U (n = 548) or L (n = 18).

#### **Geographic distribution**

Since 1960, Le Conte's Sparrows have been banded in 29 states (n = 3,072), 8 Canadian provinces (n = 361), and Mexico (n = 1) (Figure 1). More than 80% of the Le Conte's Sparrows banded in the United States were banded in just 4 states: Texas (n = 1,625), Michigan (n = 345), Louisiana (n = 295), and Oklahoma (n = 264). Almost 75% of all sparrows banded in Canada were banded in two provinces: Alberta (n = 151) and Ontario (n = 111).

#### **Seasonal distribution**

Two-thirds (n = 2,013) of the Le Conte's Sparrows banded in the United States were banded between Nov and Feb (approximate overwintering season) compared to 16% (n = 505) banded between May and Aug (approximate breeding season), 11% (n = 324) banded between Mar and Apr (approximate spring migration) and 7% (n = 230) banded between Sep and Oct (approximate fall migration). Nearly all (486 of 505) of the sparrows