

which goes above and beyond the call of duty, and is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the park management for giving us permission to band in the park, and opening the park consistently at 6 a.m. (EDT) for us. And also thank you to the staff at the park nature center, especially Julie Champion, for supporting us for many years.

**MI–Kalamazoo Valley
Bird Observatory/Kalamazoo
Nature Center (KVBO)**

Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, MI

Coordinator/Bander: Rich Keith

Assistants: Pam Woodruff, Laura Porter, Mikaela Kropp, Ivy Ciaburri, Lyn Brown, Rylann Williams, Brenda Keith, John Brenneman and Todd Alfes.

Address: 5750 East S Ave

Vicksburg Michigan 49097

Email: warblerrke@gmail.com

While the fall banding program has existed since 1974 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center a number of changes have occurred in recent years. In times past we ran as many as 120 nets but have reduced that number for a variety of reasons. Since 2016 we have run 15 nets in stable habitat managed for consistency. Two-thirds of the nets are around prairie habitat while one third is adjacent to mature woods. The Fall of 2019 was very wet yet we were able to open nets, some days for a short time. The nets were in operation in all but three days, two the last two days of the season.

**OH–Kelley’s Island,
Jones Preserve (KI)**

Kelleys Island, Erie County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: H. Thomas Bartlett

Assistants: Paula Bartlett

Address: 1833 South Winfield Drive,
Tiffin, OH 44883

Email: hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com

There were three records of significance, a Nashville Warbler banded on 1 Nov, and American Redstart banded on 6 Nov and a Sharp-shinned Hawk captured on the island a month after it had been banded at the Pelee Island Bird Observatory, Ontario.

**OH–Navarre Banding Station 413-0830
Black Swamp Bird Observatory (NBS)**

Lacarne,

Ottawa County, OH

Coordinators/Banders: Ashli Gorbet, Ryan Jacob

Assistants: Kyleigh Godsey, Laura Gooch, Nancy Howell, Barb Myers, Dan Myers, Yvonne Thoma-Patton, Michelle Turner, and Katie Ware

Address: 13551 W. State Route 2, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

Email: ashligorbet@bsbo.org, ryanjacob@bsbo.org

2019 marked the 30th fall season for Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) at its Navarre Banding Station on the southwestern shore of Lake Erie. After an extremely wet spring, water levels in the marsh receded to more “normal” conditions, however, despite the return to normalcy and a close to perfect fall in terms of weather, migrant numbers were considerably low – which seems to be the region-wide consensus – at approximately 20% below the long-term average. The station operated 76 days this fall from 12 Aug to 30 Oct, with only four days closed due to rain/wind (primarily at the end of Oct). 3,800 birds were banded of 86 species over a total of 7,520 net-hours, representing a station effort of 50.5 birds/100nh. The station operated seven days more, with nearly 500 more net-hours than fall 2018, but banded almost 800 fewer birds.

Accounting for the bulk of this discrepancy were major-movement migrants, particularly Black-poll, Myrtle, and Magnolia Warbler which were ~40-55% below their seasonal averages. Other major-movement migrants were also low including Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but not as drastically below average. A possible explanation for these latter short-distance migrants could be the prolonged warmth into mid-Oct and delayed leaf-drop, extending their migration beyond our operating dates (this possibility is also supported by very few Fox Sparrow and no encounters of American Tree Sparrow).

Not everything was in the doldrums though this fall, as a number of species and families were

quite exceptional. For the second fall in a row, Prothonotary Warbler set a new high record with 36 banded (shattering last fall's 26 and skyrocketing past the average of eight); Prothonotary Warblers also showed a good return rate to the area, with at least three returns from 2018 and one from 2014. Wrens were well above average (including the seldom caught Marsh Wren) with Carolina Wrens showing some recovery following last winter's harsh conditions and a low 2019 spring season. And – while not a highly captured family in fall – flycatchers were well represented, including Eastern Wood-Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher setting new high records (26 and 2, respectively).

The bulk of our returns consisted of primarily breeding species, however, we did have one return Blackpoll Warbler originally banded 30 Aug 2017. Even more exceptional though, a Blackpoll Warbler banded at the station (26 Sep 2018) was recovered in Riverbend, AB, on 29 Aug 2019 – an 11 month and over 3,000 km indirect-recovery distance from the original banding site.

While this fall may have been somewhat lackluster, it is at least a reminder of the importance of consistent long-term monitoring and region-wide collaborations such as through the Midwest Migration Network, to begin to truly understand and analyze broader population dynamics.

We would like to thank our dedicated corps of volunteers, interns, and techs whose service makes this project possible and successful. We would also like to thank Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for its continued support of this research and management of habitat throughout the region; and FirstEnergy for its preservation of the incredible Navarre Marsh and their cooperation in allowing access to the area by numerous researchers.

OH–Palatial Woodland Estate (PWE) **391-0821**

Bolin's Mills,
Vinton County, OH

Coordinator/Bander: Robert Scott Placier

Assistant: Mike Wren

Address: 32840 Jourden Road, Albany, OH 45710

Email: coturnicops@yahoo.com

This was the fifth fall season of banding at the PWE station in eastern Vinton County (in the Appalachian foothills), one of the most heavily forested and least populated counties of Ohio. As described in previous seasonal reports, the banding area is maintained along a 0.40225km gravel lane, with net lanes paralleled by a stable shrubland and deciduous forest. Invasive non-native species are controlled in both shrubland and forest, while shrub and small tree species such as Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sumacs (*Rhus* spp.), and dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) that bear fruit attractive to migrants in the fall are encouraged. It is difficult to say what effect weather had on banding efforts for the season. It was an exceptionally dry September, almost a drought, so almost no sessions were rained out, or even curtailed. But the drought did cause woody plants to lose leaves earlier than usual, and fruit to wither prematurely on some species. Then the first week of October saw record temperatures, climbing beyond 90° F (32° C) each day. Continued unseasonably hot weather resulted in closing nets earlier on multiple days, especially some that received direct sunlight by late morning. At least the dry conditions meant that mosquitoes were essentially absent, even in the woods.

Overall numbers of species and individuals were decidedly average, with the total number of birds banded being the third most of the five seasons. But, remarkably, six of the top ten species banded set new highs for the season: Wood Thrush at 121, previous high 101; Hooded Warbler 48, previous 47; Tennessee Warbler 47, previous 31; Scarlet Tanager 19, previous 7; Hermit Thrush 19, previous 17; and White-eyed Vireo 16, previous 10. Especially notable were the 9 Scarlet Tanagers banded on 21 Sep, 7 together in a net. It appeared they had flown out of a patch of Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) with ripe berries. There were no species recorded in unusually low numbers.

Many thanks to my friend Mike Wren for his assistance, company, and hot coffee deliveries. Visitors are always welcome, and I put a few to work carrying bagged birds on one of my busiest mornings of the season. And my friend Dr. Don Altoff brought his wildlife students from the University of Rio Grande (yes, it's in SE Ohio!) out to observe.