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**IL–Sand Bluff****422-0891****Bird Observatory (SBBO)**

Shirland, Winnebago County, IL

**Coordinator/Bander: Mike Eickman**

Chief Assistants: Deb Eickman, Lee Johnson, John Longhenry, Steve Gent, Steve Torre, Justin Keller, Nora Longcar, Steve Reichel, Ivy Otto, Dave Seal, Lynda Johnson and Sharon McCoy.

Address: 11114 Harrison Road, Rockton, IL 61072

Email: redtail15@aol.com

The North Central Illinois fall banding season at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory started on 15 Aug. This was the fourth fall season of operation under a Station permit. The first 50 years the station (at the same location) was operated under a master permit. Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is located one mile south of the Wisconsin state line, northwest of Rockton, IL. It is situated on Colored Sands Forest Preserve, one of Winnebago County's Forest Preserves, and is an educational facility used by schools and groups in the area. The site is prime for migratory birds because of the habitats associated with the Sugar River.

Again this year the weather was a major factor in total birds banded. Operations at the station were held up by wet weather and lack of cold fronts making migration slow. Many of the species we normally see developed late resulting in lower numbers. For the season we lost eleven days during the peak of migration because of rain. Numbers captured this year were 2964 birds of 97 species. Down more than a 1000 birds from the 2018 season. We did not operate the raptor station due to an illness. This usually counts for almost 100 additional birds per season.

As in years past, the usual species were captured. Gray Catbird topped the list with 231, Tennessee Warblers were second with 191 birds – an apparent recent increase but nothing compared to decades past. American Goldfinches was third with 186. A top-ten surprise was the Black-Capped Chickadees with 93. A few records of note of birds banded in previous years were: a Gray-Catbird from the fall of 2013, an American Goldfinch from 2015 and two Slate-colored Juncos from 2016. We were also notified by a Canadian bander that

they encountered one of our Northern Saw-whet Owls at their station Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac, Québec, located 1650 km northeast at the start of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Sometimes when looking back at retrapped records you find a band number that seems unusual. That occurred in 2018 when we caught an American Redstart. This bird had been banded on 3 Aug 2018 in Mackenzie, BC; it was caught at Sand Bluff on 26 Aug – 23 days later.

Next season, with a little luck, perhaps better weather will come our way. Thanks to all the volunteers and visitors who make Sand Bluff what we are.

**IL–Lincoln Land****394-0893****Community College Bird Banding Station****(LLCC BBS)****Springfield, Sangamon County, IL****Coordinators/Banders: Vernon Kleen, Anthony Rothering**

Assistants: Paul Biggers, Lee Boblett, Mel Breyer, Joe Gardner, Tim Hargrove, Wayne Huckabee, Nicole Kinney, Betty Kleen, Jim Mordacq, Carla Potts, Nancy Redman, Sam Reif, Susan Shaw, Trevor Slovick and Holly Thompson., August Wells and Sue Ellen Weitekamp.

Address: 1825 Clearview Dr.,

Springfield, IL 62704

or P.O. Box 13442, Springfield, IL 62791

Email: vkleen@comcast.net

This was the eighth fall season for the station. It was in operation for 69 days and there were no days (in contrast to other years) when 100 or more birds were banded; there were only two days with 50 or more (the high was 90). The highest one day total prior to 24 Oct was just 36. The 1289 birds banded was the poorest of the eight seasons (the previous low was 1902), and the 74 species banded was well below the annual range of 78 to 80. The number of birds captured as returns was also very low. However, new seasonal highs were set for the American Robin, Hermit Thrush and House Wren. In contrast to the most common birds, there were 12 species represented by a single individual and another five by just two birds. Some of the more interesting captures were two Sharp-shinned

Hawks, a Bell's Vireo (the station's first), a Marsh Wren, three Northern Parulas, a Blackburnian Warbler, and the stations first fall records of Kentucky and Connecticut warblers. As an "extra-curricular" activity, an attempt was made to catch saw-whet owls. Near the last hour of the fourth (last) scheduled night, one was successfully captured; an Eastern Screech Owl was caught on the third night.

The final Report and Results after each (and every) season (available to those who might be interested) includes a variety of interesting tables of comparisons. The Appendix provides the tabulation of each species banded (identifying new highs, etc.)

The station continued to have too many issues with deer (destroying nets and eating birds, the latter of which was minimal, but still an occasional issue). An experiment with the soap "Irish Spring" was tried this fall and, amazingly, seemed to help keep deer away from the nets.

The station is particularly thankful for the support of both the administration and staff of Lincoln Land Community College, for all the assistance from the above-listed (and unlisted) volunteers who perform a variety of station-related tasks, and for the financial support (both grants and donations) needed to keep the station in operation. Visitors were also welcomed.

**IL–Phillips Tract Banding Station 407-0888  
University of Illinois (PTBS)**

Champaign, Champaign County, IL

**Coordinator/Bander: Tara Beveroth**

Assistants: Janice Kelly, Todd Jones, Diane Roeder and Mike Avara

Address: 1816 S. Oak St.,

Champaign, IL 61820

Email: [beveroth79@gmail.com](mailto:beveroth79@gmail.com)

The fall of 2019 was the pilot season for this new banding station with operations beginning near the end of October. The plan is to operate the station one day per week throughout the migratory seasons. This fall the station was in operation on four days with an excellent start. Weather varied but was usually from 4.44c to 10c and overcast. Banding was cancelled on one day due to rain. The site,

which is fenced, is located about 4 miles NE of the UIUC campus across the road from Trelease Woods and Prairie. It is surrounded on the other three sides by agricultural land. The 52.6 ha (130 acres) habitat is a former farm that contains reconstructed prairie, old field, and agricultural fields, rotating one to five year old successional old field plots, and oldfield/successional woods (released about 1970). Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) dominates the understory of most successional woods areas. The Saline Branch of the Salt Fork River runs through the property.

**MO–Litzsinger Road 383-0902  
Ecology Center (LREC)**

St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

**Coordinator/Bander: Colleen Crank**

Assistants: Jean Favarra, Linda Tossing

Address: 0711 Litzsinger Road,

St. Louis, MO 63124

Email: [crankcolleen@gmail.com](mailto:crankcolleen@gmail.com)

This is the first report for this new station and a written summary was not provided.

**TN–Warner Park Nature Center 363-0865  
(WPNC)**

Nashville, Davidson County, TN

**Coordinators/Banders: Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens**

Assistants: Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, Susan Bradfield, Patty Ghertner, Justin Hiltner, Leah LaRocco, Emily Moorman, Kim Bailey, Rachel Anderson, Vera Roberts and Heather Gallagher.

Address: 7311 Hwy 100,

Nashville, TN 37221

Email: [sandy.bivens@nashville.gov](mailto:sandy.bivens@nashville.gov), [laura.cook@nashville.gov](mailto:laura.cook@nashville.gov)

The Warner Park Banding Station completed its 38th year of operation. The station is open to the public and during the fall season 418 visitors including Walter H. Sakai (Editor for the WBBA portion of *NABB*) were recorded. The banding season consisted of nine banding sessions; during the hot and dry September, the four sessions averaged just 14 birds per session; however, with the October rains, the average for the five October