



The BULA News

A publication of the Burke Lake Banding Station
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

A non-profit organization dedicated to research of avian health and migration, education of current and future ornithological professionals, and outreach for our community at a unique place to learn about, connect with, and appreciate a diverse bird community

Winter 2016





WINTER 2016

My Experience as an Intern

Aya Pickett, 2015 BULA Student Intern

This was my first season working at the Burke Lake banding station, and it has been a blast! Over a span of three months, I learned how to handle and identify around 80 species of birds, and interacted with birders of all ages. I also had the opportunity to start my own research project, which has given me a sneak peek into a future career.

We had a great season this year. We caught more birds, and had more visitors than we have ever had. I think that one of my highlights of the year was being the first one to stumble onto our first hawk of the year (a Broad-winged Hawk) captured in a net. I didn't know we even caught hawks, and it was the first time I had ever seen one up close. I was excited to say the least.



Photo by Graham Hickling; Hooded Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet photos by Jen Owen

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I also had a lot of fun working with the kids that came out to the station. No matter what time of the morning it was, they always come in with so much energy and excitement. They have so many questions, and it was great to fuel their sense of wonder, curiosity and overall positive energy.

Thanks to Dr. Owen and all my co-workers, Callie, Zak, and Kaitlyn, for teaching me everything I learned throughout the season. Also, thank you to all of our beautiful donors for funding us, bringing us delicious snacks, and for providing students like me with such a valuable resource that will help begin a future career in wildlife. Our work couldn't be done without your support.

Sincerely,

Aya Pickett

BANDING TOTALS 2015

Acadian Flycatcher	1	Hairy Woodpecker	7	Black-throated Green Warbler	45
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Eastern Phoebe	8	Ovenbird	47
Eastern Towhee	1	Indigo Bunting	8	Black-and-white Warbler	49
Field Sparrow	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	8	Northern Waterthrush	49
Western Palm Warbler	1	Philadelphia Vireo	8	American Goldfinch	50
Warbling Vireo	1	Wood Thrush	8	Chestnut-sided Warbler	50
Wilson's Snipe	1	Winter Wren	11	Song Sparrow	51
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Blue Jay	12	Red-eyed Vireo	57
Yellow Warbler	1	White-crowned Sparrow	12	Black-throated Blue Warbler	59
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Gray-cheeked Thrush	12	Nashville Warbler	59
Cape May Warbler	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	12	Black-capped Chickadee	60
Hooded Warbler	2	Tufted Titmouse	12	Swamp Sparrow	60
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Mourning Warbler	13	Slate-colored Junco	65
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	15	Golden-crowned Kinglet	84
American Woodcock	3	Eastern Wood Pewee	18	Hermit Thrush	90
Brown Thrasher	3	Blue-headed Vireo	19	Tennessee Warbler	97
Connecticut Warbler	3	Northern Cardinal	20	American Robin	98
Fox Sparrow	3	Downy Woodpecker	24	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	105
House Wren	3	Red-winged Blackbird	24	Myrtle Warbler	114
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	25	Swainson's Thrush	140
Scarlet Tanager	4	Traill's Flycatcher	26	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	149
Brown Creeper	5	Blackburnian Warbler	27	Magnolia Warbler	205
Great-crested Flycatcher	5	Canada Warbler	29	Common Yellowthroat	213
Rusty Blackbird	5	Blackpoll Warbler	31	White-throated Sparrow	245
Yellow-shafted Flicker	5	Veery	31	American Redstart	290
Northern Parula	6	Wilson's Warbler	31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	301
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	Common Grackle	32	Gray Catbird	377
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	Least Flycatcher	33		
Blue-winged Warbler	7	Cedar Waxwing	35	TOTAL BIRDS	3846
				TOTAL SPECIES	85

TOP 10 SPECIES CAPTURED OVER THE YEARS

2012

- 1 Swainson's Thrush
- 2 Gray Catbird
- 3 American Redstart
- 4 Magnolia Warbler
- 5 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- 6 Common Yellowthroat
- 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- 8 Red-eyed Vireo
- 9 Ovenbird
- 10 Wood Thrush

2013

- 1 Swainson's Thrush
- 2 Gray Catbird
- 3 American Redstart
- 4 Common Yellowthroat
- 5 Magnolia Warbler
- 6 Red-eyed Vireo
- 7 American Robin
- 8 Wood Thrush
- 9 Ovenbird
- 10 Nashville Warbler

2014

- 1 American Robin
- 2 Magnolia Warbler
- 3 Gray Catbird
- 4 American Redstart
- 5 Common Yellowthroat
- 6 Swainson's Thrush
- 7 White-throated Sparrow
- 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- 9 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 10 Hermit Thrush

2015

- 1 Gray Catbird
- 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 3 American Redstart
- 4 White-throated Sparrow
- 5 Common Yellowthroat
- 6 Magnolia Warbler
- 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- 8 Swainson's Thrush
- 9 Myrtle Warbler
- 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbird

INTERESTING SPECIES OF 2015



Wilson's Snipe

The legendary childhood prank of the “snipe hunt” has falsely lead many to believe that this is a bird that doesn't exist. They are elusive; their brown and buff coloration and pattern certainly makes this bird hard to spot! This was the first Wilson's Snipe that was caught in the station's history!



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

These birds get their name because they drill shallow holes into trees to drink the sweet sap inside. Both adults have bright red foreheads; the males also have red throats as shown in the photo. The one we caught was a juvenile, and it was the first one in the station's history!



Blackburnian Warbler

Blackburnian Warblers are no strangers at Burke Lake, but the sheer number of them that we caught this year was incredible. In past three years, we caught at most 4 in one season. In the 2015 season we caught 27! We are uncertain why there were so many, but it's a cool bird to find in our nets.

Photos by Zak Pohlen & Jen Owen

Do you eBird?

Burke Lake Banding Station is an official eBird hotspot! If you have ever entered or plan on entering the birds we catch into eBird, please consider the following information: Banding data is treated differently than other birding data. Please answer "no" to "are you reporting all species" if you are only reporting netted birds. Answer "yes" if you include netted and observed birds. Happy birding!



Photo by Jen Owen

eBird Visitor!

We did not capture this bird, but Callie Gesmundo found this Summer Tanager at our site!

Summer tanagers are usually found from the southern portion of the U.S. to northern South America and prefer open woodland. This beautiful adult male was definitely a good find and attracted many local birders!

OUTREACH

Fall 2015 was the first season that BULA hosted field trips from schools. Over a span of three days, we had 81 students from Hiawatha Elementary come out to learn about migration and birds. We brought the kids out to the mist nets, demonstrated how we caught birds, and talked to them about where birds migrate and why it's important. They were so fun to work with and had a lot of great questions!

We also hosted a few different classes from Michigan State University including Ornithology, Wildlife Research & Management Techniques and the Veterinary Wildlife Clerkship, where we taught bird identification and handling. We also provided data to undergraduate and graduate students for research purposes.

Closing our second season fully open to the public, we had 444 visitors overall, 146 of which had never visited before. It was great to see many familiar faces, as well as new ones!



Wilson's warbler taking a rest on a visitor's hand before flying off.



Third graders from Hiawatha Elementary school get some hands-on interaction with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.



Veterinary students from Michigan State University learn about field research on wild birds.

Photos by Graham Hickling & Jen Owen

FUNDRAISING

As many of you know we do not receive funds from the university and rely solely on grants and private donations to operate the banding station. Michigan Department of Natural Resources has given us \$5000 for the 2016 field season but we need to raise an additional \$15,000 to be fully operational.

We love providing a place for the community to come out and learn about birds and avian ecology, and we hope all those that have visited would like to see us continue and flourish as a non-profit organization.

We are currently accepting donations for the 2016 field season. We would like to be able to raise \$10,000 without a crowdfunder campaign – please help us do so!! You can go directly to this website to make your tax-deductible donation:

<https://www.givingto.msu.edu/gift/?sid=1947>

If you would like to make a donation directly to the station without going through MSU, please contact Jen Owen at owenj@msu.edu



Sponsor-a-Net Program

Sponsoring a net is a great way to show your support for Burke Lake Banding Station! If you are interested in sponsoring a net, or dedicating a net to a loved one, please email us at burkelakebanding@gmail.com. Net sponsorship for one season requires a \$150 donation. With this generous donation we will place a plaque with your name near one of our many nets!

Burke Lake Banding Station Merchandise!

We have t-shirts (men's and women's long-sleeved and short-sleeved), hats, and stickers!

We have them available at the station, but if you would like to buy BULA apparel in the off-season, contact us at:

burkelakebanding@gmail.com






We would like to dedicate this page to all those who have donated in 2015 to Burke Lake Banding Station. We cannot run this station without public support and we are truly grateful for all the time and money spent to keep us running another season.

THANK YOU!



Support for the Burke Lake Banding Station is provided by MI Department of Natural Resources and private donations from the following individuals and organizations:

<p>≥\$1000 donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Capital Area Audubon Society ◦ Dave & Mary Ann Marvin <p>\$500 - \$999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jay Strader ◦ Jen Owen <p>\$100 - \$499</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ David Aborn ◦ Elaine & Byron Babbish ◦ Nancy & Jeffrey Barnes ◦ Bruce Cohen ◦ Susan Davis ◦ Jane & Bill Gehring ◦ James & Barb Gesmundo ◦ James Hancock, Jr. ◦ Daniel Hayes ◦ Mary & Lawrence Hennessey ◦ Mary Bremigan & Frank Lupi, Jr. ◦ Jamie MacDonald ◦ Sandra May ◦ Kelly Millenbah & Gary Roloff ◦ David Owen ◦ Peter Owen ◦ Chris & Mark Palinski 	 <p>2015 Field Crew (left to right): Jen, Zak, Callie, Nick, Richard, Bill, Kaitlyn, and Aya</p>	
<p>\$100 - \$499 (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Arlon & Shirley Elser ◦ Jacob Plotkin ◦ Joseph Pohlen ◦ Mary & Bob Pratt ◦ Frank Rosenbaum & Patience Drake-Rosenbaum ◦ Ed Schneider ◦ James Schneider ◦ Susan Schuur ◦ Lynn Tang ◦ Elizabeth Urban ◦ Thomas R. Wheeler 	<p>\$1 - \$99</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Bersten Matthew & Liesl Bohan Jordan Burroughs Kaitlin Clark Tessa & Joseph Eger Darrell Fluehr Callie Gesmundo Eileen Gianiodis Meredith Gore 	<p>\$1 - \$99 (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Hadani Cynthia Hudson James Keller Shan Kothari Mark Ladenson Whitney Miller Sharon Reasoner Barbara Schmidt Hayley Sisson YinPhan Tsang Judith & Russell Whipple



Burke Lake Banding Station

Donation Form

Donor Information (please print or type)

Name**	Ex. Anonymous (John Smith)		
Spouse name			
Billing address			
City			
State		Zip Code	
Telephone (home)			
E-Mail			

**If you would prefer your name not show up on the crowd source website, please fill in the Name section above with : “Anonymous (your name)”. Your donation will be posted but in place of your name will be “Anonymous “

My pledge:

I (we) pledge a total of \$ _____

My pledge will be paid as follows:

____ Cash ____ Check ____ Please write the following on the check: Appeal 16CRFPR1BIRDSTA

Gift will be matched by _____ (company/family/foundation).

____ form enclosed ____ form will be forwarded

Pledge is in Memory of/In Honor Of:

Name IHO/IMO:
Name and Address of IHO/IMO Contact:
Signature(s)
Date

If you would like to participate in our **Sponsor-a-Net program** please donate \$150. Then write in this section the names of the individuals or group that you want on the sign placed at a mist net.

This net is sponsored by (or in name of): _____.

Please make checks, or other gifts payable to: Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources External Relations, Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture, 446 W. Circle Drive, Room 319, East Lansing, MI 48824

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