



# 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 2017**





# WINTER 2017

## My Experience as an Intern

Audrey Boike, 2016 BULA Student Intern

I was lucky enough to be the intern at Burke Lake for this season, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. This was my first field job and I had no experience working with animals, so this was all new to me. I had the opportunity to study approximately 80 species of birds, most of which I hadn't heard of prior. Over the season, I was taught how to properly extract and hold birds, identify them, and teach others about the birds. I was able to interact with the public, and enjoyed teaching and learning from a variety of visitors.

One of my favorite things about working at Burke Lake was that each day was different. We never knew how many birds we would catch or what species would be in the nets. On the first day of the season and on the first net run, we caught a Barred Owl, and it was the most amazing thing to experience. I was always astonished at the diversity and beauty of every bird we caught.



*Photo by Kim Fake; Mourning Warbler and White-breasted Nuthatch photos by Jen Owen*

Another highlight of working at Burke Lake was the work atmosphere. I was inspired every day by the positive energy and passion for birds from visitors and my co-workers. Although we worked very early mornings, I never dreaded getting up and going to work and I enjoyed every minute of the season.

Through this experience, I have gained a new love for birds and a desire to continue doing field work like this. The internship helped me make great connections, gave me new skills, and has helped me secure other opportunities. I would like to thank Dr. Jen Owen for giving me this chance, my co-workers for teaching me new things every day, and all of our donors and visitors who make the banding station as successful as it is.

Sincerely,

Audrey Boike

## *Contents*

2—Student Intern Experience

3 & 4—2016 Banding Summary

5—Outreach at BULA

6—Fundraising

7—Thank You Donors!

# BANDING TOTALS 2016

Broad-winged Hawk	1	Blue Jay	9	Gray-cheeked Thrush	32
Barred Owl	1	Blue-winged Warbler	10	Blackpoll Warbler	32
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	10	Hermit Thrush	34
Warbling Vireo	1	Eastern Phoebe	11	Veery	41
Eastern Towhee	1	House Wren	12	Ovenbird	43
Chipping Sparrow	1	Winter Wren	12	Black-capped Chickadee	45
Rusty Blackbird	1	Blue-headed Vireo	13	Golden-crowned Kinglet	52
House Finch	1	Wood Thrush	13	Red-eyed Vireo	53
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Downy Woodpecker	14	American Robin	56
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Wilson's Warbler	14	Song Sparrow	59
Western Palm Warbler	2	Great-crested Flycatcher	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	97
Scarlet Tanager	2	Trail's Flycatcher	16	White-throated Sparrow	102
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	Philadelphia Vireo	16	Magnolia Warbler	142
Fox Sparrow	2	Cedar Waxwing	16	American Goldfinch	195
American Woodcock	3	Tennessee Warbler	16	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	198
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	Northern Cardinal	16	Swainson's Thrush	222
Northern Parula	3	Bay-breasted Warbler	17	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	227
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Slate-colored Junco	17	Gray Catbird	260
Brown Creeper	4	Black-throated Green Warbler	18	Common Yellowthroat	275
Eastern White-crowned Sparrow	4	Canada Warbler	18	American Redstart	289
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	19		
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Tufted Titmouse	19	Number of Species	84
Cape May Warbler	5	Myrtle Warbler	19	Total Count	3140
Mourning Warbler	5	Black-and-white Warbler	20		
Indigo Bunting	5	Swamp Sparrow	21		
Common Grackle	5	Blackburnian Warbler	22		
Brown Thrasher	6	Least Flycatcher	25		
Field Sparrow	6	Nashville Warbler	28		
Red-winged Blackbird	6	Eastern Wood Pewee	29		
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	Northern Waterthrush	29		
Hooded Warbler	7	Black-throated Blue Warbler	30		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	8	Chestnut-sided Warbler	31		

## TOP 10 SPECIES CAPTURED OVER THE YEARS

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

2016

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



# UNUSUAL CAPTURES AT THE STATION



## Barred Owl

The first net run, of the first day of the season, gave us this first ever capture for BULA! While the Barred Owl is heard regularly around the site, we have never had one end up in our mist nets. It was a great way to start off the 2016 fall migration season.



## Chipping Sparrow

You may wonder why this species is considered unusual when they are so common in your yard. Well, Chipping Sparrows are common as backyard birds and in open grassy areas where they forage but we do not commonly see them in our thick, wetland shrub habitat at BULA. This young, hatch-year bird was caught on 9 September 2016.



## Olive-sided Flycatcher

On 7 September 2016, we captured an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a first for fall migration at BULA. We captured one previously during spring migration. OSFL have two distinct populations – eastern and western. Interestingly, even though eastern birds migrate south, it is extremely rare to see OSFL during migration in the east (less than 0.5%; Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Another lucky capture for us at BULA.

*Photos by Kaitlin Clark & Kaitlyn Wilson*

## Banded Black and White Warbler Recaptured in Belize!

As many of you know, all birds banded are reported to the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL; <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>). Therefore, when a bird is recaptured or recovered by us or someone else, we can learn about its survivorship and migration patterns. It is not common to have recaptures or recoveries, but when we do they can be pretty exciting.

On September 2, 2015, a Black-and-white Warbler (hatch-year, male) was banded at BULA. The BBL notified us in April 2016 that the same bird was recaptured and released at a banding station located in Stann Creek, Belize, on April 15, 2016. Wow!



*Photo by Zak Pohlen*



# OUTREACH

One of the best aspects of BULA is our outreach with people of all ages, particularly young children. During the fall 2016 season, several classes from Hiawatha Elementary visited the station as well as several homeschool groups. We love teaching young minds about the wonders of the natural world and how science works up close and personal. At the station, the students get a chance to see how a real scientist handles and collects data from live birds and their habitat, learn basic bird identification skills, and learn about structural characteristics of birds and their feathers. Students also go out on net runs to see how birds are captured and they get the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience by releasing the birds after they have been processed.

In addition to the elementary groups, we also hosted several university level groups. In September, we hosted an Ornithology class from University of Michigan as well as biology students from our very own MSU! These future wildlife professionals learn basic identification and handling skills. BULA is also a source of ongoing research for both undergraduate and graduate students.

BULA is the only banding station in the area that is open to the public. During our Fall 2016 season, BULA received 544 visitors, 286 of those visitors were first time visitors! We are so excited to see our station growing; we had 100 more visitors than the fall 2015 season. Our visitors come from all over the United States including Florida, Texas, California, and Oregon, as well as a visitor from across the Atlantic from India. We had an amazing season and are thankful to all our visitors and their support. We look forward to seeing you again for the Spring and Fall 2017 season. Happy Birding!



Brown Thrasher flying off of a visitor's hand after taking a rest.



Third graders from Hiawatha Elementary school work together to release a Blue-headed Vireo.



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



# Ways to give to BULA

We are gearing up for the fall field season and that means fund-raising to support our field crew and operations. In addition to the support we receive from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources we are still in need of \$8000 for the 2017 field season to run. We would like to be able to raise the funds without a crowdsource campaign – you can help with this effort by sending your tax-deductible donation today.

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

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.

- Jen Owen, Director of BULA & the phenomenal crew that make it all happen.

## 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](mailto:burkelakebanding@gmail.com)



## 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](mailto: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!



We would like to dedicate this page to all those who have donated in 2016 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:

**≥\$1000 donors**

- Capital Area Audubon Society
- Dave & Mary Ann Marvin

**\$500 - \$999**

- Jay Strader
- Jen Owen

**\$100 - \$499**

- Jay Barnes
- Siddharth Chandra
- Nina and Steve Clark
- Susan Davis
- Jane & Bill Gehring
- Daniel Hayes
- Mary Hennessey
- Rebecca Lehmann
- Kelly Millenbah & Gary Roloff
- Chris and Mark Palinski
- Jacob Plotkin
- Renaud Family
- Ed Schneider
- Susan Schuur
- Greg Smith
- Pat Soranno
- Thomas and Jean Wheeler
- Nancy Wrisley



2016 Field Crew (Minus Audrey): Richard, Bill, Bonnie, Aya, Kaitlin, Kaitlyn, Jen, Quinton, Kim, and Nick

**\$1 - \$99**

- John Baumgartner
- Janice Bersten
- Anna Buckhardt
- Liesl Carlson
- Sharon Cody
- David Jonson
- Mark Ladenson
- Jerry Urquhart
- Mary Warner
- Kaitlyn Wilson





# 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**

Appeal Code 1338 Allocation Code A11130