



# 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 2013*



*Northern Waterthrush*

# Welcome from the Director:

It is exciting to be able to write this forward for our first BULA newsletter! We just finished our 4<sup>th</sup> year of banding at the Burke Lake Banding Station in the Rose Lake State Wildlife Area and I continue to be amazed at the bird diversity and numbers of birds that we catch, particularly during fall migration. It is clear this is a great location for studying the health of birds as they stopover to rest and refuel while en route to their wintering area in fall and breeding grounds in spring. Until this year our main focus has been research, with our entire operating budget provided by research grants. While research will continue to be a key component of our mission, particularly as it relates to avian health, we also recognize that we have an amazing opportunity to provide a unique experience to people of all ages; a place to learn to appreciate birds and connect with nature through hands-on activities. By establishing Burke Lake as a long-term banding station, we can better enhance and formalize these education and outreach opportunities. Opportunities such as, hosting K-12 field trips, university classes, and events for local clubs and organizations. However, we need your financial support to make this wish a reality. Please see pages 4 and 5 for how you can be an integral part of BULA's future!



*Dr. Jen Owen holding a juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk.*

*Jen Owen*



## Burke Lake Banding Station Vision

Our overall goal is to integrate avian research, the training of current and future wildlife professionals, and the education of people of all ages in the mid-Michigan region, while showcasing the diversity of wildlife inhabiting one of mid-Michigan's most diverse wildlife research areas.

Specifically, we will:

- (1) Collect long-term data on the health of the landbird community at Rose Lake State Wildlife Research Area during breeding and migratory seasons.
- (2) Provide university students the opportunity to be active participants in ongoing research and learn skills associated with capturing and handling of wild birds.
- (3) Engage children of all ages with hands-on activities in a science-related discipline.
- (4) Provide a unique opportunity for bird enthusiasts in the Great Lakes region on state-managed land.

**Make a donation to the Burke Lake Banding Station to help us fulfill this vision!**

*Top: Brewster's Warbler (Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrid). Middle: Philadelphia Vireo. Bottom: Hooded Warbler. Photos by Callie Gesmundo*

# Research:

## Health and Fitness Consequences of Using Non-Native Dominated Habitats During Migratory Stopover



Yushi Oguchi, a master's student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, has been researching the health of migrating birds at Burke Lake for the past two years. This research

is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Avian Health and Disease Program. With this funding we are investigating how differential habitat use and fruit consumption influence a migrating bird's physiology and health. Fruit are an important food source for landbirds during fall migration; this includes birds that are primarily insectivores during other times of the year. However, the nutrient profiles (lipid, protein, carbohydrate, antioxidant content) of fruit vary between plant species, which may influence the perceived quality of the habitat for a bird during migratory stopover. We operated mist nets in two different habitat types: 1) the 'swamp'; dominated by native shrubs and 2) the 'dry' side; dominated by exotic and/or invasive plants. Through mist-netting, radio-telemetry, blood sampling, fecal sampling, and fruit and vegetation plots we are able to investigate the health and physiology of four focal species: Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird, Magnolia Warbler, and Black-capped Chickadee.

We encourage you to visit the research section of our website for a detailed



description of Yushi's research: <http://www.fw.msu.edu/~bula/bularesearch.html>. And stay tuned for our spring newsletter, which will include preliminary results from Yushi's data!

# Banding Report:

May – September 2013

Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Tennessee Warbler	30
American Woodcock	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	38	Nashville Warbler	70
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Yellow Warbler	6
Downy Woodpecker	21	Chestnut-sided Warbler	24
Hairy Woodpecker	6	Magnolia Warbler	126
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	50
Yellow-shafted Flicker	6	Black-throated Green Warbler	16
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Blackburnian Warbler	4
Eastern Wood Pewee	8	Bay-breasted Warbler	6
Acadian Flycatcher	4	Blackpoll Warbler	23
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	19	Black-and-white Warbler	21
Trail's Flycatcher	21	Myrtle Warbler	5
Least Flycatcher	12	Western Palm Warbler	2
Great-crested Flycatcher	1	American Redstart	244
Blue-headed Vireo	6	Ovenbird	57
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	Northern Waterthrush	14
Philadelphia Vireo	11	Mourning Warbler	9
Red-eyed Vireo	111	Common Yellowthroat	272
Blue Jay	12	Connecticut Warbler	1
Black-capped Chickadee	55	Hooded Warbler	4
Tufted Titmouse	7	Wilson's Warbler	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	30	Canada Warbler	11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	Scarlet Tanager	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	Eastern Towhee	7
Brown Creeper	2	Field Sparrow	2
House Wren	4	Song Sparrow	44
Carolina Wren	1	Swamp Sparrow	2
Winter Wren	4	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Veery	72	White-throated Sparrow	18
Gray-cheeked Thrush	29	White-crowned Sparrow	4
Swainson's Thrush	368	Northern Cardinal	26
Hermit Thrush	10	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	54
Wood Thrush	90	Indigo Bunting	13
American Robin	99	Common Grackle	9
Gray Catbird	430	Baltimore Oriole	3
Brown Thrasher	5	American Goldfinch	41
Blue-winged Warbler	29		
Golden-winged Warbler	1		
Brewster's Warbler	3	<b>Total Count</b>	<b>2778</b>

\*See our website for summaries from last 4 years of banding.

Top: Yushi Oguchi using radio telemetry to get a location on a transmitted bird. Bottom: Callie Gesmundo taking a blood sample from a Gray Catbird. Photos by Zak Pohlen



## *Enriching current and future generations through—***Education and Outreach**

In the 2013 fall banding season we had over 200 people visit the station, including 5 Michigan State University classes, local high school students, families, and local bird watchers; with many revisiting the site throughout the season. We provide a unique opportunity to experience birds up close and learn from dedicated and passionate professionals about avian ecology and conservation. Our outreach activities are directed toward and enjoyed by people of all ages. If you would like more information about visiting the banding station, or if you have a class you would like to bring out, please email us at: [burkelakebanding@gmail.com](mailto:burkelakebanding@gmail.com)



*Zak Pohlen shows off a Swainson's Thrush to a young visitor. Swainson's Thrushes were the second most caught bird in 2013, and were also a focal species for Yushi's research. Photo by David Williams*

*"I just wanted to say thank you again to you and your students. We had a marvelous morning yesterday and [my daughter] has been telling everyone about the bird banding and how she found birds in the nets."*

**– Local Visitor**

*"I would recommend it to anyone with kids and/or an interest in birds. Both you and [your crew] were such good examples of people who love what they are doing and do it well. And can communicate that passion. I really liked how good you were with the children—they were geeked! Thank you for your dedication and very hard work."*

**– Local Visitor**



*The banding tent. Visitors and local bird enthusiasts stand around the banding tent watching, listening, and asking questions as the BULA crew process birds. Photo by Doug Leffler*

### **Follow Us Online!**

Check out our new website!  
[www.fw.msu.edu/~bula/](http://www.fw.msu.edu/~bula/)



Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/BULAbandingstation](http://www.facebook.com/BULAbandingstation)

# Donate to Burke Lake Banding Station!

2014 will mark big changes at Burke Lake Banding Station. This past fall banding season we caught a glimpse of the potential this station can have in providing unique research, education, and outreach opportunities to our local community. In order to continue providing these opportunities we need your help! The future of this station is contingent upon small grants, donations from private individuals, and contributions from local foundations and businesses. Make a donation today!

Contributions to Burke Lake Banding Station can be made through the donations page on our website, or by filling our pledge form (found on our website and attached to this newsletter) and mailing it to:

MSU CANR External Relations  
446 W. Circle Drive, Room 319  
East Lansing, MI 48824

Burke Lake Banding Station is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are a tax-deductible gift to a state educational institution. If you wish to contribute to the long-term financial stability of the station, please contact Dr. Jen Owen at: [burkelakebanding@gmail.com](mailto:burkelakebanding@gmail.com) to discuss how you can be an integral part of station's future.

## Want to help but can't afford to donate monetarily?

We have many opportunities for those that want to help! Please consider donating in other ways, such as...

- Fundraising
- Event coordination
- Clearing net lanes in the spring

Please email us if you're interested!

## T-shirt Sale!

Show off your Burke Lake Banding Station pride by purchasing one of our new t-shirts! Along with standard t-shirt sizes, we also have a few youth and women's shirts, so get them quick before they're gone! All profits go to the future continuation of the station.

T-shirts (S, M, L, XL).....\$18.00



Send an email to [burkelakebanding@gmail.com](mailto:burkelakebanding@gmail.com) if you are interested in purchasing a shirt

*"Your knowledge and your passion for birds make a huge favorable impression about wildlife research and about MSU. And, you're clearly connecting with the next generation of birders."*

**- Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University**



# Department of Fisheries and Wildlife



## Burke Lake Banding Station Pledge Form

*We strive to advance agriculture using multidisciplinary approaches to generate, teach, disseminate and provide opportunities to promising students as well as bring academic excellence to our programs and strengthen our ability to address important issues in agriculture.*

### Donor Information (please print or type)

Name			
Spouse name			
Billing address			
City			
State		Zip Code	
Telephone (home)			
E-Mail			

### My pledge:

I (we) pledge a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### My pledge will be paid as follows:

\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_ Payroll Deduction ([http://www.givingto.msu.edu/media/2012\\_AllU\\_Pledge\\_Form.pdf](http://www.givingto.msu.edu/media/2012_AllU_Pledge_Form.pdf))

\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (<https://givingto.msu.edu/gift/?sid=1338>)

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	

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