

Spring 2020 Kelleys Island Bird Banding Results

Jones Preserve, Kelleys Island, Ohio

May 16-28, 2020

Tom & Paula Bartlett

The Spring of 2020 marks the 25th year of our avian study of the birds of Kelleys Island. However, as you now know, this spring was far different from those of the past. For the last few years, Paula and I have had a 6 week spring bird banding routine on the Lake Erie Islands. We would start the third week of April on Kelleys Island, then head to Middle Bass Island for the 4th week. The first 2 weeks of May we would band on South Bass Island and assist in the teaching of a birding Road Scholar Program sponsored by the Lake Erie Islands Nature and Wildlife Center. The third and fourth weeks of May we returned to Kelleys Island for the Kelleys Island Audubon Club's Nest with the Birds program and more bird banding. On the weekends in between we would return home to band at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve. But COVID-19 changed all of those plans. After banding at Springville Marsh on March 14, we had too many visitors and had to stop the banding because the marsh is open to the public. Our banding on Kelleys Island is on the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Jones Preserve on Long Point. Because it is private, we could control entry of visitors. So we contacted, Ron Ehrbar, the mayor of Kelleys Island, and explained what we wanted to do and what the Bird Banding Laboratory's and bander's protocol were. Minimum contact with islanders, limited trained staff, and how we would control entry were explained. After deliberation, Mayor Ehrbar, approved our plan and we arrived at the island to setup nets on April 16. This sign was posted around the banding station and the public that did show up, understood, and left. We would have no more than 6 trained volunteers at any one time and would



**Due to the COVID-19
State of Ohio Protocol
No Visitors are allowed
into the Bird Banding
Station!**

Cleveland Museum of
NATURAL HISTORY

follow COVID-19 protocol. The plan was to band for 7 days on Kelleys and to return in May. However, **snow** forced us to cancel three of those April days. In 4 days we banded only 107 individuals and our best day was 49 birds banded. There were a couple of highlights, like our second ever Summer Tanager and our fourth ever Cooper's Hawk.

Our Bass Islands data is used by the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy to buy and/or protect land on the Bass Islands. After seeing what we were doing on Kelleys Island, Lisa Brohl,

its president, helped us work out a similar plan with the Put-in-Bay Township Park District so we could continue to collect data on Middle Bass Island and South Bass Island. We were successful there but poor weather also limited our activities and results. We banded 285 individuals (44 species) on Middle Bass Island and 283 individuals (39 species) on South Bass Island. In total we banded 568 individuals of 57 species on the Bass Islands in 14 days. The highlights were my first Pine Warblers banded on Middle Bass Island and a recaptured a Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker which was first banded in 2016 in McComb County Michigan!

On May 16, we return to Kelleys Island for 2 weeks of banding under the same conditions we had agreed to with Mayor Ehrbar. Our luck changed almost from the beginning. We set up nets in the morning of the 16th and started banding at 1:00 PM.- By 5 o'clock we had banded 44 individuals of 19 species. The next day, Sunday, we had one of our best days of banding ever! We banded 197 individuals of 49 species. The record was not the number of individuals but the number of species.



Included in the number was a Chuck-will's-widow. It was the second record for the island but the first I had ever banded. This is a species normally found further south, related to Whip-poor-wills, but twice the size. In addition we banded 19 species of warblers including Blue-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hooded Warbler, plus a Yellow-breasted Chat, a Scarlet Tanager, and 6 hummingbirds. We also captured an uncommon Silver-haired Bat in the first net check. Our best numbers day came on May 24 when we banded 220 individuals of 39 species. On this day the birds came all at once which forced us to close nets by 8:00 AM so we could band the birds captured. Once opened again, we had to close early to again catch up on the banding. For those who wonder, volunteers frequently time me at



the banding station. Under normal times, I can usually band a bird between 45 and 60 seconds. Flycatchers can take longer because they require more measurements.

Kelleys Island May 2020 Totals

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Chuck-will's-widow | 1 | White-crowned Sparrow |
| 25 | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 1 | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| 2 | Downy Woodpecker | 4 | Orchard Oriole |
| 1 | Yellow-shafted Flicker | 33 | Baltimore Oriole |
| 11 | Eastern Wood-Pewee | 2 | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 64 | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 43 | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 5 | Acadian Flycatcher | 13 | Common Grackle |
| 12 | Alder Flycatcher | 21 | Ovenbird |
| 17 | Willow Flycatcher | 2 | Blue-winged Warbler |
| 48 | "Trail's" Flycatcher | 11 | Black-and-white Warbler |
| 73 | Least Flycatcher | 14 | Tennessee Warbler |
| 8 | Great Crested Flycatcher | 2 | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| 2 | Eastern Kingbird | 27 | Nashville Warbler |
| 3 | White-eyed Vireo | 2 | Connecticut Warbler |
| 1 | Blue-headed Vireo | 18 | Mourning Warbler |
| 5 | Philadelphia Vireo | 34 | Common Yellowthroat |
| 4 | Warbling Vireo | 6 | Hooded Warbler |
| 21 | Red-eyed Vireo | 36 | American Redstart |
| 5 | Blue Jay | 3 | Cape May Warbler |
| 14 | House Wren | 4 | Northern Parula |
| 1 | Carolina Wren | 138 | Magnolia Warbler |
| 3 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 7 | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| 7 | Veery | 14 | Blackburnian Warbler |
| 7 | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 62 | Yellow Warbler |
| 67 | Swainson's Thrush | 28 | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 2 | Wood Thrush | 1 | Blackpoll Warbler |
| 9 | American Robin | 6 | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 37 | Gray Catbird | 9 | "Western" Palm Warbler |
| 4 | Brown Thrasher | 6 | Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler |

- 3 **European Starling**
- 7 Cedar Waxwing
- 1 American Goldfinch
- 4 Chipping Sparrow
- 16 Lincoln's Sparrow
- 1 Swamp Sparrow
- 4 White-throated Sparrow

Bold = Unusual

70 species
13 days
119 recaptures
10 escapes / released birds
5 casualties

- 11 Black-throated Green Warbler
- 34 Canada Warbler
- 38 Wilson's Warbler
- 2 Scarlet Tanager**
- 8 Northern Cardinal
- 25 Indigo Bunting

Red = 1st banded record for Kelleys Island

1161 individuals banded
1246.50 net hours of effort
1296 birds handled
0.93 birds banded per net hour of effort
0.39 % casualties/bird handled

Kelleys Island April 2020 Bird Banding Results

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Cooper's Hawk | 1 Field Sparrow |
| 1 Downy Woodpecker | 1 Song Sparrow |
| 1 Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker | 1 White-throated Sparrow |
| 13 Brown Creeper | 1 Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco |
| 1 Carolina Wren | 1 Common Grackle |
| 27 Golden-crowned Kinglet | 5 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler |
| 30 Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 1 Summer Tanager |
| 18 Hermit Thrush | 1 Northern Cardinal |
| 3 American Robin | |

So far in 2020, we have banded 1268 individual birds of 77 species on Kelleys Island. For the last several years we have tried to band more than 1000 individuals each spring but the closest we have come is 966. This year, in 17 days we passed that number by far.

Special thanks to all those who made this a very successful spring of bird research. On Kelleys Island those include Mayor Ron Ehrbar, Kevin Ertley of Morse Farms, Kathy Reddinger, Chris Ashley of Kelleys Island State Park, Alexi Panehal, scribe, Tyler McClain, Sandy Teliak, Stephanie Tiell, and Scott and Jodie Smith. On the Bass islands we thank Russ and Lisa Brohl, Nancy Welter, Teddi Keith-Morris, Bob Stausmire, Ken Farber, the Put-in-Bay Township Park District, and the Barnhill Family.

Select Photos from the Spring 2020 bird banding:

Middle Bass Island Banding Crew



Good haul!



Summer Tanager



Scarlet Tanager



Rainy, downtime...



Yellow-breasted Chat



Northern Parula



Orange-crowned Warbler



Indigo Bunting



Canada warbler



American Beaver

