



Surveys

Songbird Banding

Songbird banding allows us to gather information on the average survival and life expectancy of birds, the age at which breeding first occurs and the number of years of reproductive potential for each species. It also is a measure of the annual variation in numbers of adults and young birds, the ratios of males to females, and gives us insight into causes of avian mortality. Banding helps researchers map the location of breeding and wintering grounds and rest areas as well as the migratory routes birds follow.

Recovery of banded birds gives us information on the timing and duration of migration. The recovery rate for banded songbirds is very low. For most species, less than 0.1% of all birds banded are ever recovered. Large numbers must therefore be banded before there are enough recoveries to document where these birds breed, migrate and winter, and how long they live. Although this data is crucial to the management and protection of birds, it is only known for a handful of non-game species. This data also helps us to determine which species are changing their migratory patterns.

Banding at Oak Hammock Marsh is part of an educational program promoting banding, conservation, wetlands and population monitoring. The banding is also a component of our environmental monitoring program contributing to the Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre Monitoring Plan. The banding at Oak Hammock is done in the Willow Bluff area, near the Clubhouse. It gives us an idea of what species are moving through our willow bluff, and, during the summer months, which ones nest there. It also allows a close up look at birds you might not normally see. There are five areas set up with mist nets. Three are north of the clubhouse, and the other two are south of the Clubhouse.

The banding is done weekly from the first week of May to the end of September; weather permitting. The banding is done in the early morning from 8:00 to 10:00 am. Come and join us Friday mornings!



Survey continued - songbird banding totals

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Hairy Woodpecker								1			
Downy Woodpecker		1	1	1				2			1
Yellow-shafted Flicker										2	
Eastern Kingbird	1		2	4			2		2		
Western Kingbird								1			
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	1									
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			1					1			2
Eastern Phoebe				1				1			1
Eastern Wood-Pewee											1
Trail's Flycatcher				8	2		6	6	2	3	3
Least Flycatcher		1	4	7	5		3	1	1	3	8
Blue Jay				1							
European Starling				1							
Bobolink											2
Brown-headed Cowbird		2	1	8	4		6	3	8	3	1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	8	14	31	4		22	4	13	7	11
Red-winged Blackbird	1		4	15			14	7	1	3	7
Orchard Oriole		1					1			1	
Baltimore Oriole									1		
Common Grackle		3	5	3	3	2	4	4		1	3
American Goldfinch		1	4	6	3		2	3	11	10	3
Savannah Sparrow	9	22	13	6	2		20	11	5	16	53
Le Conte's Sparrow											1
Harris's Sparrow	1		3		3			6	3		4
White-crowned Sparrow	1	4	5	3			2			2	6
White-throated Sparrow	7	2	11	10	6		12	20	10	4	5
American Tree Sparrow		5	22	6							3
Chipping Sparrow		1						2		1	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	2	4	15	4		12	16	10	7	17
Slate-colored Junco	2	22	34	20	6		2	12	7	15	38
Song Sparrow		3	8	21	6		17	36	7	21	28
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	2	11	8	3		12	6	12		8
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	16	14	3	1	57	27	18	23	36
Fox Sparrow		5	2	5			1	1			3

Survey continued - songbird banding totals

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Purple Martin					1						
Barn Swallow	9	25	8	16	7		1	4	5	16	10
Tree Swallow		2	1	2	2		13	9	2	9	20
Bank Swallow	2				38		13		1	3	9
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		1									
Red-eyed Vireo					2						1
Philadelphia Vireo					1						
Blue-headed Vireo								1			
Black-and-White Warbler				1	1			1	3	1	2
Nashville Warbler		2	1	1			3	3	1	1	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	2	3	3				2	6		1
Tennessee Warbler		26	8	35	18	23	21	19	9	83	30
Cape May Warbler		6			3			3			1
Yellow Warbler	14	55	30	90	43		95	82	53	91	84
Myrtle Warbler	7	96	56	17	9		19	14	62	171	42
Magnolia Warbler				3	4		1	5	2		1
Chestnut-sided Warbler			1						1		
Bay-breasted Warbler								1	1		
Blackpoll Warbler		2	6	1				2	4	2	2
Blackburnian Warbler				1							
Black-throated Green Warbler											1
Western Palm Warbler	1	25	1	15	3		1	8	9	11	7
Ovenbird								2			
Northern Waterthrush	1	1	2	3	2		4	5	6	3	4
Connecticut Warbler											1
Mourning Warbler				2	1						
Common Yellowthroat		19	19	57	47		71	90	50	52	61
Wilson's Warbler		1	1	3	8		1	7	8	4	1
Canada Warbler					1						1
American Redstart	1	2	3	7	7		3	11	10		
House Sparrow	5	7	3	1				2			
Gray Catbird			2						1	1	
House Wren		1		1					2		2
Marsh Wren			1	3	9		2	4	5	6	3

Survey continued - songbird banding totals

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Brown Creeper			1								1
White-breasted Nuthatch							1				
Black-capped Chickadee			5							2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1			1							
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	2	7	12	7		5	6	6	9	6
Gray-cheeked Thrush		1							1		
Swainson's Thrush				2							
Hermit Thrush	2	3	6	6			3	1	2		1
American Robin		1		1			1				
Total birds	79	367	330	478	268	26	453	458	361	587	540
Total Species	24	40	41	47	35	3	36	47	40	34	50
Total Mist net hours	29.75	144	177.25	233.75	127.75	10	154.35	180.95	139.5	163.9	239.35
Birds/mist net hour	2.66	2.55	1.86	2.04	2.10	2.60	2.93	2.53	2.59	3.58	2.26
Total species 2000 to 2010	77										

Note: In 2005, banding was done on only one day.