

Red-eyed Vireo's Migratory Route Fidelity in an Urban Environment

By *Vernon M. Kleen*

Although birds had been banded at the Illinois Audubon Society's Adams Wildlife Sanctuary (on the east side of Springfield) during the falls of 1989 and 2008 and in the spring of 2009, the Margery Adams Bird Banding Station (MABBS) was not officially formalized until the fall of 2009. The site is a 40-acre plot situated in and surrounded by a highly-developed urban area. The banding habitat consists of about 25 acres of regenerated woods (allowed to grow unchecked since the 1930s) and 15 acres of scrubby second-growth recently converted into wetlands and a developing prairie. The woodland understory is heavily infested with winter creeper, bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard and a variety of other exotics that have taken over.

MABBS was initiated as a volunteer program to use bird banding as a tool to monitor the bird populations that permanently live at the Adams Sanctuary or visit the sanctuary during the spring and fall seasons. Another purpose is to provide educational opportunities and training



**Red-eyed Vireo.
Madison, Wisconsin.
September 2009.**

Photo by John Benson.

for everyone interested in learning more about birds and the environment. MABBS is operated, weather-permitting, every week-day morning and some Saturdays from late March through late May and late August through mid-November.

During the short life of MABBS there have been many interesting records (check the spring and fall field notes in Meadowlark for examples); but, one of the most interesting comes from a migratory Red-eyed Vireo, a species that does not breed at the sanctuary. The subject vireo was banded (number 1671-76838) as an adult on 20 May 2009; then recaptured again on both 24 May 2010 and 24 May 2011. The timing of its capture in three consecutive years is simply remarkable.

I'd like to thank Annette Prince (2010) for her Brown Creeper manuscript (with nearly the same title) as the impetus for this note.

Literature Cited

Prince, Annette (2010). Brown Creeper's migratory route fidelity and urban fatality. *Meadowlark* 19:124-125.

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