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A Central Flyway Review for the Inland Bird Banding Association

Greg Lasley

Beginning in an upcoming issue of the *North American Bird Bander*, IBBA will have a "Central Flyway Review" that will loosely follow the format of the Atlantic Flyway Review published by the Eastern Bird Banding Association for a number of years. The purpose of this review will be to compile and compare data from the banding stations within the IBBA area. The success of this undertaking depends entirely on support and cooperation from banders and banding stations that operate in the IBBA area. If you have a banding station that operates on a regular basis, I encourage you to support this project by sending in your banding data.

In Texas, as well as in other states that border the Gulf of Mexico, spring usually produces a larger build-up of migrant birds than does the fall. For stations that have projects that use data on migrants, both spring and fall are equally important. For that reason, I propose to use the Central Flyway Review to illustrate both migration seasons.

The number of willing contributors will determine if it will be possible to continue this review on a regular basis. If the response from reporting stations is great, it may become necessary to divide up the IBBA area into separate regions for this review, much as has become necessary for the Atlantic Flyway.

The first year will be one of trial and error as we learn not only the best way to compile the data into a meaningful form, but also learn more about the desires and needs of the individual banding stations within the IBBA area.

I hope to begin the review with spring 1982. For this review, spring will be defined as the period between 1 March and 31 May. Fall will include the period between 1 August and 30 November. Since the IBBA covers an area from the humid semi-tropical habitats of south Texas to the parklands and tundra of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, these dates may be unrealistic. I am open to any suggestions from IBBA members for subsequent reports.

If you operate a banding station that was used on a

regular basis in spring 1982, please send me the following information:

- Total days of operation
- Number of nets used
- Total net hours
- Largest daily catch
- Birds banded, spring 1982
- Different species, spring 1982
- Birds/100 net hours, spring 1982
- Latitude/longitude of your station

I will also need a list of each species banded and the number of individuals of each species. I would also like a brief summary of your banding station, its habitats and terrain. Descriptions of banding projects that you are currently working on would be welcomed. In your summary, please include any interesting returns or recoveries that you had this spring. You might like to read previous reviews of the Atlantic Flyway in the *North American Bird Bander* to see some good examples of each station's trends, observations, and recaptures.

As I said, to begin with we will all be learning how best to tailor the Central Flyway Review to the IBBA members' needs. I believe that with the right cooperation and support from banding stations, this review can be an informative and enjoyable summary that we can use to compare banding operations and migration patterns throughout central North America.

Please send me your spring 1982 summaries and let me know your thoughts about how the Central Flyway Review should reflect IBBA members' activities.

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