

1990

Inland Regional News

North American Bird Bander

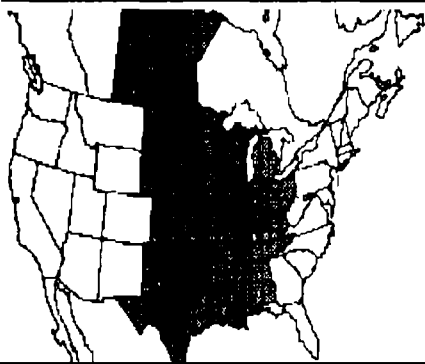
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Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA ANNUAL MEETING

The Inland Bird Banding Association had their annual meeting on the weekend of 12-14 October 1990 in Columbia, Missouri, and a better weekend couldn't have been provided--that from all bases: weather, speakers, entertainment, or information. You could hardly have a better start than an informal wine-tasting overlooking the Missouri River at sunset with old friends and new!

The University of Missouri-Columbia and the Missouri Department of Conservation did an excellent job of offering an array of speakers/topics ranging from local projects and birds to the exotic of the neo-tropics:

Missouri Birds	Jim D. Wilson	MO Dept. of Cons.
MO Breeding Bird Atlas	Brad Jacobs	MDC
Least Tern in SE Missouri	Rochelle Renden	MDC
Mourning Dove Hunting	John Schulz	MDC
Canada Geese Banding	John Smith	MDC
Sparrow Site Fidelity in NE	Thomas E. Labeledz	Univ. of NE/Lincoln
Galapagos Hawk Banding	Linda Delay	Univ. of MO/Columbia
Prairie Chickens in MO	Mark Ryan	UMC
Piping Plover Bio & Conserv.	Mark Ryan	UMC
Banding in Puerto Rico	John Faaborg	UMC
Banding in Rio Manu, Peru	Scott Robinson	Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv.
Aging & Sexing Update	Kathy Klimkiewicz	USF&W Banding Lab
Monitoring Bird Populations	Robinson, Klimkiewicz, Faaborg, Petersen	

Kathy Klimkiewicz from the BBL brought us up to date on their doings which included Chinese delegate exchanges, automation of band ordering and scheduling, future plans for automating the encounter system and microfilming of records. The transcript of the two-day, non-game banding workshop was made available for review. Kathy described the session as a very good information exchange with no major changes immediately planned.

The field trips were an excellent break each morning for a couple of hours and were most graciously staffed by the Columbia Audubon Society (even donuts and coffee). Kathy put us on our mettle with a bird skin quiz. Winners were Ed Peartree (with 26 out of 29 correct), Jame Olyphant, Charles Kemper, and a three-way tie for fourth place. The food was good, the conversation stimulating, and the door prizes copious. The minutes of the business meeting will follow in a latter issue of *NABB*. Note the pictures for some of the people and activities. Fifty-five attendees from 13 states were on hand; Karl Bartel celebrating his 77th birthday. We had a good time; hope to see you at the next one.

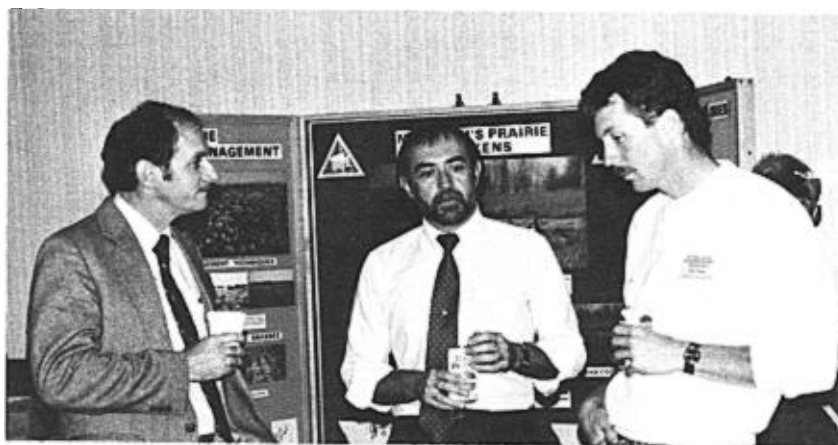
**PHOTOS FROM IBBA ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 12-14, 1990
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI**



Past President Peter Petersen (L) presents the Willetta Lueshen Harris' Sparrow Award to Thomas Labedz, Lincoln, NE.



John Faaborg (L), organizer of the IBBA Annual Meeting, chats with banquet speaker Scott Robinson.



Featured speakers John Smith (L) and Mark Ryan (C) talk with IBBA Editor Dan Kramer (R).

LUESHEN HARRIS' SPARROW AWARD

Thomas E. Labedz, collections manager at the University of Nebraska State Museum, has been awarded a \$100.00 grant through the Willetta Lueshen Harris' Sparrow Fund. Labedz' proposal is for continuation of his study on the winter site fidelity of migrant sparrows, especially Harris' Sparrows.



OHIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Ohio Bird Banding Association held their annual fall meeting in late August at Quail Hollow State Park. On the agenda was a morning-long workshop on banding tips for net setups, data sheets, equipment, organization of bands, ossification demos, band removal, care of bird injuries, and net repair. The afternoon speakers presented:

Vocalization as an Isolation Mechanism of the Carolina and Black-capped Chickadee

Dr. Scott Orcutt, University of Akron

Ageing and/or Sexing by Measurements

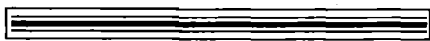
Dave Cimprich, Ohio State University

Banding Hummingbirds in Ohio

Sara Jean Peters, Ohio Div. of Wildlife

The evening banquet speaker, Jeffery Dodge, talked on Migration and Banding at Braddock Bay, New York.

I have it on report that the meeting was a most enjoyable and enlightening one. If you have had a meeting recently, send us information for this newsletter. Better yet, get it to us as early as possible and we may be able to spread the word to others and increase your attendance.



TRI-STATE MEETING

A report in the July Minnesota Bird Bander's newsletter described a visit by Grayl, a Great Gray Owl, and Dr. Robert Nero to the Tri-State Meeting. Dr. Nero captures Great Grays along roadsides by using a fake lemming, a casting rod, and a landing net. He uses the casting rod to toss the lure out in the snow, reels it in, and then has his assistant catch the owl with the landing net.

Great Grays have asymmetrical skulls and extremely

acute hearing. Several of Dr. Nero's slides indicated that the owl can hear critters under 18 inches of snow, plunges in feet first with wings slightly open, and catches the creature. The owl then pushes its wings against the snow to become air borne again.

Editor's Note: As you can see, I have been borrowing liberally from the Minnesota banders newsletters. I don't wish to be biased, but am trying to keep this section going until the rest of you get up to speed with all the delays and changes. Please let us hear from ALL of you; there are lots of other states we'd like to hear from and even small bits of information are interesting. Remember this is the informal section of this effort and you can never tell when some small event may be of significant interest to another bander's studies somewhere.

Betty Grenon
1409 Childs Road East
Bellevue NE 68005

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD APPROVED

Audra Lee Janiak of Fridley, Minnesota, is the recipient of the Willetta Lueshen Student Membership Award. Sponsored by Jane Olyphant, Audra is an undergraduate student of biology at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. She has been assisting the bird banding activities of Kathlyn Heidel at Carver Park Reserve, Victoria, Minnesota, since 1984; Ron Refsnider at Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN.; and her mother, Judi Janiak. Audra hopes to promote more banding in Alaska—a state she feels has been overlooked by the banding world.

(Address: Audra Lee Janiak, P.O. Box 901034, UAF, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-1040)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For several years, we believed that the personal computer may be one of the best banding tools to come along since the mist net. There is little point in banding a bird unless something can be learned from it. The personal computer makes analysis of bird data simple. Even such a simple thing as a list of banded birds in some sort of logical order may give new insights into the bird population. To do this by hand can be tedious and frustrating. To assemble a list, sort it, then resort it is simple and easy in spreadsheet software. The leader in spreadsheets is LOTUS 123. However, there are many other spreadsheet packages on the market that will perform just as well.

Now that the banding lab. has made copies of their schedule generating software available and new personal computers are now selling for around \$1,000, not much stands in the way of using the PC in a banding program. We are really glad and grateful that the banding lab. has provided the software.

Several years ago, I started to look at some of my choicest sets of banded bird data by putting them in a Lotus spreadsheet. The results are sobering. So much work for so little information! My major regret was that I had not attempted an analysis earlier, because I would have collected some of the information a bit differently and perhaps a bit more diligently.

The message here is fairly simple. Use the best tools you can get and use them often. If you think there is a pattern or conclusion hidden in your data set, the PC is probably the way to find it. And, you may be able to submit your banding data to the lab. on a diskette, saving them the trouble of paying someone to enter it into their computer!

Don Beimborn

NATURE NOTES FROM NEBRASKA

Every bander dreams of finding a special place to band an avian species he has never before encountered. My opportunity presented itself in July of 1990. Beginning on the 4th, I banded 590 Bank Swallows, *Riparia riparia*, plus enough Cliff and Rough-wings to round out 600 birds, before the last one fledged and departed for Central American wintering grounds. Banding numbers of this size usually occurs only around winter feeders.

This unique opportunity came as the result of soil excavation for an artificial lake which produced a 100 foot sand mound. This was just the nesting habitat Bank Swallows need and hundreds took advantage of it. And the nicest thing was that it was only a mile from my house. Getting permission to enter this private property was another thing—I couldn't find the owner. But I decided if I just waited long enough, I would find the right person. And I did. The owner graciously permitted me to enter the property anytime I wished.

I banded three times from the 4th through the 7th. This resulted in 194 birds—only one was a hatching year bird. I had to stop and go on vacation and was unable to get back to the site until the 26th. In this period, hundreds of birds had fledged and I believe many of the first adults left the colony as I had only six returns. I banded five more times from the 26th to the 31st of August which resulted in over

400 birds. All this from a part of Nebraska where Bank Swallows are seldom seen past spring migration!

The predators of this colony were especially interesting to me. Every time I was at the site, a pair of American Kestrels came for their "Bank Swallow lunch." I often saw them take a bird in mid air and fly to a near-by tree to eat it.

Claw marks on the face of the embankment puzzled me until I found the intruder on the back side of the cliff. A skunk had obviously found an easy food source, too. I often found the remains of nests that had been torn from their anchors.

The one visitor to this colony that surprised me most was a Great Blue Heron. Bank Swallows clean their nests daily by removing any dead nestlings and dropping them near the base of the nesting habitat. The heron zeroed in on this swallow behavior and snapped them up like popcorn!

This banding site is temporary at best; I cringe every time I see another load of sand hauled away. But I'm hoping enough of it will be there next summer for the swallows to nest again and I will have a chance to see how many of them return to Sarpy County, Nebraska.

Ruth C. Green, 506 W. 31st Ave. Bellvue, NE 68005