

1995

Inland Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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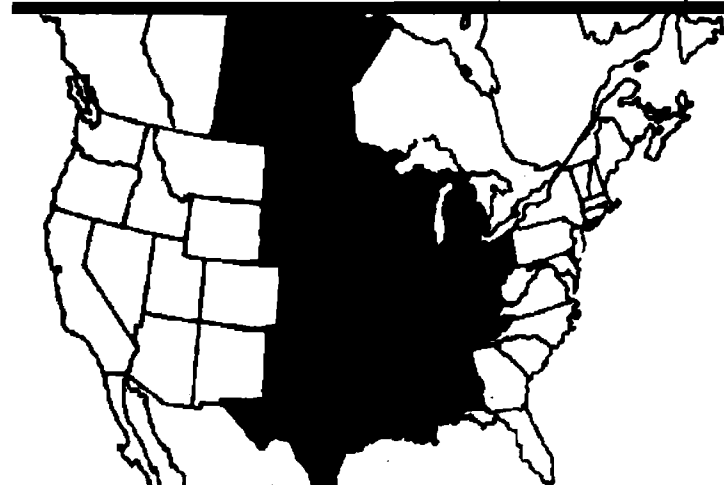
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average numbers. Other species banded in above-normal numbers in 1994 were Acadian Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (four caught; last time I netted one was 1981), Northern Cardinal, and White-eyed Vireo. Cardinals apparently had a very productive breeding season,

while an upward trend for White-eyed Vireos had been evident in my netting area since establishment of the clearing for the telecommunication tower. Nevertheless, the 42 White-eyed Vireos recorded in 1994 were an all-time record.



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION 1995 FALL CONFERENCE AT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Co-chairmen **Tom Little** and **Terrence N. Ingram** organized this year's gathering for 13-15 October. Highlights of the program include the following papers:

Twenty-eight years of banding. Lee Johnson

Lee Johnson started banding as an individual bander and later purchased an area near the Sugar River that he named Sand Bluff Banding Station. With many volunteer helpers, over 230,000 birds have been banded at the station. This effort has produced some very interesting returns and recoveries.

First Aid -- Last Aid. Tom Bartlett

Every bander has had a bird become injured or die at some time or another. Banders should have a "bird" first aid kit to treat injuries of birds (and banders!) and should know what to do to provide sufficient salvage information if a bird dies.

Bluebird Returns near Green Bay, Wisconsin, 1967-1995. Vince Bauldry and Don Beimborn

Since 1967, over 12,000 Eastern Bluebirds have been banded near Green Bay, Wisconsin. Of these birds, 518 individuals have been recaptured 658 times. For birds banded as nestlings, annual survival from one to two years old is about 50%; yearly survival for other year or age categories varied from 20% to 33%. Only 3% of nestlings returned to the same site as banding; 32% of adults returned to banding site.

Tailgate Bird Banding. Forest Strnad

Forest Strnad has been banding in Minnesota since 1957. He began banding Mourning Doves to help F&WS determine where the young birds went when they migrated. His banding work has taken him to many parts of Minnesota where he has banded out of the back of his station wagon and thus has had an opportunity to band many different species of birds in different habitats.

Management Implications of MAPS Program. Cindy Trombino

Participants in the MAPS Program have defined guidelines to follow in order to get results that can be compared in a meaningful way to other

banding sites and from year to year. These guidelines will be discussed so potential new participants will understand what to expect and what they can get out of being a part of the program.

Bird Bander Certification. Jerome Jackson

A meeting of representatives from all three banding associations and both U.S. and Canadian banding laboratories was held in San Francisco this last spring to discuss the possibility of developing a standardized training for and certification of banders. Four levels have been proposed: Trainer (a person qualified to train banders and certify them), Master Bander (same as current Master Permittee), Sub-Permittee (same as current Sub-Permittee), Helper or Bander Aide (trained to help process birds but could not band on their own). A North American Banding Council is proposed to develop and oversee the certificate program. A standardized written exam given at the completion of certification training would be a further test of both knowledge and skills that could allow objective comparison of trainees.

Trapping Tax Advantages. Judy Kautz and Terrence Ingram

As bird banders, we are working for the Fish & Wildlife Service as volunteers. As such, banders' expenses, but not the time, can be considered as a donation to F&WS and is, therefore, deductible. Examples of deductible expenses and necessary documentation were presented.

Goldfinch Study Confirmation. Steve Reischel

A recent issue of *North American Bird Bander* contained an article on American Goldfinches. Wing chord data of goldfinches banded at Sand Bluff Banding Station reinforces the results of the earlier study.

Kentucky Warbler Returns to Iowa. Darleen Ayres

During more than 35 years of banding, 171 Kentucky Warblers had been banded in southeastern Iowa; 40 birds returned in successive years, including one male at least eight years old.

Sand Bluff Banding Station Returns. Lee Johnson

While operating Sand Bluff Banding Station's 100+ nets for many years with many vol-

unteers, thousands of birds have been banded each year. Distribution of recovery records for several species were illustrated.

Update from the Bird Banding Laboratory. Mary Gustafson

The present political "cutback" environment in Washington will have some effect on the whole bird banding program. This effect as seen from an insider's view will be discussed, and possible future ramifications will be presented. The results will affect all banders.

IBBA BUSINESS MEETING ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 14 OCTOBER 1995

President Forest Strnad called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. The secretary determined that a quorum was present of the 40 members registered. The minutes from the previous business meeting was approved as published in *NABB*.

Treasurer's Report. Balances as of 1 October 1995 are as follows:

Operations Account	\$20,164.80
Paul Stewart Research Fund	\$14,785.36
Life Membership Fund	\$10,395.97
Total Assets	\$45,346.13
Annual Receipts	\$5,743.10
Annual Disbursements	\$6,308.53

A question confirmed that only interest from the Stewart Research Fund is disbursed; the principal stays intact. A mist net inventory has been established and was provided with initial funds of \$2,000.00. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

President's Report. In March 1995, Jerome Jackson was appointed to attend a forum on the development and standardization of bander training in North America, held at Mill Valley, California. Results from this forum were presented during the paper session. A mid-year board meeting was held in April 1995 at Rockford, Illinois. IBBA will join EBBA in a joint meeting 10-12 April 1996 at the new National Wildlife Visitor Center at Laurel, Maryland. All IBBA members are encouraged to attend.

Editor's Report: Two manuscripts have been published and three are in editorial processing. The past four issues have had a low page count of IBBA contributions. IBBA's share of *NABB* production depends on number of pages contributed by IBBA members. Suggestion that members contribute year-end station reports. Discussion held on getting *NABB* back on schedule.

Endowment Committee: Bauldry reported that a donation of \$400.00 was made to the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, a white cedar and lowland hardwood swamp, to help in the establishment of a MAPS station. Two requests for grant applications have been received recently.

Membership Secretary: Current membership is 372 including 25 delinquent members. Delinquent accounts will be dropped from membership at the next mailing. A survey of bander interests and specializations will be mailed with the annual dues notice. This information will be used to publish an IBBA bander directory (with an option available to be excluded).

Old Business: Updates of bylaws, including three minor corrections, will be sent to members and will be acted upon by the Board at the April 1996 meeting. Mist nets are now available from Terry Ingram at cost for IBBA members and with \$5.00 surcharge for non-members.

New Business: Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers for the coming year. All positions remained the same except that Molly Henke replaced Tom Kashmer (whose term expired) as Director. The slate was accepted as proposed. Next year's Nominating Committee was appointed: Julie Shieldcastle, Henry West, and Jane Dunlap.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Additional Board Notes: The 1996 Annual Conference will be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at a date to be announced. Various old records of IBBA are located at the VanTyne Library of the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin--Platteville, and the Burpee Museum at Rockford, Illinois. Jerome Jackson and Ruth Green, with Tom

Bartlett as alternate, were appointed to the North American Banding Council to develop recommendations for bander certification.

BLUEBIRDS RETURN TO CENTRAL MINNEAPOLIS

A group of people interested in birds, led by Mary McGee of Minneapolis, put bluebird boxes in open spots in central Minneapolis in 1986. Minneapolis sprawls out 20 miles from the center of the city and there is no evidence that bluebirds nested in the city or inner ring of suburbs for many years. Within a short time, bluebirds nested in these boxes. The group was encouraged by this success and put boxes in other open areas. Some of these areas are relatively remote; others are the edges of parking lots, edges of ball fields, city gardens in parts, and other park areas.

One adult banded in 1992 near Faribault, Minn., by Forest Strnad was recaptured in a nest box in the study area in 1995. Faribault is about 70 mi south of the study area.

The yearly totals for local Eastern Bluebirds banded in central Minneapolis are as follows: 1987, 5; 1988, 3; 1992, 17; 1993, 17; 1994, 17; 1995, 20.

The objective of the project is to determine whether bluebird nesting populations can be established in an urban area where previously there were no nesting bluebirds. Another objective is to determine what movement and interaction there is between this isolated population and other groups of nesting bluebirds outside the city.

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SLIPPERY SWAMP

While banding at my research site in Hall County, Nebraska, on 15 Jan 1993, I had the good luck to net a Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) where and when I never would have expected. After banding (2001-10824) and recording measurements from the back of my hatchback, I opted for a photograph. This diversion from my normal routine allowed the bird to escape just after being photographed but before being weighed. Unfortunately, it flew into my car, instead of out, and up under the dash.

Reaching under the dash and into every nook and cranny, I could not locate the bird. It was not seen to leave the car and I suspected it still remained somewhere in the dash. I went to check nets again and returned to start dismantling the dash with my trusty Swiss army knife. After I had the dash off and still could not find the bird, it was time again to check nets. Guess who was caught in a net? Somehow that Swamp Sparrow had gotten out of my car and into my mist nets several hundred meters away. I recorded its weight and released it well away from car and began reassembling the dash.

Thomas E. Labedz
Lincoln, Nebraska

METRO BEACH METROPARK, MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN SPRING 1995

The spring and fall bird banding program in a small corner of Metro Beach Metropark near Mt. Clemens, Michigan, was initiated in September 1989 to document the importance of this area as a resting and refueling site during migration. Questions being asked are which birds utilize this area, how many, when, and how long they stay.

The banding station is located in a compressed but varied habitat, with woods, swamp, brush, sedge meadow, and marsh. Assisted by an all-volunteer team, I usually band two days a week from April to early June and from August to early October, when hunting activities begin nearby. Over the years 8,527 birds have been banded.

Between 21 Apr and 4 Jun 1995, 735 birds of 67 species were banded in 946 net hours—77.69 birds/100 net hours. Twenty-eight birds of 11 species banded in previous years returned and were mist netted 50 times. These included an A7YM Black-capped Chickadee, banded 16 Sep 1989 and since mist netted yearly, except in 1993, for a total of 12 times, and a 7YM Black-capped chickadee, banded 9 Sep 1989 and since mist netted yearly for a total of 14 times. The birds recaptured within season remained between 1 to 28 days at our site. A Hermit Thrush and a White-throated Sparrow each used the area for at least 7 days before continuing their flights to breeding grounds farther north.

A Whip-poor-will was banded on 21 Apr; 2 White-eyed Vireo; 7 and 13 May; and Rusty Blackbird on 22 Apr. Six species (77 individuals) of thrushes, 19 species (221 individuals) of wood warblers, and 5 species (153 individuals) of sparrows were banded.

Top numbers for banded birds included 66 White-throated Sparrow, 54 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 50 Swamp Sparrow, 39 Common Yellowthroat, 37 Red-winged Blackbird, 33 Blue Jay, 31 American Goldfinch, 27 Magnolia Warbler, 26 Hermit Thrush, and 26 Yellow Warbler. Bottom numbers for banded birds included, 1 each, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Rusty Blackbird.

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