

1997

## Inland Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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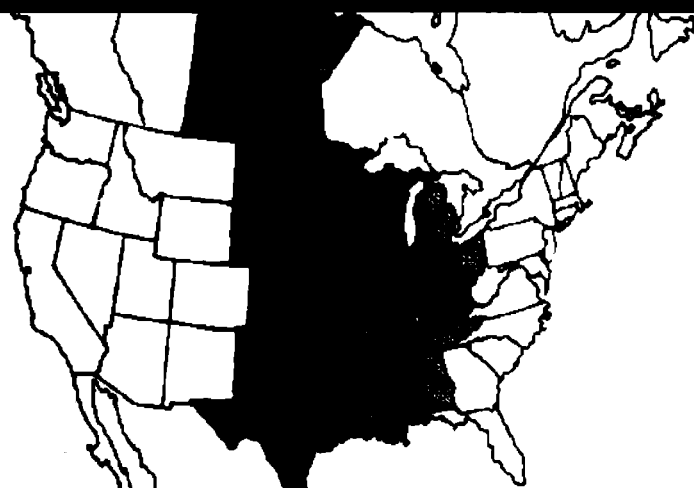
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## *Inland Regional News*

### *Inland Bird Banding Association*

#### **In Memoriam Nathanial R. Whitney, Jr.**

Nathanial R. Whitney, Jr., MD, of Rapid City, SD, died suddenly 27 April 1997. He was born 24 November 1923 in Cincinnati, OH, and grew up in Ohio.

He received a biology degree from Harvard University in 1944 and his M.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 1948. Nathanial Whitney practiced medicine in Rapid City, SD, from 1953 to 1988 as a pediatrician.

Dr. Whitney also had much interest in ornithology; he was a member of Inland Bird Banding Association (and served a term on IBBA's board) and held memberships in the American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union (for which he served on their board of directors and four years as president).

He published *Birds of the Black Hills* (1968, with O. S. Pettingill) and *Birds of South Dakota* (1978, rev. ed. 1991, as chair of SDOU's Checklist committee).

Whitney was a long-time bander in South Dakota and had special interest in White-winged Juncos; he contributed the account of this form to Bent's Life History series (1968). His banding records are to be deposited with the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD. A fuller account will be published this year in *South Dakota Bird Notes*.

#### **1998—A Year of Opportunities for Bird Banders**

The coming year includes two meetings that should be of great interest to bird banders. From 6-12 April there will be a North American Ornithological Congress in St. Louis, MO. This will be a confab of the American Ornithologists' Union, The Association of Field Ornithologists, The Cooper Ornithological Society, The Wilson Ornithological Society, Colonial Waterbird Society, and Raptor Research Foundation. For information concerning this meeting, contact Bette Loiselle, Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 89001 Natural Bridge

Road, St. Louis, MO 63121-4499 (e-mail: bird-stl@umsl.edu) or check the meeting's web page (<http://www.umsl.edu/~biology/icte/bird98>).

The second meeting will be the annual conference of the Inland Bird Banding Association from 9-11 October at Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, NE. This meeting will feature papers and a workshop focusing on grassland sparrows. Our special guest and workshop facilitator for the conference will be Dr. James D. Rising, author of the recent book from Academic Press, "A Guide to the Identifi-

cation and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada." Local Committee Chair and contact for this meeting is Ruth Green, 506 W. 31st Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005.

Finally, in coming issues of *NABB* we hope to initiate a "Bander's Forum" in which we discuss problems and solutions that you, the bander, have relative to your banding operations. Each "Bander's Forum" will focus on a specific topic, and I'd like your suggestions for topics to be covered. The first will focus on bird weights. Do you weigh your birds? Using what equipment? What do you do with the weight data? Our Forum will discuss problems with weighing birds, compare scales, and suggest opportunities for making use of weight data. I'd like to hear from you.

**Jerome A. Jackson**  
President, IBBA  
P.O. Box Z  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

**IBBA BUSINESS MEETING  
11 OCTOBER 1997  
PORT CLINTON, OHIO**

President Jerry Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. The Secretary determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the previous business meeting were approved as published in *NABB*.

**TREASURER:** Report presented with balances as of 1 October 1997 as follows: Operations Account, \$19,785.09; Paul Stewart Research Fund, \$15,809.07; Life Membership Fund, \$11,041.25; Total assets: \$46,635.41. annual receipts, \$6,680.93; annual disbursements, \$6,388.36. Interest earned on the Paul Stewart Research Fund was \$591.74. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

**PRESIDENT:** Jerry Jackson reported on the March 1997 meeting of the North American Bird Banding Council held in Tucson, Arizona. Ruth Green and Jackson attended. Draft minutes were made available along with the mission description. The initial trainers will be selected from the NABBC; however, nominations for additional trainers will be accepted until the year 2000. Manuals will be made available, with complementary trainer's guide. Sep.-Jul. - Sep. 1997

rate manuals for raptors, hummingbirds, and passerines will be developed.

The preparation of a hosting manual was announced. A first draft was available for the hosts of the present meeting. Suggestions are welcome.

A new membership brochure was made available. A further updated and revised version will continue in development.

President Jackson reported that three valued IBBA members had passed away in the past year. Peter Petersen, Nat Whitney, and Mabel Ott. Memorials will be prepared for *NABB*.

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** Past President Forrest Strnad indicated that no requests were received since the last meeting for grant monies from our endowment funds. There are two sources. The Paul A. Stewart Fund, which provides \$300 grants for studies on bird migration or economics; and the Memorial Research & Education Endowment Fund which will provide funding from the interest available, currently at \$1,449. The amount of such grants will be determined on merit.

**EDITOR:** Peter Lowther's report stated the year's efforts and requested submissions from members. Two manuscripts had been published this year.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Tom Bartlett reported a current membership of 351, another decline for the fourth year in a row. It is hoped an IBBA bander directory can be published with this year's dues notice. A list for members' special interests and e-mail addresses was circulated and will be added to the directory.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Nominating Committee submitted the slate of officers for the coming year. (See inside back cover.) The Secretary was directed to cast an unanimous vote accepting the slate as proposed.

Ruth Green announced the 1998 Annual Meeting to be held 9-12 October 1998 in Halsey, Nebraska, at the Eppler 4-H Center located in Halsey National Forest.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Grenon, Secretary

## **Mist-netting Results at Waterfall Glen During the MAPS Period**

We have been participating in MAPS (at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Cook Co., IL) since 1991. Since the study is monitoring data on birds that nest locally, only our mist netting data from 21 May through 18 August are reported to the Institute for Bird Populations.

The 1996 results showed total numbers caught to be almost 17% below the six-year average and to be the six-year low. The most likely reason for the low numbers was the cold spell in late spring that had a severe effect on the birds in the area. The only species at their normal levels in 1996 were American Robin and Indigo Bunting.

Since we net more Black-capped Chickadees than any other species, we consider chickadees to be our most representative species from a statistical point of view. Even though we have netted 33 species during the MAPS periods from 1991 through 1996, 25% of the birds we net are Black-capped Chickadees. In 1996, chickadee numbers were 40% below the six-year average, our strongest indicator that 1996 was generally a poor year for our nesting bird populations.

A few other indicators of a poor year at Waterfall Glenn is that we netted hatching-year birds of only two species (normally six) and we netted only one woodpecker (normally five). The decline of woodpeckers could be due to a shortage of nesting opportunities (dead trees to excavate nest holes) in the immediate vicinity of netting operation. We will conduct a survey this year to determine if this is a major factor.

To end on a happier note, we netted Willow Flycatchers for the first time in 1996 and had a bonanza yield (10) of HY Field Sparrows.

**Tom Greene**  
from Newsletter of the  
Chicagoland Bird Observatory, June 1997

## **The Spring Banding Season at Last Mountain Observatory**

The spring banding season started dismally. We had banded fewer than 75 birds over the first ten days from the opening of Last Mountain Bird Observatory, Saskatchewan, on 9 May. Things picked up on the 20th and from then to the end of May we captured almost 400 more birds. Without this late infusion, we had been headed to our worst spring in history.

One of the problems was the unseasonably cold weather culminating in a snow storm on the night of 18 May. The park was an enchanted but ominous place to behold. Trees in full leaf were festooned with snow. Birds that winter in tropical climes may have seen a winter wonderland for the very first time.

In spite of the late season turnaround, the 457 new birds captured was far below the 1990-1996 average of 652. Much of the decline was due to the poor numbers of Swainson's Thrushes, Yellow-rumped and Blackpoll warblers and Chipping and Lincoln's sparrows.

On balance there were some bright spots: 12 Tree Swallows tripled our past high for this species (probably due to the cool weather which forced the swallows to forage much lower than normal); 5 Solitary Vireos doubled the all-time spring total. Our first Orchard Oriole since 1992 was captured 30 May. The fifty species captured this spring was exceeded only in the fabulous spring of 1992 (with 56 species).

The 29 returns provided a lot of excitement. The best was an American Robin which was banded as AHY male on 23 August 1989 and recaptured 23 May 1997. Yellow Warblers accounted for almost half of the returns and, aside from the robin, all those returns of birds over six years old (of these four birds, three were males and two had been captured every year since banded). Almost a third of Yellow Warblers caught were sporting bands from yesteryear. Further afield, 3 of 33 Yellow Warblers up to 11 km from LMBO had been banded at the Observatory! This surprising discovery was made when Keith Hobson and Golam Alaie were in the area in late May capturing birds for a DNA study.

**Alan R. Smith**, from  
*The Black & White Warbler* 1(1):1-2, 1997  
c/o Robert Wapple  
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