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Abstracts from IBBA's 2000 Meeting

The annual meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association for 2000 was held at Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Shreveport, Louisiana, 13 - 15 Oct 2000. The Bird Study Group (Shreveport Society for Nature Study, Inc.) and the Louisiana Ornithological Society co-hosted the meeting. Friday evening brought registration and a talk by local birder Hubert Hervey who gave a presentation entitled, "Birds of the Red River and Surrounding Areas of Northwest Louisiana." Saturday morning's agenda included field trips to local birding hot spots including a trip to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, a bird banding workshop at nearby C. Bickham-Dickson Park, and a Beginner's Band Manager Workshop. Those who participated in the banding netted 32 individuals of 15 species. Saturday evening ended with a banquet and an very interesting talk by the keynote speaker and IBBA member Nancy Newfield. Nancy talked about how she became interested in hummingbirds and hummingbird banding and how the network of hummingbird banders has increased in Louisiana and the United States.

Shorebird mist-netting methods at inland sites. BRENT ORTEGO, *202 Camino Dr., Victoria, TX 77905.*

Shorebirds are an abundant, very mobile, avian resource that is becoming of higher interest to scientists and wetland managers. Mist netting of shorebirds can be a very effective technique to obtain physiological data and marking birds. It requires somewhat different methods than mist netting of songbirds because of the habitats in which the birds are netted. Factors to consider when setting up a mist-netting project for shorebirds are (1) Site Selection: large enough numbers of species to be studied foraging on site, but preference to areas where shorebirds roost; firm substrate to provide for easier walking; close proximity of wetlands to vehicles with banding gear; tolerable levels of insect populations; i.e., mosquitoes and beetles; tall screening vegetation in background helps hide nets. (2) Time of Day: one hr before sunrise to one hr after sunset; nights with the most lunar light preferred. (3) Mesh Size: 60 mm for Long-billed Dowitcher-sized birds and larger, 36 mm for Dunlin-sized birds and smaller. (4) Number of Nets: number varies with catch rate, but generally less than 20. (5) Color of Nets: black and green generally work well. (6) Orientation of Nets: pre-netting scouting important to determine normal flight paths in relation to wetland habitats and wind; place nets perpendicular to this flight, except where wind dominates direction of flight. In general, nets should be placed perpendicular to wind direction; if conditions are calm, place nets in an L-shaped pattern to increase likelihood one orientation will contact birds. (7) Type of Net Poles 3/4" metal conduit in 10' lengths preferred because of strength. (8) Reflectors: Should be attached to at least one pole in each mist-net set and they may be needed to mark a trail between the banding station and the nets. (9) Tension of Nets: Tight enough so that 15 shorebirds in the lowest tier will not push net onto water or mud. (10) Height of Net Lowest net setting will catch more small sandpipers and higher net settings will catch more medium-sized shorebirds. (11) Holding Cage or Box: Containers are important to allow holding birds during processing. This allows them to stretch wings and preen feathers before release (12) Lights: Lights that are capable of detecting reflectors at 100 yd are important to locate nets in the dark and find route back to banding station (13) Lures: Squealing shorebird recordings are very effective for attracting small sandpipers to nets; decoys have historically been used to attract birds for market hunting and might be useful for netting shorebirds. Each rec-ommended factor to consider was discussed at length during presentation. These recommendations were developed over five years of mist-netting shorebirds at natural and man-made freshwater wetlands in Texas.

Development of a recapture database. PAUL F DOHERTY, Jr., *University of Georgia and the Bird Banding Laboratory, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708.*

In the past, the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) has not requested local recapture or resighting data, the majority of post-release data generated. The focus of the BBL's databases were the storage of original bandings, recaptures from places other than where birds where banded, and hunter-killed birds. These data have been used to delineate migration routes, as well as in estimating waterfowl population parameters. The situation has changed recently, with interests in non-game bird management and the need for population parameter estimates to complement trend data from sources such as the Breeding Bird Survey.

At the same time a suite of powerful analytical tools have been developed and made available to estimate such population parameters from recapture data. Additionally, past data-storage limitations no longer exist. With the need for recapture data, and the ability to store and analyze these data now available, the BBL is currently developing a centralized database for recapture data. Current and future developments were discussed.

Using MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) data to identify management strategies for reversing population declines in landbirds. DAVID F. DESANTE, M. PHILIP NOTT, and DANIELLE R. O'GRADY, *The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station CA 94956-1346.* ddesante@birdpop.org.

A successful integrated avian monitoring strategy should be able to (1) identify proximate demographic cause(s) of population change; (2) aid identification of management actions to reverse population declines; and (3) evaluate the effectiveness of those actions in an adaptive management framework. Monitoring vital rates (productivity and survivorship) is a critically important component of integrated avian monitoring, because environmental stressors and management actions affect vital rates directly and without substantial time lags. Moreover, data on vital rates provide crucial information about the health of populations and the stage of the life cycle at which population change is affected and can yield a clear index of habitat quality. We identify the proximate demographic cause(s) of population change by modeling spatial variation in productivity and survivorship as a function of spatial variation in population trends. We provide examples at two spatial scales using data from MAPS and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). At the larger scale, we show that low survival of adults was the proximate demographic cause of the 1992 - 1998 population decline for Gray Catbird in the BBS physiographic strata where they are declining, thereby indicating that management strategies to reverse declines in catbirds by attempting to increase their productivity will be unsuccessful. At the smaller scale, we show that low productivity was the cause of the 1994 - 1999 population declines of Carolina Chickadee, Ovenbird, and Field Sparrow on DOD installations in either the eastern or western Midwest, while both low productivity and low adult survival were causes for declines in Gray Catbird and Yellow-breasted Chat on those installations. Finally, we show how appropriately scaled, landscape-level habitat data could be included in GIS-based models of productivity to describe relationships between habitat characteristics and productivity for species for which low productivity is driving the population decline. This approach will allow formulation of management actions designed to reverse declines by altering habitat characteristics from those associated with low productivity to those associated with high productivity. The importance of this approach is that integrated monitoring and adaptive management can lead to the successful reversal of population declines even before the ultimate mechanism of the decline (e.g., forest fragmentation causing increased nest predation) is completely understood.

Winter study of a Rufous Hummingbird. D. PATTON, *122 Memory Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506.*

Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) establish winter territories in south Louisiana that they maintain through completion of winter molt and deposition of lipids prior to spring departure. One immature male Rufous Hummingbird arrived in an urban garden in Lafayette, Louisiana, on 7 Nov 1997, and established a winter territory that included a feeder hung outside of a greenhouse window. The perch of the feeder was attached to a scale, and a video recording was made of its weight through the course of daily feedings. The bird was banded, color marked, and photographed allowing the progression of its winter molt to be included in the study. The hummingbird remained on site until the completion of feather molt, and weights were recorded through the final feeding on the day of spring departure on 15 Mar 1998. The hummingbird returned 9 Sep 1998, to maintain the same territory the following winter. The study was con-tinued, again recording through the final feeding of its spring departure date on 10 Mar 1999.

1st Aid/Last Aid. TOM BARTLETT, *1833 South Winfield Drive Tiffin, OH 44883*

(No abstract available).

News from the Bird Banding Office. MARY GUSTAFSON, *Bird Banding Laboratory, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel MD 20708*

(No abstract available)