North American Bird Bander

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Abstracts for Papers Presented at the 2006 Meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association, 23 Sep 2996, Tellico Plains, TN

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noted that three life members and one regular member have passed away during the past year: Katherine Kelly of Baldwin, KS; Dr. F. E. Ludwig of Barbeau, MI; Mabelle Isham of Salineue, MI; and Jane Olyphant of Lake Elmo, MN.

Editor: No report was received from the editor. It was noted that IBBA participation has increased and a request was made for continuing support via articles and notes.

North American Banding Council: Bartlett–NABC met in Mar 2006 in Madeira Canyon, AZ, with Bartlett attending. Five manuals are now on the website and are in French and Spanish as well as English. A sixth manual on shorebirds is available from the Canadian website. The North American Ornithological Congress will meet in Vera Cruz, Mexico, next month and Central and South American banders will be encouraged.

Old Business:

Grant Awards: Bartlett – No new grants have been requested. The grant information still needs to be placed on the website.

Future Meeting Sites: No locations have been confirmed for future meetings. However, a recruiting effort will attempt to schedule Wisconsin in 2007, Alabama in 2008, the Dakotas in 2009, and possibly Texas in 2010. It was noted that meetings do not have to occur in the fall, but can be at any time of year.

New Business:

Nominations Committee: Bartlett reported that all officers, with the exception of Secretary, will continue for another year. Linda Tossing was nominated to the office of Secretary. David Vogt and Brent Ortego were nominated for three-year director terms, and Nelson Hoskins agreed to finish out a two-year term not filled last year. Bartlett moved approval, Julie West seconded and the slate was elected. Bartlett volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee for the next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Grenon
Secretary

Persons in Attendance: (AL) Bob & Martha Sargent; (IL) Cathie Hutcheson, Vernon Kleen, Tom May; (LA) Jim Ingold, Jim Johnson; (MO) Linda Tossing; (NE) Betty Grenon; (OH) Tom Bartlett, Julie West; (OK) Don Varner; (TN) Mark Armstrong, Sandy Bivens, Ethel Kawamura, Kathy Shaw, David Vogt; (TX) David Cimprich.

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The effect of hatch date on survival to adulthood in the Black-capped Vireo. David Cimprich. *The Nature Conservancy of Texas. P.O Box 5190, Fort Hood, TX 76544*

In central Texas, the Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) nests from early April to early August. Birds of this species renest following failure and may succeed in rearing up to two broods during a breeding season. As part of a monitoring effort, we banded 2,223 nestlings of this species at Fort Hood Military Reservation since 1987. We subsequently observed 133 as adults and used these data to compare the survival to adulthood of nestlings from early and later nests. We observed a decreasing trend in survival to adulthood across the season ($P = 0.06$). We observed 6.6% of nestlings banded in nests initiated in April as adults, compared to 4.3% from later nests ($P = 0.02$). These data support the hypothesis that young raised early in the breeding season have greater fitness value to their parents than those reared later. This conclusion would not be valid if the percentage of female young or dispersal distances of young increased over the breeding season. Both processes could render young from early nests easier to detect as adults relative to those from later nests. We found no evidence that either process occurred during this study.

Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Southeast: monitoring a cryptic species during the non-breeding season. James Giocomo, *Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, University of Tennessee, 274 Ellington, Plant Sciences Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4563*

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) populations are difficult to monitor during the non-breeding season not only because they are nocturnal, but also because they are secretive and generally quiet relative to other owls species. Recent banding efforts across the eastern US have documented that this shy owl is captured easily during fall migration. In the fall of 2002 and 2003, we established a banding station south of Maryville, TN, to determine the feasibility of monitoring No. Saw-whet Owls during migration and winter in eastern Tennessee. During our first season, we ran the station intermittently in the evening from dusk to between 0100 – 0300 EST for a total of 45 h from 27 Oct through 15 Dec 2002 and for 40 h from 16 Mar through 30 Mar 2003. We caught two female Northern Saw-whet Owls, the first 22 Nov and the second 16 Mar 2003. In our second season, we banded 27 Northern Saw-whet Owls between 15 Nov 2003 and 20 Jan 2004 during a total of 200 h. In 2004, we established a netting site in Anderson County and caught three Northern Saw-whets in 45 h after 1 Nov. In 2005, we established a site in Knox County and caught one saw-whet during 15 h of netting in November. Northern Saw-whet Owls are generally considered uncommon to rare in the Southeast, but our present study indicates these small owls may be more common than previously thought. Extrapolating both our current work and historical saw-whet owl records from the Southeast, we believe there is tremendous potential to increase our understanding of the ecology of these tiny owls, which provides excellent opportunities for both the collection of scientific data and education.

Winter weight variation in Carolina Chickadee (*Pocecile carolinensis*). T. David Pitts, *Department of Biological Sciences, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238*

Determining the weight (or, mass) of a captured bird is relatively easy. However, deciding whether that weight is "normal" or "abnormal" or using a weight to ascertain the sex of a bird is not always straightforward. Numerous factors can influence a bird's body weight. Sex and time of day strongly influence the winter weights of Carolina Chickadees, but additional factors, such as year, season, locality, and age may also influence their weight. I will use some of my field data to illustrate how information about weight can (sometimes) be used to denote the sex of a Carolina Chickadee captured during the winter.

What bird banders should know about avian flu and other bird-borne diseases. Christian Keller, *Tennessee Aquarium, P.O. Box 11048, Chattanooga, TN, 3401*

Recently, much press has been generated by the possibility of potentially devastating disease reaching our continent. Avian flu is already causing avian, mammalian, and human mortalities in other parts of the world. Avian flu, caused by the H5N1 influenza virus, will be carried by migratory wildfowl, from the arctic to the US, as well as central and South America. It is a serious threat that may cause death in healthy humans. Other diseases can be carried by birds, and it is important that people who handle wild birds are aware of them. Knowledge of the nature of these diseases helps bird banders make informed decisions about banding protocols, hygiene procedures, and disinfection of equipment. The ubiquitous disease, Salmonellosis, is a potential zoonosis that can make banders ill. In addition, other diseases are specific to birds and bird banding is a threat to spread them throughout the populations.

Citizen Science: training young people to band birds. Charlie Muise, *368 Eady Creek Road, Barnesville, GA 30204*

For seven years banders at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont have trained high-school and college students to assist at a bird banding station. Beginning in 2005, some of those same youth started to assist at a very high-volume station at Sevens Islands Wildlife Refuge. These "band-aids" have assisted in every aspect of each station and have gained greatly from the effort. Naturally, training youth is different from training adults, and we have also learned a lot from this activity. For more information on citizen science in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, contact: Jason Love, Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882.