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Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 2007 IBBA Meeting

North American Bird Bander

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Tossing, Secretary

A Report on IBBA Membership

As of November 2007, the Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) had 267 members. Most of these are regular (144) and life (84) members. Additionally, the organization includes moderate numbers of institutional (18) and sustaining (14) members. Finally, we have six inactive members and one student member. Not surprisingly, the majority (233) of our members reside within the Inland Region. These represent all provinces and states in the region except North Dakota. Saskatchewan, Kentucky, Mississippi, and South Dakota have only one or two members each. Wisconsin has the most members (33) followed by Michigan (25), Minnesota (22), Illinois (21), Texas (both 21), and Ohio (19). Thirty-four of our members reside outside the Inland Region. Most of these (23) are within the Eastern Region. Nine others are within the Western Region and two are in other countries (Mexico and Germany).

Despite the occasional loss and addition of members, the total membership of IBBA has remained relatively constant, varying by no more than two over the last three years. I ask current members to encourage others to join IBBA. At \$20, a regular membership is truly a bargain. I particularly ask that you encourage young people to join the organization. The \$5 student membership requires only the signature of a teacher or academic advisor. Finally, current and prospective members should be aware of the "Inactive" membership category. Inactive members continue to receive notices of IBBA meetings but do not receive the journal, *North American Bird Bander*. Even established life members can switch to inactive membership if they no longer wish to receive the journal. Anyone wishing to join IBBA or to change their current membership status should contact the Membership Secretary.

David Cimprich
Treasurer and Membership Secretary
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Band recovery data and banding sites for Common Terns in the Great Lakes. DON BEIMBORN, 3516 W. 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55416 (beimborn@umn.edu).

The Common Tern nests along the Atlantic coast, areas near the Great Lakes, and west into Canada. Austin (*Bird-Banding* 24: 39-55, 1953) used band recovery records to suggest that birds from the western part of the nesting range migrated due south and overwintered south of their nesting area. Birds from the east coast tended to migrate down the eastern shores and winter off the east shores of South America and Islands in the Caribbean. We wish to revisit the overwintering question with new data from the past 50 yr. Files of all Common Terns recovered were provided by the Banding Laboratory. The Great Lakes and central banding sites were divided into groups similar to those set by Austin (1953). The data were imported into excel and analyzed, primarily by means of pivot tables. Visualization of the data was done using ArcSys. Recovery sites were identified as to whether on the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean shores. We ignored recoveries on the continental US, since these recoveries are likely to be of migrating birds. There is a statistically significant number of Common Tern recoveries on the Pacific side of those birds banded in the western part of the range and in Minnesota. Birds banded on the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, and Lake Huron show significant numbers recovered on the Atlantic side. Birds from the central Great Lakes and western Lake Erie are recovered more often on the Pacific side. The sample is too small for significance.

Exploring natal dispersal data for the Black-capped Vireo. DAVID CIMPRICH, *The Nature Conservancy of Texas*, P.O. Box 5190, Fort Hood, TX 76544 (dcimprich@TNC.ORG)

From 1991 to 2006, biologists at Fort Hood Military Reservation in central Texas banded 3661 nestling Black-capped Vireos. Subsequently, 165 of these birds were recaptured as adults, thus providing information on the natal dispersal of this species. Additionally, 46 of 403 individuals banded as age hatching year (HY) were recaptured as

adults. Keeping in mind the biases inherent in these data, I conducted some exploratory analyses. First, I found evidence that HYs move >1 km from natal sites shortly after they become independent of their parents. Thus, data from birds banded as HYs is not comparable to that from birds banded as nestlings. I found no evidence that median dispersal distance depended on the number of years elapsed from banding to recapture. This suggests that either breeding dispersal distances were very small relative to natal dispersal distances or that breeding dispersal movements toward the natal site for some individuals were balanced by movements away from the natal site in others. Despite the increase in the Fort Hood population over this period, I found no trend in dispersal distance over the years. Similarly, I found no evidence that hatch date influenced dispersal distance. Two individuals dispersed slightly over 70 km, suggesting that the Fort Hood population acts as a source of immigrants for a large area of central Texas.

Winter philopatry of sparrows in northeast Texas: a bird banding study. JAMES L. INGOLD, *Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71112* (James.Ingold@lsus.edu).

I will be presenting data on an ongoing ten-year study of winter philopatry of sparrows and other songbirds in northeast Texas. The banding site is located on the Caddo Lake watershed in Texas. I will also discuss an unusual habitat for wintering *Ammodramus* sparrows.

Banding and radio telemetry in studies of Purple Martin parentage, dispersal, and survival. EMILY K. PIFER and JOHN TAUTIN, *Purple Martin Conservation Association, 301 Peninsula Drive, Ste. 6, Erie, PA 16505* (emily@purplemartin.org).

East of the Rocky Mountains, Purple Martins nest almost exclusively in housing provided by humans. This dependency, their tractable nature, and their strong fidelity to nesting colonies, make Purple Martins ready subjects for banding based studies. The Purple Martin Conservation Association is collaborating with researchers from York University in Toronto, ON, to study parentage, survival, and dispersal in Purple

Martins. As in many species of birds, martins engage in extra-pair copulations, resulting in males providing for young that are not necessarily their own. We have taken blood samples from 287 complete family sets to study parentage between 2006 and 2007. Radio transmitters have been attached to 16 fledgling martins for the 2007 season to study post-fledging dispersal. Results from the Purple Martin Conservation Association's long-term banding program, as well as preliminary results from genetic and radio telemetry studies are presented.

The Milwaukee County Avian Migration Monitoring Partnership. TIM VARGO, *Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI, 53211* (tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org).

Migratory birds utilize a variety of habitats ("stopover habitat") while migrating between their breeding and wintering grounds. One important set of stopover habitats that are often neglected, but of crucial importance, are those that fall within urban areas. These urban habitats include parks, disturbed habitats, residential areas, and natural areas. Given the paucity of information about urban habitats, our overall objective is to assess habitat quality for migratory birds and changes in habitats within Milwaukee County, WI. To address this overall objective, our goals are to: 1) assess habitat use and quality in riparian and upland sites; 2) compare habitat use by migratory and resident species; and 3) train citizen-scientists to begin monitoring birds in Milwaukee and to work in conjunction with scientists on addressing urban ecology questions. The Milwaukee County Avian Migration Monitoring Partnership has been formed to accomplish these goals through measuring avian use in 12 habitat patches in an urban matrix (eight in the pilot year of the project), half of which are riparian and half of which are in upland sites. We will use (1) transect counts and mist-netting to determine avian species richness, timing of migration, and abundance, and (2) blood-sampling and plasma metabolite analysis to assess relative habitat quality for refueling. Citizen-science volunteer involvement will include training for transect counts, assistance with banding operations, vegetation analysis, and recording of data. Our goal in working with volunteers is to establish a long-term monitoring project of birds in urban centers that can grow larger in future years.