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Notes from the President

Tom Bartlett

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Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Notes from the President

Hopefully you are enjoying (or have enjoyed by the time you read this) your summer. As I approach my fortieth year of bird banding, one thing I have always tried to do was visit as many other banding stations as I could. I found early on that you can learn a lot from other banders. The unfortunate thing is that many never go out and share. They are willing to share if you come to them but seem afraid to share because of criticism of their work. Remember that two main parts of the Bander Code of Ethics are:

2. Continually assess your own work to ensure that it is beyond reproach.
 - reassess methods if an injury or mortality occurs
 - ask for and accept constructive criticism from other banders
3. Offer honest and constructive assessment of the work of others to help maintain the highest standards possible.
 - publish innovations in banding, capture, and handling techniques
 - educate prospective banders and trainers
 - report any mishandling of birds to the bander
 - if no improvement occurs, file a report with the Banding Office

As I visited other stations, I found that I learned a lot about my banding stations. Much or most of it was positive. Some of it was not and I tried to make changes to improve. I have always taken or sent my assistants and/or trainees to other stations to learn and see other ways to run a banding operation. Remember, there are many acceptable ways to run a station, not just one. We must always keep in mind that the first part of the Banders Code states:

1. Banders are primarily responsible for the safety and welfare of the birds they study so that stress and risks of injury or death are minimized.

Keeping this in mind, I am always ~~stealing~~ borrowing ideas as I visit other stations. I would encourage all banders to do this. And every station should have the Bander's Code of Ethics posted as a reminder to banders and the public. In the late part of the winter of 2008, Vic Fazio and I made a birding trip down through Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. I had read about the banding station at Sandia Crest near Albuquerque, New Mexico, and wanted to see if I could see a Black Rosy-Finch. It was an unbelievable experience. This is an excellent banding station. Not only did I see Black Rosy-Finches, I was handling them for the public education because they had so many of all three rosy-finches to process at the time and all their staff were busy collecting data.

This past February, Paula, my wife, and I visited again. The station has not changed. It is still an excellent station. The day we were there, they captured 126 rosy-finches but only banded two – all the others were recaptures, some even from 2005. There is an excellent article in the May-June 2010 issue of *Audubon* magazine on the background of this station that I would encourage all to read. But, as I am prone to do, I noticed that they had several nice small scales that they were using. I had just purchased a new scale in the summer of 2009 for about \$100. It weighted to 300 g to the nearest 0.1 g. I was happy. But then I found out they had purchased theirs for less than \$20 each. It weighted to 500 g to the nearest 0.1 g. As soon as I got home I bought two new scales. The source of these scales is Harbor-Freight Tools (<http://www.harborfreight.com>). I paid \$15 each for them but the catalog I got this July has them for \$11 each.

I urge all banders to visit other stations whenever possible and ~~steal~~ borrow the good ideas that you see. We all have things to offer the banding community.

Tom Bartlett
President, IBBA

Inland Bird Banding Association 2010 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association's Annual Conference and General Meeting will be held 29-31 Oct 2010 in Oak Harbor, Ohio. The meeting will be hosted by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and will include a Friday evening social and presentation, Saturday morning bander training workshop, afternoon paper and poster session, evening banquet, and Sunday field trips.

The Friday social will include an exciting presentation on the Lake Erie Marsh Region and its importance to both birds and bird enthusiasts. Saturday morning will be hands-on sharing of banding knowledge for all levels of interest. A series of paper presentations and accompanying poster session will precede the Annual IBBA business meeting Saturday afternoon. The evening banquet will have as feature speaker, the former Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, John Tautin highlighting portions of his recent book on the first 100 years of banding.

An additional Bander Certification Session under the guidelines of the North American Banding Council is being scheduled for Thursday and Friday mornings.

More Information will be mailed in August to IBBA Members. For nonmembers, please contact Mark Shieldcastle for a registration form and further information at: markshieldcastle@bsbo.org

Phone: 419-898-4070
Mark Shieldcastle, Research Director
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
13551 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

