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Summary and Comparisons of Two East Nebraska MAPS Stations

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links provided within the articles that bring the reader to color photos on-line. EBBA, IBBA, and WBBA are discussing the possibility of moving towards a completely electronic version. The work to get the journal ready for print is essentially the same process that would occur for an e-version. Jim Coffman mentioned that an e-version can be forwarded to others – works well for recruitment of new members. Others cautioned that part of membership dues are for access to the journal, and an e-version that can be passed to anyone discourages buying into membership. Tom Bartlett indicated that the Presidents of the Banding Associations will be discussing this and other matters; Peter Lowther also indicated that he and the other Editors will be continuing the discussion.

Jim Coffman moved to adjourn. Seconded by Cathie Hutchinson. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Second Board Meeting – 27 Oct 2012

Meeting called to order by Tom Bartlett at 4:50 pm. Board Members present: Linda Tossing, Tom Bartlett, Vern Kleen, Dana Ripper, Mike Eickman, Erika Dittmar; Editor Peter Lowther. Tom Bartlett declares a quorum.

Forego reports from the Secretary and Treasurer.

Grant Committee Business: Tom Bartlett summarized World Bird Sanctuary proposal that was approved by the Grants Committee. Mike Eickman moved, Dana Ripper seconded that the grant should be approved. All voted aye. Grant approved.

Revisitation of brochure/recruitment methods: Need for a mission statement. IBBA does not have a mission statement and it is necessary.

Need for website changes: Erika Dittmar will be taking over the website duties. Board and other members will email Erika with updates. Tom will

contact Jim Engle to gather all the information about the website (domain, access, etc).

Mike Eickman moved to adjourn, Linda Tossing seconds. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Ripper
Secretary

Summary and Comparisons of Two East Nebraska MAPS Stations

This report provides results and comparisons of two MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship) stations operated in central eastern Nebraska, the Fontenelle Forest site (“Fontenelle”) was maintained from 1990 to 1998 and the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge site (“Boyer Chute”) operated from 2001 to 2010. Both sites are located on flood plain land approximately 0.5 mi from the Missouri River. These stations are approximately 25 mi apart with the more northerly Boyer Chute site in Washington County and the Fontenelle site in Sarpy County.

Fontenelle is forested mainly with sycamore, white elm and cottonwood trees with red osier dogwood and red mulberry understory and stinging nettle, bedstraw and forbs providing ground cover. A small stream runs on the western edge of the site and pastureland borders the eastern edge. All nets are located within the forested areas.

Boyer Chute is wooded more openly with cottonwood, red mulberry and red osier dogwood with the open areas dominated by brome grass and significant poison ivy. Adjacent to the banding area to the east is a re-created prairie dominated by switchgrass, big bluestem and side-oats gramma. A chute of the Missouri River runs along the western border. One net is located within the prairie area; the others are in the wooded edges.

Both sites were subjected to serious flooding that virtually eliminated a banding season; Fontenelle in 1993 and Boyer Chute in 2010. Continuing swampy conditions and a major tree-felling storm eventually caused us to abandon the Fontenelle location, while two sequential years of floods closed the Boyer Chute site. A new site has been initiated on Neale Woods, a property owned by the Fontenelle Nature Association and which has been in operation for two years. The Fontenelle site operated during the early years of the MAPS program and major and minor adjustments in protocol were implemented during that time which is likely reflected in the results.

Both sites were basically operated with 10 nets (Boyer Chute had only nine nets the first year) for the standard protocol of six hr beginning at dawn once each 10 day period from 31 May to 8 Aug. The Fontenelle site ran with nine periods in 1990 starting 11 May, dropping to seven periods starting 31 May by 1997 due to the recognition of the migration timing (Table 1). Although Fontenelle accrued 13.8% more hours than Boyer Chute due to these changes, 92% more birds were banded at Boyer Chute resulting in an annual average of 2.0 birds per 10 net-hr for Fontenelle versus 4.4 birds per 10 net-hr at Boyer Chute.

Table 1. Summary of Yearly Banding Efforts

	Banded	Recaptured	Total	Days	Net Hours	Species Banded	Birds/10 net hours
Fontenelle Forest							
1990	76	-	76	9	555	18	1.4
1991	75	20	95	10	554	19	1.4
1992	145	33	178	9	540	26	2.7
1993	9	5	14	2	70	2	1.3
1994	92	29	121	9	474	23	1.9
1995	139	22	161	9	540	29	2.6
1996	105	43	148	9	540	19	1.9
1997	49	23	72	7	420	18	1.2
1998	119	24	143	6	363	25	3.3
TOTAL	809	199	1,008	70	4,056	44	2.5
Boyer Chute							
2001	206	22	228	7	324	26	6.4
2002	211	50	261	7	420	32	5.0
2003	157	57	214	8	402	29	3.9
2004	157	50	207	9	346	28	4.5
2005	182	38	220	7	401	29	4.5
2006	174	52	226	7	394	27	4.4
2007	162	35	197	7	410	30	4.0
2008	136	34	170	7	405	30	3.4
2009	131	31	162	7	340	22	3.9
2010	37	6	43	2	120	14	3.1
TOTAL	1,553	375	1,928	68	3,563	47	5.4

The total number of species banded did not vary significantly at the two sites (44 species at Fontenelle, 47 species at Boyer Chute). Fontenelle's 199 recaptures consisted of 128 individuals of 23 species representing 15.8% of all birds banded. Boyer Chute's 375 recaptures consisted of 226 individuals of 24 species representing 14.6% of all birds banded.

The unbanded birds are not included, as the protocol for counting them was misinterpreted in the first year at both sites. However, several species were encountered in the nets but were not

banded: House Sparrows and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Fontenelle and Mourning Dove, Northern Bobwhite, a single Sedge Wren and one Sharp-shinned Hawk at Boyer Chute.

Of the birds banded, approximately 31 species at Fontenelle and 28 species at Boyer Chute were non-resident or migratory birds, using the area primarily for nesting. The total number of species encountered or observed at Fontenelle was 78 and at Boyer Chute, 85.

For all years, the top ten banded birds (Table 2) included 76% of the total banded at Fontenelle and

Table 2 - Top Ten Species Banded

Fontenelle 1990-1998														
Species	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Total	% of Indivi. Total	Recaps	% of Species	
House Wren	16	17	42	8	25	25	24	19	22	198	24%	58	29%	
American Robin	7	13	20	1	15	24	11	1	11	103	13%	7	7%	
Black-capped Chickadee	13	6	9		9	16	4	7	13	77	9%	8	10%	
European Starling	2	6	4		7	15	9	2	14	59	7%	7	12%	
Downy Woodpecker	3	5	3		10	6	14	2	7	50	6/5	7	14%	
Baltimore Oriole	5	3	9		1	4	6		9	37	5%	1	3%	
Blue Jay	6	4	8		4		2	1	6	31	4%	1	3%	
Indigo Bunting	3		5			7	3	3	5	26	3%	4	15%	
Northern Cardinal	3	3	1		4	1	3	2	4	21	3%	5	24%	
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	3	4		1	3	1	1	1	16	2%	1	6%	
Percentage of all Birds Banded											618	76%		
Boyer Chute 2001-2010														
Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total	%of Indivi. Total	Recaps	% of Species
House Wren	32	32	25	15	19	31	30	15	23	10	232	15%	75	32%
Orchard Oriole	40	22	18	21	25	29	23	22	15	3	218	14%	78	36%
American Robin	12	7	24	26	41	18	19	1	8		156	10%	4	3%
Baltimore Oriole	26	19	9	6	13	14	5	22	27	4	145	9%	31	21%
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14	14	11	11	8	8	8	9	12	5	100	6%	42	42%
Gray Catbird	15	18	7	7	6	12	3	6	4	1	79	5%	38	48%
Common Yellowthroat	4	9	3	14	13	9	10	5	3	1	71	5%	35	49%
Black-capped Chickadee	7	11	5	6	3	6	4	4	8	2	56	4%	12	21%
American Goldfinch	7	11	3		2	4	3	4	2		36	2%	5	14%
Eastern Bluebird			5	7	5	1	2	3	5		28	2%	0	0%
Percentage of all Birds Banded											1,121	72%		

72% at Boyer Chute. The most numerous species at both sites was the House Wren, but both sites share only four species on the top ten listings; i.e., House Wren, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee and Baltimore Oriole. Each station had nine species which were not banded at the other station: Fontenelle – Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Mourning Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow; Boyer Chute – Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Field Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Cedar Waving, Song Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow. The Fontenelle warblers reflect the more forested habitat while the Boyer Chute sparrows and swallows demonstrate the bordering prairie and

river chute. The Swainson's Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Black-and-white Warbler and Mourning Warbler at Fontenelle were likely migrants banded before the periods were reduced to seven.

The remaining birds on the Fontenelle list are nesters. Likewise, the Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel and the swallows at Boyer Chute were subject to prairie burns and water levels in the chute.

Age ratio percentages for the top 10 banded birds are shown in Table 3. Owing to the more advanced aging protocol instituted by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) over the time span, the Fontenelle birds were aged with more general criteria resulting in higher numbers of AHY's and

Table 3. Age Ratios for Top 10 Species Banded

Number	Species	HY%	SY%	ASY%	AHY%	Unk%
Fontenelle Forest						
198	House Wren	23.9			76.3	0.1
103	American Robin	47.6			51.5	1.0
77	Black-capped Chickadee	19.5			64.9	15.6
59	European Starling	22.0	20.3	20.3	37.3	
50	Downy Woodpecker	36.0	4.0		60.0	
37	Baltimore Oriole	5.4	24.3	18.9	45.9	5.4
31	Blue Jay	9.7			87.1	3.2
26	Indigo Bunting		3.8	11.5	8.8	3.8
21	Northern Cardinal	14.3	9.5		76.2	
16	Red-headed Woodpecker	6.3		6.3	87.5	
Boyer Chute						
232	House Wren	19.9	11.6	48.7	19.0	0.9
218	Orchard Oriole	22.0	37.6	36.2	4.1	
156	American Robin	69.2	17.9	9.6	3.2	
145	Baltimore Oriole	47.6	18.6	31.0	2.1	0.7
100	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	13.0	35.0	48.0	4.0	
79	Gray Catbird	3.8	26.6	51.9	17.7	
71	Common Yellowthroat	11.3	18.3	60.6	9.9	
56	Black-capped Chickadee	32.1	25.0	30.4	12.5	
36	American Goldfinch	13.9	86.1			
36	Eastern Bluebird	75.0	8.3	16.7		

Table 4. Recoveries Greater Than Three Years.

Species	Original Date	Original Age/Sex	Other Years	Latest Age	Estimated Age in Years
Fontenelle Forest					
American Robin	9 Jun 1990	AHY-M	91,95	AHY	at least 7 yr
Brown-headed Cowbird	3 Jun 1995	HY-U	96,97	AHY-F	3 yr
Eastern Towhee	26 Jun 1986	by RG	96	AHY	at least 10 yr
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3 Jun 1995	AHY-M	96,98	AHY	at least 4 yr
Great Crested Flycatcher	9 Jun 1990	AHY-M	91	AHY	at least 2 yr
House Wren	7 Jun 1992	AHY-F	98	AHY	at least 7 yr
Indigo Bunting	20 Aug 1995	AHY-M	97	ASY	at least 4 yr
Red-eyed Vireo	30 May 1992	AHY-F	94	AHY	at least 3 yr
Red-headed Woodpecker	1 Jul 1995	AHY-U	96	AHY	at least 2 yr
Boyer Chute					
American Goldfinch	22 Jun 2001	ASY-F	01,02	ASY	over 5 yr
American Robin	8 Jul 2001	AHY-M	02,03,06	ASY	at least 5 yr
Baltimore Oriole	22 Jun 2001	ASY-M	01,02,03,05	ASY	over 7 yr
Brown-headed Cowbird	7 Jun 2003	HY-U	03,04,06	ASY-F	4 yr
Brown Thrasher	5 Jun 2002	ASY-M	02,06	ASY	over 4 yr
Common Yellowthroat	12 Jul 2002	ASY-M	02,04,05,06	ASY	over 7 yr
Common Yellowthroat	3 Aug 2002	HY-U	08	ASY-M	7 yr
Field Sparrow	2 Jul 2005	SY-M	06	ASY	3 yr
Great Crested Flycatcher	29 Jun 2002	AHY-U	05	ASY-U	at least 5 yr
Gray Catbird	2 Jun 2001	AHY-M	03,04,05	ASY	at least 6 yr
Orchard Oriole	12 Jun 2004	ASY-M	04,06,07,10	ASY	over 10 yr
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	27 Jul 2002	SY-M	03,05,07	ASY	7 yr
Red-headed Woodpecker	21 Jun 2003	ATY-F	04,08	ATY	over 7 yr
Warbling Vireo	2 Jun 2001	AHY-M	02	ASY	at least 3 yr

U's than were recorded at Boyer Chute. Sex ratios for all birds banded are pretty evenly split at Fontenelle: male 32%, female 37%, and unknown 31%. At Boyer Chute females have a heavier weighting; males 36%, females 42% and unknown 22%. Could that be a product of the more in-depth coding analysis? It also seems that more females are captured within a year and more males are captured between years. This might indicate the role of the male in nesting site selection while the females may be only faithful for a single season. Table 4 presents

some of the older birds by station; only migratory species were considered. The two oldest birds, over 10 years, were an Eastern Towhee banded in Fontenelle by Ruth Green in 1986 before the MAPS station was established and an Orchard Oriole quite faithful to its Boyer Chute site beginning in 2004 as an ASY bird.

The information provided by the MAPS program is proving very useful in developing land management ethics nationwide and very interesting on a

local basis for our knowledge of Nebraska breeding birds. These two stations were operated by banders Betty Grenon, Craig Hensley and Rick Schmid. Volunteer assistance over 20 years included the following: Patty Albright, Elliott Bedows, Jim Beebe, Ruth Bentzinger, Sharon Draper, Bob Fuchs, Lois Inskeep, Anna Keenan, Marge Knutsen, Jason Krug, Tad Leeper, Lorinda Langner, Jessica Larson, Don Maas, Sue Mattix, Jay Parsons, Jay Schneider, Michelle Widhalm, , and Penny Zahurones. Thanks also go to Fontenelle

Nature Association and the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge for support and access to their properties.

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Founded in 1925

Western Regional News and Comments

Western Bird Banding Association President's Note

Though I have officially been President of the Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) for several months now, this is my first President's Note and an opportunity to introduce myself. Professionally, I have been a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for 23 years. Currently, I am located at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in northern Utah. As a wildlife refuge biologist, my duties usually do not involve full-time banding; however, over the years I have banded ducks and geese and I ran a MAPS station for nine years. Banding is a remarkable tool that has provided data on many aspects of avian ecology.

As a member of WBBA, I have had the opportunity to meet many accomplished bird banders who are doing exciting things with banding data from all over the western United States (AK, HI, WA, OR, CA, AZ, NM, NV, ID, CO, WY, MT), Mexico, and Central and South America. Recent annual meetings have also truly been international with researchers presenting results of work they have done in countries such as Ethiopia, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 12-14 Sep 2013 (Thursday to Saturday) in spectacular southeast Arizona hosted by the newly incorporated Sky Islands Bird Observatory. Banding and birding opportunities should be super. Please visit our website (<http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>) for more information. I encourage any and all to attend.

Howard Browers
President