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Kelleys Island, Ohio 2015 Report

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Call for proposals for the Inland Bird Banding Association Grant Programs

The INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION (IBBA) maintains two funds for providing grants to individuals conducting research that involves banding or marking birds. IBBA is accepting proposals until 31 December 2016 for the year of 2017. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.ibbainfo.org>. All applications for grants shall be directed to the IBBA Second Vice President—Linda C. Tossing at ltossing@aol.com

The AVIAN RESEARCH FUND is for the purposes of providing limited grants to IBBA members conducting research that involves the banding or marking of native wild birds. Grants: A total of \$500 in grant money may be authorized annually for Project Proposals that are approved by the IBBA Grant Committee. Notification of grant decisions by the IBBA Grant Committee will be recommended for IBBA board approval within 31 days of the submission deadline of 31 December 2016.

The PAUL STEWART IBBA AVIAN RESEARCH FUND is for the purposes of providing limited grants to individuals conducting research that involves the banding or marking of Neotropical migratory birds. Grants: A total of \$1,000 in grant money may be authorized annually for Project Proposals that are approved by the IBBA Grant Committee. Notification of grant decisions by the IBBA Grant Committee will be recommended for IBBA board approval within 31 days of the submission deadline of 31 December 2016.

If have you have questions, please direct your questions to:

Linda C. Tossing
IBBA Second Vice President
ltossing@aol.com.

Kelleys Island, Ohio 2015 report

2015 marks the 20th year of our activities on Kelleys Island. The banding project began spring 1996 in conjunction with the Kelleys Island Audubon Club's "Nest with the Birds" program. We also do a monthly survey route that began November 1997. All research activities have been sponsored and supported by the Kelleys Island Audubon Club, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Mrs. Helen Morse and her family, Pat and Lori Hayes, Lee and Sandy Tkach, Bill and June Campbell, Delores Cole, Fred Walcott, Kyle and Jeri Yoest, and the Kelleys Island School. Special thanks to volunteers Paula Bartlett, Tom Behlen, and Shane & Laura Roberts.

Passerine banding activities this year were conducted primarily on Long Point at the Jones Preserve owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Morse Farm land owned by Mrs. Helen Morse. It is with deep sadness that we report that Mrs. Morse passed away in June at the age of 97. She had been a supporter of our efforts from the start. In addition, feeder banding was conducted at The Inn on Kelleys Island owned by Pat and Lori Hayes and owl banding at the Scheele Preserve also owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Due to bad timing, no martin banding was conducted this year. For the year, 65 species and 618 individual birds were banded in 48 banding days. Overall, it was somewhat of a disappointing year banding wise. We had the greatest number of banding days and net hours since we started but it did not result in greater numbers of birds banded, probably because of an active Cooper's Hawk nest within the banding area on Long Point. As of 31 Dec 2015, 111 species and 9241 individuals have been banded on Kelleys Island. When we include recaptures, escapes/released birds, and casualties, we have handled 10206 birds over the 20 years. We have an average rate 7.3% recaptured birds, escaped/released birds of 1.9%, and a casualty rate of 0.27% over 20 years.

Banding activities began in March with two nights of owl banding at Scheele, then three days of banding in April on Long Point and 6 days in May. The fall passerine banding began in mid-September on Long Point and at The Inn with 6 days in September, 10 days in October, 9 days in November, and 1 day in December. One night in

September was for owl banding and resulted in 2 Eastern Screech-Owls. These efforts resulted in 572 birds being banded. Northern Saw-whet Owl banding began on the evening of 18 Oct and ended on 14 Dec. All owl banding took place at the Scheele Preserve over 31 nights (2 in the spring and 29 in the fall). We attempted to band owls 2 nights in March, 11 nights in October, 12 nights in November, and 6 nights in December. We were ready to band on more nights but weather or winds prevented setting up nets. Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded as follows: 12 in October, 16 in November and eight in December. For fall 2015, two Eastern Screech-Owls and 36 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded. We have averaged 36 owls per year over the last 13 years and have banded a total of 456 Northern Saw-whet Owls.

We held our third Kelleys Island Owl Festival over the weekend of 6-8 Nov 2015. There were guided bird walks on Saturday and Sunday mornings, passerine banding on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, owl banding on Saturday night, and speakers on Saturday afternoon at the Kelleys Island school. These talks were open to the public and given by Jim Coffman of Tiffin on building and maintaining owl nest boxes. Tom Bartlett spoke on the 18 years of monthly survey results and gave a summary of owl banding on Kelleys Island. About 35 individuals attended the festival. Unfortunately, the weather and owls did not cooperate for a third consecutive year. Friday night we could not band due to high winds and rain. Saturday night the weather was better but no owls. For the weekend we did band 43 passerines and no owls. However, for those who stayed over Sunday night we banded two owls.

Again this year we attempted to band earlier on Long Point. Nets were set up 19 Apr but weather only allowed us to band for three days and we banded only 14 individuals. In May we attempted to band for 6 days and only banded 124 individuals. This was mainly due to the presences of an active Cooper's Hawk nest in the middle of our net setup. We did manage to capture and band the male Cooper's Hawk but the pair kept most passerines out of the area. We banded for 31 days on Long Point this year, nine days in the spring and 22 days in the fall and a total of 508 individuals of 62 species. Our grand total for Long Point is 6040 individuals of 105 species. In addition we banded 4 days at the feeders at the Inn on Kelleys Island and banded 56 individuals of 7 species. Dr. James

Marshall conducted some passerine banding at the State Park on 22 June with his Stone Laboratory classes and banded nine Barn Swallows.

Numerous groups have visited our Kelleys Island research stations. In May and October, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History brought groups to the island to observe the banding research. In May and September, the Road Scholar program brought 25+ individuals to the island to observe the banding and see the islands natural areas. Also, in October and November, Lake County Metroparks brought a large group to observe the owl and feeder banding. Several groups of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts visited during the year as well. Total visitors numbered 942 individuals; this is our third year in a row with over 500 individuals observing our operations on Kelleys Island.

Banding highlights for the year included a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on 22 May, the 111th species banded on the island and the 103rd for Long Point. The Eastern Screech-Owls banded in September on Long Point brings Long Point's banding list to 104 species and 6040 individuals. Other uncommonly banded species include: a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Cooper's Hawk, an Alder Flycatcher, a Connecticut Warbler, a Northern Parula, and our second Fox Sparrow. In 2015, we handled 1382 individual birds. 618 birds were banded, 108 birds were recaptured, 14 birds escaped or were released before banding and we had one casualty. The 108 recaptured birds represent 83 individuals of 19 species. One of these recaptures was a Northern Saw-whet Owl caught on 25 Oct that had been banded on 30 Sep at St. Ignace, MI. We also received two reports of our Northern Saw-whet Owls being recaptured elsewhere: the first was banded as HY-F on 19 Oct 2014 and was recaptured 15 Oct at Nogies Creek, ON; the second was banded as a HY-F on 26 Oct 2014 and recaptured 2 Nov at Sandy Hook, NJ. Our oldest recapture was a six-year old Baltimore Oriole originally banded 19 May 2011 as an ASY-M. The second oldest was a five-year old Brown-headed Cowbird banded 21 May 2011 as an AHY-F. The third oldest was a five-year old Indigo Bunting originally banded 17 May 2012 as an ASY-M. Of the recaptures this year, 2 were from 2011, 3 from 2012, 4 from 2013, 17 from 2014, and the rest from earlier this year.

H. Thomas Bartlett
Federal Bird Banding Permit 21624