

2018

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North American Bird Bander

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Inland Bird Banding Association – 2018 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association met 26 - 28 October 2018 at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Powder Valley Nature Center, St Louis, MO, with activities also held at Audubon Center at Riverlands Bird Migratory Sanctuary and at the World Bird Sanctuary. Friday's gathering at Powder Valley Nature Center included welcomes from Local Committee Chair Linda Tossing and Missouri State Ornithologist Sarah Kendrick followed by a presentation by Danny Brown of his bird photography entitled "A year of Missouri birds." Later that evening, a Northern Saw-whet Owl banding demonstration was provided at the World Bird Sanctuary. Saturday activities included bird banding at Powder Valley Nature Center followed by paper sessions in the Nature Center. Dinner and evening programs were held at Audubon Center at Riverlands Bird Migratory Sanctuary. Presentations on Riverlands projects were given by Jean Favara and on Trumpeter Swans by Pat Lueders. Sunday activities were held at the World Bird Sanctuary which included a tour of the facility, a welcome from the Executive Director Dawn Griffard and a Barn Owl flight demonstration.

Abstracts of Saturday presentations

Aging by plumage: understanding molt. *David Russell, Miami University.* [No abstract.]

Prevalence of *Babesia* sp. parasites in a population of Carolina Wrens.

Derek McFarland, Leticia Soares and Solny Adalsteinsson, Harris-Stowe State University. When an *Ixodes* tick takes a blood meal, it may transmit *Babesia* sp. parasites. Babesiosis, the disease resulting from this infection, may cause anemia and even death, being especially concerning for those with compromised or naïve immune systems. To understand the parasite's transmission cycle, we shall determine infection prevalence across potential hosts, including birds. It has been observed that Carolina Wrens host greater numbers of *Ixodes* ticks than other songbirds in Eureka, MO. Therefore, of any songbird species found locally, Carolina Wrens

may be most likely to be infected with *Babesia*. I hypothesized that wrens will host *Babesia* parasites given their higher number of ticks. Moreover, juvenile birds were found to host more ticks than adults; therefore, I hypothesized that infections will be more frequently found in juveniles. I captured birds using mist-nets, and for each individual bird captured, I collected a small blood sample and prepared a thin smear. I stained each blood smear using Giemsa to make the cells visible under the microscope. During June and July, I spent 75.5 h over 14 nonconsecutive days in the field collecting data. In total, I captured 68 birds, of which 25 were Carolina Wrens. I am analyzing the smears under the microscope to assess the health and infection status of individuals, by looking for parasites, and counting and classifying white blood cells. My research will assess the prevalence of *Babesia* infection in a non-model host species, improving the knowledge about babesiosis, an emerging human disease in the United States.

A portable mist net system for stony ground.

David Cimprich, Army Volunteer Corps. Many systems that are used to erect mist nets rely on stakes or poles driven into the ground. Wherever the ground is stony or solid rock lies close to the surface, these systems cannot work. Here, I describe portable equipment that does not rely on anything anchored in the ground. It consists of poles that break down into 5-ft sections supported by bases. Each base is a plywood rectangle with a short section of pipe attached to the center of one side. Each base sits flat on the ground with its pipe section projecting skyward. A pole is then supported upright by being inserted into the pipe. Each pole consists of two 5-ft sections of electrical metal tubing joined with a PVC connector. Attached to the center of the connector is a single guy line which can be attached to a tree, bush, or, more often, a stone of appropriate weight. For added stability, additional stones can be placed on the bases. Nets with five loops are best set with two below and three above the guy line, but three below and two above works better for short banders who

may need to lower nets farther to remove birds. Using this equipment, one person can set up or take down a net in less than 10 min. I have carried this equipment along with the rest of my banding gear up to 1 km across steep, rocky terrain. Although this it was created specifically for short duration netting attempts on stony ground, this equipment works well in other situations. For example, each year I use it for an array of 14-16 nets that remain set up for over a month. I also frequently use it on sites with deep soil where I anchor the guy lines with tent stakes. Even if you never net on stony ground, the PVC connectors can be used to make portable poles for different set-ups. All materials are readily available at hardware and home improvement stores and equipment to support one net can be made for \$40.00 or less.

Report from the Banding Laboratory. *Jennifer Malpass, USGS.* [No abstract]

Marianna Avifauna Conservation Project. *Anne Tieber, Curator of Birds-St. Louis Zoo.* Accidentally introduced on Guam on the Pacific Islands after World War II, the brown tree snake was the first land predator that birds living on this island had ever faced, and the birds had no natural defenses to protect themselves, their nests, their eggs, and their young. In just a few short decades, the invasive brown tree snake devastated the island's forest bird species. Only two species of Guam's forest birds, the Micronesian Kingfisher and the Guam Rail, survive today, and only in the care of zoos. It was soon clear to conservationists that island species are particularly susceptible to introduced species because they have evolved in an environment in which they face fewer threats. They saw that introduced predators beyond snakes, such as cats, dogs, rats and goats, plus changing weather patterns, tropical storms and introduced diseases could have catastrophic effects on island populations, such as they did on the island of Guam. Saving these beautiful birds is behind the establishment of the WildCare Institute's newest center – the Center for Avian Conservation in the Pacific Islands. As the threat of the snake moved to the nearby neighboring Mariana Islands, the Saint Louis Zoo, along with other founding members, Memphis Zoo, Honolulu Zoo and Louisville Zoo,

were invited to collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the regional Department of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources to develop captive rearing protocols and assurance populations of birds, via translocation to safe islands, to prevent the current island birds from disappearing as the birds on Guam did. Since the program started in 2004, zoos have managed programs for six threatened bird species. Four of those species, Mariana Fruit Doves, the Guam Kingfisher, Golden White-eye, and White-throated Ground Dove, have been bred at the Saint Louis Zoo.

Interesting European songbird trapping station.

Jeffrey Mesach, Deputy Director-World Bird Sanctuary. During a 2017 trip to Estonia I had the privilege of a personal guide giving me a tour of the cities and countryside of this small, but beautiful country. My tour guide, Madis, is a veterinarian that specializes in raptor rehabilitation, and his father and brother happened to be avid birders. As we traveled between cities, Madis took me to a songbird trapping and banding, or ringing, station his father and brother are heavily involved in. My presentation will discuss this trapping station, its history and why and how it is an effective trapping technique at its global location.

**Minutes of IBBA's first Board Meeting
in St. Louis, MO, 26 Oct 2018**

The meeting started at 1500 with President Vernon Kleen presiding. Board members attending were Kleen, Tossing, Eichman, Telzlaff, Shieldcastle, Gabrey, Placier, Cimprich, Lowther, Hutcheson, with Johnson, Koczur and Rush participating by telephone link.

Secretary's Report of last year's meeting were accepted as printed in **NABB** 42:129-130.

Treasurer's Report (Eichman) – Total income, \$8266.13, total expenses \$8891.28; details for income and expenses were provided. Current checking balance is \$8656.68 with \$90 check not yet deposited. Life membership account keeps decreasing; grant accounts remain steady. Paypal account will be transferred at the end of the conference. Report accepted.

Membership Report (Eichman) – IBBA has 74 life members and 114 regular members. Renewal notices will go out soon, either by email or mail. Comment was made that there are 400 master permittees in the IBBA area, so there is potential to recruit more members.

Grant Committee's Report (Telzlaff) – IBBA Grant Committee awarded \$1,000 to Todd Jones at University of Illinois to support his thesis research studying fledgling survival using radio transmitters; the project continues. Three proposals have submitted already for consideration; any new grant proposals are due by 31 Dec 2018. IBBA can have our grants listed among funding opportunities listed by American Ornithological Society (AOS). Grant chairmanship transfers from Telzlaff to Cimprich.

Editor's Report (Lowther) – IBBA sources contributed about 44% of the page count of the past 3 issues of **NABB**. The next issue will be another double issue because of limited material. Lowther appreciates submission of articles and notes and will provide help to authors. Additional discussion involved about how to promote **NABB** as a resource for students, teachers and schools as well as other banders.

North American Banding Council (NABC) Report (Shieldcastle) - NABC met in early April 2018 in Tucson, AZ. There is now Bander, Trainer, and Extractor certification levels. Working groups now exist for special taxon level certifications: shorebird, raptor, waterfowl, and hummingbird. NABC encourages people to become trainers. Training sessions are listed on the NABC web site. Two trainers are needed to certify someone.

President's Report - Kleen is pleased to be at the IBBA meeting, and will be happy to transfer to new president.

Old Business

Web Page Update (Tossing) - IBBA's webpage was set up about 5 years ago with GoDaddy. Website hosting fees have more than tripled since then and Tossing was charged with forming a committee to evaluate future directions.

Permanent Mailing address Update (Eichman) - IBBA's permanent mailing address remains the University of Nebraska since IBBA was incorporated in Nebraska. Treasurer files 501(c) (3) forms for taxes every year.

Membership Brochure Update (Kleen) - Tom Bartlett submitted a prospective brochure.

Inland Flyway Review - Kleen reported only about 5-6 stations participated in providing standardized information on banding activity monitoring spring and/or fall migration.

Migration Monitoring Network (MMN) update (Shieldcastle) – The first workshop on MMN was held 2 weeks ago; everything went very well at the 2.5 day workshop; additional workshops are planned for other sites. First afternoon was classroom, with a wide range of participants. MMN now has an operating manual; the on-line Bandit will be compatible with MMN protocol. Nationwide interest is growing in the MMN process; migration is variable and difficult to compare different types of data. Field days were concentrating on ageing and molt; meeting the needs of life cycle models. Registration forms will be going out for future workshops in 2019. MMN workshops require site for field work and a classroom space and will make use of local banders and their equipment to help understand and study migration among non-game birds.

New Business

GoDaddy contract (in place until Nov. 2019) is to be reviewed by Tossing and committee.

Review current LOGO and possible update.

2019 Annual Meeting (invitations) – Scott Rush invites IBBA to central Alabama for its 2019 annual meeting. No details are yet available. Ideas for the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings are welcomed!

Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with new by-laws, the only officer position open is 2nd Vice President; other officers move up: **Tossing becomes President, Telzlaff becomes 1st Vice President.**

The meeting adjourned at 1624.

Minutes of IBBA's General Membership Meeting in St. Louis, MO, 27 Oct 2018

Meeting opened at 2:30 pm by President Vernon Kleen who introduced 1st Vice President Linda Tossing, 2nd Vice President Butch Telzlaff, Secretary Cathie Hutcheson, Treasurer Mike Eichman and 6 board members in attendance.

Reports from the Secretary, Treasurer on finances and membership, Inland's NABC representative, Grant Committee, Editor, Migration Monitoring Network and Inland Flyway Review were given to the general membership (see minutes of Board Meeting, above, for more details).

Old business:

Membership Brochure - The new membership brochure is on-line and printable.

New business:

2019 Meeting: Scott Rush will be hosting the meeting in Alabama. We are looking for someone to host meetings in 2020 and 2021.

Nominating committee:

The ballot for the 2019 slate was provided on the IBBA website. Officers elected to 2 year terms with people moving up each year, but we need to elect 2nd Vice President each year plus 2 board members. David Cimprich nominated for 2nd Vice President, plus board members Lianne Koczur (TX) and Robert Placier (OH). No nominations were received from the floor; moved to elect Cimprich, Koczur and Placier approved.

Kleen, as the retiring President, handed the meeting over to the new President – Linda Tossing. Tossing asked for motion for meeting adjournment which was approved,

Announcement of IBBA's 2019 Annual Meeting

The next annual IBBA meeting will take place on 8 - 10 November 2019, at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL. Tentatively, the conference will include a Friday evening presentation, social, and poster presentations with Saturday field trips, afternoon paper session and

evening banquet. As always, there will be a silent auction, so please consider bringing an item or two to be auctioned off. Various traps, nets, bags, and banding pliers are always coveted items, but anything you are willing to bring will be great! Dispersment of the proceeds from the silent auction will be determined later by the Board of Directors. Also, please consider volunteering to help develop and provide workshops; contact Scott Rush (contact information below) directly for more information.

Papers on any aspect of bird banding are invited. All presenters are encouraged to submit an abstract for the meeting program and for publication in the **North American Bird Bander**. Presentations are to be 20 min in length, including questions. Abstract submission deadline is 1 Nov 2019. Please submit abstracts electronically as a MS Word document to scott.rush@msstate.edu or a paper copy may be submitted to Scott Rush, Department of Wildlife,



**Nestling Saw-whet Owl photo
by Len Soucy**

