



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA's 2017 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association met 29 Sep - 1 Oct 2017 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Michigan. Brenda Keith and Richard Keith chaired the local committee hosting the meeting which included 65 registrants (including 23 IBBA members). Attendees took advantage of the facilities and grounds of the Kalamazoo Nature Center to attend talks, observe banding demonstrations by Kalamazoo Valley Bird Observatory, and toured some of the many trails over 1,100 acres of woods and prairies.

Abstracts of Friday and Saturday Presentations:

The basics of passerine molt with an emphasis on warblers and sparrows.

David Russell, Miami University and Avian Research and Education Institute.

Two of the most specious groups encountered by fall banders are warblers and sparrows. Understanding the molting strategies and feather replacement patterns typical of these groups enables more accurate age and sex determinations while banding. In addition, factors such as skull ossification, soft tissue coloration, and morphological measurements are also important components in age and sex determination. We will review basic molt strategies and the ageing and sexing of common passerine species encountered while fall banding.

Hummingbird research in southwestern Michigan

Allen Chartier, Great Lakes Hummer Net

Hummingbird research involving banding began in southeastern Michigan in 2001 and was expanded on a permanent basis to southwestern Michigan in 2007. Since then, some interesting

observations that expand on what is known about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been made from two specific areas. At the Fort Custer Military Training Center in Kalamazoo County, and adjacent sites, adult hummingbirds have been documented making farther same-season movements than is published in the literature (i.e., BNA Life History account), and there have been interesting longer-distance between-year movements from locations within the county, outside the county, and outside the state. At a site near Three Rivers State Game Area, Constantine, St. Joseph County, a homeowner has been finding multiple nests on his property since 2015 (7 nests), with 36 nests in 2016 and 34 nests in 2017. Only two known published accounts of nesting proximity exist and have documented nests occupied simultaneously by different females 75 m apart (Kentucky in 1935) and 50m apart (Michigan in 2007). This site has multiple nests much closer together and likely in greater numbers than have been found at any site in the species range to date. Studies at this site of the physical locations and characteristics of nests, as well as the banding of nestlings, are ongoing.

Owl migration at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.

Nova MacKentley,
Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's long-term owl migration monitoring project is one of a kind. It annually documents the largest and most diverse spring owl migration in North America, a previously undocumented movement of juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owls during July and August, and significant numbers of migrant owls in the fall. Since 1994, over 16,000 owls comprised of eight species have been banded at WPBO, establishing Whitefish Point as one of the premier owl migra-

tion sites in the world. Recent research projects include an analysis of the effects of different audiorecording types on the sex-bias of captured Saw-whet Owls, a closer look at molt patterns of Saw-whet Owls, insights gathered from our summer juvenile Saw-whet Owl study, and testing the accuracy of sexing Long-eared Owls using color cards by comparing the results of this technique with DNA feather analysis.

Application of RFID technology in avian behavioral research.

James VanOrman, Northern Michigan University.

Bird banding has long been used for population, migration and demographic studies. With color bands, avian behavioral studies became more approachable, although observing color-banded individuals can be time and resource intensive. In recent years, bands have been outfitted with other ancillary marking technologies, including passive Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID-tags). We have recently initiated a new RFID banding study of a Black-capped Chickadee population, using feeders (and to a lesser-degree, nest boxes) outfitted with RFID readers. This allows us to collect data on birds at all hours of the day, accumulating massive amounts of data that can be used for inferences on foraging ecology, social structure, home ranges, and individual behavior. In this talk I will provide an overview of our study area, our techniques, the limitations, and the ongoing and future research questions we plan to address using the study population.

Bioacoustics: A tool for songbird management?

Darren Proppe, Calvin College

Songbirds live in an ever-changing world where sensory input differs dramatically from what was present in the recent past. For example, low-frequency acoustic stimuli once associated primarily with wind and water are now an ever-present side product of human development. Much of the behavior we observe in animals has evolved in response to a particular set of sensory inputs. As a result, our anthropogenic takeover of the soundscape, especially in the urban environment, is often associated with the loss of diversity and abundance in songbird species. Given that many

anthropogenic disturbances, like roads and industry, are unlikely to disappear in the near future, wildlife managers could gain from asking how we can manipulate the acoustic environment to our advantage. Since we know birds respond to acoustic stimuli, can we add particular acoustic cues and signals to the environment that will reduce stress, enhance the utilization of our cities by native species, and reduce the potential for human/wildlife conflict? Studies using acoustics to modify behavior are limited and the results are sometimes mixed, but we are currently investigating song playback as an acoustic cue that might increase the establishment of songbirds in areas exposed to anthropogenic noise. Alongside playback studies, we are working toward a broader understanding of the ultimate fitness impacts of noise on songbirds. While birds are highly tuned to the acoustic environment, employing acoustic stimuli for management may also be feasible in other organisms. And, while we are currently working to reduce aversive behavior in songbirds, acoustic stimuli might also be used to induce fear of novel, anthropogenic hazards. In summary, advocating for the reduction of human disturbance is ideal, but using bioacoustics to assist in wildlife management within the current context may also contribute to the health and survival of native species.

Residency Behavior of Wintering American Kestrels in central Michigan

Michael E. Bishop, Alma College

Organisms living at the edges of their ranges often exhibit characteristics that deviate from those exhibited by individuals that reside in the core areas of the species' distribution. Our Central Michigan study site (longitude/latitude of 43.38, -84.66) is at the northern limit, in the state, for overwintering American Kestrels. Between 2007 and 2017 we observed kestrels, from January to March, using radio telemetry to characterize their foraging and residency behavior. The study area covers approximately 48,000 ha. A total of 27 kestrels were trapped, banded and outfitted with vhf radio-transmitters. The median number of kestrels deployed with transmitters was 3/yr. Kestrel density was estimated to be ~1/10,000ha. Mean longitudinal axis length of the foraging area was 2.73 km.

Mean residency time was 22.04 days. Compared to studies of populations in the southern part of the kestrel's US wintering range, northern populations appear to exhibit much lower densities, forage over larger areas, and spend less time in any given area throughout the winter.

Landbird Migration Banding Initiative: The nuts and bolts.

Mark Shieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

Development of a systematic migration banding program is essential to future management of land birds in North America. This program will lay out the science behind the development of the migration network for banding in the Midwest, where there can be flexibility and where and why standardization is of utmost study design.

Wanted: researchers and banders to participate in the Midwest Migration Network

Amber Roth, University of Maine

The Midwest Migration Network, a working group of the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership (<http://midwestbirdmonitoring.com/>), was established in 2010 to increase the survival of landbirds by contributing to the understanding of migratory connectivity and population demographics throughout their annual cycle through a well-coordinated network of observers. A strategic plan was published in 2015 to guide the Network's activities which were refined with input from members at workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Network is focused on developing three regional research initiatives over the next two years: 1) coordinated banding of migrating landbirds in the Midwest, 2) airspace and stopover site usage based on paired radar and acoustical data, and 3) expansion of the Motus hemispheric nanotag tracking network. Until now, a standardized banding protocol targeting landbirds during the migratory periods and its broad geographic adoption have been lacking in the United States. The Network has developed this protocol for bird banding stations and other banders along with a training program to be launched in 2018 through a series of training workshops at locations around the Midwest. The banding protocol includes collection of associated information simultaneous to banding activities in-

cluding banding effort, point count surveys, habitat characteristics, and daily bird lists. A data storage and management system is being developed through the Midwest Avian Data Center. Opportunities for collaboration among researchers and regional banders will be discussed.

Bird Banding Lab Update

Antonio Celis-Murillo, Biologist
Bird Banding Laboratory

Tony will share current updates of the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory. He will discuss key improvements made in the BBL's database management system, how the BBL has changed in the 1800 reporting system, small changes to Bandit V4, and in-progress new mobile applications for entering data in the field.

Motus Wildlife Tracking Network

Christopher Tonra, The Ohio State University

Automated telemetry has dramatically improved our ability to study the behavior and ecology of migratory birds. From local to international scales this technology has revealed the basic natural history of migratory behaviors, factors affecting migratory decisions, previously unknown demographic rates, and the flyways utilized by migrating birds. These opportunities led to the formation of the Motus Wildlife Tracking Network, an international collaboration of automated telemetry stations to advance our knowledge of migratory animals. Motus is an outstanding opportunity for migration monitoring stations to participate in a broad research network and help to better understand and conserve migratory populations. I will be discussing how automated telemetry works, what it can and can not tell us, and present data from two projects my research group has been conducting using this technology on Rusty Blackbirds and Black-crowned Night-Herons.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Using drones and thermal sensors to locate nests of grassland songbirds.

Kristin Strydhorst, Chace Scholten and Darren S. Proppe, Calvin College

Are acoustic cues a driver of habitat selection in grassland obligate songbirds?

The stopover ecology of migrant warblers in Michigan.

Dorothy I. Fatunmbi, Catherine Alsford and Sara R. Morris, Canisius College, and Brenda S. Keith and Richard S. Keith, Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Residency behavior of wintering American Kestrels in central Michigan.

Michael E. Bishop, Alma College.

The role of passerine birds in *Ixodes scapularis* tick dispersal in southwestern Michigan.

Shana Altus, Megan Porter and Jean Tsao, Michigan State University, and Richard S. Keith, Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Assessing avian species vulnerability to bird-window collisions.

K. J. McKay, J. T. Stader, M. C. Atkinson, Am. M. Iserman, I. J. Peck and R. T. Schmitz.

Patterns of bird-window collisions in an urban landscape.

K. J. McKay, S. B. Hager, B. J. Cosentino, W. M. Zuurdeeg, C. D. Monson and B. L. Blevins.

Evaluating the drivers of bird-window collisions at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

K. J. McKay, E. E. Tanner, J. L. Nooyen, Jr., and R. T. Schmitz.

An evaluation of student searcher efficiency in a bird-window collision study.

K. J. McKay and R. T. Schmitz.

A preliminary assessment of the building and landscape factors influencing bird-window collisions in North America with a focus on Fish and Wildlife Midwest Region 3

K. J. McKay, S. B. Hager, B. J. Cosentino, M. A. Aguilar Gomez, M. L. Anderson, M. Bakermans, T. J. Boves, D. Brandes, M. W. Butler, E. M. Butler, N. L. Cagle, R. Calderon Parra, A. P. Capparella, A. Chen, K. Cipollini, A. A. T. Conkey, T. A. Contreras, R. I. Cooper, C. E. Corbin, R. L. Curry, J. J. Dosch, M. G. Drew, K. Dyson, C. Foster, C. D. Francis, E. Fraser, R. Furbush, N. Hagemeyer, K. N. Hopfensperger, D. Klem Jr., E. A. Lago, A. Lahey, K. Lamp, G. Lewis, S. R. Loss, C. S. Machtans, J. Madosky, T. J. Maness, S. B. Menke, K. E. Muma, N. Ocampo-Penuela, R. Ortega Alvarez, A. L. Pitt,

A. L. Puga Caballero, J. E. Quinn, C. W. Ramos, C. S. Riding, A. M. Roth, P. G. Saenger, R. T. Schmitz, J. Schnurr, M. Simmons, A. D. Smith, D. R. Sokoloski, J. Vigliotti, L. A. Walters, J. Weir, K. Winnett-Murray, J. C. Withey and I. Zuria.

The effects of building size, window area, and development on bird-window collisions in an urban landscape.

K. J. McKay, A. M. Carpenter, N. A. Schoefernacker, M. A. Martin, K. K. Habeck and R. T. Schmitz.

Bird-window collisions at the University of Wisconsin Platteville: what have we learned in four years.

K. J. McKay, T. Klippel, S. Simmons and R. T. Schmitz.

Influence of land cover on bird-window collisions in an urban landscape.

K. J. McKay, A. M. Carpenter, N. A. Schoefernacker, K. K. Habeck, L. A. Ruchotzke, C. W. Tiescher and R. T. Schmitz.

Urbanization shapes the effect of building size on bird-window collisions.

K. J. McKay, S. B. Hager, B. J. Cosentino, M. A. Aguilar Gomez, M. L. Anderson, M. Bakermans, T. J. Boves, D. Brandes, M. W. Butler, E. M. Butler, N. L. Cagle, R. Calderon Parra, A. P. Capparella, A. Chen, K. Cipollini, A. A. T. Conkey, T. A. Contreras, R. I. Cooper, C. E. Corbin, R. L. Curry, J. J. Dosch, M. G. Drew, K. Dyson, C. Foster, C. D. Francis, E. Fraser, R. Furbush, N. Hagemeyer, K. N. Hopfensperger, D. Klem Jr., E. A. Lago, A. Lahey, K. Lamp, G. Lewis, S. R. Loss, C. S. Machtans, J. Madosky, T. J. Maness, S. B. Menke, K. E. Muma, N. Ocampo-Penuela, T. J. O'Connell, R. Ortega Alvarez, A. L. Pitt, A. L. Puga Caballero, J. E. Quinn, C. W. Varian-Ramos, C. S. Riding, A. M. Roth, P. G. Saenger, R. T. Schmitz, J. Schnurr, M. Simmons, A. D. Smith, D. R. Sokoloski, J. Vigliotti, E. L. Walters, L. A. Walters, J. Weir, K. Winnett-Murray, J. C. Withey and I. Zuria.

Effects of structural factors on bird-window collisions within urban settings.

K. J. McKay, E. Johnson, L. Maas, J. Manning, M. A. Martin, M. Unser and R. T. Schmitz.

Minutes of IBBA's first Board Meeting in Kalamazoo, MI, 29 Sep 2017, at 3:00 pm

Board Members present: Vern Kleen (President), Linda Tossing (1st Vice President), Butch Tetzlaff (2nd Vice President), Mike Eickman (Treasurer), Marck Shieldcastle (Director) and Steve Gabrey (Director).

The meeting was called to order by Vernon Kleen at 3:00 pm.

The minutes of last year's meeting (which appeared in NABB, vol. 41, no. 4) were approved (Motion by Mark Shieldcastle, 2nd by Butch Tetzlaff).

Mike Eickman gave the Treasurer's report. IBBA is operating in the black again. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented (motion by Linda Tossing, seconded by Steve Gabrey).

Mike also gave the membership report. We now have 74 Life Members and 114 Regular Members. Dues notices will be sent via email around 1 Nov. It was suggested that a questionnaire be developed to ask a series of questions about membership (why persons are members,, etc.) and to reach out to former members and potential new members.

Butch Tetzlaff provided the Grant Committee report. Only one application was received for the 2017 grants. Anna Buchart was awarded \$992. This year more effort will be made to try and get more applicants into the program.

Peter Lowther gave the Editor's report. He noted that about 35% of the content in NABB was provided by IBBA members. The new species snapshots in NABB contributed by Steve Gabrey have been well received. If anyone has certain species they would like featured, let Steve know. Peter continued to request short articles and anecdotal material; indicating he would be willing to assist in their preparation.

Mark Shieldcastle provided the NABC report. He noted that the two most significant changes to the NABC banding certification process are that 1) the process will now be split up into modules whereby a person can complete the relevant modules pertaining to his/her level of interest, and 2) that there will now be a certification for "extractors" which

will allow individuals to become certified in extracting birds from nets without having to learn the more rigorous portions regarding molt and aging/sexing birds that is required for bander certification. He believes this will meet an unmet need in the banding community.

There was no President's Report.

Old Business: New material (including photos) for the Web Page would be appreciated. IBBA's permanent mailing address in Nebraska will continue until our contact person there retires from the University of Nebraska. Tom Bartlett has prepared the membership brochure and would appreciate comments before finalizing it. The Inland Flyway Review (IFR) just completed the Spring Report for NABB; last Fall's report should appear in a forthcoming issue of NABB.

New Business: It was discussed that IBBA should have a Communications Platform for announcements, dissemination of issues, facebook, email, etc. The President was asked to appoint a chairperson to coordinate this action. (One person should serve in the capacity of Media Source.)

Linda Tossing volunteered to coordinate the 2018 annual meeting at the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, MO, in early November. There are no plans for the 2019 meeting at this time.

The Nominating Committee report was provided by Tom Bartlett. Because of the bylaws changes that occurred at the last annual meeting, only two Director positions need to be filled. The committee selected Steve Gabrey and Amy Wilms to fill these vacant posts. No other nominees were offered by the attendees. The nominees were approved with a motion by Mark Shieldcastle, seconded by Butch Tetzlaff.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm (Motion by Mike Eickman, second by Linda Tossing)

These minutes were written by Vernon Kleen with assistance of Butch Tetzlaff acting in the absence of the Secretary.

Minutes of IBBA's Second Board Meeting in Kalamazoo, MI, 30 Sep 2017, at 9:10 pm

The 2nd IBBA Board Meeting was called to order

by President Vernon Kleen at 9:10 pm. Members present were Pres. Kleen, 1st VP Tossing, 2nd VP Tetzlaff, Treasurer Eickman, and Directors Gabrey and Wilms.

Since there was neither any old business nor new business needing to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Notes provided by Vernon Kleen.

Minutes of IBBA's general membership meeting in Kalamazoo, MI, 30 Sep 2017 are as follows:

Vern Kleen opened the meeting with introductions of the Board members.

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

The Nominating Committee report was provided by Tom Bartlett. Because of the bylaws changes that occurred at the last annual meeting, only two Director positions needed to be filled. The com-

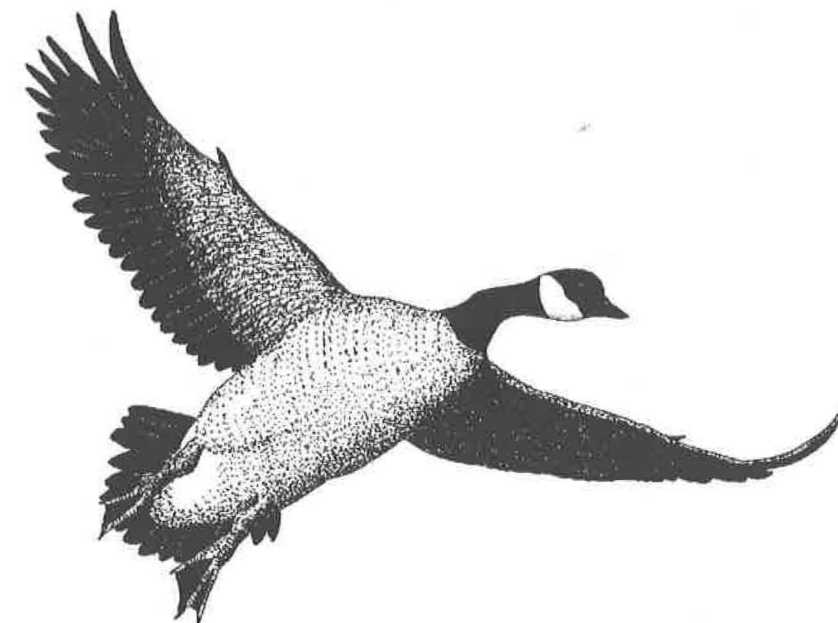
mittee has selected Steve Gabrey and Amy Wilms to fill these vacant posts. No other nominees were offered by the attendees. The nominees were approved (motion by Peter Lowther, second by Dave Cimprich). The "for" vote was unanimous.

Vern Kleen had no additional information to provide and closed the President's report, although he did note that the permanent address for the IBBA remains in Nebraska, and will likely stay there until the administrator of the incorporation documents retires from his current post.

The only notable item under new business was setting the site for the 2018 annual meeting. Linda Tossing volunteered to coordinate the next meeting, which will be held at the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, MO. There are no plans for the 2019 meeting at this time.

The motion to adjourn was made by Tom Bartlett, seconded by several other attendees.

These minutes were written by Butch Tetzlaff acting as IBBA minute taker in the absence of the Secretary who became ill earlier in the day.



Canada Goose
by George West