

Inland Regional News

Including the
Inland Bird Banding
Newsletter

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Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA ARM PATCHES, embroidered in many colors, are available for \$1.75 from Dorothy Flentge, 101 East Clarendon, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Make checks payable to IBBA.

Bluebird Trap Designed by Bauldry

Vincent Bauldry, Green Bay, Wisconsin, has developed a safe and easy method of capturing bluebirds and other species that use artificial nesting cavities. He has designed a trap which will capture adults inside the nesting box. When the bird enters the box a door closes over the opening.

He has also designed an artificial nesting cavity for bluebirds. This structure is actually a reproduction of the old hollow cedar post used by the bluebirds for ages. However, it is both raccoon and House Sparrow resistant. The box is easily opened for banding the occupants.

A package of three Bauldry Traps is available for \$6.00 ppd. from IBBA, R. 2, Box 26, Wisner, NE 68791.

Also available from the same address are patterns for the Bauldry Trap, and for the Artificial Nesting Cavity. State pattern desired. A donation to cover printing and mailing costs will be appreciated.

Kirtland's Warblers to be Color-marked

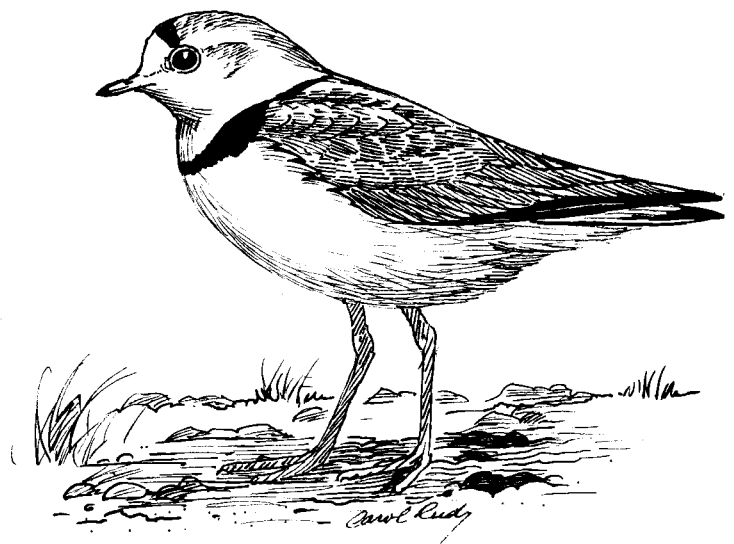
A meeting of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team was held in Lansing, Michigan on February 18 and 19. Among the topics discussed were the management of the species' habitat at Camp Grayling and a Fish and Wildlife Service research proposal to color-mark (via plastic leg bands) as many as 160 Kirtland's Warblers annually following their fledging period.

A lone male Kirtland's Warbler was sighted last June through July among the jack pines in southern Ontario. This is only the third Canadian location-the second in Ontario-where this songbird has been sighted. To protect the bird, the site has been disclosed only to officials of the Ontario Department of Natural Resources.

Piping Plover Recovery Plan Developed

The Piping Plover was recently added to the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and is also listed as endangered by Canada's Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife.

Because the plover is a migratory bird, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) wants to cooperate with FWS in the species' conservation. The CWS has begun drafting a management plan to be coordinated with FWS' recovery plans, which are currently being developed for the Piping Plover populations on the Atlantic Coast and the Great Lakes/Northern Great Plains.



Osprey Found in Costa Rica

The Bird Banding Laboratory received correspondence from Costa Rica regarding a bird found on the beach. It had been banded by C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. A copy of the translation, which was sent to Dr. Houston, and his reply, are being shared with NABB readers.

San Jose, Costa Rica
26 July, 1985

Sirs
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dear Sirs,

On July 25, 1985, a 12 year old boy told me that he had found a bird at the beach bearing a numbered aluminum band on its left leg. I assumed that it was a bird that migrated to Costa Rica from another country, since in Costa Rica the department in charge of control of the fauna is not accustomed to mark the animals.

It was in fact regarding some type of fishing eagle. The mentioned bird had a wingspan of 63". Apparently, it was a young animal since neither its bill nor nails showed any type of wear. It had no apparent fractures or deep wounds, only scratches on its back that were probably caused by the blow of the waves against the sand. The waves in this coast are very strong and there are adverse water currents, caused also by the outlet of the Tarcoles River, which during this season of the year brings out a lot of water as well as strong winds blowing from the south.

On various occasions we have found (dead and alive) sparrow-hawks that had not calculated well its prey (fish) and were caught by the waves and drowned. It is very likely that this occurred with your eagle.

I enclose within the aluminum band and a map of Costa Rica marked with the place where the eagle was found.

Also at this beach there are many big turtles dead. These turtles try to arrive to the beach and deposit their eggs, but they are trapped by the nets of the fishing boats (shrimp and sardine), who kill them in to take their eggs away and then they throw them back to the sea. These turtles arrive in the months of June, July, August and September. During this season we have already seen 16 murdered turtles.

It really is a pity that there is no World Organization that would prevent the killing of these animals.

I have been living at this beach for the past 4 years and the killing of turtles increases year by year. Our governments don't have the resources nor interest necessary to prevent this from happening.

In case that you may need additional information regarding the eagle or turtles, please write to me in English or in Spanish to the following address:

Hans Erhard Richter
c/o Servicios Centroamericanos, S.A.
Apartado 4711
1000 San Jose, Costa Rica, C.A.

Hoping to have been useful, I remain

Attentively,
Hans Erhard Richter

Enclosed: Aluminum band 608-09153

863 University Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada S7N 0J8

September 24, 1985

Hans Erhard Richter
c/o Servicios Centroamericanos, S.A.
Apartado 4711
1000 San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Richter:

Thank you very much for reporting the Osprey found on the Pacific Ocean Beach of Costa Rica, as shown on your map.

Your letter was translated and forwarded from Washington, D.C.

I banded the bird as a nestling on 14 July 1984 so it was one year old when you found it. I guess some of the year-old birds remain in Central and South America and do not migrate north until they are two years old.

Was the Osprey freshly dead? Perhaps it was carried under by a fish and drowned, as sometimes happens when they sink in their claws deeply and firmly into a fish that is too large.

Thank you again for writing. The enclosed articles will tell something about Ospreys in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Yours sincerley,
C. Stuart Houston, M.D.
Banding permit 0460

Lines From a Country Home

This spring, as usual, I taught a couple of Bird Identification classes, one at West Point, the other at Norfolk, Nebraska. The classes were offered to adults by a nearby college.

On March 10 a student came to class and reported seeing two Trumpeter Swans in the flooded meadows of the Elkhorn River bottom near West Point, in Cuming County. Both birds wore aluminum leg bands, and one wore a yellow plastic neck band bearing 33NC. The birds were seen daily from March 9 through March 19.

Trumpeter Swans nest in the sandhills of northwestern Nebraska and at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, south of Martin, South Dakota, some 350 miles northwest of the reported sighting. But, to my knowledge, Trumpeters had not been seen this far east in this century, although it is believed that they once nested across the northern two thirds of the state.

The swans of the sandhills migrate north to Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge where open water and grain are supplied all winter.

Swans passing through eastern Nebraska during either of the migration periods are most likely to be Tundra Swans on their way to, or from, the Texas coast. Tundras have been reported as far west as Garden and Dawes Counties, 50 miles from the Colorado State line.

To verify identification, I asked a few experts of north-eastern Nebraska to look at the birds that were spending their time a short distance from a farm residence. All agreed that these magnificent birds were, indeed, Trumpeter Swans. Within a week nearly all of the students of both classes had made the trip to gaze upon this rare sight, and to add another species to their life lists.

Interest in the birds was mounting, and curiosity as to their origin was growing. A call to George Jonkel, Chief of Bird Banding Laboratory, revealed that the auxiliary marking had been placed on a swan at Hennipen County Park Reserve District, Maple Plains, Minnesota. A letter to Wildlife Manager, L. N. Gillette telling of the observations of 33NC and her traveling companion, was quickly answered bringing the answers to our many questions.

Trumpeter Swan 33NC and its mate/traveling companion, were raised in separate broods in Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, 20 miles northwest of Minneapolis in 1983. Their parents each consisted of an adult female received from Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge in 1970, and an adult male that was hatched in the park reserves a number of years ago.

These swans were taken to Carver Park Reserve (20 miles southwest of Minneapolis) in the spring of 1984, where they were marked with USFWS leg bands, and allowed to fly free following summer molt. These two birds were part of a flock of ten swans that migrated south in December, 1984, to Otter Creek, 40 miles east of Ames, Iowa, where the flock split up.

Trumpeter 33NC and her companion spent the winter of 1984-85 on the Cimarron River, 40 miles west of Tulsa, Oklahoma. They returned briefly to Carver Park in Minnesota in March 1985. They then went on to Gordon, Wisconsin where they spent the summer of 1985.

Neither swan had a collar up until this time. The female was captured while flightless during molt in July and received collar 33NC. The two birds stayed in Wisconsin until freeze-up, when they returned briefly to Carver Park, before migrating back to Cimarron River in Oklahoma, where they were seen with a third swan. The trio moved to south central Kansas in January 1986 where they were joined by another swan. No report of their whereabouts was made until they reached West Point, Nebraska.

Swan 33NC was reported back in Gordon, Wisconsin, on March 21, 1986, just two days after being last seen on the Elkhorn River.

Unfortunately, she was alone. The birds were just reaching sexual maturity at three years of age.

Sixty students and their teacher are eagerly hoping the Trumpeter Swan 33NC will soon find a companion, and that she will once again stop on the Elkhorn River for a few days.

Willetta Lueshen