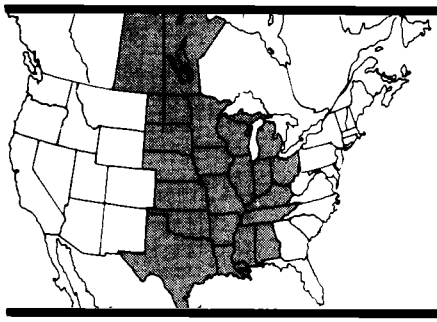

# Inland Regional News

## Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

### CHICKADEE WITH SEIZURE DISORDER?

On October 8, 1987, while capturing birds with mist nets in my yard near Chilton, Wisconsin, I observed a very unusual incident that involved a netted Black-capped Chickadee

I removed the bird from the net with no more difficulty than one usually has with a typical chickadee. Since I had caught only one bird, I carried it the short distance to the house in my hand, instead of putting it into the gathering box. I had gone only a few steps when the bird suddenly stiffened with legs extended straight back as if it were having a convulsion. It began gasping for breath in the manner of a bird that is dying. It took several spasmodic, irregular gasps, then quit breathing altogether. This was quite a surprise since the bird had not been injured in any way and appeared to be a perfectly healthy, feisty little chickadee a few moments before.

By the time I reached the house, the bird had gone limp in my hand, and I assumed it was dead, but it began the irregular, spasmodic gasping again. I then put it into a heavy paper sack (as I often do with birds that have knocked themselves unconscious at the window) to let it rest in the dark without disturbance.

Within three minutes the chickadee was scrambling around in the bag as if nothing had happened. I took the bird out of the bag, and because it seemed to be absolutely normal, I proceeded to band it. But while I was skulling and measuring the bird, it began to twitch. The muscles of the wings, tail and legs contracted convulsively. I took the bird to the door and held it on my outstretched palm. It lay there and twitched.

I then carried it outside on my hand to see how long it would take to revive. In about two minutes the bird suddenly got up and flew to a bush four feet away and hopped about as if nothing had happened.

If the bird were human it might be diagnosed as having some sort of epileptic disorder. However, it seems quite improbable that a bird with such a disorder could manage to survive in the wild. Perhaps it was the extreme stress of being captured and handled that brought on its first seizure.

It was an immature bird, probably about five months old. I have no way of knowing whether the Black-capped Chickadee was injured, diseased, poisoned, or has a congenital brain disorder, but I am watching with considerable interest to see if it ever returns to my banding station.

Carroll Rudy, W3866 Hwy. H, Chilton, Wisconsin 53014.

### BLUE JAY RIDES ON HEAD OF GARDENER

On August 8, 1987 at about 10:00 a.m. on a cloudy day prior to a rain, I was bent over pulling weeds in the garden when I felt what I assumed to be someone running his fingers across my back. Disregarding it and waiting for the person to say something, I continued pulling weeds. After a minute or two, I was becoming irritated by this, so straightened up, saw no one, but noticed a Blue Jay flying away.

Upon moving to another location to continue pulling weeds, the bird returned to my back. As long as I moved while bent over the bird stayed there. When I raised myself up, the bird flew to my feet and looked up at me until I bent over to pull more weeds. The bird then flew to my head and walked around on it for a minute, or so, and hopped onto my back again.

I now raised my hand attempting to get the bird to hop onto it, but instead the Blue Jay moved back to my head. When I resumed work the jay again hopped on my back.

Upon moving to another location, the Blue Jay left.

This bird appeared to have a little more black on the head than the Blue Jays I have banded in July and August.

To the Blue Jay I must have looked like a cow grazing, but the straightening up may have perplexed the bird causing it to land at my feet and look up as if to say, "What type of cow are you?".

Arthur L. Carpenter, 3646 John Hix, Wayne, Michigan 48184.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone having a theory explaining this behavior, is asked to send a note to Arthur Carpenter, or to me.

PICOIDES is the new Bulletin of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. It is named for the genus depicted in the society's logo, the Black-capped Woodpecker. The first number appeared in December, 1987, edited by W. Bruce McGillivray. The Bulletin is designed to retain some features of a newsletter but also to provide a publication worth keeping for its articles. Membership is open to all who have an interest in Canadian birds and in the state of ornithology in Canada. Annual dues payment ($10.00) may be sent to Philip H. R. Stephney, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845 102 Avenue, Edmondton, Alberta T5N 0M6.

## HIGHLIGHTS REPORTED BY LASLEY

The subjective highlights for the (1987 banding) year came on October 3. Georgean Kyle flushed a Bewick's Wren into the Island net. It was the 10,000th individual to be banded at our station. After anticipating the 10,000th bird for several months, it seemed somewhat anticlimactic to band, photograph, and release it. I was reminded of what Terry Maxwell had said in the Concho Valley report several years ago: (to paraphrase) "What is the significance of banding 2,000+ birds in one year? Well, for one thing, it's a lot of birds." I think that fairly well summarizes how we felt. In 6+ years, 600+ days of banding (of which only two had more than 100 individuals banded), hundreds of miles walked, and an Avagadro's number of cardinal-bitten fingers, 10,000 birds is really quite a lot for a station the size of ours. By the way, the Bewick's Wren number was 970-47017.

Another highlight day was February 28. A Bal-chatri trap is composed of a wire mesh cage with monofilament nylon loops attached to it. The cage is usually attached to some sort of base. The cage functions to hold a bait animal (which receives no physical harm) during the trapping process. When a raptor, or some carnivorous bird such as a shrike, tries to get the bait animal, their talons, or feet, become entangled in the nylon loops. We've been using Bal-chatris intermittently for several winters now.

One was set on the sunny, windy morning of February 28, at about 9:00 o'clock. As I was approaching it at 9:30 a.m., I could see, from a distance, that several Black Vultures were circulating above the locale of the trap at about 30 to 50 feet. They were obviously, quite interested in what was trapped. When I arrived at the trap, I discovered that the object of their interest was a Red-tailed Hawk. That was exciting as we band few raptors and had never banded a Red-tailed Hawk. Because of the strong wind and the fact that his talons were entangled together in the nylon loops, the hawk was lying on its side, unable to perch. In order to calm the hawk, I placed a hood over its head. I then lifted the bird and found a Greater Roadrunner beneath it.

Good Grief! The roadrunner had, obviously, tried to get the bait and had become entangled in the loops, thus making himself the bait for a hungry hawk. It is always sad to have a mortality associated with banding, but it was an especially low point to have a bird die that would have been a new species for the station. I was taking the entire conglomerate back to the house for some help in disentangling the two birds when, to my surprise, the roadrunner looked up at me. You could tell from the look in his eyes that he had had better days. It took Ann (Connell), Steve (Janda), and myself about 20 minutes to sort out the feet, talons, and loops. It was not a one person task. Suffice it to say that the neck wound on the roadrunner was quite superficial and he was released - healthy, happy, and banded. I will be quite surprised if we ever capture two new species for the station on one Bal-chatri trap at the same time again.

Greg W. Lasley, 5103 Turnabout Lane, Austin, Texas 78731. From the Annual Report of The Driftwood Wildlife Association.

## REUSS BANDS 40 YEARS IN SAME LOCATION

My station is located 16 miles southwest of the city of Chicago's Loop. This year marks the 40th year of banding birds in the same location. Many changes in the habitat have taken place. Empty lots where ragweed once grew, are gone, replaced with new houses. The Illinois Brick Company's clay-holes are filled with city garbage. A new High School with black-topped parking lots occupy the end of the block.

I planted cherry trees, mountain ash, bushes, and even a few poke berries. This year it has paid off. I banded an even 2,000 birds of 46 species in my own back yard station. At my winter banding station in Palos Park, Illinois, I banded 243 birds of 13 species. The top seven birds banded are as follows:

| | 1987 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|
| European Starling | 597 | 292 |
| Common Grackle | 381 | 171 |
| American Robin | 351 | 125 |
| Mourning Dove | 169 | 62 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 127 | 82 |
| American Goldfinch | 112 | 171 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 103 | 71 |

Reports from the Bird Banding Laboratory included only six recoveries for the year 1987, none out of state.

Returns to my home station in 1987 include 96 individuals of 13 species. Oldest among them was a Common Grackle, four years old.

I use only traps to capture birds; I use no nets. A water drip was used for a month to attract American Robins. I also use dry white bread for attracting Common Grackles, Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds. Blue Jays, Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, and others like sunflower seed. Dripping water attracts warblers in spring and fall.

Alfred H. Reuss, 2908 Edison Blue Island, Illinois 60406.

## MEAHLS SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT

In 1987 we banded a total of 8,628 individual birds of 97 species, at our bird banding station at Ashtabula, Ohio.

Following is a list of the species of which the total exceeded 100.

| | |
|---|---|
| House Finch | 3941 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 804 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 414 |
| American Goldfinch | 308 |
| Song Sparrow | 203 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 180 |
| Common Redpoll | 160 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 160 |
| Gray Catbird | 144 |
| Purple Finch | 142 |
| Pine Siskin | 135 |
| American Robin | 123 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 123 |
| Tree Sparrow | 118 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 117 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 113 |

During 1987, 357 birds returned, 95 of which were strictly migrants. Forty-four of the total were banded in 1983, or earlier. The most common of the returns was the House Finch, with 130 returns, five of which were banded in 1982, two were banded in 1983, 16 in 1984; 18 in 1985; and the remaining in 1986, and early 1987.

Among the black-capped Chickadees captured, 32 were returns; one was banded in 1981; two in 1982, three in 1983, and three in 1984.

A Blue-winged Warbler AF, banded May, 1981, returned May 23, 1987.

A Blue Jay banded as an AF on August 27, 1971 returned again for the twenty-first time, in January, 1988, making it at least 17 years, five months old.

Howard and Marcella Meahl, 3680 Austinburg Road, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004.

## ANOTHER MIGRATORY CHICKADEE RECOVERY

I should like to add another Black-capped Chickadee record to Mrs. Brooks' very interesting list of Foreign Recoveries (NABB, 12:1:19). During the ten years we lived near Stevens Point in central Wisconsin, coordinates 442 - 0893, I banded a total of 511 chickadees, of which 16.4 percent returned a subsequent year.

Number 115 - 27676, though banded as a winter resident on January 27, 1970, repeated at the home station on April 8, and on May 7, 1970, was mist-netted at the hawk-banding station at Whitefish Point, Michigan, a distance of approximately 260 miles in 30 days.

Though the interval from date of banding to recovery exceeds the arbitrary limits of Mrs. Brooks' Table I, the period of this bird's migration certainly fits the pattern listed in her publication.

This anecdote was originally included in my little nature column in the *Stevens Point Journal*, and was reprinted in the *Passenger Pigeon* (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, 35:4:196), both almost twenty years ago. An update seems pertinent.

A. Marguerite Baumgartner (Mrs. F. M.) Route 2, Box 51A, Jay, Oklahoma 74346.

## HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT INCLUDES BIRDS

In Minnesota, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have joined forces to include wildlife in highway management programs.

Noticing that grassy rights-of-way along interstate highways produce abundant insects eaten by birds, DOT is attaching bluebird nest boxes to fence posts along the routes. The boxes are donated by DNR. A twenty-five mile stretch of Interstate 35 north of the Twin Cities attracted 45 pairs of nesting bluebirds last summer, which produced 160 young. The 100 boxes distributed along that highway also housed 27 families of Tree Swallows, and one family of chickadees.

Cooperating with DNR's non-game wildlife division, DOT installed 15 nest boxes for Kestrels on the backs of large highway signs. Last summer (1987) Kestrels nested in seven of the boxes and fledged 25 young. Plans are under way to expand that program throughout the state.

## NEST LOWERING PREVENTS PREDATION

A constant problem on most Eastern Bluebird trails is raccoon predation of young, adult females, and eggs. Predation can be stopped by putting metal cones or protective sheeting around the posts. The metal sheeting should be at least 14 inches in diameter as raccoons can shinny up smaller diameter posts. These methods are extremely effective but are labor intensive and expensive. They also do not make for easy relocation of a box if an area becomes unsuitable for bluebirds after a number of seasons.

Once raccoons are successful in locating a food item in a nestbox, they will continue investigating all boxes they come across in their territory. Eliminating these highly intelligent animals from an area is extremely difficult. Because other raccoons move in to occupy a territory that is left vacant, nestbox operators may find in a few short months the same problem again.

Another method has been the use of a raccoon guard (an additional piece of wood attached to the entrance hole to increase its thickness) to make it difficult for the animal to put its hand in, around, and down to the nest. However, a total thickness of more than 1 3/4 inches is not preferred by Eastern Bluebirds in my seven years' experience of operating a bluebird trail. A raccoon guard is virtually useless unless the top of the nest is at least 6 or 7 inches lower than the bottom of the entrance hole, given a 1 1/2 inch total entrance thickness. If given a choice between a shallower box with no raccoon guard, and a much deeper box with a raccoon guard, the bluebird will, in most cases, choose the latter because of its easier access. On my bluebird trail (160 boxes), I make the choice simpler. All my boxes measure 9 inches from the bottom of the entrance hole to the bottom of the nestbox, with a total thickness of 1 1/2 inches including a 1-inch raccoon guard.

Unfortunately, many female bluebirds will build the nest almost to the top of the nesthole which makes the raccoon guard completely ineffective. I remove the excess nesting material, thus lowering the nest to the appropriate depth in the box and preventing raccoon predation. This method should not be attempted unless your boxes are either side- or front-opening and the depth from nesthole to bottom of box is at least 8 1/2 - 9 inches. My method is to put my fingers gently under the nest about 3 inches from the top of the cup area and lift up slightly. Then remove all the excess nesting material below and carefully lower the remaining nest to the bottom of the box without disturbing the top, or cup area.

When the nest contains only eggs, it is important not to take the entire nest out of the box and change the orientation of the nest to the nesthole when replaced. This orientation should always be the same after the nest is lowered. If the nest contains young it is not as important. It is, however, very important when young are less than 9 days old to leave the cup area intact and make sure that a good inch of nesting material is left below it.

In previous years, I have only lowered nests that contained young, or those having a well-advanced incubation period) in the 11th or 12th day). Eastern Bluebirds will never abandon young unless they have died.

When young are less than 7 or 8 days of age, the female broods them at night. It is extremely important that the cup of the nest is intact so she can brood properly. If the nest is flattened out, the young may sprawl all over the bottom making it difficult for the female to brood and some young may perish due to cold*.

Because most hole-nesting birds do not recognize pre-fledgling young if they are out of the nest, a nestling that falls to one side of the nest cup will not be retrieved. Nesting material at the bottom of the box also insulates young against cold coming up through the bottom of the nestbox.

Once a nestbox is inspected, human scent is introduced to the area and the box itself. Raccoons being the intelligent animals they are, quickly investigate since humans scent often means a free meal (usually at someone's garbage can, or a landfill site). In this case, unfortunately, the snack may be eggs, nestlings, or the incubating female.

If you don't intend to lower your nests, or your nestboxes are not very deep, then I usually recommend that in areas where raccoons are a problem (most areas) the boxes be visited only when cleaning out the old nest after nesting is complete. You can observe the progress of your trail tenants quite nicely from a distance with binoculars. Intervene only if there is obvious difficulty. A banding visit entails the same risk as any other visit.

In certain areas of my nestbox trail, I put up extra smaller nestboxes for House Sparrows to use so that they could be easily removed. Unfortunately, a pair of bluebirds used one of the smaller boxes, and when I arrived, a nest had been built. I quickly removed the smaller box and put up another, deeper box with raccoon guard, in the same location and transferred the complete nest to the new nestbox. I made sure the nesthole of the new box was at exactly the same height as the old box, and that it faced exactly the same direction. When placing the nest in the new box, I also made sure the orientation was the same.

There were plenty of extra empty boxes in the area so I reasoned that such a small investment in time had been made by this pair that if they did not like the new arrangement, they could quickly relocate and still produce two broods during the nesting season. This pair did raise two broods of four and three, but the second nesting was in a box about 30 meters from this one.

Presently, on my trail, I lower all nests with eggs or young, if I feel the nest has been built up too high. My reasoning is quite simple. Better to have a pair of bluebirds relocate to another box to attempt another nesting than to have the female killed by a raccoon and totally eliminate breeding. I have used this method more than sixty times on my trail without one instance of predation by raccoons, or nest abandonment.

In 1987, I had only one instance of raccoon predation. A pair of bluebirds nested and fledged 3 young in a raccoon-proof box. On the second attempt, House Wrens took over. The female bluebird then built a nest in a box in which Deer Mice had wintered and that had not been cleaned out. The female built a high nest and 3 eggs were laid, when the nest was pulled apart by a raccoon. I put up another box near the first nesting site and the pair renested successfully, fledging 5 young (All were banded).

I recommend the following:

1. If your trail is successful with no raccoon predation, there is probably no need to change. If raccoons are a serious problem, then you should think about protective predator guards, or this nest-lowering technique, provided your boxes are deep enough!

2. In areas where snakes and weasels are a problem, metal cones, or protective wraps should be used.

William F. Read, 2-165 Green Valley Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2P 1K3, Canada.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was taken from *Ontario Bird Banding Association Newsletter*, Volume 32, No. 4, December, 1987. William Read is President of OBBA.

*Do not attempt to lower a nest in a top-opening box unless the young are 8 or 9 days old, and no cold weather is forcast for the next 3 days.

## BANDERS INVITED TO COUNT BIRDS AT FEEDER

Most bird banders also feed birds and are invited to participate in *Project FeederWatch*.

*Project FeederWatch* is a cooperative research venture of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory. The project needs thousands of observers across the continent to help answer questions about feeder birds on a broad geographic scale. Participants need not be expert birders to take part--the project concentrates on common species, and baffling rarities can be ignored. Although counts are made over a one- to two-day period every other week from November through March, there is no obligation to watch every time, nor continuously on count days. All observations are recorded on computer-readable forms so that detailed summaries can be provided to participants promptly each season and to insure that the data are readily available for further analyses.

Observers will receive an annual newsletter and report on the season's results, plus two issues of *Birdscope*, the Laboratory's research newsletter. The publications are also available by subscription only.

*Project FeederWatch* requires an annual registration fee of $9.00, which helps to pay for data forms, analysis and preparation and mailing of reports and newsletters. To join write to Erica Dunn, Coordinator, Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850. Include name, address, and $9.00 (checks are payable to Project FeederWatch. All materials and instructions will be sent just before the season begins in mid-November, 1988. For subscribers send $9.00 to the above address.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY is initiating a technical publication entitled *Research Series*. The series is intended to serve as an outlet for technical papers on any aspect of the biology and conservation of North American cavity nesting birds. Manuscripts are solicited; they are constrained by length, but will be peer reviewed. Accepted manuscripts will be published at no cost to the authors. Send inquiries and manuscripts to Jeffrey D. Brawn, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, APO Miami, FL 34002.

## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR OFFICERS

Nominations are currently being accepted for the following positions on the Board of Directors of the Inland Bird Banding Association:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Director (3-year term)

Officers holding the following positions cannot be nominated for the same office again in 1988:

President: John J. Flora

Treasurer: C. Holmes Smith

Director: Jane Olyphant

Members are urged to volunteer for nomination for one of the offices, or nominate a fellow member via mail. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual business meeting November 5, 1988. Place your nominations with the Chairman of Nominations Committee, Ara Jane Dunlap, Route 3, Box 172, Norfolk, NE 68701.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

All members and banders of the Inland and Ohio Bird Banding Associations are invited to apply to present a paper, or workshop, on Saturday, November 5, 1988, at the IBBA/OBBA joint meeting which will be held at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton, Ohio.

Presentation proposals should include your full name, address, home and work telephone numbers, presentation title, brief abstract, length of time required, audio-visual equipment required, and biographical paragraph for your introduction.

Potential speakers should submit their proposals by September 1, 1988, to John J. Flora, IBBA President, 3636 Williams, Dearborn, Michigan 48124. If you have an urgent question, you may call (313) 565-9324 evenings or weekends.

## FOUNDATION PRESIDENT DIES

Donald F. Follen, Arpin, Wisconsin, who had been a member of IBBA since 1966, died February 9, 1988. His research and banding focused primarily on raptors. He had recently organized the Wisconsin Foundation for Wildlife Research, Inc. and served as its president.

In 1986 the Foundation banded the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| American Osprey | 132 |
| American Kestrel | 219 |
| Northern Goshawk | 113 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 88 |
| Great Horned Owl | 26 |
| Snowy Owl | 14 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 47 |
| Other raptors | 20 |

Willetta Lueshen

## KARL MASLOWSKI TO BE BANQUET SPEAKER

Karl Maslowski will be the banquet speaker on Saturday, November 5, 1988, at the joint meeting of the Inland and Ohio Bird Banding Associations at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Maslowski will narrate the magnificent color film, *Wildlife by Day and by Night*, enlivened by a sound track of authentic wildlife voices plus superb time-lapse photography.

Mr. Maslowski's cinematic career began in 1933 with a gift from Christain Goetz, a wealthy Cincinnatian. His banding actually began earlier when he helped Christain Goetz band nestling Barn Owls at a nest he found during his weekend excursions around the Cincinnati, Ohio area. Karl's most famous film footage was used in the True Life Adventure Series directed by Walt Disney. I am sure many of you will remember the films, *Seal Island, Beaver Island,* and *Nature's Half-Acre.*

Besides two Oscars for the Disney films, Karl has amassed countless film, photography, and writing awards in his over 51 years in the business. His most gratifying acknowledgement came in 1978 when he was awarded the Auther A. Allen medal from The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. His weekly column, *Naturalist Afield,* continues into the 51st year in the *Cincinnati Enquirer.*

John J. Flora, 3636 Williams, Dearborn, Michigan 48124.

## SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE DAYTON AREA

Can you see the "mechanical birds" yet? Not too far from the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm is the U. S. Air Force Museum on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. About 150 aircraft are displayed along with exhibits on the Apollo series space capsules, atomic bombs, POW's, and the history of avaition. The museum is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 o'clock, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 to 6:00 o'clock; admission is free.

Continuing about the history of avaition, there is a Wright Brothers Memorial not too far from the museum. Dayton was the home of the Wright Brothers, inventors of the airplane. Their original laboratory has been moved to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. Orville Wright's home is at Harmon and Park Avenues in Oakwood, a suburb of Dayton.

In Carillon Park, 2001 South Patterson Boulevard, in Dayton, you will find more exhibits about the progress of avaition. There is more Wright memorabilia plus other vehicles of early transportation. Exhibits are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 8:30 o'clock, Sunday 1:00 to 8:30; admission is free.

The Dayton Art Institute on Forest and Riverview Avenues is a building of Italian Renaissance villa architecture. Two features are the pre-Columbian collection and two medieval cloisters. The institute is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5:00 o'clock, with free admission.

There are many other sights and sounds of the area including the Cox Arboretum; the Dunbar House, home of poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar; the Gallery at the Old Post Office; the Montgomery County Historical Society Old Courthouse Museum; and the Patterson Homestead, Revolutionary War hero and founder of Lexington, Kentucky.

John J. Flora

## NOTICES

Are Trespassers and vandals causing you problems? They can be discouraged by posting your property with a banding station poster. It is 19" x 12", with black weatherproof ink on white Texoprint - tough, durable and flexible. "U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BIRD BANDING STATION." Illustrated with stylized goose. for photo, send self addressed stamped envelope. Five posters will be sent ppd. for $11.00. Send order to Willetta Lueshen, Route 2, Box 26, Wisner, NE 68791.

*A Bird Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species,* by Merrill Wood, second edition revised by Wood and Donald Beimborn, is available from Afton Press, 3630 Glenhurst S. St., St. Louis Park, MN 54416, for $9.95 ppd. in U. S. funds.

Avoid a rear end collision by placing a sticker, CAUTION BIRD WATCHER DRIVING, on your rear bumper. Order from Jane Dunlap, Route 3, Box 172, Norfolk, NE 68701. Price is $1.75 each ppd.

IBBA arm patches are embroidered in, several colors. Price $1.75 each ppd. Make check payable to IBBA. Send with order to Al Valentine, 17403 Oakington Ct., Dallas, Texas 75252.

Cavity-nesting birds, such as bluebirds, wrens, and tree swallows, are easily captured in the nest box by using the Bauldry trap. A package of three Bauldry traps is available for $6.00 ppd. from IBBA, Route 2, Box 26, Wisner, NE 68791. Make check payable to IBBA.

Also available from the same address are patterns for the Bauldry trap, and for the Bauldry artificial nest cavity, designed to keep out raccoons and house sparrows. State pattern desired. A donation to cover printing and mailing costs will be appreciated.

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS CAUGHT IN SEPTEMBER

Following is a report from the Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Department, Endangered Species staff:

Kirtland's Warblers on their breeding range in Michigan nest at a small number of sites within a much larger region of apparently suitable habitat. In 1987, all actual and most potential breeding sites were photographed from the air at a scale (1 inch - 500 feet) that showed major habitat features in sharp detail. False infrared color prints of these areas have been received and will be used to provide an overview of the bird's entire breeding range. Habitat analysis of occupied and unoccupied areas will provide for a detailed understanding of habitat features critical to nesting.

Eleven Kirtland's Warblers were caught during the week of September 14, indicating that good numbers remain in Michigan far longer in the season than previously believed. In addition, two territorial birds captured were undergoing wing molt; therefore, these birds probably remained in Michigan for at least another week.

These data have important management implications in that activities potentially detrimental to Kirtland's Warblers currently are allowed in their breeding colonies after August 15. Some examples of detrimental activities include rabbit hunting with dogs and shotguns, logging operations, and seismic surveys for petroleum.

## PUBLICATIONS PERUSALS

*Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies.* By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Reprint 1988 (1922-1968). Dover Publications, Inc., NY. 349 pp. $9.95 paper.

Sixty-nine species of petrels, pelicans, and their allies are described in detail. First hand reports of nesting habits, plumage, food, behavior, distribution, etc. are given in easy to read language. One hundred twenty-eight black-and-white photographs of birds are included. All bird watchers should have a complete set of Bent's Life Histories. Dover is to be commended for republishing these superb books.

*Bird Walk through the Bible.* By Virginia C. Holmgren. 1988 (1972) Dover Publications, Inc., NY. 224 pp. $4.95 paper.

Virginia Holmgren, ornithologist and historian discusses birds mentioned in 273 passages of the Old and New Testiments, and the Opocrypha. She relates each species to its present North American counterpart. A comprehensive glossery is also included, which gives the Hebrew, or Greek, names for all the birds mentioned, and also cites passages in which they appear.

*Last of the Curlews.* By Fred Bodsworth. The Edwin Way Teale Library of Nature Classics. 1987. Dodd, Mead, NY. (Previously published by Dodd, Mead in 1955.) 160 pp. $17.95 cloth; $8.95 paper.

This extraordinary tale traces the last migratory journey of a pair of Eskimo Curlews from the southern tip of South America to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. The story is beautifully told in poetic language and explains the probable cause of their rapidly dwindling numbers. The superb black-and-white drawings are by another Canadian, T. M. Shortt.

*A Naturalist's Sketchbook: Pages from the Seasons of the Year.* (Revised and Expanded Edition of notes) By Clare Walker Leslie. 1988. Dodd, Mead, NY. 192pp. $22.95 cloth; $12.95 paper.

The journal of the seasons is more than a journal of the changes of nature. Records were kept via notes and lovely, but simple, sketches - from flowers and insects, to mammals and birds. This is one of the Teale Book series.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

All scientific papers should be sent to:

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All scientific papers should be prepared according to the Suggestions to Authors, which is published inside the back cover of each issue of the journal.

Those who have announcements, informal notes, reports about banding activities should send them to:

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