



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

INTRODUCING

Ruth C. Green and Betty Grenon, new Inland Regional News editors. We will be picking up Willetta Lueshen's responsibilities to the best of our abilities. YOU can help us with that by submitting any and all bits of banding and birding news of a less formal or briefer nature that would be of interest to NABB/IBBA readers. We are particularly interested in banding results and information. Photographs, in either color or black and white and having good contrast, are wanted also.

If you have previously submitted material that has not been published, we ask that you re-submit that information to us, as we will probably not be able to recover those reports otherwise.

Please send to: Ruth C. Green
506 West 31st Avenue
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005
Telephone: 402-292-0451

All formal papers should be sent to:

Dan Kramer
North American Bird Bander
3451 Co. Road 156
Vickery, Ohio 43464

Paul A. Stewart Award

The Endowment Fund Committee has given the Paul A. Stewart Award of \$300 to Mrs. Roger W. Foy of Oriental, North Carolina. This award will enable her to study the movement of western hummingbirds into eastern North America. She would like to investigate species tendency to disperse into other directions from their breeding and hatching areas soon after the breeding season; how far into other areas and in what directions. Would research prove their radial movement to be a southward migration or is it just curiosity; also, if there is a separate migration southward for HY versus AHY birds.

Willetta Lueshen Harris' Sparrow Award Approved

Congratulations to Chris Norment! For the second year, the Endowment Fund Committee has granted the Willetta Lueshen Harris' Sparrow Award to Chris to further his study of the breeding ecology of the Harris' and White-crowned Sparrows. The award is for \$1000. This study, which is a part of his Ph.D program at the University of Kansas, is being done at the Thelon Game Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, Canada. Some of his major objectives, which many of us will be interested in learning about, will be to compare the breeding biology of the two species, including breeding cycles, clutch size, reproductive success, nestling growth, and physiology of breeding females.

NATURE NOTES FROM NEBRASKA

Just when you think birding is as dull as it could possibly be, something unexpected comes along. I was sitting on my patio deploring the fact there were no birds in my yard, when suddenly the most beautiful little bundle of feathers seemed to have popped into the tree just an arm's length away. It wasn't as if I had never seen this species before. I have seen them many times in Fontenelle Forest, usually high in the sycamore trees, but never at eye level and in my yard. It was a beautiful gray with two white wing bars, black on the face with a bold white eyebrow, white belly with black streaks along the flanks, and the most brilliant yellow upper breast and throat a bird could ever have. The small size and thin black bill told me immediately that it was a warbler--a most uncommon warbler for eastern Nebraska. And the black crown indicated a male--a male yellow-throated warbler! The day was September 25, 1989, a day that became very special to me because this incredibly gorgeous little visitor had chosen to stop by my yard.

If you check the latest field guides, you will see that Nebraska is not included in the range of this species. And even our own Checklist of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent States, edited by Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, states that *Dendroica dominica* is a "rare to occasional vagrant or migrant in eastern Nebraska, becoming very rare westward."

I had birded many years in Nebraska before I first saw this warbler, but I remember it well. In the midst of Christmas preparations, on December 24, 1980, I received a Rare Bird Alert that a yellow-throated warbler was eating suet at an Omaha feeder. Christmas preparations waited, and I was soon on my way to see this rare visitor. As you know, December 24 is not the time to expect any warbler in this state, much less something this unusual, but there it was just as the caller had described.

On May 16 of the following year, a singing male was on territory in Fontenelle Forest. Yellow-throated warblers have been seen and reported every single year since. Even though a nest has not been found, it is almost certain they have nested regularly there for the past ten years. I have seen as many as three at a time bathing in a little stream that runs through the Forest. My dream is to someday band one--or more!

Ruth C. Green
Bellevue, Nebraska

IBBA's Annual Meeting



From left center John Tautin Bird Banding Lab, Betty Walters Shenandoah, Ia., Thomas Labeledz Lincoln, Ne., Betty Grenon Bellevue, Ne., Al Singer Naturalist at the Dodge Nature Center, Ruth Green Bellevue, Ne. (Picture taken at the Dodge Nature Center)