

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Michigan Bird Banders Association

The MBBA invites you to join their group, the oldest organized state bird banding group in the United States. We've all heard of the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory known for its raptor migrations since the turn of the century when bounty hunters had spring hawk shoots during late April and early May. The WPBO was formed through the cooperation of the MBBA, the Detroit Audubon Society, and the Michigan Audubon Society.

Their organization goals include: (1) ornithological investigation and publication of results; (2) cooperation with other organizations with similar goals; (3) compliance with local, state, and federal regulations for the protection of native species; (4) dissemination to members of techniques, methods, and tools for bird banding; and (5) providing the general public with information regarding the aims and results of bird banding studies.

Your benefits as a member include an annual professional meeting (on the first Saturday of November) with papers and workshops; advisory committee meetings; a quarterly newsletter with local information; and the Port Huron Spring Band-out, usually held the third weekend of May.

If this fits your interests and locale, contact:

John Flora
3636 Williams
Dearborn, MI 48124

Minnesota Bird Banders Association

Just in case you didn't know, we have the Minnesota organization to thank for funding Kathy Klimkiewicz's

travel to the IBBA annual meeting in Columbia, MO, in October 1990. The 1991 meeting is scheduled for this fall in the Dallas area with Al Valentine heading the host committee.

Among the bits of technique sharing that a state organization can foster, is a drill fashioned by Forest Strnad that can be used to drill holes in frozen ground. It is a 1" star drill welded to the end of a rod with a sliding steel sleeve over it, which makes it especially durable. Maybe not high on your wish list if you band in the Sun Belt areas, but I'll bet you-all have some other tips for your locale. Care to share them?

Another tip from the Schucman Nature Study Area tick study: Dead birds, still warm, need not be inspected for ticks. Try wrapping the bird in a thin layer of cotton and putting it in a zip-lock bag; external parasites will leave the bird as it cools and will be tangled in the cotton.

Forest Strnad netted and banded 11 snipe in 1990, more than he had in the 33 years of previous banding. At the time, he had no reference handy to age and sex the birds. **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES** by Giles (The Wildlife Society, 1969) says that the adults are identical and cannot be sexed by plumage, but birds can be aged by plumage characteristics as follows:

	<u>ADULT</u>	<u>HY</u>
Stripe from bill to eye	brown	black
Check and chin	buffy and whitish flecked with dusky --diagonal dark stripe on lower check beneath ear	mixed white, black and cinnamon

A question from Forest: Has anyone ever caught a crow in a mist net?

Ohio Bird Banding Association

Many studies often use data collected by different banders. How confident can we be of the accuracy of many different banders using different tools? The OBBA Research Committee conducted a "mini-study" during the spring and fall meetings using measurements taken by OBBA members. The following is their discussion based on statistical schedules published in their newsletter:

Measurements show that given the same bird, mm ruler, Pescola scale, and qualitative observation, twelve different banders are reasonably accurate. All error is within the 95% confidence limit set by the USFW Bird Banding Lab. This error is most important if we are to properly use the most current age and sex keys. One bird measured six different times by each bander using three different rules and three different scales depict a good degree of accuracy for all six banders. All forms of calculating a central tendency are within the 95% confidence limit.

Please send comments or opinions if you have suggestions that will help measure banding errors to:

Bob Thobaben
1835 S.R. 380
Wilmington, OH 45177
513-382-4739

Volunteer Field Assistants needed for a study of mate choice in wood warblers in southeastern Ohio, 1 May-1 August (dates flexible). Housing provided and a stipend pending funding. Duties include mist netting, banding, song recording, behavioral observations, and vegetation sampling. Will train people with basic knowledge and an interest in field research. Must have positive attitude and strong work ethic. Send letter of interest, resume, and names, addresses, and phone numbers of two references to:

Randy Dettmers
Dept. Zoology, Ohio State Univ.
1735 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Request for collaboration with an on-going study of bridge-nesting Eastern Phoebe in southeastern Ohio. Here's a chance for some one to step into an interesting and worthwhile project or develop their own ideas. Study area includes 80 bridge sites in Athens and Hocking Counties. Study has focused on reuse of old nest sites, but there are a lot of interesting questions that could be answered by these birds. Get in touch and exchange ideas and plans for spring and summer by contacting:

David Cimprich
Zoology Dept., Ohio State Univ.
1735 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Request for data regarding Eastern Bluebird nesting in Ohio. If you would like to participate in the OBBA Bluebird study, send your data sheets recording initial egg date, premature termination date, number of eggs laid, hatched, and fledged, and a column for reasons and comments to:

Dick Tuttle
311 West Central Avenue
Delaware, OH 43015

Meeting dates: Spring Meeting - April 6, 1991
Spring Bandout - April 27-28, 1991

Editor's Note: Who else has a state organization for bird banders? Send me a newsletter and get your activities publicized.



TO HONOR WILLETTA LUESHEN

The Lueshen Bird Club of Norfolk, Nebraska, commissioned local artist Cathy Sanders to paint a picture of Harris' Sparrows. The original was donated to Northeast Nebraska Technical College, where it now hangs, to honor long-time IBBA member, Willetta Lueshen. Willetta had taught two bird classes every year for 18 years there and started over 1000 people on the road to becoming birders. The club has 200 prints to be sold for the proceeds to go towards establishing the Lueshen Bird Sanctuary in the area.

These prints can be ordered from Eldon Marsh, Brunswick, NE, 68720 (Telephone 402-842-2755) for \$40 plus a shipping charge of \$5. These beautiful prints will also be available at the September meeting of IBBA in Dallas.

Nature Notes from Nebraska

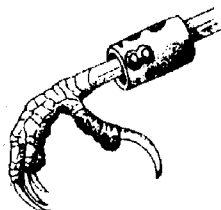
Twelve Soviet exchange students visited Fontenelle Forest Nature Center last November. Donna Daly, their sponsor and a volunteer naturalist at the Forest, wanted these city students to experience a hike through the Forest to learn a little bit about nature and the environment while they were here. They were shown slides, exhibits, and a naturalist presented a program for them, all with little, if any, response. She called me to come and do some quick bird banding for them to see if that would help. I quickly grabbed my equipment and was at the Nature Center with a couple of nets set up in a matter of minutes. It was not a good birding day but there are always Black-capped Chickadees and nuthatches.

The first chickadee I showed the students had them rather shyly venturing forth to touch the bird, but only with one finger. They approached it much like the very young children I teach there--not at all sure if they wanted to touch one, much less hold a bird. After a few minutes, one young man decided he would let me put a bird in his hand. That broke the ice! From then on, they all had to hold a bird while one of the group photographed everyone with a "shickadee"!

To see the change in the attitude of these young people was exciting for me. They were even reluctant to leave the Nature Center when their time was up. At their next meeting three days later, Ms. Daly called to tell me they were still excited and talking about their chickadees. She spent most of the evening teaching them how to spell "chickadee" and how to find it in the bird books some of them had bought.

The recent oil spill in the Persian Gulf reminds all of us again that environmental problems and issues are not just local and national, but global as well. I would like to think this one American experience for these Russian students will awaken an interest in them for their own environment. After all, what affects one of us, affects all of us.

Ruth C. Green
Bellevue, NE



Cardinals in Nebraska

The past summer and fall of 1990 was the best nesting season for Northern Cardinals in Nebraska I have ever seen. Most sources of information say they nest from March through August. March is a little early for this state, but they certainly went well past August. I banded hatching-year birds all through October and on November 8 I banded a fledgling still being fed by the parent birds. This bird lacked the body fat it should have had and the plumage did not have the luster of a healthy bird, so it will probably be among the 7 out of 10 passerines hatched every year that will not survive the winter.

When I noticed this abundance of Cardinals, I decided to make a special count of just the Cardinals I banded in my yard over a two-month period. From October 15 to December 15, I banded 58. About 90% of these birds were HY, and I'm still seeing unbanded birds every day!

Ruth C. Green
Bellevue, NE

A Brown-Headed Chickadee

Several years ago, I watched another bander band a chickadee at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Nebraska, with a chocolate brown head and brown in the wings and back. It was reported as a Carolina Chickadee. I did not feel, at the time, this was enough evidence to prove this identification and still don't. I have never heard a vocalization in Nebraska that even remotely resembled a Carolina, but I did think the color on the bird was certainly interesting.

This past July I, too, banded and photographed a similar bird. The measurements were the same as for a Black-capped, but the head was a rich, chocolate brown with brown in the wings and back. I can find nothing in the literature about any Black-capped Chickadees with brown heads, nor can I find a bander with a like experience. So I feel this is nothing more than an aberrant chickadee.

I would appreciate hearing from any banders with a like experience. I have banded hundreds of Black-capped Chickadees, but only one brown-headed/black-capped chickadee.

Contact Ruth C. Green, 506 West 31st Avenue, Bellevue, NE 68005 (tel: 402-292-0451).

EDITOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Current Inland Bird Banding Association Editor for the *North American Bird Bander*, Dan Kramer, plans to step down after over four years of service to IBBA in that position. His resignation will be effective when a successor is found.

The editor is responsible for guiding all scientific manuscripts through a peer review process prior to acceptance and publication. Only manuscripts from Inland members are handled by the Inland editor. An average of eight to ten manuscripts annually are submitted for consideration from the Inland area. The editor coordinates publication of these manuscripts with the Production Manager of *NABB*, oversees production of the IBBA Regional News section of *NABB* and the operations of its regional editors, and serves on the *NABB* Editorial Board.

Anyone interested in assuming these duties as IBBA editor to *North American Bird Bander* should contact IBBA President Don Beimborn or Dan Kramer.

