



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual fall meeting of Inland Bird Banding Association was held the weekend of 27-29 September 1991 at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Nebraska. Ample use was made of the excellent forest setting provided by the Nature Center, starting with a social hour and slide introduction to the forest. The weather was excellent; the birds fair. More of the program was planned around what was to have been the peak of migration, but you know how that works. A banding workshop with the expertise of BBL biologist Bill Howe netted at least a minimum of birds to practice on for Saturday morning. Because of the lack of an abundance of captures during the morning session, a few nets were set up around the building while the afternoon paper session began. Typical of all well-planned events, the most exciting happening interrupted the papers when a Broad-winged Hawk launched itself into one of the nets and became the highlight of the conference.

With one notable exception, the paper session focused on the Midwest:

Wildlife on the Platte - Roger Sharpe - Univ. NE-Omaha
Spatial Patterns of Burrowing Owl Nests: the influence of Prairie Dog Town Size and Territoriality - Martha Desmond - Univ. NE-Lincoln

Shorebird Banding in Eastern South Dakota - John Steiner - SD State Univ.

XX International Ornithological Congress, Christchurch, New Zealand - Pete Peterson - Past President, IBBA

A report from the Banding Lab brought us up to date and the business meeting followed. Minutes from this meeting and the board meetings will be reported in future newsletters. The evening banquet was located overlooking the Missouri River. The speaker was well-known author Dr. Paul Johnsgard with a presentation of "Birds of Nebraska."

Special recognition was given to two members for long and faithful contributions to the science of bird banding: Edward W. Peartree of Wisconsin and Mabel Ott of Nebraska.

The field trips were fun, including a sneak preview of the new rain forest at the Henry Doorley Zoo in Omaha; the conversation stimulating, especially the banders' exchange; and a good time was had by all. About 65 attendees from 10 states were on hand and we are looking forward to next year.

IBBA officers elected 28 September 1991:

President.....	Don Beimbom
1st Vice President.....	Vince Bauldry
2nd Vice President.....	Bill Quay
Membership Secretary.....	Allen Valentine
Secretary.....	Jane Olyphant
Treasurer.....	Tom Bartlett



Bill Howe (R), BBL biologist, and Broad-winged Hawk (l), highlight of paper session.



Ruth Green (L), regional IBBA editor, and Mabel Ott (R), recipient of special recognition.



Edward Peartree (L), recipient of special recognition, and Don Beimborn (R), president IBBA.



Banquet speaker Paul Johnsgard.

NATURE NOTES FROM NEBRASKA

Many southern avian species reach their northern limits in eastern Nebraska. The Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*, is one of those species. This characteristic empid of the southeastern United States has a narrow range extending along the Missouri River Valley, perhaps even to southern South Dakota. There have been no breeding records there since 1921, however. In his book, *BIRDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS, BREEDING SPECIES AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION*, Paul A. Johnsgard states that it is considered an uncommon migrant and a rare nester in this area.

In 1990, a confirmed sighting of an Acadian Flycatcher was made in Omaha's Hummel Park, Douglas County. This bird was on territory from 20 June to September and was observed by several competent birders. No nest was found and only the one bird seen.

On 17 May 1991, either the same bird or another Acadian Flycatcher was found in the same park, almost at the same spot. This time a nest was located about 50 ft. high in a cottonwood on an outer branch. A heavy rainstorm on the night of 22 June brought the nest crashing to the ground. The bird was not seen or heard again after 25 June, but this observation was positive proof of attempted nesting.

I have been an avid birder in this state for over 25 years, and I had never seen more than one Acadian Flycatcher at a time until 22 August 1991. While banding at Offutt Base Lake near my Bellevue home in Sarpy County, I had four in my nets in less than 20 minutes. These birds were measured carefully, skulled, and photographed. I studied Kenn Kaufmann's descriptions in his book, *ADVANCED BIRDING*, and I consulted the Banding Lab information as well as Pyle's *GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN PASSE-RINES*. The size of these birds, large eye rings, white throats, pale yellow mouths, green backs, and gray legs convinced me that I had made the correct identification. The wide, buffy wing bars and unpneumatized skulls indicated these birds were hatching year. I had just banded and measured a Least Flycatcher and have banded Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, two species most likely to be confused with Acadians here.

I know Acadian Flycatchers have been banded in Lancaster County, Nebraska, but I believe this Douglas County nesting and Sarpy County bandings are first records.

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NEW EDITOR

Peter Lowther is IBBA's new editor. Manuscripts intended for publication in *North American Bird Bander* can be submitted to him at the following address:

Peter Lowther
Field Museum of Natural History
Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605-2496

North American Bird Bander is a forum for members to share results of their banding activities: anecdotes, banding techniques, research projects, or analysis of accumulated banding data. In general, longer manuscripts can be sent to Lowther, shorter or less formal notes to Ruth Green or Betty Grenon for the "Inland Regional News" section.

