

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

OUR VANISHING SPECIES

I have been asked so many times in the last year about either the absence or the low numbers of many bird species. No doubt, you have too. I have cited many of the reasons, such as loss of winter and nesting habitat, fragmentation of habitat, weather-related accidents in migration, breeding losses due to the Brown-headed Cowbird, use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides in countries south of the United States, the loss of 4.5 million songbirds to house cats every year in this country, and the list goes on and on.

Even though I knew the loss was obvious, I really had no statistics to prove my thinking until I came across some information published by Samuel Droege, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The information was based on data from the Breeding Bird Surveys done nationwide every June. The data showed just how widespread and severe the declines in neotropical migratory birds have become in the years between 1980 and 1989. In my own state of Nebraska, the decline has reached 36% and as bad as that seems to me, it is not nearly as much as some of the surrounding states have experienced. Iowa registered a 52% decline; Kansas has 63%; Missouri 60%. Arkansas tops all the IBBA region with a staggering 77% and Illinois is a close runner-up with 72%.

This marked decline over the last few years has sparked a flurry of research and articles on the subject. Until 1990, nothing was really done to

address the problem of declining neotropical migratory songbirds. Then several federal and state agencies as well as non-governmental organizations joined to form Partners in Flight. This organization is involved in research, monitoring, management, education, and international partnerships to manage natural environments to maintain and conserve the greatest biological diversity possible. Hopefully, they will be successful in this undertaking.

Still, the thought keeps running through my mind: Is it already too late for our beloved songbirds?

Ruth C. Green
Bellevue, Nebraska

WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTING

The easternmost record and fourth confirmed sighting of Whooping Cranes east of Grand Island, Nebraska, occurred 11 April 1993, four miles south and one mile east of Creighton, Antelope County, Nebraska. The nicest thing about it was that bird bander Mark Brogie of Creighton was there to see the five adult birds. Three were color banded. They stayed in the area for a full week before heading on toward Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada.

Ruth C. Green
Bellevue, Nebraska



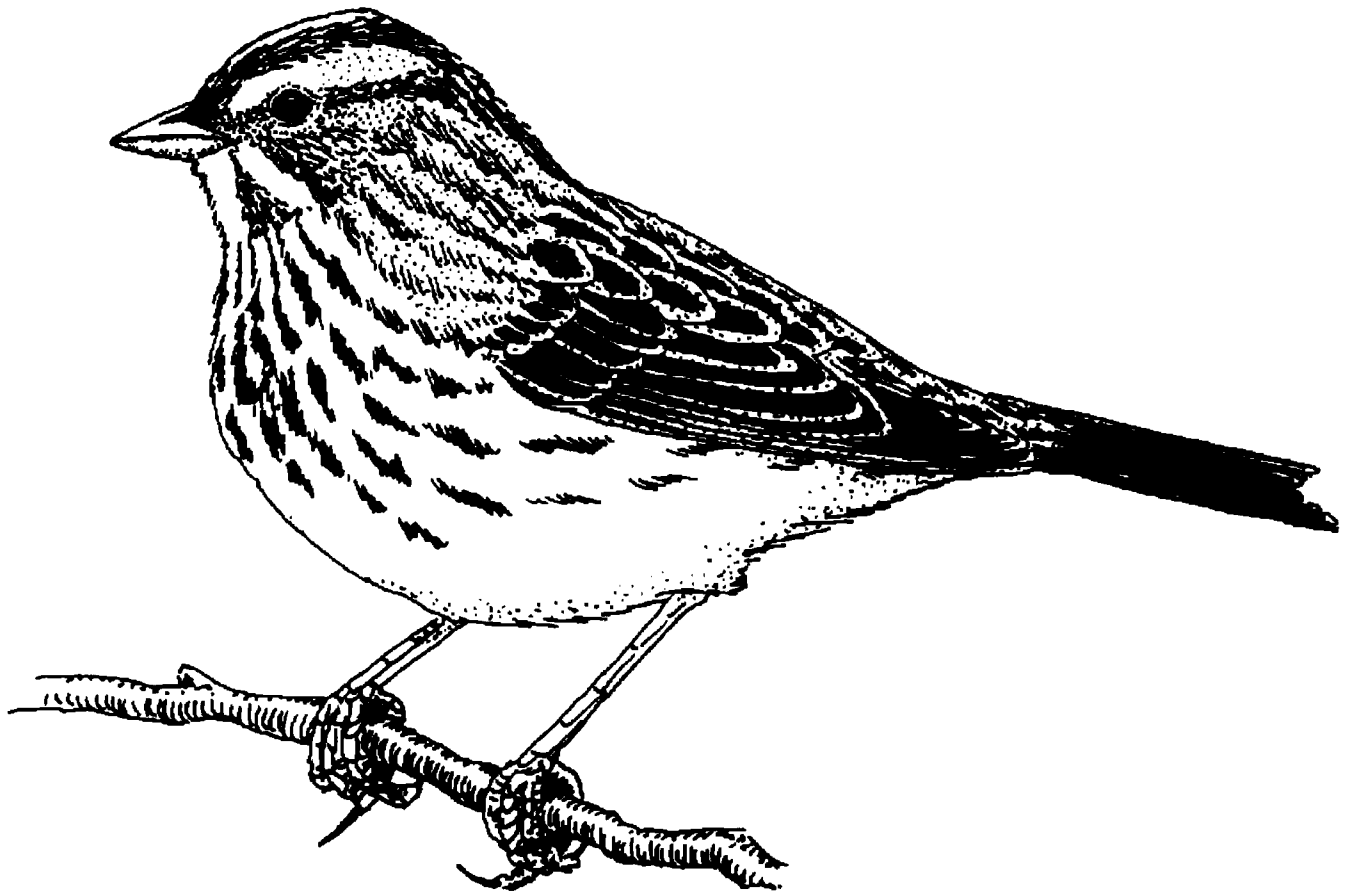
IN MEMORIAM

Karl E. Bartel
12 October 1913 - 13 March 1993

Karl was a life member of many bird and natural history organizations. His all consuming passion was the trapping and banding of birds, followed closely by the study of wildflowers. He received his banding permit on 11 February 1933, when F. C. Lincoln was Chief of the Biological Survey. His first bird was a Slate-colored Junco with band H-78601. Over the succeeding 60 years, Karl placed bands on over 100,000 birds. He used wire traps for most of his career, but did use mist nets for the last several seasons. Karl had participated in well over 200 Christmas Bird Counts, usually doing at least 5 per year.

I first met Karl when I needed help to obtain my own banding license. Since then I have gone on many trips and to meetings with him. I look back on my memories of Karl and find all to be pleasant. He was an easy going, energetic friend with whom I may not have always agreed, but I can never remember arguing. I enjoyed his idiosyncrasies. He was a dear friend and will be sorely missed.

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RECAPTURES AND LONGEVITY RECORDS

From 1992 banding records, about 70% of my 220 returns are 1 year old or less. Among the remaining returns, the following are of individuals at least 5 years old:

Downy Woodpecker, 1341-10398, female banded 10 Feb 1981, last recapture 07 May 1992 with 6 intervening captures.

Northern Cardinal, 0971-22068, female banded 13 Oct 1986, last recapture 15 May 1992 with 5 intervening captures.

..... 0971-22043, female banded 09 Jun 1986, last captured 23 Jul 1992 with 3 intervening captures.

Common Grackle, 1423-18080, female banded 25 Apr 1985 and recaptured 21 Jun 1992.

American Robin, 0962-37996, male banded 25 Jun 1985 and recaptured 27 May 1992.

..... 0962-63207, female banded 19 Jun 1987 and recaptured 11 Oct 1992.

Mourning Dove, 1333-09799, male banded 23 Apr 1987, last recapture 27 Sep 1992 with 7 intervening captures.

..... 1253-28842, female banded 15 Jul 1987, last recapture 05 Nov 1992 with 6 intervening captures.

Of 8 recoveries reported through the Banding Laboratory from various towns in Illinois, 7 were recovered during the same year as banded and 3 of these are still alive. One American Robin was recovered at Alsip, Illinois, 2 years later; a House Finch was recovered at Blue Island, Illinois, which had been banded 5 months earlier in Memphis, Tennessee.

Alfred Ruess
Blue Island, Illinois