



# *Inland Regional News*

## *Inland Bird Banding Association*

### **Annual Meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association 9-12 September 1999**

The annual meeting of the Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) will be held at Forest Lake Camp, Ottumwa, Iowa, in conjunction with meetings of the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO), North American Banding Council (NABC), and Iowa Ornithologists Union (IOU) at Forest Lake Camp near Ottumwa, Iowa, from 9-12 Sep 1999. It will be hosted by the Ottumwa Bird Club, assisted by members of the Lake Rathbun Bird Club. Fall migration will be well underway and a full schedule of field trips, workshops, and scientific paper sessions will provide great opportunities for all who attend. Other activities at Forest Lake Camp include canoeing (no charge for canoe use!) and hiking along forest trails.

The major focus of this meeting will be on the training and certification of bird banders, and banders from throughout North America are invited to participate. This will include a trial run of North American Banding Council (NABC) evaluation procedures as well as bander training workshops. We are anxious to have contributed papers that deal with banding techniques or the results of studies involving bird banding. Scientific paper sessions will also be open to contributed papers based on original research on any aspect of field ornithology.

Members are encouraged to register early for the meeting so that facilities and trips can be planned accordingly. The registration fee will be \$15 for those registering prior to 1 Aug 1999 and \$20 thereafter. For information from the local committee about local accommodations and arrangements for the meeting, please contact: **Darleen J. Ayres, 1 Pennsylvania Place, # 007, Ottumwa, IA 52501;**

phone: (515) 682-1697.

Field trips are scheduled for 10-12 Sep 1999 to Lake Rathbun, Lake Wapello, Shimek State Forest at Keosauqua, and Pioneer Ridge. These will be led by members of the Ottumwa Bird Club and Lake Rathbun Bird Club. Shorebird habitat is somewhat limited, but woodland birds will be in the area in abundance. Birding habitats at Lake Rathbun include shore, water, woodlands, open fields, and roadsides. Lake Wapello is a small lake surrounded by woodlands and open fields. This field trip will also take in roadsides and lagoons in Ottumwa. Shimek State forest includes woodlands, Des Moines River bottomlands, roadsides, and open fields. Pioneer Ridge Conservation Park includes woodlands, two ponds, open fields, and roadsides. Field trips will leave from both the Days Inn Motel and Forest Lake Camp. Check schedule and sign-up lists upon arrival.

Scientific paper sessions will be held on Fri, 10 Sep, and Sat, 11 Sep 1999 at the Days Inn Motel. Transportation between Forest Lake Camp and the Days Inn Motel will be provided on an hourly schedule.

Business meetings of the Inland Bird Banding Association, Association of Field Ornithologists, Iowa Ornithologists Union, and North American Banding Council will be held separately and at different times on Sat, 11 Sep, and Sun, 12 Sep 1999, to allow members of multiple organizations to attend all meetings. Meeting times and places will be announced/posted at registration.

Bander certification and banding workshops will be held at Forest Lake Camp. Transportation be-

tween Forest Lake Camp and the Days Inn Motel will be provided on an hourly schedule. For several years, representatives of major bird banding and ornithological organizations, as well as U.S. and Canadian government wildlife agencies, have been discussing the need for better and more uniformly trained bird banders. Meeting under the umbrella of the North American Banding Council, these representatives have been preparing bander training manuals and working on a process of certification. This special AFO/IBBA/IOU meeting will be a trial run using these materials. We are seeking 15 licensed bird banders who are willing to go through the evaluation process for certification. These 15 banders will receive preliminary copies of NABC training manuals about a month prior to the meeting. Those interested in being considered for this first bander certification class must already be licensed banders and must submit a letter of application by 15 Jul 1999, stating the length and nature of their banding experience to: Jerome A. Jackson, Whitaker Center, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Ft. Myers, FL 33965-6565; e-mail: picus@fgcu.edu; FAX: 941-590-7200.

Candidates for certification should plan to arrive by Wed afternoon, 8 Sep 1999, and should bring their own banding equipment (pliers, wing measures, etc.). Candidates will be given the written exam (multiple choice/short answer, based on the NABC training manual) for bander certification on Wednesday evening. All day Thursday will be devoted to hands-on evaluation of various skills needed and used by banders (e.g., use of mist nets, removal of birds, handling of birds, removal of wrong-sized bands, skulling, etc.). Bander training workshop sessions will be going on simultaneously and will be open to all attendees. In the event of inclement weather, the field aspect of the certification process will be extended to Fri and/or Sat.

Ottumwa is located in southeast Iowa, on U.S. highways 34 and 63. Ottumwa is served by United Airlines via Chicago, but there are few flights coming into Ottumwa. Thus, it is important to make reservations early. Flights of other airlines serve Des Moines (80 miles to the north for those intending to rent a car). Ottumwa is also served by AmTrak (1-800-872-7245), and by Trailways Bus (1-800-992-4618). Local car rental is available through Enterprise (phone: 1-515-682-2020; or 1-800-325-8007).

**Days Inn** (the meeting headquarters motel),

206 Church St., Ottumwa, IA 52501 (phone: 1-515-682-8131; 1-800-329-7466; FAX: 515-682-5902). Exit highways 34 and 63 (which are together for 2 miles) at the Church St. exit; motel is on the north side of the highway. Restaurant and lounge; coffee maker in each room; rooms with microwaves and refrigerators available; tennis court across the street; transportation from airport available; transportation will be provided from the motel to the meeting site at designated times. Rates: 1-4 persons/room \$46.20 (including tax).

**Heartland Inn**, 125 W. Joseph Ave. (off highway 63; phone: 1-515682-8526). North edge of town; whirlpool and sauna; indoor pool. Rates: single: \$50.59 (tax included); double: \$61.59 (tax included).

**Fairfield Inn**, 2813 North Court Road (highway 63; phone: 1-515682-0000). Indoor pool and spa; continental breakfast; AAA and AARP discounts. Rates: single: \$53.85 (tax included); double: \$56.85 (tax included).

**Super 8**, 2823 North Court Road (highway 63; phone: 1-515-6845505; 1-800-800-8000). Continental breakfast; indoor pool. Rates: single: \$46.22 (tax included); double, 1 bed: \$53.35 (tax included); double, 2 beds: \$55.00 (tax included).

**Dormitory cabins** at Forest Lake Camp—meeting headquarters—\$12/night/person. Note: Cabin spaces are limited, register early! You must furnish your own bedding and pillow. There are 6 available hookups for campers at Forest Lake Camp, at \$12/night; register for these in advance (with registration).

Meals will be provided at Forest Lake Camp from Wednesday dinner through Sunday lunch. Prices and times will be: Breakfast buffet, 7-8 a.m.: \$4.00; Lunch buffet, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: \$5.00; Dinner buffet, 5-6 p.m.: \$6.00. Those attending scientific paper sessions at the Days Inn Motel (Friday and Saturday) should plan to have lunch at one of the many local restaurants near the motel. Banquet: Sat 6:30 pm, 11 Sep 1999, Parkview Plaza Ballroom, 107 E 2nd St., Ottumwa, IA 52501, \$16.

For information from the local committee prior to 8 Sep 1999, call **Darlene Ayres** at 515-682-1697; fax 515-684-4079. In the event of emergency during the meeting (8-12 Sep), call the Forest Lake Camp (515-684-8908), or the Days Inn (515-6828131).