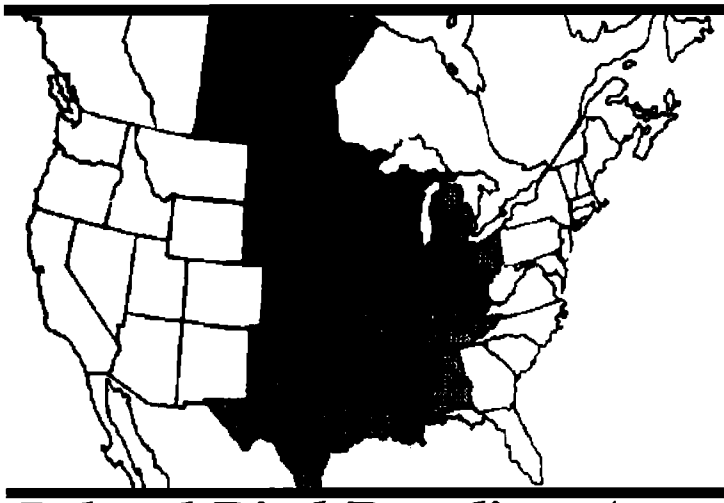

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association *Founded 1922*

IBBA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Time flies when you're having fun. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) hosted IBBA's 2002 annual meeting in Harlingen, Texas, in September. The focus of the meeting and the direction IBBA hopes to pursue was, and is, to increase the skill levels of banders and as a result increase the quality of scientific data originating from the banding community. Ken Burton joined the membership in a classroom and field training session on molts and their uses in ageing of passerines. It was an excellent presentation and anyone not learning something must have slept through the process. TPWD put considerable effort into providing an excellent field experience at Las Palomas WMA near Harlingen. More than a few members had life birds in the hand for up close and personal identification. The volume of birds permitted a wide variety of molt examples and most importantly repetition for a quality learning experience. It was definitely a valuable addition to the achievement of the goals of IBBA. This is not to reduce the great experience of viewing the areas' bird resources and the interaction of the participants.

The Saturday paper session continues our effort to introduce banders to ways of presenting their banding data and to generate questions. This will continue to remain a high priority of the organization as we raise the skill levels of our banders. As can be read in the minutes presented here, we also continue to refine the organization itself and move it into the 21st century. In addition to our webpage and meetings, I hope to see this section of *NABB* be of more benefit to our members. I also hope that many will consider attending the 2003 meeting in southern Illinois where we will highlight hummingbirds.

Mark Shieldcastle

INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Arroyo Colorado Unit of Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area Demonstration Banding During 2001 and 2002

The Arroyo Colorado Unit contains 687 acres of mostly mesquite woodlands about 15 miles west of the Gulf of Mexico in Cameron Co., Texas, at 26° 20' N latitude and was surrounded by plowed land during the times of banding. The woodlands are about 20 ft tall with dense understories of grass and forbs. Nets were erected along a secondary road running east-west. The net lane was shaded and traversed the dam of a wetland impoundment for 1/4 of its length.

The site was netted in the afternoon of 11 Sep and morning of 12 Sep 2001 for a total of 153 mist-net hr (12-m nets with 30-mm mesh) to determine the magnitude of avian migration. The same net lane was netted again during mornings of 20 - 22 Sep 2002 for 225 net-hr during banding training at the Inland Bird Banding Association annual meeting. Thirty-six species were caught at the rate of 1 bird/

net-hr during 2001 with temperatures ranging from 80° - 95° F and southerly winds of 5 - 25 mph. Forty-one species were caught at the rate of 0.6 birds/net-hr during 2002 with temperatures ranging from 65° - 85° F and northerly winds of 2 - 10 mph. Neotropical migrants and residents comprised 77 and 23%, respectively, of the birds captured in 2001, and 52 and 48%, respectively, of the birds captured in 2002. Most of the difference in capture rates between the two years was due to Neotropical migrant densities, which were probably weather related.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

Shorebird site fidelity at moist soil units and overflow river basins along the Texas central Gulf Coast, 1996-2001. BRENT OPRTEGO, Victoria, TX.

Site fidelity of shorebirds was studied at 1000 acres of freshwater moist soil units of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Calhoun Co., Texas, adjacent to Matagorda Bay and a 1000-acre overflow basin of the Guadalupe River (GR) in Victoria Co., 30 mi west of ANWR. Goal of the study was to determine if shorebirds had differing site fidelity for more consistently available managed waterfowl impoundments (moist soil units), and natural wetlands in an overflow basin that were inconsistently available. Both sites were used by tens of thousands of shorebirds during peak usage when conditions were suitable. Moist soil units, since they were managed by water control structures, consistently had suitable conditions during spring and infrequently in late summer for migrant shorebirds. The overflow river basin of the lower Guadalupe River regularly had suitable conditions for shorebirds in late summer due to natural drying processes, but infrequently during spring. Birds were captured from Feb thru Aug during night, early mornings and late evenings using about 15 36-mm 12-m mist-nets during each netting when winds were less than 10 mph. Both sites were sampled as frequently as conditions were suitable for shorebirds and wind conditions were slow enough to run mist-nets. A total of 4077 waterbirds of 47 species were netted at ANWR during 49 visits from 1996 - 2001 at the rate of 84 birds per trip. Fifty-six of these birds were recaptured at least six months after original banding. Recapture rates were 3.3% for Dunlin, 2.6% for Least Sandpiper, 0.8% for Semipalmated Sandpiper and Stilt Sandpiper, and 0.5% for Killdeer and Western Sandpiper. One Western Sandpiper banded at ANWR was recaptured at the Guadalupe River study site. A total of 1595 waterbirds of 20 species were netted in the overflow basins of the Guadalupe River during 15 visits from 1996 - 2001 at the rate of 107 birds per trip. Two birds were recaptured. One of 204 Western Sandpipers and one of 689 Least Sandpipers were recaptured. The higher rate of shorebird site fidelity to the moist soil units is not surprising since they had suitable water conditions three times greater than the overflow basin; even though the basin had greater capture rates.

Molts and plumages and their use in ageing landbirds. KENNETH M. BURTON, Inverness, CA.

Competent banders in today's world need to be able to age and sex birds both accurately and precisely. No longer is the HY/AHY distinction sufficient most of the year. European banders have been familiar with techniques of ageing birds by subtle plumage characters for decades. Unfortunately, too few North American banders have a solid-enough theoretical understanding of molt cycles and strategies and their relationship to age classes to apply these techniques effectively. In this workshop I present an overview of some common molt and plumage sequences of North American landbirds and how they relate to the age classes we use as banders. I then discuss how to apply these principles to the process of ageing birds, especially the recognition of molt limits based on the characteristics of juvenal vs. later-generation feathers. Finally, I demonstrate how to use Pyle's *Identification Guide* more efficiently by guiding the audience through the book using the concepts we have learned. These discussions will be complemented by field work with live birds.

Winter philopatry of granivorous birds banded in northeast Texas. JAMES L. INGOLD, Dept. Biol. Sci., Louisiana State Univ. in Shreveport, Shreveport, LA.

I will be reporting on returns of granivorous birds banded in the winter in Marion Co. in northeast Texas from the fall of 1996 until the spring of 2002. Thirteen species of sparrows fit this category and

I am also including data on Eastern Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Cardinal. One thousand three hundred and thirty-six individuals of these 16 species were banded. Only eight species had individuals retrapped in subsequent years. Savannah Sparrows showed the highest return rates with 26.9%, followed by White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco in decreasing order. I will also discuss an unusual habitat for wintering *Ammodrammus* sparrows in northeast Texas and returns for other avian species.

Inland Bird Banding Association Business Meeting, Harlingen, Texas 21 Sep 2002

The 80th meeting of IBBA was opened by President Mark Shieldcastle at 1:00 pm.

Minutes of the 2001 meeting were accepted as published in *NABB*, Vol. 26 No. 3.

The **Treasurer** reported total assets are $56,768.44 as of 21 Sep 2002: Life Membership Account, $13,954.24; Paul Stewart Research Fund, $18,703.11; IBBA Avian Research Fund, $14,263.06. Costs for publications are now $9.50 per member per year. Membership remains fairly stable at 328.

Editor reported 4 issues of *NABB* have been published (Vol. 26, No. 3, through Vol. 27, No. 2, inclusive). IBBA's page count in the four issues were: Vol. 26 (3): 3 pages; Vol. 26 (4): 25 pages; Vol. 27 (1): 6 pages; and Vol. 27 (2): 6 pages. Reviewers McGowan, Hennen, Cink and Lowther were thanked for their assistance.

Mist Net Account: This account has been closed and a box of nets returned to Mark Shieldcastle. A motion was made by D. Cimprich and seconded by J. Ingold to contact Birders Exchange or other organizations involved in Neotropical avian research as possible recipients of the nets. The board will vote on these findings via e-mail.

North American Banding Council: Tom Bartlett reported on the NABC meeting held in Big Sur, California, in late March. Certifications have been held around the country and approximately 100 banders are now certified. There is now a need to increase the number of trainers. Jerry Jackson, our previous representative, is to step down. T. Bartlett will be our current representative and President Shieldcastle appointed Heide denHaan as alternate, assuming her acceptance. A discussion was held to financially support Banding Lab personnel, who now can participate only at their own expense, not in a governmental capacity. While the IBBA board supports the proposition if all three banding associations were to help, WBBA president Ken Burton said WBBA did not have sufficient funds themselves for that purpose.

By-Law Revisions: Revisions related to our legal address and geographic locations were submitted and accepted. A complete copy will be sent to all board members, placed on our website, and published in *NABB*. A previously approved revision in 1994 had never been circulated.

Web Page: Improvements to our web site will be made, especially to keep it updated with current information and to include links from other web sites. The organization will seek to get its own domain with a possible name of ibba.org. Cathie Hutcheson will make the necessary contacts.

Grant Awards: V. Kleen, chairman of the grants committee, will post a copy of the design and protocol for grant requests for each fund on IBBA's web-site, the BIRDNET web page, and as a permanent information page in IBBA's section of *NABB*; the latter to include information on student membership. A final draft will be distributed via e-mail to board members for review and subsequent posting by 1 Dec 2002.

Future Meeting Sites: The 2003 meeting will be held in Illinois (south of Carbondale) with C. Hutcheson and V. Kleen as hosts on the third weekend in August. The 2004 meeting is scheduled for near Bartlesville, Oklahoma, hosted by D. Cimprich. Suggestions for future sites include Kalamazoo, Michigan, and a joint meeting with WBBA.