



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

IBBA 2010 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association's Annual Conference and General Meeting was held 29 - 31 Oct 2010 in Oak Harbor, OH, hosted by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Mark Shieldcastle serving as local chair. The Friday social included an enthusiastic talk by Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, on the Lake Erie Marsh Region and its importance to both birds and bird enthusiasts. Saturday morning included an opportunity to observe banding operations at Black Swamp Bird Observatory followed by lunch at the nearby Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Paper and poster sessions filled the afternoon. John Tautin, former Chief of the Bird Banding Laboratory, served as banquet speaker and presented "A look back at 108 years of bird banding in North America."

The IBBA conference was attended by 60 people with representation from throughout the region. Attendees were present from Alabama (1), Illinois (12), Indiana (2), Louisiana (1), Maryland (1), Michigan (11), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (1), Missouri (6), Ohio (18), Pennsylvania (2), Vermont (1), and Wisconsin (3).

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Tom Bartlett at 4:20 pm.

Minutes of the 2009 meeting were published in *NABB*. A correction in the terms listed for Dave

Vogt and Dave Russell, terms should be 2010 - 2012. Motion was made by Tom May to accept the minutes as corrected, Cathy Hutcheson seconded and the report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Bartlett presented the Treasurer's report (compiled by Brent Ortega). Operations Accounts: \$18,287.96, Paul Stewart Research Fund: \$22,592.02, and Life Members Fund: \$13,052.70, with a total of all funds of \$53,841.58. Terry Ingram motioned to accept, Hutcheson seconded and the report was accepted.

Membership: Bartlett presented Ortega's Membership report: Life Members 85, Regular Members 161, Inactive 20, with a total 266 members. Tom advised that the board is looking at ways to increase the IBBA Membership.

Grant Awards: Hutcheson reported that there are two types of grants up to \$1,000 available from the Paul Steward Fund and up to \$500 from the Avian Research Fund. Hutcheson reported that the IBBA Grant Committee, with approval of the board, will provide three grants this year. 1) Colleen Crank (*Do Eurasian Tree Sparrows engage in conspecific brood parasitism or extrapair fertilizations?*) requesting \$500 from the Avian Research Fund; 2) Dana Ripper (*Shorebird and passerine banding for research and conservation in central Missouri*) requesting \$1000 from the Paul Steward Fund; and 3) Donata R. Henry, Ph.D. (*Monitoring understory breeding productivity and survivorship in the bottomland hardwoods of a threatened coast*)

requesting \$888 from the Paul Steward Fund. The IBBA Grant Committee continues to encourage applicants for grants from both funds.

Editor: Peter Lowther continues to look for submissions to *NABB*, both the formal scientific articles and informal news and anecdotes. Lowther advised he was very willing to help if anyone wants to publish a report in *NABB*.

NABC: Bartlett reported that he and Mark Shieldcastle attended the NABC Conference in March 2010 in Tucson, AZ. The primary focus of the meeting was to define a strategic plan for NABC. The NABC was established 15 years ago. Bartlett noted that Mark Shieldcastle is now serving as the NABC president. Also, at the meeting, the NABC board made several adjustments to their certification process: 1) Once a NABC Trainer has been certified, there is no longer the requirement to re-certify as long as the trainer remains in contact with NABC and follows the NABC guidelines. 2) The field test in the certification process has been simplified. Bartlett also advised that prior to the annual IBBA meeting, there was a certification session, and all four candidates came prepared and passed the requirements. Bartlett encouraged the members to use the NABC website and the online manuals.

Nominations Committee: Bartlett presented the proposed slate of nominations for IBBA officers and new directors. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor; none were received. The slate of officers for 2010 - 2011 include **President Tom Bartlett, First Vice President David Cimprich, Second Vice President Cathie Hutcheson, Secretary Linda Tossing, Treasurer Brent Ortego and Directors (2010 - 2013) Dan Webb and Vernon Kleen.** Ingram motioned to approve the nominations as presented, Bob Thobaben seconded the motion, and the slate was accepted.

President's Comments: Bartlett reported that the majority of his news, etc., was covered during the NABC section. He did encourage submitting articles to *NABB*, especially IBBA's news and notes section.

Old Business:

Future Meetings: Bartlett advised that the board is still looking for a place for the next meeting. The location of the IBBA's annual meeting usually switches from north to south. As the Ohio meeting is in the north, we need a southern location. Several locations are being considered but not confirmed. Bartlett asked if there was any interest in hosting a meeting. Future meeting locations are yet to be determined; 2011 may be in Texas and 2012 may be in Wisconsin.

By-Laws Update: Bartlett advised that the board is still looking for potential sources for obtaining records to establish a history time-line in regards to the current by-laws. A review will be conducted this year and updates will be presented at the next annual meeting.

New Business:

NABB Back Issues Coordinator: Bartlett reported that with the passing of Don Varner, IBBA needs a Back Issues Coordinator. With each new issue of *NABB*, three to four copies are sent to the coordinator who then will fill any requests for past issues. The amount of items in storage at Varner's home is unknown. There were several volunteers offering to help out but wanted to know how much was involved. Bartlett will research how much is in storage and coordinate the effort to obtain a coordinator.

Hutcheson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Julie West second and the motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

• **Linda Tossing**
Secretary

Paper Session

Comparisons of foraging area and territory size in a small mid-Michigan population of Veery.
Mike Bishop, *Alma College Bird Observatory*,
bishop@alma.edu

Habitat use by breeding passerines revolves around, among other things, food gathering and territory defense. These two are assumed to dovetail with the territory being defended, because it contains food resources necessary for the survival of the individual, its mate, and their offspring. Through the use of banding and radio-telemetry, a small, breeding population of Veery have been observed since 1999. In that time, between four to six pairs of breeding Veery nested at the site annually. These birds were banded and recovered since 1999. Since 2004, they were also followed using radio-transmitters. Using the telemetry, individual adults were located throughout the summer, from nesting until fledging. Locations were recorded for those individuals located by receiver and also by individual males located when singing. Maps constructed from these geo-referenced locations identified differences between males' song territories and their foraging areas. The data from these studies indicate that the foraging area boundaries of these birds do not always correspond to their territorial boundaries as determined by the males' singing posts. Frequently, males exhibited movements that took them well into the territories of adjacent individuals and sometimes farther. Questions arise regarding the purpose of territory boundaries and resource defense.

A comparative look at avian collections and specimen results from 2007 - 2010 in East Baton Rouge Parish. Fred Augustine, *East Baton Rouge Mosquito Abatement Program*, faugustine@brgov.com

Avian collections in East Baton Rouge Parish have been a part of East Baton Rouge Mosquito Abatement and Rodent Control since its conception. For years, avians were collected from only limited rural area sites. After West Nile Virus (WNV) entered into East Baton Rouge Parish in late 2001 and early 2002, the number of sites increased dramatically in order to track virus activity and hopefully to discover the role avians play in the maintenance of WNV. This paper will simply look at avian collections and specimen results for the last three years in a comparative way. Key avian species that may play an important role in WNV

maintenance, resident and migratory, will be pointed out. The topography of the sites will be looked at to indicate important habitat that key avian species have adapted to which are adjacent to arbovirus mosquito vector species' habitats. Infection rates during critical amplification, early transmission, and late transmission phases will be studied in order to examine the importance of avians during specific Center for Disease Control defined weeks.

Bird population trends indicated by banding data. Lee G. Johnson, *Sand Bluff Bird Observatory*, lynleebirders@gmail.com

If the methods of capturing birds are constant in terms of location and duration, then the resulting data can indicate population trends over that period of time. In northern Illinois, mist nets were placed in exactly the same locations in various habitats and used to capture birds each spring and fall for 28 weekends each year for 40 years. The total number of new individuals banded at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory is 250,000; with retraps, the total number of encounters is 330,000. The data on the number of new bandings thus collected for each species over that period of time, when organized into graphs, indicate the population trends for birds migrating through, or resident in, the area where the nets are located. Some species banded that represent birds of different life histories or different habitats are shown on the graphs.

Birdlife response along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Mark S. Woodrey, *Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University*, mw103@ra.msstate.edu

The Deepwater Horizon Oil rig exploded on 20 Apr 2010. Ironically, the entire rig sank and began leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico on Earth Day (22 Apr 2010). Government scientists estimate that approximately 4.9 million barrels leaked into the Gulf of Mexico before the well was temporarily capped on 15 Jul 2010. The well was officially declared "killed" on 19 Sep 2010. Environmental response to the spill was immediate, with government (federal, state, county, local), non-government organizations, and academia working

together to protect and begin assessing damages to the natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Protection efforts involved skimming and burning oil on the surface, the use of dispersants, and the deployment of a containment and absorbent boom. Natural resource injuries are being assessed through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) process. Via this process, working groups, made up of technical experts, ecotoxicologists, and natural resource managers, were formed to focus on the varied resources which could be impacted by this spill, including birds. The Bird Technical Working Group developed or approved over 15 work plans, which address various aspects of avian ecology. According to the Department of Interior's Bird Impact Database (verified data only) summary downloaded from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website on 21 Sep 2010, 4943 individuals of 89 species have been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon incident. This presentation will provide an overview of the oil spill and highlight bird-related activities of the groups involved in responding to this environmental catastrophe.

Bird meets net: uniting Tennessee Warbler stopover ecology and sampling strategy in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. D. Vogt, M. Hopey, E.C. Soehren, and S.A. Rush, *Windsor University*, srush@uwindsor.ca

Stopover sites play a critical role in providing migrating passerines' key resources needed to complete epic journeys. However, passerines may also show variation in use of and fidelity to particular stopover locations (site fidelity). Here, we present an example where recapture data were examined for evidence of site fidelity by Tennessee Warblers at two banding stations operated during fall migration at high elevation balds in Tennessee (Whigg Meadow and Big Bald). During 2003 - 2008 at Whigg Meadow, 14 individuals exhibited inter-year site fidelity as they were recaptured outside of the original capture year. During this same time period at Big Bald, no individuals were recaptured outside of the initial capture year. To investigate possible explanations for this discrepancy in site fidelity between sites,

analyses of daily mass gain and daily residence probabilities were undertaken. During 2003 - 2008, older (AHY) Tennessee Warblers gained mass at a rate of (0.24 g/day) and younger (HY) individuals gained mass at a lower rate (0.15 g/day). However, there were no differences in age-dependent mass gain rates between sites. In general, daily residence and recapture probabilities were higher at Whigg Meadow, suggesting Tennessee Warblers spent longer time periods and had a higher probability of being recaptured at this site. Although the results of this study highlight factors that influence Tennessee Warbler stopover ecology, they also draw attention to the essential interplay between ecological inference and sampling strategy.

Bird Banding Lab update for 2010. Bruce Peterjohn, Chief, *Bird Banding Laboratory, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*, bpeterjohn@usgs.gov

In addition to the normal Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) functions of issuing permits, providing bands and managing banding and band encounter databases, a major project for 2010 is the conversion of hard copy encounter records to digital files. This conversion project involved approximately 725 boxes of paper records and nearly 1800 microfilm reels, and when completed, approximately 5.5 million digital records will have been created. Additionally, the BBL recently initiated an extensive update and revision to its website with the hope that the new website will be available to the banding community and general public by early 2011. The next version (3.0) of the BANDIT software is scheduled to be released in late 2010 or early 2011. Changes to the auxiliary marking reporting page, plans for accepting recapture data, and other BBL activities will be discussed.

Poster Session

Color-marking and radio tagging Red-tailed Hawks. Terrence N. Ingram, *Eagle Nature Foundation*, applecreek@juno.com

While teaching at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, in 1961 - 1968, I received

research grants for this research. The radio-tagged pair of Red-tails copulated on a limb, several times. The night roost for this pair of birds was a pine tree within the territory away from farm buildings. The only time this pair of birds was ever observed out of their territory was one night when the temperature was about -30°F. One day, while the female was sitting on eggs, the male disappeared. The new male used the same perch trees and soared over the same part of the territory, as if he were the original male. I was able to document five different populations of Red-tailed Hawks in the area. Shooting was the number one reason for these birds to die in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Each nesting pair has a territory of about one square mile. Depending on the included habitat, nesting territories were many times bounded by roads. Nests were located about as far away from traffic as possible. A healthy Red-tail population has stray birds around somewhere, ready to move in to replace a mate or even a pair within a very short time.

Morphometrics suggest Black-capped Chickadees in southwestern Ohio. Jill M Russell, *Department of Biology, College of Mount St. Joseph* and David E Russell, *Department of Zoology, Miami University*, jill_russell@mail.msj.edu

Recent studies have shown a limited introgression zone between Black-capped and Carolina chickadees through north-central Ohio and the continued retreat of Black-capped Chickadees to only the northern-most Ohio counties. Morphometrics collected from over 350 chickadees in southwestern Ohio suggest that Black-capped Chickadees or Black-capped/Carolina hybrids are more widespread than reported previously. Between 5 - 10% of individuals banded showed wing/tail ratios greater than the published cutoff of 0.9 between this species pair. Molecular studies are underway to confirm the presence of Black-capped Chickadee introgression within southwestern Ohio populations.

Comparison of bird communities of various habitats of the Oak Openings, Lucas County, Ohio. Julie A. Shieldcastle and Mark C. Shieldcastle, *Black Swamp Bird Observatory*, julieshieldcastle@bsbo.org

The Oak Openings region of western Lucas County and neighboring counties, Ohio, is the sole remaining patch of a once larger biome of the lower Great Lakes system. Previous to European settlement, the Oak Openings was a pocket of prairie and oak savanna nearly surrounded by the forests of the Great Black Swamp. Today, less than 2% of the complex of dunes and swales that supported the sedge meadows, prairies, sand barrens, and oak savannas remain. Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, managed by the Metroparks of the Toledo Area in Lucas County, consist of oak woodlands, pine plantations, fields and remnant prairies, dunes and black oak savanna which support an increasingly rare component of avian species associated with these specialized habitats. It is the objectives of this study to determine the avian communities associated with grassland/prairie, scrub/shrub, heavily managed oak savanna, and a control of unmanaged oak woodland; identify the habitat components necessary for successful breeding of the wide variety of birds dependent on these habitats; to provide direction in management efforts of the habitats; and to educate the public on avian needs in the region. The shrub/scrub habitat, first thought as an area that needed to be changed to either a grassland or savanna, has been identified as the most important habitat studied for diversity and abundance. Avian response to management has also given insight into burn regime frequency. Annual burns have shown a reduced avian use and major reductions in deep woods nesters. Grassland restoration has shown the ability to improve habitat conditions for some species, such as the Lark Sparrow. Bird behavior results in the recommendation that some shrubs be left during restoration efforts to provide territory perches for breeding birds. Habitat management needs to include area sensitive species in landscape plans.

Monitoring avian productivity, survivorship, and response to habitat change on Blue Heron Reserve: 1994 - 2007. Mark Shieldcastle and Kim Kaufman, *Black Swamp Bird Observatory*, markshieldcastle@bsbo.org

Blue Heron Reserve is located north of Clyde in Sandusky County, Ohio, and is owned and

managed by the Sandusky Park District. It was acquired through a donation from The Nature Conservancy and a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The reserve contains unique natural features such as a calcareous fen and seasonal wetlands, and provides important habitat for a variety of bird species. In 1994, Black Swamp Bird Observatory initiated a long-term MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding station to monitor avian populations at Blue Heron Reserve. The MAPS program is a cooperative effort to provide critical long-term data on population parameters, which are needed to understand the causes of regional population changes. Constant-effort mist netting was employed, following the MAPS protocol. Vegetation was characterized at the beginning of the study and then once every five years to detect changes over time that could affect bird populations and demographic parameters. A total of 4,668 birds of 72 species have been banded with 51 as confirmed or probable breeders. Results of this study have been used to provide recommendations to the Sandusky County Park District for both short- and long-term management decisions. To maximize avian diversity, a management plan should aim to maintain

the diversity of habitats present on the Reserve, especially the grassland and shrub/scrub components.

Bird banding projects of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Mark C. Shieldcastle, Research Director *Black Swamp Bird Observatory*, markshieldcastle@bsbo.org

Banding is a universal technique for marking individual birds to study their movements, survival and behavior. Banding data are important for research, education, management and conservation. BSBO currently runs several banding projects throughout the Lake Erie Marsh region of Ohio, as well as throughout the state and in southeastern Michigan. The primary goals of these projects are to monitor long-term population trends and habitat use of bird species; to identify the importance of the Lake Erie Marsh region to bird populations; and to use this information to inform management and conservation decisions. Projects include passerine migration and breeding studies, breeding colonial waders, colonial nesting passerines, and migrational timing of rails. Over 500,000 birds have been banded since 1978 of 243 species. Over 300 banded birds are caught as returns annually as well as several thousand stopover encounters.

