

**Inland Bird Banding Association
2012 Annual Meeting
Fontanelle Forest Nature Center
Bellevue, NE**

The Inland Bird Banding Association met jointly on 26-28 Oct 2012 with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at the Fontanelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, NE. The Friday evening reception included a presentation from Phil Swanson of a year's seasonal review of the birds found in the Omaha area entitled "Welcome to Omaha ... It's for the birds" followed by a field trip led by Al Reyer to observe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding under the auspices of the Hitchcock Nature Center in nearby Iowa. Saturday activities included several half- or full-day field trips. Saturday's afternoon paper presentations were given by Wayne Mollhoff (comparison of Nebraska's second Breeding Bird Atlas with the state's first atlas survey of 1984-1989), Jerry Toll (report on diurnal raptor banding), Sandy Reinken (discussing Northern Saw-whet Owl banding), Rich Schmid (compared MAPS stations at Fontanelle Forest [1990-1999] and at Boyer Chute Wildlife Refuge [2001-2010]) and Denise Lewis of Raptor Recovery Nebraska (talking about raptor rehabilitation and displaying several of their "educational birds"). The evening's banquet was followed by a program given by Neal Ratzlaff ("Names for birds – physicians, women and the Smithsonian" from the perspective of Spencer Baird describing the discovery and naming of Lucy's, Virginia's, Grace's and Blackburnian warblers). Additional field trips were held Sunday morning. Betty Grenon and Rick Schmid co-chaired the local committee on arrangements.

First Board Meeting – 26 Oct 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Bartlett at 4:00 pm. In attendance were Board Members Tom Bartlett, Cathie Hutcheson, Vernon Kleen and Dana Ripper; *NABB* Editor Peter Lowther; incoming Board Member Mike Eickman, and visitor Deb Eichman. Tom Bartlett declared no

quorum. Secretary's report of last year's meeting was published in *NABB*. Board is unable to accept report or minutes at this time.

There was discussion about which minutes or reports should be published in *NABB*. Peter Lowther indicated that minutes from all meetings should be sent in.

Treasurer's report: revenue \$4649; expenses \$3768.80 (all for cost of *NABB*) with net of \$880. Accounts include checking, \$1875.46; IBBA Research Fund, \$2001.34; Paul Stewart Research Fund, \$500.68; and Life Membership, \$2001. CD Investments include IBBA Research, \$7050.59; Paul Stewart Research, \$20,366.83; and Life Membership, \$18,188.12. Total Assets: \$51,984.00. Vern Kleen asked what happened to the revenue from the IBBA Silent Auction items last year. In the past, auction revenue has sometimes been given to the local host. There was discussion at last year's meeting in Weslaco about where the money from the auction should go – IBBA or local host. This discussion is not in the Board Meeting minutes from Weslaco. End result of last year's auction unknown, and revenue is not noted in Treasurer's report.

Membership report: 77 Life Members, 118 Annual with total of 195. Membership is down. What can be done about this? Cathie Hutcheson mentions that banding (and ornithology in general) is way down at universities; e.g., Southern Illinois University where there is no ornithologist currently. What can be done to help get membership up? Two suggestions discussed: 1. New brochure: Dana Ripper will work on a new brochure and send results to other Board Members for approval. Once approved, the Board and other banders in our network can forward to potential members. 2. Updates to website to make it look better! Tom Bartlett is contact with web designer.

Board meetings: Tom Bartlett: We have problems with all Board Members attending, such as today when we do not have a quorum. The By-Laws must

be changed so that meetings can be conducted electronically. In the future, we must be able to include Board Members in decisions and board meeting discussions even if they cannot be physically present.

Grant Committee report: Cathie Hutcheson reported on a grant proposal received from World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) (Linda Tossing, Pat Leuders, Val Geile) for \$510 for additional equipment for increasing their capacity for migration banding. Committee has approved the proposal. Only suggestion is that nets be purchased from Manomet so that WBS can get more for their money. Vern Kleen motioned that the Board approve the proposal; Cathie Hutcheson seconded. The vote is tabled until tomorrow evening's second Board Meeting.

Editor's report was provided to all Board Members via email. This year has been reasonably successful in terms of submissions. Tom Bartlett's requests to IBBA Board Members for material has resulted in five papers submitted. Slowest part of the publishing process is the reviewing; however, publishing is generally very timely with 5-6 weeks possible turnaround time. When authors present color-photos to *NABB* for publication, they cannot be actually printed in *NABB*. Associations are responsible for providing an on-line version of the article with the color-photos. Discussion continued on latest submission dates for possible inclusion in next published *NABB*; for volume 37, issue 4: Lowther estimated 15 Nov for receipt of Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. Guidance on approximate dates for submission so Bartlett can make future assignments: Issue 1: 1 Feb; Issue 2: 1 May; Issue 3: 1 Aug; Issue 4: 1 Nov.

NABC Report provided via email by Mark Sheildcastle. Discussion about North American Banding Council included mention of Mexican banders recently certified by NABC. Should we include Mexico in the IBBA? This discussion was started in Texas last year but was not concluded. This would require a change in By-laws to include the appropriate Mexican states. Lowther suggests

talking with the BBL about expanding our area to be supportive of Mexican banders and including them in IBBA. Bartlett will be in contact with BBL and others to explore this idea.

Nominating Committee provided the following slate: Tom Bartlett: President 4th term; Dave Cimprich: 1st VP 4th term; Linda Tossing: 2nd VP 2nd term; Dana Ripper: Secretary 2nd term; Brent Ortego: Treasurer 4th term; and Directors Mike Eickman from Illinois and Erica Dittmar from Michigan.

President's Report: Tom Bartlett has no news.

Old Business: Future Meetings: The 2013 meeting will be held with EBBA in Tennessee, 5-7 Apr 2013. The upcoming issue of *NABB* has a full-page invitation to this meeting. Saskatchewan was suggested for the 2014 meeting and Bartlett had a potential host, but it is not certain. Minnesota was proposed as another possibility. Indiana was suggested as a possible location for the 2015 Meeting.

Back issues of *NABB* have been put together by Cathie Hutcheson with complete set in two boxes, other than *NABB* 1-6; incomplete sets in 10-11 boxes. Issues of *NABB* through 2000 are currently on SORA. Peter Lowther will check on the progress by SORA on getting issues up to 2005 on-line. Tom Bartlett suggested Cathie Hutcheson recycle any *NABBs* issued before 2000 (other than the complete set).

New Business: There have been discussions among ornithological societies to join together. Lowther reports that these discussions have continued and are considering a confederation of societies with consolidated journal publication, joint meetings, etc.

By-Law amendment concerning electronic voting: Tom Bartlett and Vern Kleen will send examples of By-Laws with e-voting clauses. Tom Bartlett will present changes to By-Laws in his President's Notes in *NABB*, so that the general membership can vote on this at next year's meeting.

Midwest Monitoring Network: Banding data are desired by the USFWS Midwest office (along with survey and research data). This office also would like a network of banders that follows a standardized protocol. Cathie Hutcheson suggested simply querying the Banding Lab. Tom Bartlett questioned whether or not the USFWS office is supporting further Banding Lab funding and permit issuance.

Motion to Adjourn: by Cathie Hutcheson, seconded by Vern Kleen. Meeting adjourned 5:50 p.m..

General Business Meeting – 27 Oct 2012

Meeting called to order by President Tom Bartlett at 3:58 p.m.

Roll Call: Dana Ripper passed an attendance sheet. 17 IBBA members in attendance, including Board.

Secretary's report: Published in *NABB*. Mike Eickman motioned for acceptance, Roger Everhart seconded. Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's report: (see First Board Meeting, above). Hopefully, CDs will increase in interest rate and truly fund Life Memberships. Brent Ortego is up for 4th term as Treasurer.

Membership report: 77 Life Members, 118 Annual. This is down about 1/3 from 10 years ago.

President's report:

Old Business: Mark Sheildcastle was our representative at North American Banding Council. NABC is streamlining the certification process this year. Written test will not be as rigorous, field test will carry more weight.

More articles needed for *NABB* – Peter Lowther is willing to help people who would like to publish. Lowther commented that the process for publication is not difficult. Papers are not rejected, though reviews are conducted and edits suggested.

Future Meetings: The 2013 Annual Meeting will be 5-7 Apr in Tennessee as a joint meeting with the Eastern Bird Banding Associa-

tion. Possible 2014 Meeting will be in Saskatchewan or at Roger Everhart's banding station in Minnesota. Meeting hosts are encouraged to have joint meetings with other ornithology or birding organizations which gives good exposure for banding.

IBBA Membership/Public Relations: Web page: Members are encouraged to make suggestions about the IBBA website. Our IBBA website needs to be made more exciting in order to increase recruitment. We look forward to improving its appearance. Erika Dittmor volunteered to work on the website.

New Business

Officer Elections: Mark Shieldcastle remains a Director, but Dave Russell and Dave Vogt have stepped down. Officers up for election: Tom Bartlett: President 4th term; Dave Cimprich: 1st VP 4th term; Linda Tossing: 2nd VP 2nd term; Dana Ripper: Secretary 2nd term; Brent Ortego: Treasurer 4th term. Directors Mike Eickman from Illinois and Erica Dittmar from Michigan for 1st terms. Vern Kleen moved, Joyce Varner seconded that the ballot be closed. All voted aye. Vern Kleen moved, Joyce Varner seconded that the slate be elected by unanimous acclamation. All voted aye.

Changes to By-Laws: Tom Bartlett presented the need for a provision in the By-Laws allowing electronic Board communications, including meetings and decisions. Tom Labeledz suggested that proposals up for vote by the Board or the General Membership be provided to those entities X number of days (e.g., 30) before the decision is to be made. Tom Labeledz and Peter Lowther commented on the possible addition of a provision where any correspondence regarding a topic up for vote is copied to the Secretary. Secretary then compiles the entire conversation in one document and provides that document to the appropriate parties.

Discussion of e-versions of *NABB*. Peter Lowther reports that in the short-term, the journal will continue to be published in black and white, with

links provided within the articles that bring the reader to color photos on-line. EBBA, IBBA, and WBBA are discussing the possibility of moving towards a completely electronic version. The work to get the journal ready for print is essentially the same process that would occur for an e-version. Jim Coffman mentioned that an e-version can be forwarded to others – works well for recruitment of new members. Others cautioned that part of membership dues are for access to the journal, and an e-version that can be passed to anyone discourages buying into membership. Tom Bartlett indicated that the Presidents of the Banding Associations will be discussing this and other matters; Peter Lowther also indicated that he and the other Editors will be continuing the discussion.

Jim Coffman moved to adjourn. Seconded by Cathie Hutchinson. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Second Board Meeting – 27 Oct 2012

Meeting called to order by Tom Bartlett at 4:50 pm. Board Members present: Linda Tossing, Tom Bartlett, Vern Kleen, Dana Ripper, Mike Eickman, Erika Dittmar; Editor Peter Lowther. Tom Bartlett declares a quorum.

Forego reports from the Secretary and Treasurer.

Grant Committee Business: Tom Bartlett summarized World Bird Sanctuary proposal that was approved by the Grants Committee. Mike Eickman moved, Dana Ripper seconded that the grant should be approved. All voted aye. Grant approved.

Revisitation of brochure/recruitment methods: Need for a mission statement. IBBA does not have a mission statement and it is necessary.

Need for website changes: Erika Dittmor will be taking over the website duties. Board and other members will email Erika with updates. Tom will

contact Jim Engle to gather all the information about the website (domain, access, etc).

Mike Eickman moved to adjourn, Linda Tossing seconds. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Ripper
Secretary

Summary and Comparisons of Two East Nebraska MAPS Stations

This report provides results and comparisons of two MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship) stations operated in central eastern Nebraska, the Fontenelle Forest site (“Fontenelle”) was maintained from 1990 to 1998 and the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge site (“Boyer Chute”) operated from 2001 to 2010. Both sites are located on flood plain land approximately 0.5 mi from the Missouri River. These stations are approximately 25 mi apart with the more northerly Boyer Chute site in Washington County and the Fontenelle site in Sarpy County.

Fontenelle is forested mainly with sycamore, white elm and cottonwood trees with red osier dogwood and red mulberry understory and stinging nettle, bedstraw and forbs providing ground cover. A small stream runs on the western edge of the site and pastureland borders the eastern edge. All nets are located within the forested areas.

Boyer Chute is wooded more openly with cottonwood, red mulberry and red osier dogwood with the open areas dominated by brome grass and significant poison ivy. Adjacent to the banding area to the east is a re-created prairie dominated by switchgrass, big bluestem and side-oats gramma. A chute of the Missouri River runs along the western border. One net is located within the prairie area; the others are in the wooded edges.