Inland Bird Banding Association
2014 Annual Meeting
Regina, Saskatchewan
9 Aug 2014

President Tom Bartlett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Roll Call (Dana Ripper): Sign-up sheet was sent around for attendees; about 20 IBBA members were present; altogether about 50 individuals were present at the meeting.

Secretary's Report (Dana Ripper): Minutes of the prior business meeting were published in ***NABB***. It was moved to approved the minutes as published (motion by Mike Eichman; seconded by Jared Clarke).

Treasurer's Report (Brent Ortego): Presented on screen. Questions on what the expenses were for 2013, but we spent more than what was taken in. Most of our expenses were for grant awards and publication of ***NABB***. IBBA pays an amount for life membership ***NABB*** costs which need to be transferred from the Life Member account to the general account. We have $51,215.09 in four accounts: checking, $4,139.56; Stewart Research, $18,899.20; IBBA Research, $7,884.26; and Life Membership, $20,292.07. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report; S. Houston moved, J. Clark seconded, approved.

Membership Secretary's Report (Brent Ortego): We need more members and we need to encourage people who are banding birds to join and participate in meetings. Currently, we have 77 Life Members and 106 regular members for a total membership of 183. This number is down by over 40% from 15 years ago.

NABC Report (Mark Shieldcastle): Shieldcastle attended a North American Banding Council (NABC) meeting in May held in Rhode Island. NABC primarily serves to raise skill levels of banders and ensure ethical treatment of birds. Issues discussed concerned the use of photographs of banding in social media because of anti-banding web sites and how to handle big days of migration banding when too many birds enter traps or nets. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) funding is soft money, so we need to find ways to help out. BBL is trying to get more training materials available. A Saskatchewan NABC certification session will be held after the IBBA meeting. NABC's goals are not only to evaluate proficiency in banders but also to help banders improve. NABC would like to involve more regulatory agencies in NABC activities.

Nominating Committee Report (Jim Coffman): Ballots were distributed for officers and directors for upcoming years. V. Kleen as President, T. Kashmer as 1st VP, L. Tossing as 2nd VP, D. Ripper as Secretary, M. Eichmann as Treasurer. Board positions will be M. Shieldcastle and Steve Gabrey. Appointments by the Board to fill unfilled positions: Richard Keith - Michigan (2015), Scott Rush - Mississippi (2016).

President's report (Tom Bartlett): Bartlett reported on the effort to have this meeting in Saskatchewan, which had never hosted a meeting. Jared Clarke and Matt Tokaruk have done an outstanding job putting this meeting together. The organization is now down to only two states which have never hosted a meeting–North Dakota and Kentucky. We need to make an effort to get meetings in those two states. A thank you to Dave Cimprich, Brent Ortego, and Eric Soehren for their years of service to the organization.

Old Business.
Discussion was made about where and when to hold the 2015 Annual Meeting with Mississippi or Louisiana being possibilities. IBBA is open to invitations from any group. Additional discussion occurred about where and when to hold the 2016 Annual Meeting. Only two states have not hosted an IBBA meeting: Kentucky and North Dakota. Kentucky will be the first priority.

Yearly Banding Data Report: Mark Shieldcastle obtained data from the BBL to summarize banding for the IBBA area for 2012. This procedure can be followed to produce a yearly report. Unfortunately these data are not available until October (at least) of the following year, but results will be fairly comprehensive. The resulting tables will be long and discussion considered the possibility of putting them on our webpage with a link in a summary article that would appear in ***NABB***. A group from Wisconsin

has volunteered to handle collecting these data. For 2012, the 15 states and two provinces of the IBBA region banded 371,000 individual birds of 384 species.

IBBA Webpage. The web manager needs photographs and information, so please send her data and an email with suggestions.

New Business

Election of a new Board: Motion was made to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion by Jared Clarke and seconded by Spencer Sealy, approved. New Board comprises President – Vernon Kleen, Illinois – 1st term; 1st VP – Thomas Kashmer, Ohio – 1st term; 2nd VP – Linda Tossing, Missouri – 3rd term; Secretary – Dana Ripper, Missouri – 4th term; Treasurer – Mike Eichman, Illinois - 1st term; and 2017 Board of Directors: Mark Shieldcastle, Ohio – 2nd term and Steven Gabrey, Louisiana – 1st term. Board appointed Richard Keith of Michigan to fill the remainder of Mike Eichman's Board position and Scott Rush of Mississippi to fill the remainder of Vernon Kleen's Board position.

Bylaw amendments/changes: Board discussion looked at changes to the bylaws to allow a rotation of individuals from 2nd VP to 1st VP to President, instead of re-nominating people yearly and to make the Secretary and Treasurer positions to be 5-year terms. This proposal will be coming up for additional discussion and vote in the next year with recommendations from a committee.

Other: Is IBBA able to set up a system where the Canadians do not have to pay a fee to pay their dues? We need to investigate banking problems. Sending ***NABB*** journals in bulk to be mailed in Canada might be a way to save money in postage.
Great thanks to Tom Bartlett for being President.

Adjourn. Jared Clark moved, Raymond Pettinger seconded, approved.
Minutes taken by Cathie Hutcheson.

Presentation Abstracts

A bird in the hand: tools for migratory bird research and conservation. ***Lesley Howes***, Bird Banding Office, Environment Canada, Ottawa, ON, and ***Brenda Dale***, Environment Canada, Edmonton, AB.

Migratory birds are federally protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) and the Migratory Birds Regulations (MBRs). The regulations allow otherwise prohibited activities (kill, take or capture and band migratory birds) to proceed under permit. Environment Canada supports scientific research related to migratory birds and their habitats through the issuance of scientific permits for projects that meet Canadian scientific and ethical standards. Together with banders and other key partners, the Bird Banding Office aspires to high scientific and ethical standards for the use of free living birds in science. High standards support scientific validity and integrity of bird marking data and is generally accepted by the public. Bird banding and marking provides data vital for basic scientific knowledge about birds and the environments in which they live. Bird banding remains a relevant, specialized, cost effective, scientific tool for tracking bird movements locally and globally.

Cooperative Snowy Owl monitoring in Saskatchewan. ***Marten Stoffel***, Saskatoon, SK, and ***Dan Zazelenchuk***, Kyle, SK.

[No Abstract]

Mary Houston: the pre-eminent bander of Bohemian Waxwings. ***Stuart Houston***, Saskatoon, SK (photos by Brent Terry)

Mary has monopolized the banding (5387 in 40 winters) and the recoveries/encounters (44 of the 66 encounters in North America) of a single bird species to a greater degree than anyone else since North American banding began in 1921. Using traps exclusively, not mist-nets, Mary banded 1,259 in the peak winter, had four winters with a single waxwing banded, and 21 winters with zero caught. Patience, persistence and preparation are the keys.

Quantifying the success of experimental translocation to manage overabundant Canada Geese breeding in urban areas. ***Jared B. Clarke***, Wascana Centre Authority, Regina, SK, and ***Tyler Flockhart,*** Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.

Translocation (the capture and release of an

organism at distant locations) is one method available to wildlife managers to deal with nuisance Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) across North America, particularly in urban settings. It is well documented that translocation can be used successfully to establish Canada Goose populations in novel locations, using flightless immature and adult geese, as well as temporarily reduce goose populations in certain areas for periods of time; however, few studies describe the survival or fidelity rates of translocated geese. In Wascana Centre, an urban park in Regina, SK, translocation has been used to control the goose population for over 40 years. Between 2009 and 2013, we initiated a banding study and used a multi-state capture-mark-recapture analysis to assess the effectiveness of translocation to the Wascana Canada Goose management program. During the study, we banded 2,943 Canada Geese (1,325 immature, 1,618 adults), recorded 1,452 encounters (resightings or recaptures) and received 542 band recoveries from 2009 to 2014. A total of 2,222 geese were translocated from Wascana to the release site at Cumberland Lake, SK. Surveys were conducted throughout the breeding season in Wascana between 2010 and 2013. Our results suggest translocation did not affect the survival probability of immature or adult geese, which varied from 0.34 to 0.85 and 0.65 to 0.90, respectively. Immature geese had a higher probability of adopting the translocation site (0.52 to 0.89) compared to adult geese (0.11 to 0.17). Fifty percent (n = 519) of translocated adult geese were observed back in Wascana during the study period, compared to only 3% (n = 29) of translocated immature geese. Translocation can be an effective management tool to control Canada Goose populations, depending on the management goal of the site.

Survivorship of two passerine species at a Saskatchewan bird-banding station. ***Gabriel J. Foley, Stephen K. Davis, and R. Mark Brigham,*** *Department of Biology, University of Regina, Regina, SK.*

Understanding factors that influence survival is important for appropriate wildlife management and conservation. Such information allows managers to track population changes, address influences behind population changes, and make better informed management decisions. Birds are good indicators of ecosystem health and annual survival can be estimated for birds using capture-mark-recapture methods, but separating death from emigration is difficult. Therefore, survival estimates obtained when death and emigration are inseparable are termed apparent survival. We attempted to quantify the effects of age and sex on apparent survival in two songbird species: Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) and Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). Data were collected over 80 years at a Saskatchewan bird-banding station associated with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. No hatch-year birds were ever recaptured, so we could not determine the effects of age on apparent survival. Underdeveloped survival abilities likely influenced the lack of hatch-year birds recaptured, but high dispersal rates and low site fidelity in young birds were also likely influential. We found no effect of sex on survivorship for either species. Female-biased mortality among songbirds is commonly reported, but minimal sex-related morphological differences and similar reproductive energy costs may be responsible for relatively equal mortality rates between the sexes.

Parental care by lone male Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, and Great Horned Owls was limited to providing food. ***Joseph K. Schmutz****, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK,* ***Martin A. Gerard****, Saskatoon, SK,* ***Gordon S. Court****, Department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Edmonton, AB,* and ***R. Wayne Nelson****, Camrose, AB.*

In three long-term studies of Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*), Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*), and Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), we observed rare but regular occurrences of superabundant prey at nests where nestlings were hungry, emaciated, or dead. In these cases, a male appeared to be the lone parent; the female was found dead, kept away by disturbance, or simply absent. We conclude that the male

parents, whose normal role is to provide food, were unable to expand their care to include morseling, feeding, and brooding. Faced with the stress of incessant food begging by nestlings, the male parents responded by bringing more and more food to the nest, to the point where food spoiled while the young starved amid plenty. We provide and interpret detailed observations for 11 such cases and suggest several variables that would influence the nestlings' chance of survival.

Use of nest boxes for small owls in central Saskatchewan. ***Harold Fisher***, Prince Albert, SK.

Nest boxes can be used as a useful tool for censusing species of birds whose nesting sites may be difficult to discover. By placing nest boxes, it is possible to attract cavity-nesting species to a specific site and thereby eliminating the nest search. It is also possible to follow the nesting dynamics by designing the boxes for ease of inspection. Our attempts to lure Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) into the utilization of nest boxes began in 2006 with the installation of three boxes. Additional nest boxes were installed annually and by the spring of 2014 we had 118 boxes in place. The study area is in the parkland and forested regions of central Saskatchewan and includes Nisbet and Fort a la Corne island forests and southern portions of the Northern Provincial Forest. During the years 2008 to 2014, 41 nest boxes were occupied by saw-whet owls and five by Boreal Owls (*Aegolius funereus*). Nest boxes were inspected twice each spring and the contents documented. Prey items found in the nests varied from year to year with Gapper's Redback Voles (*Clethrionomys gapperi*) representing from 81.3% of the prey items in 2011 to only 6.3% in 2014, while Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*) and Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) represented 6.3% to 43.8% and 0% to 50.0% of the food items during the same interval. The number of saw-whet owl chicks fledged from the boxes varied from 4.2 to 2.9 chicks per nest during this interval, with success rates seeming to parallel the Gapper's Redback Vole numbers. Nest initiation dates (laying of the first egg) for Northern Saw-whet Owls varied from 1 Apr 2012, to 17 May 2013. Boreal Owls reach the southern limit of their breeding range in the study area. We have documented five nests in the Nisbet Provincial Forest. Of the four successful nests, we banded two, three, three and five chicks prior to fledging.

Call for Proposals for the Inland Bird Banding Association (IBBA) Grant Programs

The **INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION (IBBA)** maintains two funds for providing grants to individuals conducting research which involves banding or marking birds. IBBA is accepting proposals until 31 Dec 2014 for the year 2015. For more information, please visit our website at http://www.ibbainfo.org All applications for grants shall be directed to the Second Vice President – Linda C. Tossing at ltossing@aol.com

The **AVIAN RESEARCH FUND** is for the purposes of providing limited grants to IBBA members conducting research that involves the banding or marking of native wild birds. Grants: A total of $500 in grant money may be authorized annually for Project Proposals that are approved by the IBBA Grant Committee. Notification of grant decisions by the IBBA Grant Committee will be recommended for IBBA board approval within 31 days of the submission deadline of 31 Dec 2014.

The **PAUL STEWART IBBA AVIAN RESEARCH FUND** is for the purposes of providing limited grants to individuals conducting research that involves the banding or marking of Neotropical migratory birds. Grants: A total of $1000 in grant money may be authorized annually for Project Proposals that are approved by the IBBA Grant Committee. Notification of grant decisions by the IBBA Grant Committee will be recommended for IBBA board approval within 31 days of the submission deadline of 31 Dec 2014.

If have you have questions, please direct your questions to Linda C. Tossing at ltossing@aol.com.