

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