

Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program.

As always, other research activities and educational programs were integrated with the banding

program. We provided ongoing training to more than 50 volunteers this fall, and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing Piranga online photo library at:

(<http://www.natureinstruct.org/piranga/>)



## Inland Regional News

**Inland Bird Banding Association**

**Founded 1922**

### President's Notes

**2015 Annual Meeting!** Many thanks to Dr. Scott Rush and his associates for sponsoring a great meeting along Mississippi's Gulf coast. Several participants were treated to their "lifer" Yellow Rails and all appreciated the opportunity to see at least one Le Conte's and many Henslow's sparrows along with a Sedge Wren in the hand. The minutes for the meeting are accompanying this message.

**Website!** Many thanks, too, to Erika Dittmar (even though she is currently working in Hawaii) for maintaining our website; please check it out every so often and provide her with some photos or other information she could add to the site.

**2016 Meeting!** It is not too early to think about 2016; the annual meeting is scheduled for the second weekend in November (11-13 Nov 2016) at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in east-central Indiana. Put the date in your calendars and plan to be there. I have been informed that one of the target species for banding that weekend is the Saw-whet Owl.

**Inland Flyway Review!** In my last report I made reference to a potential "Inland Flyway Review", similar to that of EBBA, for regular appearance in NABB. After discussing the possibility with several banders and being told by

the operators of several banding stations that they would participate. Let us get it going. I am using the same format as that already established by EBBA (with approval from Elizabeth Brooks). The one page report form (mostly fill-in-the-blank) for the 2015 fall season is ready to send out. A note to Inland station operators, please request the form; it can be provided by snail mail or email. Many thanks for your interest and support.

**Enjoy the birds!** Finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the year to enjoy the birds (even if just for a little bit).

*Vernon Kleen*

### Inland Bird Banding Association 2015 Annual Meeting

Inland Bird Banding Association met at Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Moss Point, MS, from 13 - 15 Nov 2015. The meeting was hosted by Scott Rush of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS. Friday activities included a meeting of IBBA's Board of Directors, general registration and reception, and night surveys for Yellow Rail and other species at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife

Refuge. Saturday morning included a morning field trip to Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas to target Henslow's Sparrows and other grassland species. Paper sessions (abstracts below) were held in the afternoon. The evening banquet speaker was Frank Moore, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, speaking on *Long Term Banding, Environmental Change and Migration Biology*. Additional local field trips were held on Sunday morning.

### First Board Meeting

**Welcome.**— Vernon Kleen called the meeting to order at 4 pm, Friday, 14 Nov 2015. Present were President Vernon Kleen, First Vice President Tom Kashmer, Second Vice President Linda Tossing, Treasurer Michael Eichman, Past-President Tom Bartlett, and directors James Ingold, Scott Rush, Mark Shieldcastle and Steven Gabrey.

**Secretary's Report** (Dana Ripper).— The report from last year's meeting had been distributed by email. Motion to accept minutes was approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Michael Eichman).— Report presented with balances totaling approximately \$47,000 among all accounts. Donations for *NABB* account from life accounts. Dues for 2016 are coming in already and reminder notices will be sent out soon. There had been some difficulty in switching accounts from Texas to Illinois, but problems have been solved. Dues notices to membership are to be sent out by email; therefore we need current email addresses for members, especially life members. Motion to accept report approved. It costs about \$41 per member for *NABB*. This cost is not covered by life membership funds.

**Membership Report** (Michael Eichman).— IBBA membership includes 69 life members, 89 members (including three new members), nine institutional, and three complementary.

**Editor's Report** (Peter Lowther).— Report distributed via email. Lowther looks forward to receiving manuscripts for upcoming issues. Board members should contribute to *NABB*, and we should encourage general membership to publish.

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Mark Shieldcastle gathered 2014 banding records for the IBBA region which will appear in the next issue. Discussion suggested that notices of IBBA grants should be published yearly.

**NABC Report.**— Results of the NABC meeting held in Baton Rouge on 15 Apr 2015 include a report that their nest box manual is out; a shorebird certification meeting was held two months ago; the certification process is being reviewed; and the hummingbird manual is being rewritten. The next meeting will be held in Texas in Apr 2016. NABC recommends trainers to certify their own banders and become more active in the certification process. The original groups that formed the organization are all still in NABC. A few web sites are coming out against banding. NEPA process is a federal environmental review process to look at operations—documented projects will be fine, but other banding operations may have some trouble keeping permits. Only people with banding permits are allowed to handle birds; station permits are somewhat problematic.

### Old Business

**Web Page Update** (Erika Dittmar).— Board members should send her their biographies and photos for use on IBBA's web page.

**Bylaws Update** (Tom Bartlett).— Suggested changes to the Bylaws had been distributed by email. One change proposed is for term limits for board members. Having a membership address for several years so one place will be for membership. Bylaw changes now will become effective at the annual meeting next year. Proposed changes are two-year terms for Second Vice President, First Vice President, President, each moving up; five-year terms for secretary and treasurer with potential for second term (10-year limit); and only two board members (other than the president) from the same state. Proposal of changes approved.

**Mission Statement Update.**— A mystery; updated two years ago.

**Grant Committee Proposals** (Linda Tossing).— Grant committee emailed report listing awarded grants. Last year the grant proposal

guidelines were revised, including a change to permit submission electronically and listing the expectations for grantees with proposals due 31 Dec and awardees notified by March. This did not happen. It is difficult to have a proposal recommendation approval using email. The committee recommends changing back the proposal deadline to the end of the year and present recommendations at board meetings. There was discussion about formatting, submission of applications, as to delineate those things which should be written into the rules (i.e., include master permit number). Tossing will update requirements and email board members for approval.

#### **Other New Business**

**2016 Annual Meeting.**— IBBA has received an invitation to meet in Indiana, 11-13 Nov 2016 at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary (about 45 minutes east of Indianapolis) hosted by Amy Wilms.

**Nominating Committee Report** (Tom Bartlett).— Ballot on web page listing terms and positions for officers and board members. Next year's terms will be starting new. Slate approved.

**Inland Flyway Review.**— Station reports to be included. Announcements will be made to encourage contributions, showing a template/format for the listing. General business meeting will begin about 4pm, Saturday; announcement this evening to membership.

We need a new membership brochure. Bartlett has an example of an older version. The web page needs to have one that is printable, but we need to be able to distribute forms at IBBA and other meetings. Suggestions can be sent to Bartlett.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

#### **Annual Meeting**

**Welcome.**— Vernon Kleen called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, Saturday, 14 Nov 2015.

**Secretary's Report** (Dana Ripper).— Motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in *NABB* was approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Michael Eichman).— Current balances reported for all accounts and grant accounts: \$48,583.95 total assets; expenditures include \$2000 awarded as grants. The value of life membership accounts down from last year because no interest received on accounts. Some income included money returned from grants awarded. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved.

**Membership Report** (Michael Eichman).— Membership includes 69 life, 89 regular, 3 new members, 12 sustaining, 9 institutional, 5 students, 3 complementary. Discussion occurred about problems Canadians have had over the last few years with extra charges from banks; allowing credit cards to be used for conference registration; allowing credit card payment for membership fees through the IBBA web site; and allowing members an option to pay for multiple years. Motion made to allow members in any category to pay for three years of dues approved.

**Editor's Report** (Peter Lowther).— Board received report stating that IBBA members contributed six articles (16 pages) and notes (21 pages) for those *NABB* issues appearing during the past year (187 pages total). Mark Shieldcastle gathered the 2014 banding totals for the IBBA region which will appear in the next issue. IBBA members are encouraged to contribute to the journal at any time. Lowther will be happy to assist authors with any type of article or note. Contact Peter Lowther through the email listing in *NABB*. Discussion occurred about encouraging the editors to consider electronic publishing of *NABB*.

**NABC Report.**— Discussed information concerning banding issues for the future, including public image, certification process, sample design/study design becomes part of the application for banding. Shorebird certification occurred for the first this year, following waterfowl certification. Discussion considered that experience becomes part of certification process and that requiring a handling of some minimum number of birds should be required for certification depending on types of birds to be handled. It may be that rather than certification, training will become important and having a working knowledge of the Migratory

Treaty Act to be included in NABC certification. Banders need to be encouraged to publish data. Comments were made about a possible need for a scientific design committee in IBBA. It was suggested that a letter be sent from IBBA to NABC stating that we are questioning the value of IBBA membership in NABC; the original purpose of NABC was to make banders better, but that does not seem to be the focus now. NABC manuals are rather old and need to be updated as does the training and certification process. A letter will be written.

#### **Old Business**

**Web Page Update** (Erika Dittmar).— IBBA's web page was complemented. Dittmar would like to have more information to add to the web page with meeting information, bander information and photos.

**Bylaws Update** (Tom Bartlett).— Proposed changes to Article VII (Officers) had been posted on IBBA's web page. Rather than electing individuals each year, the positions Second Vice President, First Vice President and President shall have two-year terms and individuals progress from Second Vice President to First Vice President to President to Past-President. In addition, the secretary and treasurer positions are to have five-year terms with the possibility of one additional re-election. These changes were approved by the board and membership needs to vote on it.

#### **Mission Statement Update**

**Grant Committee Proposals** (Linda Tossing).— During 2015, the grant committee received three grant proposals for \$500 from the Paul Stewart Fund and one request for a \$1,000 grant (combining \$500 from the IBBA Membership Research Fund and \$500 from the Paul Stewart Fund). The committee accepted and recommended awarding three grants totaling \$2000 this year, as no awards were granted in 2014. The grant application process will be revised primarily with regard to the timing for application and awards.

#### **Other New Business**

**2016 Annual Meeting.**— IBBA has received an invitation to meet in Indiana at the Mary

Gray Bird Sanctuary, 11-13 Nov 2016. Speakers have already been invited and the meeting will include the opportunity to observe a Saw-whet Owl banding project. Meeting proposals for 2017 will be welcomed.

**Nominating Committee Report** (Tom Bartlett).— The following election slate was presented: President: Vernon Kleen, IL (second term); First Vice President: Thomas Kashmer, OH (second term); Second Vice President: Linda Tossing, MO (fifth term); Secretary: Dana Ripper, MO (fifth term); Treasurer: Michael Eichman, IL (second term); Directors (2018): Erika Dittmar, MI (second term) and Lianne Koczur, TX (first term). The motion was made to close nominations and that the proposed slate be elected.

**Adjourn.**— Meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm.

#### **Second Board Meeting**

Called to order by the President at 5:30 pm. There was no business needing attention. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

#### **Abstracts of papers presented at the 2015 IBBA Annual Meeting**

**Assessment of population trends in Golden-winged Warbler from long-term migration monitoring.** **MARK SHIELDCASTLE** (markshieldcastle@bsbo.org), *Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Oak Harbor, OH.*

Population trajectory for many Neotropical migrant land bird species is difficult to assess due to the remoteness of a large portion of their breeding and/or wintering range. The Golden-winged Warbler is a Neotropical species that is under review for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Analysis on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data indicates a decline, but due to sample size, reliance on the dataset is low. I used data from an intensively studied stopover site in northern Ohio to evaluate this species' population trajectory. I looked at the potential of using migration banding data of the Golden-winged Warbler in northern Ohio to support or enhance the information needed to complete an informed decision-making process for