
Another anecdotal goldfinch

From 1973 through 2019 (except for four years) I have spent an early February morning banding birds at a rural Morgan County (IL) home as a public birding event for the local Audubon Chapter. The homeowner provides an abundance of seed in many feeders. The number of birds banded each year has ranged from a high of 291 in 1985 and a low of 3 in 1976. To date, 34 species have been banded there. Over the years 1782 American Goldfinches have been banded there; the second most common bird encountered is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (830).

In a 2009 NABB account, an ASY female American Goldfinch caught at this location had been banded by Stephen Davis at his MAPS station near Regina,

SK, one and a half years earlier; it had travelled 1609 km (1000 miles) between the time of its banding and subsequent recapture.

Now another goldfinch from rural Morgan County is responsible for another interesting account, although the distance traveled is only 375 miles between banding and recovery sites. The bird was banded on 15 Nov 2014, recaptured 4+ years later on 9 Feb 2019 and then found by Morgan Piper as a casualty at Prior Lake, Scott County, MN, on 27 Jul 2019, 5+ months after its recapture.

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Inland Bird Banding Association – 2019 Annual Meeting

The Inland Bird Banding Association met 8 - 10 November 2019 at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL. The meeting included an evening presentation by Dr. T.J. Zenzal of the U.S.G.S. Wetland and Aquatic Research Center. Dr. Zenzal's presentation 'Understanding migrant habitat use with technology and field-based observations' was provided after the banquet on Saturday night. Paper and poster presentations explored an array of topics related to bird banding, molt and conservation, with an update from the Bird Banding Laboratory. The Saturday field trip centered on management for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the management of montane Longleaf Pine communities within the Talladega National Forest. There was workshop on Sunday morning on band removal. We would like to extend sincere thanks to Jackson State University's School of Science and Biology Department for their hospitality and assistance with meeting logistics.

Abstracts of Saturday presentations

Preformative molt in the White-eyed Vireo and its implications for age determination

David Cimprich, *Natural and Cultural Resources Management Branch, Environmental Division, Fort Hood Military Reservation, TX*

Contradictory information exists regarding the
Jan. - Jun. 2020

extent of the preformative molt of the White-eyed Vireo, particularly regarding the replacement of primaries and primary coverts. I sought to clarify this state of affairs by describing the molt of hatching-years at Fort Hood Military Installation in central Texas. Here, near the southern edge of the species' breeding range, I expected birds to replace more feathers than in other parts of the breeding range and, thus, show the maximum possible extent of this molt. I examined 310 molting HY vireos during July, August, and September 2007-2019 and collected information about the condition of their primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries. 85% of these birds showed patterns indicating that they would replace seven or more outer primaries with 22% replacing all ten. 49% also replaced some primary coverts, typically a block of the outermost 4 to 7 quills. A few (3%) replaced all nine secondaries, but most (89%) replaced only three to six of these feathers. These results indicate that some HY White-eyed Vireos replace more primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries than indicated by Pyle's guide. The molt limits created by partial replacement of primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries provide excellent characters for recognizing HY/SY vireos. Molt limits in the primaries of this species can be

difficult to discern, but those in the primary coverts are easily recognized. 51% of the HYs I examined retained all of their primary coverts and, thus, lack a molt limit within this tract. However, the age of these individuals is usually recognizable by the contrast between their juvenile primary coverts and their adjacent preformative greater coverts, carpal covert, and marginal coverts.

Long-term banding data are providing insights and surprises into bird population trends

Steven Albert, *The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes, CA*

Since 1989, the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program has been an important source of information on the long-term trends in avian health and full annual cycle dynamics. This public-private partnership – one of the largest citizen science programs in North America, encompassing nearly every state and Canadian province -- produces data that are frequently used by land managers striving to make the best decisions for birds and their habitats. In the past several years, IBP scientists and our colleagues have published several papers generated by MAPS program data. This presentation will describe recent studies that examined long term trends in montane bird community in response to climate change; how MAPS data are being used to examine trends in a threatened songbird, Canada Warbler; and how the network of stations provided surprising insights into post-breeding movements by numerous species.

Three generations of bird observatories in the Americas: what have they done, where are they going, and how to keep them going?

C. John Ralph, *USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Arcata, CA*

I will present an overview of the evolution and processes involved in creating, growing, and sustaining bird monitoring stations, like observatories. I will ask, “what makes bird observatories more (or not so much) successful?” We are all aware of the many important accomplishments of observatories (e.g. publish important scientific findings and influence political change for improved conservation). We

are also aware of the multitude of motivating values and paths that characterize bird observatories. But which values and paths are most critical for success? I have had the privilege to observe three generations bird observatories on several continents. My observations of how the questions they have asked, and the technologies and methodologies that they have developed and promoted, provide insights into what the observatories of today should consider in order to fit in and survive in constant change. Most obvious to me has been the different kinds of program paths that bird observatories take on. I will compare about a dozen such programs and critically examine how they have shaped bird observatory models. These include the: (1) Science-based Models (involving capture to determine strategies of demography and molt); (2) Abundance-Based Models (involving habitat relationships, breeding biology, and migration strategies and routes); (3) Education Model; (4) Taxon-specific Model; as well as the last (and some would say least), the (4) Observatory as a Consulting Firm Model. Within these models, how can you best go about marketing and promoting your bird observatory? To answer this, it is important for us to agree upon specific metrics of success that can be used to compare the different models. I will show how we can use metrics relating to staffing levels, budget and finances, active partnerships, use of web-based and social media, and products such as publications, all can be used to compare bird observatory models while holding constant the age and maturity of each bird observatory. Important is the promotion of Keystone Projects -- ones that your audience uses to identify your bird observatory and ones that set you apart from your competitors (aka “partners”). The key to all this is of course the finances: you must determine who your audiences are for data, education, and other products. Is it birders, government agencies, scientists, individuals, or environmental consulting firms? Finally, in regard to implementation, I will talk about the essential key role of staff, comparing the relative roles of scientists, biologists, and volunteers... and, oh yes, the administrators.

The *Be a Bander* program – introducing children to bird banding

Susan Shaw, *Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders, Springfield, IL*

The best way to introduce the public to bird banding is to have people visit a banding station to observe banders at work. However, it is not always possible for school classes to visit a banding station. The *Be a Bander* program used by Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders (LLABB) volunteers has been used at several large events where classes rotate among various presentations, at bird banding demonstrations, at a nature center's ecology camp, and at a nursing home. Using plush bird toys, volunteers take participants through the process of extracting a bird from a mist net, identifying it, finding the correct band size, banding the bird, taking the wing measurement, and recording their data during a 20-30 minute session. A discussion of bird banding as a scientific tool, what we can learn from banding, stories, information about different species as well as participant questions and observations involve participants and presenters. We also show the correct way to handle birds and try to get students to treat the plush birds as if they were alive. Most people who are not involved with bird banding know very little, if anything, about it. Even birders have misconceptions, often thinking that birds suffer during the banding process. By presenting the *Be a Bander* program at community events, LLABB volunteers hope to introduce bird banding to children and adults. We invite participants to visit the bird banding station and learn more about this valuable scientific tool. And, we hope to get a few people enthusiastic about birds. NOTE: The *Be a Bander* program is adapted from the publication *Bridges to Birding* edited by Susan Bonfield published by The National Fish and Wildlife Federation copyright 2000.

Previous experience, neighborhoods, and habitats: breeding dispersal of male Black-capped Vireos

Paula Cimprich, Joseph Grzybowski, and Jeffrey Kelly

Mechanisms driving breeding dispersal are complex and potentially interactive. These

mechanisms are of general interest because dispersal strongly links individual fitness to population dynamics. We examine the relative importance of personal information, neighborhood effects, and structural habitat characteristics in determining an individual's propensity for breeding dispersal. To document dispersal events in the post-breeding periods of 2017 and 2018, we individually-marked and radio tagged male Black-capped Vireos in southwestern Oklahoma. We used a classification tree analysis to explore ten potential factors that individuals used as information to evaluate for emigration. We used the correlation between arrival date and habitat structure to determine habitat preference. Older and younger age classes that reproduced successfully did not disperse, but younger age class individuals that failed to reproduce were more likely to disperse than older individuals. Dispersal events among young males were significantly related to the proportion of their neighbors that successfully reproduced. More individuals dispersed from neighborhoods of fewer, less successful neighbors. Male Black-capped Vireos did not disperse due to the vegetation structure of their habitat, though there was a trend for young males to be located in habitats with structure less preferred by older males. Breeding dispersal propensity among Black-capped Vireos, like many other avian species, depended mostly on their personal breeding experience, but also on reproductive information gleaned from their neighbors. In this Oklahoma population, Black-capped Vireos of different ages were spatially segregated into habitats of differing structure, which may further influence neighborhood quality and the degree to which age group participates in breeding dispersal. Our results indicate localized, neighborhood effects are important to breeding dispersal, which has implications for the founding of new populations or stabilization of a population within a metapopulation. The creation of preferred habitat will be needed to produce rates of nest success that support healthy metapopulation dynamics. These preferred habitats are needed to balance potential high rates of breeding dispersal out of habitats with low neighborhood quality for this species. Future studies focused on the spatio-

temporal aspects of breeding dispersal would be valuable. Especially useful would be studies of search behaviors of dispersing individuals and processes involved in selecting new habitat after leaving their initial territory. In general, further study is needed on interactions of multiple dispersal cues and how spatial structuring influences the evaluation of these cues by potential dispersers.

Microplastic ingestion by resident tidal marsh birds in Mississippi

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Plastic pollution in the environment has become a global and pervasive issue. Researchers have only recently begun to document the prevalence of ingestion of these plastic pollutants by living organisms. While most bird-related studies focus on seabirds when looking at plastic ingestion, in order to fully understand the extent of plastic consumption by birds we must also look at birds from across various habitats and taxonomic groups. We hypothesize that since tidal marshes are considered environmental “sinks” for microplastics, plastic pieces smaller than 0.5 mm in length, marsh birds that inhabit these systems may also be ingesting these plastics, whether directly or indirectly, via their respective foraging strategies. To evaluate this hypothesis, we captured Clapper Rails and Seaside Sparrows across three of the largest riverine-dominated marsh complexes along the Mississippi Coast, and performed a single non-lethal gastric lavage on each individual to obtain a sample of their stomach contents. From June to September, we captured, banded, and conducted gastric lavage on 37 Clapper Rails and 38 Seaside Sparrows. We found microplastics in 66% of Clapper Rail and 42% of Seaside Sparrow stomach samples. The number of microplastics detected in the stomach samples ranged from zero to 11 pieces

in Seaside Sparrows, and from zero to 27 pieces in Clapper Rails, with 99% of the plastic pieces detected in both species being fibers. For both species, a null model outperformed models that incorporated differences in stomach concentrations of microplastics within and between marsh complexes, implying that there are no significant differences in microplastic ingestion for either species between the three marsh complexes. This study documents the first evidence of microplastic ingestion by two species of secretive marsh birds. Microplastics may pose a novel threat to the conservation of tidal marsh birds, as well as other marsh-inhabiting vertebrates. This research adds to the growing body of literature documenting the ubiquity of microplastic ingestion among estuarine organisms. While more study is needed to document microplastic ingestion by other organisms, the effects from ingested microplastics to the organism is a crucial next step in our understanding of the consequences presented by microplastics in the environment.

Capture/recapture: reviving a thirty-year banding tradition on the Alabama gulf coast

Emma Rhodes, *Alabama Audubon, Birmingham, AL*

This poster will provide participants with a first-hand look at how Alabama Audubon (formally Birmingham Audubon), Mississippi State University, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources revived a beloved, but recently lapsed, banding tradition on Alabama's Fort Morgan Peninsula. It will discuss details of the event's deep history (stretching back thirty years) and its scientific significance, as well as the challenges of stepping into "someone else's shoes," managing expectations and partners, and maximizing the event's outreach potential to engage new audiences with the beauty of migratory birds. Objective 1: Learn how you can integrate banding research with public outreach. Objective 2: Explore ways to celebrate your chapter's history while creating new programs. Objective 3: Understand the logistics of establishing a seasonal bird-banding event. Actionable next steps: This poster will provide a step-by-step look at the development of our bird-banding program and

provide participants with opportunities to discuss similar opportunities in their own areas.

Minutes of IBBA's first Board Meeting in Jacksonville, AL, 8 Nov 2019

Welcome & Roll Call – Tossing

Meeting started at 4:00 pm with welcome and thanks for making the effort to attend this year's meeting. Board members present: Tossing, Hutcheson, Kleen, Cimprich, Eichmann, Gabrey, Koczur, Rush, Placier. Also present: Shieldcastle (NABC), Ralph (WBBA), Albert, Keith.

NABB online – C. John Ralph

C. J. Ralph had sent out a note to board members outlining the proposal 3 years ago to get **NABB** on-line and offering several ideas to increase the exposure of **NABB** by having articles immediately available and updated on SORA after publication. Initial costs would be minimal but will eventually be shared among IBBA, EBBA, and WBBA. WBBA has supported this proposal. Motion (Placer) to support the on-line publication, then perhaps paying. Discussion: Financial model for changing for **NABB** use – on-line publication of **NABB** may help increase memberships in all three regional associations and may encourage student researchers to consider **NABB** for publishing their work. There may be costs for indexing the journal, but SORA may do this for free. Seconded (Cimprich), Motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Hutcheson

Secretary's Report of last year's meeting were accepted as printed in **NABB** 43(4)-44(1):137-140.

Treasurer's Report – Eickman

Income: membership dues \$3840, conference income \$3620.15, transfers from life fund \$1626.26, transfer from IBBA fund grant \$1000 (check to Laura Marsh), total Income and transfers \$10,082.41. Expenses **NABB** printing \$4334.34, office supplies \$102.69, Canada deposit charge \$5.00, grant to Laura March, \$1000, Shieldcastle NABC expenses, \$711.78, biannual report Nebraska \$23.00, postage \$2.26, annual tax report, \$19.90, web site to Go Daddy \$177.73, 2018 annual meeting expense \$2325.71, total expenses

\$8,702.41. Income minus expenses leaves \$1380, current checking balance \$10036.68. Life account (balance \$10,209.95) is depleting quickly because of **NABB** issues cost (\$1600/yr). Life account will reach \$0 in about 5 years. If life members would contribute \$100 each, the fund would last longer. IBBA grant account \$8,325.73, Sewart account \$14,613.32. Motion to accept: Gabrey, Rush seconded, motion passed.

Membership Report – Eickman

125 members, 74 life members, an increase of 11 members. We have lost a few members.

Grant Committee Report – Cimprich

IBBA has 2 grant funds, Stewart (\$1000 limit) and IBBA Avian Research (\$500 limit for members only). There were 4 applications for Stewart fund and the committee's unanimous choice was for Laura Marsh's proposal for tracking cuckoos by satellite tags, and who was awarded \$1000. Please encourage people to apply for the IBBA fund, due by 31 Dec. Saving accounts for both grants get very little interest payment.

NABB Editor's report: Lowther

Several articles from IBBA region have appeared in **NABB**. Steven Gabrey continues with his snapshot feature summarizing data from the Banding Laboratory, Mark Shieldcastle again provided annual banding summary the IBBA region, and Vernon Kleen edits Inland's Flyway Review. I thank reviewers Glen Gabanski and David Cimprich for their assistance. As always, IBBA members are encouraged to contribute either formal articles or informal notes to the journal at any time.

North American Banding Council (NABC) Report – Shieldcastle

The recent NABC meeting was hosted in Ohio; topics discussed included looking at the way NABC is operating and developing or updating different manuals for working with various taxonomic groups and developing programs to train and certify trainers, banders and assistants. IBBA needs to have an alternative representative for NABC. NABC will be meeting in March 2020 in New Mexico, anyone who is a trainer is invited.

President's Report – Tossing

Old Business:

IBBA Logo update – Tossing

A new logo had been approved in June which now appears on our website and in **NABB**. Linda Tossing has car decals, too. Laura Bailey designed the logo.

IBBA Website – Tossing

An electronic version of the updated membership brochure is now available. Contact Linda Tossing if there are any issues.

Inland Flyway Review – Kleen

Eleven stations have contributed to past reviews. Other fall or spring migration monitoring projects can complete a checklist and submit information. Reports from owl banding projects would be a welcome addition as would a review of MAPS activity in the IBBA region.

Migration Monitoring Network (MMN) update – Shieldcastle

MMN is currently in an implementation stage: 4 workshops have been held in Michigan, Ohio, St Louis and Ohio with participation by region 3 FWS and Banding Lab. Workshops have focused on developing standards for data acquisition for banding and recapture data as well as for measures of effort and habitat.

New Business:

2020 IBBA Meeting location

MMN may be able to host next year's annual meeting depending on time of year. Springfield, IL, was suggested as a meeting site. Motion (Rush) to have IBBA's 2020 meeting in Springfield in conjunction with a MMN workshop, second (Gabrey), motion approved. MMN session would be Thursday-Sunday.

Nominating Committee Report – Bartlett/Tossing

Committee recommended that two board members succeed themselves – Eric Johnson and Scott Rush

IBBA's Facebook page needs content, so please contact Lianne Koczur. Each member needs to invite more banders to join IBBA, so get working on it (Gabrey)

Adjourn Motion by Rush, second by Cimprich; meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm

Minutes of IBBA's General Membership Meeting in Jacksonville, AL, 9 Nov 2019.

Welcome – Tossing

Meeting opened at 5:00 pm with agendas on the table, as well as new logo stickers. The new IBBA logo shows the area of IBBA and the main species (raptors, owls, passerines and hummingbirds). Board members who were present were introduced to the membership. Others with appointment positions in IBBA include Hutcheson for back issues, editor Peter Lowther, webmaster Samantha Matchefts, and nominating committee chair Tom Bartlett. The board's meeting was Friday, its second meeting will be after the dinner.

Introduction to IBBA Board Members

Reports from the Secretary, Treasurer on finance and membership, Grand Committee, and NABC were given to the general membership (see minutes of Board Meeting, above, for more details).

President's Report – Tossing

During the board meeting we agreed to request that **NABB** be put on-line so people can use it easily. Two years trial will be conducted and financial support may be necessary in the future. Website updating and new IBBA logo, at IBBAinfo.org. Anyone who would like to post photos or information on the site, please send information to the webmaster by email.

Old Business:

IBBA Logo update – Tossing

The new logo was projected on the screens; there are stickers available.

IBBA Website – Tossing

Please consider making photo or comment contributions to the website. Please send photos, ads for help, or written content to Samantha Matchefts.

Inland Flyway Review – Kleen

Spring or fall migration stations in the IBBA are invited to submit their information (form available) to help publicize stations. Deadline is 1 Feb, please send an email to Vernon Kleen

Migration Monitoring Network (MMN) update – Shieldcastle

Still working on standardizing protocols; some stations following the protocol for migration banding, trying to get data gathering in the same way so everything is comparable and useful. Visit the MMN website for the protocol to get information. Collaborative projects are excellent uses for MMN to have all data in one place. There will be resources available to help stations to start using the MMN system. Getting life-cycle models for birds will be the next generation of research, and MMN will help standardized data sets/information started.



The 2020 IBBA Annual meeting will be held on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College Springfield, IL on the weekend of 9-11 October 2020. Details forthcoming: advance information may be requested from Vernon Kleen at vkleen@comcast.net

New Business:

2020 IBBA Meeting location will be at Springfield, IL. This meeting will be held in conjunction with a MMN workshop. Workshops are 2 days with afternoon classes on station establishment and micro-aging birds and handling birds in the morning. Second day goals are to improve skills to age birds identify molt to help move towards a national standardization of data collection.

Nominating Committee Report – Tossing/Bartlett

Two board members have been nominated for additional terms, Scott Rush (2nd term) and Eric Johnson (1st term). Motion to accept ballot Eichmann, second Bivens, approved.

Please submit articles and notes to **NABB**, send to Peter Lowther, who is willing to help edit and publish submissions.

Adjourn Moved, seconded, approved at 6:00 pm.

Minutes of IBBA's second Board Meeting in Jacksonville, AL, 10 Nov 2019.

The Board met for a second time at 9:00 pm with attendees: Cimprich, Koczur, Rush, Placier, Keen, Tossing, Gabrey, Hutcheson

Opened Meeting: Tossing

Old Business: None

New Business: Koczur recommended that the IBBA and Steward Grant programs need to be reviewed to perhaps revise the Grant amounts along with other requirements in the programs. Cimprich and Koczur agreed to pursue.

Adjourn Motion accepted, 9:20 pm

