

Inland Regional News

Including the
Inland Bird Banding
Newsletter

Volume 9, No. 3
July 1987

Willetta Lueshen, Editor

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

LIFE MEMBER TOTAL REACHES FIFTY

Joseph Komorowski of Temperance, Michigan became the fiftieth Life Member of Inland Bird Banding Association. In 1968 Arthur Wiseman of Ohio became the first.

Following is a list of names of Life Members, state of residence, and year membership was paid:

Henry Armistead	PA	1983
Carrie Avent	MS	1984
T. A. Beckett, III	SC	1969
Donald Beimborn	MN	1985
Bernard Brouchoud	WI	1977
Pat Brown	WI	1985
Richard Burger	WI	1972
Roger Clapp	DC	1980
Noel Cutright	WI	1981
Ezra Ditterline	KY	1979
George Dorsey	GA	1976
Kenneth Dubke	TN	1985
Lawrence Duckwall	ND	1982
Ara Jane Dunlap	NE	1978
Christine Fredrich	WI	1985
David Hatch	Man	1980
Thomas S. Helget	MN	1986
Dick Heller	IN	1981
Monica Herzig	Mex	1982
Nelda Holden	SD	1978
Joe ImBrogno	PA	1985
James Ingold	PA	1985
Terrence Ingram	IL	1975
Maybelle Isham	MI	1980
Jerome Jackson	MS	1977
Ken Jentsch	WI	1976
Charlotte Jernigan	OK	1986
James Johnson	MO	1974
Katherine Kelly	KS	1979
Charles Kemper	WI	1977
Joseph Komorowski	MI	1987
Richard Kremer	CT	1985
Willetta Lueshen	NE	1975
F. W. Ludwig	MI	1969
Patricia Parsons	WI	1984
Sebastion Patti	IL	1985
Peter Petersen	IA	1976
Bill Quay	CA	1981

George Richter	IL	1978
Chandler Robbins	MD	1978
William Ryan	MI	1981
Frederick Schaeffer	FL	1979
Paul H. Schafer	MI	1976
Paul Stewart	NC	1977
Philip Stutesman	MI	1976
Marian Stocking	ME	1985
Walter Thurber	FL	1978
Thomas Travis	MT	1975
Donald Varner	OK	1970
Arthur Wiseman	OH	1968

C. Holmes Smith, Treasurer, Inland Bird Banding Association, 6305 Cumberland Road, SW., Sherrodsville, Ohio 44675.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone wishing to become a Life Member of Inland Bird Banding Association may make one full payment of \$200.00, or four annual payments of \$50.00 each to Treasurer Holmes Smith.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The changes in Inland Bird Banding Association's publications and editors in recent years seem to have created some confusion about to whom papers and notes should be submitted for publication.

All scientific papers should be sent to:

DAN KRAMER, EDITOR
NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDER
3451 CR 256
VICKERY, OHIO 43464

All scientific papers should be prepared according to the *Suggestions to Authors*, which is published inside the back cover of each issue of *North American Bird Bander*. This will be helpful to both the author and to the editor. All scientific papers will be reviewed by one, or more, persons who have special knowledge on the subject.

Those who have announcements, news about members, informal notes, reports of banding activities, repeats, recoveries, or any tidbits of interest to banders, please send to:

WILLETTA LUESHEN, EDITOR
INLAND BIRD BANDING NEWSLETTER
ROUTE 2, BOX 26
WISNER, NEBRASKA 68791

Material sent to Willie need NOT follow the *Suggestions to Authors*. Reports put together in an informal manner will be welcome. No note about bird banding is too short or insignificant for publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this issue of *North American Bird Bander*, the joint meeting of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and the Inland Bird Banding Association will be history. In the next issue of *North American Bird Bander*, in 1987, Number 4, we will summarize the general, business, and committee meetings of the Inland Bird Banding Association that will have been held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

We are still looking for a site for the 1988 annual meeting and the years beyond. If your State has not been represented recently, or not at all, now is the time to volunteer to host the next Inland Bird Banding Association annual meeting. Please contact me personally.

No one volunteered to continue the work on the Index for the first 53 years of *Inland Bird Banding News*. You probably thought someone else with more talent would volunteer, but nobody did. Now is the time to stand up and say, "I will do it." Remember the first ten years have already been done. Please contact me personally.

Do not forget to fill out and return the survey form for reviewers. Hopefully a file of reviewers can be added to, and passed on, so our *North American Bird Bander* editors can get a good start on reviewing the papers sent to them for publication.

The Inland Bird Banding Association is committed to publishing the *North American Bird Bander* with Eastern Bird Banding Association and the Western Bird Banding Association through 1988. The *Inland Bird Banding Newsletter* will continue to be the *Inland Regional News* section in the back of *North American Bird Bander*. All scientific papers should be sent to Dan Kramer, 3451 CR 256, Vickery, Ohio 43464, while all other notes, notices, and anecdotes should be sent to Willie Lueshen, Route 2, Box 26, Wisner, Nebraska 68791.

John J. Flora, 3636 Williams, Dearborn, Michigan 48124

KRAMER NAMED WILDLIFE SUPERVISOR

Dan Kramer, Inland Bird Banding Association's newly appointed editor of *North American Bird Bander*, has recently been named Wildlife Area Supervisor for several waterfowl management areas along western Lake Erie, in Ohio. He lives on Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area on the southern shore of Sandusky Bay. His new address is 3451 CR 256, Vickery, Ohio 43464; telephone 419/547-6007.

EVENTS

- Oct. 28-30 The Raptor Research Foundation annual meeting at Red Lion Riverside Hotel, Boise, ID. Contact Rich Howard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv, 4696 Overland Rd., Rm. 567, Boise, ID 83705 (208/334-1888).
- Jan. 24-28, 1988 Habitat Management for Migrating and Wintering Waterfowl in No. Am. Symposium. Jackson, MS. Contact Wintering Waterfowl Symposium, Dept. of Range and Wildlife Mgt., P. O. Box 4169, Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, TX 79409.
- June 9-12, 1988 The Wilson Ornithological Society Centennial Meeting, Rosemont College, suburban Philadelphia, PA.

The juvenile Belted Kingfisher is similar to the adult, but has rust spotting in the breast band.

FLENTGE STUDIES SWIFTS



When Dorothy Balling married Louis G. Flentge on March 15, 1935, she not only acquired a fine husband, but also a dedicated naturalist, and bird bander. He had been banding in suburban Chicago for several years under Permit Number 04270, which was issued to him on April 26, 1930, the year of his eighteenth birthday. He had been a member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences since the early 1920's and became acquainted with several wildlife enthusiasts.

Dorothy was soon involved with her husband's banding projects, and according to the Bird Banding Laboratory records, her name was added to the permit in January, 1936.

They carried out studies of the feeding habits of birds in the Des Plaines River Valley, and in Wheeling and Des Plaines in the early 1930's. They also had a bluebird trail until nest boxes were lost to the clearing of fence rows, and habitat to make way for developing the area.

But perhaps their most significant project was the study of Chimney Swifts. They noted that the chimney of an unused garage was occupied by Chimney Swifts, thus began a long study of swifts. Dorothy and her husband trapped and banded the birds which roosted in that, and other tall chimneys nearby.

Assistants were often necessary to help handle the large flocks of birds caught in the chimney trap. Among those who helped were the late Paul Downing, and his wife, Eleanor, who were also members of the William I. Lyon Bird Banding Association.

The Flentges kept in close contact with Ben Coffey and the late Amelia Laskey, who were also banding Chimney Swifts. Dorothy and her husband banded more than 3,000 swifts and assisted in banding another 3,000 birds.

Dot and Louis reared three sons and a daughter, all of whom were frequently told stories about birds and wildlife, and she often worked with youth groups and Sunday School classes. Dorothy's love and appreciation of birds and nature has played an important role in the lives of her children.

Dorothy has served as an officer of the William I. Lyon Bird Banding Association for many years, meetings often being held in her home.

She has also held several offices in Inland Bird Banding Association, and frequently serves on committees. One can always rely on her to do more than her share of work. Dorothy attends nearly every annual meeting no matter how far she may have to travel. For fifty years she has served as a volunteer Cooperator for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Willetta Lueshen

NOTES ON PINE SISKIN BANDING

I first began banding in 1956, in order to study White-winged Juncos, after volunteering to prepare the life history account for the Bent Series, and for the first several years, White-winged Juncos were the most numerous species at my banding station. During the past fifteen years, though, Pine Siskins have become the most numerous species at our banding and feeding station, with feeding flocks in winter often numbering fifty, or sixty individuals. In my banding career, I have banded about 1,350 siskins. Of these, the return rate is low, and I have relatively few retraps of banded individuals at my own banding station, and very rarely any reports from any distance away.

I still have questions concerning the permanence of the Black Hills population. Some of my friends have suggested that Pine Siskins appear in the Black Hills as irruptions from areas west of us, such as the Big-horn Mountains and the main ranges of the Rockies. Personally, I think that there is a Black Hills breeding population, because in some years, we have a feeding flock here all summer, but this question certainly deserves more study. One of my future plans for study of Pine Siskins is to determine the extent to which they breed in the Black Hills. This is one of the many unanswered questions about bird life in the Black Hills.

N. R. Whitney, 633 S. Berry Pines Rd.,
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Whitney is our most recently elected member of the IBBA Board of Directors. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up there. He attended college at Harvard, then returned to Cincinnati to attend medical school.

Nat spent two years with the Air Force at Robins AFB, Georgia, before moving to Rapid City, South Dakota in 1953. He joined South Dakota Ornithologists' Union in 1954 and Inland Bird Banding Association in 1956 when he was issued his bird banding permit.

Olin Sewell Pettingill and Nathaniel Whitney co-authored "Birds of the Black Hills". Nat also chaired the Checklist Committee of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, which authored, "Birds of South Dakota", which is now being revised. He has published numerous papers.

An active member of SDOU, Nat has served in several capacities, including president and editor. IBBA is fortunate to have Dr. Whitney join our board.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Dr. Ralph W. Dexter of Kent, Ohio, has recently notified the Bird Banding Laboratory that he will no longer be banding birds. Permit Number 5789 was issued to him in 1939. He is well known for his extensive studies of the Chimney Swifts that nested annually in the chimneys of buildings on the Kent State University Campus. Ralph was a professor in the Department of Biology at Kent State University for many years. During his nearly fifty years as a member of Inland Bird Banding Association, he has held many offices, including president.

Merit B. Skaggs of Ohio, died March 30, 1987. He had been banding birds for more than 40 years. A member of Inland Bird Banding Association, he published numerous papers in the Newsletter.

PUBLICATIONS PERUSALS

Birds Around the World: A Guide to Observing Birds Everywhere You Travel. Aileen R. Lotz. Forward by James F. Clements. 1987. Dodd, Mead, NY. 272pp. \$18.95 cloth; \$10.95 paper.

The publication of this book marks the introduction of the Teale Books nature series. It is about world birding, world birders, and about traveling. The author's advice to the traveler is, "Take your binoculars. Don't leave home without them." World birders think in continental terms, and in terms of major faunal regions. Brief comments are made about the "hot spots" of each continent and major island. Lists of basic books, and other birding aids, basic book dealers, bed and board accommodations, and tour operators are helpful information.

A naturalist Amid Tropical Splendor. Alexander F. Skutch. Drawings by Dana Gardner. 1987. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City. 232pp. \$22.50.

Alexander Skutch, a resident of Costa Rica, has studied birds in central and South America for over 50 years. In this book he has mixed factual accounts of his careful observations, with reflections on what he has experienced. He tells about fascinating birds, such as the smallest tanagers, or the numerous hummingbirds, and about the unusual plants of the tropics. Details of his observations are recorded, giving the reader an understanding of the life cycle and behavior of the species discussed. His thoughts are clearly and beautifully expressed.

Attracting Purple Martins: A New Look at "America's Most Wanted Bird". J. L. Wade. 1987. The Nature Society, Griggsville, IL. 240pp. \$19.95.

The author tells the story of how he became interested in Purple Martins, about his design and manufacture of bird houses. He advises the bird watcher how to attract martins to his yard, how to erect and care for a house, and about the life cycle of the bird.

The Birds of Canada, Revised Edition. Earl W. Godfrey. Illustrations, John A. Cosby and S. D. MacDonald. 1986. University of Chicago Press, IL 595pp. \$39.95.

Originally published in 1966, bird names and taxonomy have been revised for consistency with the North American Ornithologists' Union Check List. Forepart and data have been updated and revised, allowing easy reference maps, measurements, habitat, and field marks. Flight silhouettes of shorebirds and hawks aid in identification. Maps show breeding range of each species. This book is distributed by the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Canada.

Wildfowl in Great Britain. Second Edition. Myrfyn Owen, G. L. Atkinson-Willis and D. G. Salmon. Illustrated by Sir Peter Scott. 1986. Cambridge University Press, London. 613pp. \$59.50.

The Wildfowl Trust, supported by The Nature Conservancy Council, presents data on the distribution of wildfowl and their major habitats. The importance of sensitive conservation planning is stressed, as is the vulnerability of wetlands to modern technology. The need for international action in conserving wetland is emphasized. Of special interest to the banders are maps showing locations of ringing recoveries, and migration routes of birds.

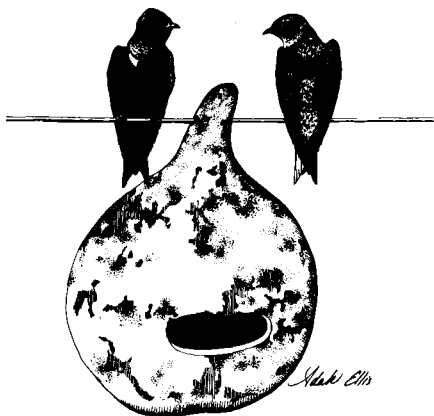
Willetta Lueshen

COLONY REGISTRY PROGRAM NEEDS HELP

The Purple Martin is a bird which has been managed by man longer than any other North American bird species. Even before European man colonized the New World native American Indians were enticing these companionable birds to nest in their villages by attaching hollowed-out gourd "nest boxes" to the support poles of their wigwams. Modern man has continued this gourd-using tradition to attract martins but he also has taken to using elaborate wooden, plastic, or aluminum multi-compartmented bird condos (i.e., "martin houses"), which he mounts on poles and proudly displays on his lawn.

Today, however, this man-dependent species is declining within parts of its breeding range. In an attempt to remedy the situation, the Purple Martin Conservation Association has been formed to help coordinate the management efforts of North American martin landlords. Through its Colony Registry Program it is attempting to locate and register most of the martin colonies in North America in preparation for several worthwhile projects, including a continent-wide nest-record card scheme.

If you know of someone who has a martin colony, or is trying to attract one, or if you are interested in starting a colony yourself, please write to the P.M.C.A. You can further assist by looking for martin houses, and send the landlord's name and address to P. M. C. A., P. O. Box 178, Edin, PA 16412.



Both the Brown and the Abert's Towhees do not migrate. Other towhees of North America are the Green-tailed and the Rufous-sided.

GRANTS AND AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association announces a small-grant program and the establishment of two awards. The grant program makes funding available to support two \$1000 research projects in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, or several smaller research projects each totalling less than \$1000. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, and submit a typewritten proposal that includes name(s) and resume of personnel involved, objectives of the project, and brief description of how the project will be carried out, a brief statement of the literature reviewed, and an itemized budget. An annual report on progress is required.

The awards include the Lifetime Achievement Award given to an individual whose primary identification is with rehabilitation of wildlife, and who has contributed to this field in the last two years. The contribu-

tion may be a research finding, publication, organization of a program, etc., with a major theme in wildlife rehabilitation. Both awards consist of a plaque, \$100, and free registration at the NWRRA conference where the award will be presented. The deadline for submission of proposals for the research grants, or nominations for awards, is December 15 of each year. They should be sent to: Daniel R. Ludwig, Ph.D., Awards and Grants Committee, Willowbrook Wildlife Haven, Willowbrook Forest Preserve, P. O. Box 2339, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138; telephone (312)790-4900 Ext. 283.

JAMES A. LANE died March 27, 1987. He was well known as the author of the popular series of *A Bird Watcher's Guide to . . .* books, and for many years led birding tours for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He was born in Oklahoma in 1926, and was living in California at the time of his death.

CORRECT ADDRESS NEEDED

Don't let *North American Bird Bander* go in the trash! The United States Postal Service reports that a significant portion of mail is poorly addressed. Mail that cannot be delivered as addressed is growing at an alarming rate. Last year about 22 billion pieces of mail had deficiencies that delayed, or prevented, delivery, and by 1990 the amount could reach 26 billion pieces.

When changes take place in your address please promptly send your new address to C. Holmes Smith, 6305 Cumberland Rd., SW., Sherodsville, Ohio 44675.

NOTICES

Are trespassers and vandals causing you problems? They can be discouraged by posting your property with a banding station poster. It is 19" x 12", with black weatherproof ink on white Texoprint - tough, durable and flexible. "U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BIRD BANDING STATION." Illustrated with stylized goose. For photo, send self addressed stamped envelope. Five posters will be sent ppd. for \$11.00. Send order to Willetta Lueshen, R. 2, Box 26, Wisner, NE 68791.

A Bird Bander's Guide to Determination of Age and Sex of Selected Species, by Merrill Wood, second edition revised by Wood and Donald Beimborn, is available from Afton Press, 3630 Glenhurst S. St., St. Louis Park, MN 54416, for \$9.95 ppd. in U. S. Funds.

Avoid a rear end collision by placing a sticker, *Caution Bird Watcher Driving*, on your rear bumper. Order from Jane Dunlap, Route 3, Box 172, Norfolk, NE 68701. Price is \$1.75 each ppd.

IBBA arm patches are embroidered in several colors. Price; \$1.75 each ppd. Make check payable to IBBA. Order from Dorothy Flentge, 101 E. Clarendon, Prospect Hgts., Illinois 60070.

Cavity-nesting birds, such as bluebirds, wrens, and tree swallows, are easily captured in the nest box by using the Bauldry trap. A package of three Bauldry traps is available for \$6.00 ppd. from IBBA, Route 2, Box 26, Wisner, NE 68791. Make check payable to IBBA.

Also available from the same address are patterns for the Bauldry trap, and for the Bauldry artificial nest cavity, designed to keep out raccoons and house sparrows. State pattern desired. A donation to cover printing and mailing costs will be appreciated.