

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

**Inland will hold its annual conference at the Deer-Wiman house in Moline, Illinois on 30 October to 1 November. Further details will be mailed to all Inland members. For information contact Pete Peterson
235 McClellan Boulevard,
Davenport, IA 52803**

OHIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Ohio Bird Banding Association plans. Here's their calendar of events through 1993:

Annual Mtg. - Geauga County - 28-30 Aug.92
Spring Mtg. - Clinton County - April 1993
Spring Bandout - Barneby Center - April 1993
Annual Mtg. - Old Woman's Creek - Aug. 1993

If you want directions or more information, write to:

**OBBA Newsletter
Steven Lee, Editor
685 Robindale Drive
Waynesville, Ohio 45068**

Also from the Ohio group comes the following hummingbird trivia contributed by Julie Shieldcastle:
Research in Saskatchewan by Miller and Miller

1971 (*Condor* 73:309-313) found hummingbirds made fewer visits to blue fluids than expected by chance but not significantly more visits to clear fluids. No preference was shown towards red fluids initially. Birds trained to associate red with sweetened water and other colors with unsweetened water with about 90% accuracy, thus suggesting that hummingbirds can use a distinctive color to aid in locating food sources. Pickens and Garrison 1931 (*Auk* 48:532-537) found Ruby-throated Hummingbirds preferred plants of reddish colors. There are about 300 species of garden plants with red and orange colors which originate from the Western Hemisphere. This is three times the number red/orange flowers originating from the Eastern Hemisphere and show hummingbirds' close association with Western Hemisphere flora.

SAND BLUFF BANDING STATION REPORTS

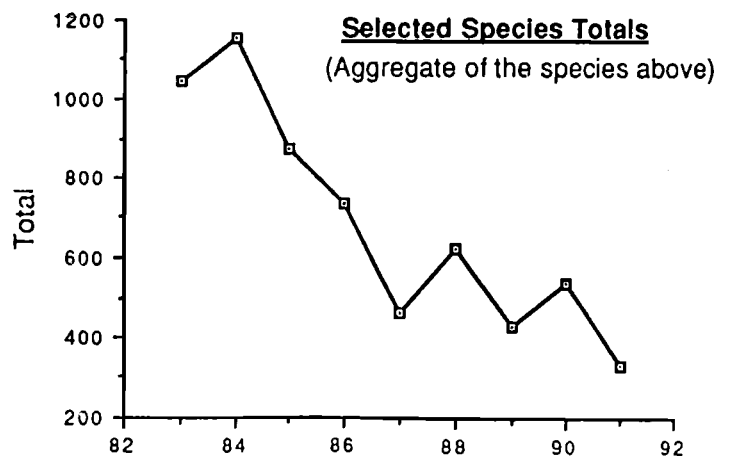
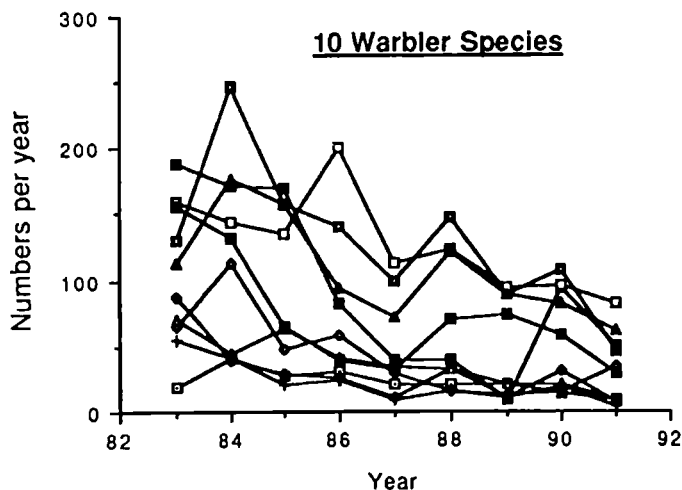
At the end of the 1991 fall banding season, the staff at Sand Bluff Banding Station (at Colored Sands Forest Preserve, Winnebago County, Illinois), breathed a collective sigh of relief. After working through a disastrous spring — down 25% or more from normal — followed by a summer drought as bad or worse than that of 1988, the fall banding season was a topic of fearful speculation until the nets were finally wrapped Thanksgiving weekend. Now that the year is over, we find that, while not outstanding, the 1991 fall banding season did creep back to near what has become normal after the explosive mid-1980's. In 17 weeks, we banded 3433 new birds representing 98 species. This gives a year total of 115 species with 5533 new birds and 253 retraps in 32 weeks. We trapped four birds that were banded elsewhere: Slate-colored Junco and Cooper's Hawk in the spring, Eastern Bluebird and Red-tailed Hawk in the fall.

While this fall reflected a rebound from 1990's losses, all is not well. Many species of smaller

birds, especially those which winter out of this country, continue to decline at extraordinary rates, particularly warblers. There is hardly a warbler that has not suffered declines in numbers. There were many species that dropped 20% or more, some nearly 50%: Magnolia, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Black-throated Green, Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Canada, and Bay-breasted Warblers and Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat and Ovenbird. A few species were down for the fall but scored average or even up for the year: Nashville, Blackpoll and Western Palm Warblers. American Redstart, down for the fall, rose dramatically for the year; Cape May Warbler, once a rarity, unusually produced five individuals—well above average for fall and year. The accompanying figure shows the general decline in numbers banded of the 10 more abundant warbler species at Sand Bluff since 1983.

Tom Little

1509 Prairie Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61102



TWO LONGEVITY RECORDS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

Black-capped Chickadee (#1550-63347) was caught by a cat on 28 July 1991 at the home of Sue Ripple on Hill View Drive, Rapid City. This bird was banded by L. M. Baylor at his home about 100 yards southwest of the Ripple home on 9 October 1984. The bird was at least seven years old at the time of its death.

Red Crossbill (#106-159014), which I banded at my home on 29 June 1986, was found dead there on 28 July 1991, probably of *Salmonella* enteritis, which had been proved to have infected several crossbills in the region at that time. The bird was at least five years old at the time of its death.

Nathaniel R. Whitney
633 South Berry Pines Road
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

TOO FAR, TOO SOON

To bird banders in Oklahoma, Texas, or some other south central states, banding a White-eyed Vireo would be nothing out of the ordinary. Just seeing one as far north as Sarpy County, Nebraska, is unusual. If you check the field guides, you will see the northern and western limits for this species barely reach a few counties in the extreme southeastern part of the state. Even from this area, no sightings have been reported before 19 April, and the median date for all records is 10 May. This background information will explain, perhaps, my astonishment when I saw and heard one singing in my yard on 6 April 1992. Fortunately, my nets were up—the first time the wind had not been blowing at gale force in days—and with a lot of hopeful anticipation, I waited and watched until this White-eyed Vireo flew into the net. I did not have a key for this species; but after studying several field guides, I feel sure it should have been aged and sexed as an AHY-M. I did have plenty of film on hand and I now have 72 pictures to prove its identity! I suspect

this little southern species might have realized that it had gone too far north much too soon, since exactly two weeks later eastern Nebraska was under 12 inches of snow!

Ruth Green

BACK AGAIN

Perhaps you remember I wrote about a Brown Pelican that visited a lake west of Omaha in May 1991. At that time, Nebraska had only about 10 records for the state, so the odds of this happening two years in a row were rather slim. It has happened again! A Brown Pelican arrived at DeSoto Wildlife Refuge during the last week of April with a large flock of White Pelicans and was there until 8 May before moving on with its flock-mates. A nice thing about the area it chose this year is that DeSoto Wildlife Refuge is on the border of Nebraska and Iowa, so birders could add it to either state list, depending on the side of the lake from which it was seen.

Ruth Green

As you can see, I have drawn heavily from the Sand Bluff Reports this time, with an able assist from the Ohio banding group. I can always get Ruth Green to write an article for me, but we really want to hear from the rest of you, too. I know that all banders do not have organized local groups, much less newsletters, but we would be most pleased to print short items about interesting birds and their behavior. Nothing too heavy, just the ordinary or “un-ordinary” happenings that occur to you as you bird your way through life. Drop us a note:

Ruth Green / Betty Grenon
506 West 31st Avenue
Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

