



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association **Founded 1922**

IBBA General Business Meeting

The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the IBBA General Business Meeting held at the Paradise Community Center, Michigan, on 2 October 1993.

A summary of the Treasurer's Report shows total assets of \$42,195.84. This amount is distributed among the following funds and accounts:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Operations Accounts | 17,414.33 |
| Paul Stewart Fund | 15,204.96 |
| Life Membership Fund | 9,576.55 |

Terry Ingram congratulated the Association on its financial recovery in the past ten years. Treasurer Tom Bartlett reported 68 Life Members and commented that the increase in funds was significantly influenced by high interest rates in the past, which are not available currently. Ben Coffey donated \$1,000.00 to IBBA; this will fund a Life Membership with the remainder being placed in the operations account.

Membership Secretary Allen Valentine resigned. President Bauldry appointed Noel Cutright for a one-year term.

Endowment Fund Committee:

The Board approved a motion to set aside \$10,000 of IBBA funds in a new Endowment fund, dispersing the interest according to the purpose statement of the committee. The committee is open for suggestions for a specific name for the fund.

A notice of the amount available for award from the Student Fund will be sent out with the next dues notice along with the rules to encourage use of these funds.

The Paul Stewart Fund needs applications.

The Secretary will research the rules and procedures for the Memorial Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ruth Green proposed that IBBA manage sales of mist nets with discounts for IBBA members. Discussion followed. Terry Ingram moved to empower the Board to allot necessary unspecified funds to support such a sale if a study determined that this activity would be feasible. The motion was seconded by Peter Dring and passed. Ingram offered to research the possibilities and provide information to the Board.

A bylaw change was proposed to allow all officers to serve for five (5) consecutive terms. Currently, the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President can serve only two (2) consecutive terms. The proposal would not affect the current terms of the Treasurer or Secretary (5 terms) or the Board Directors (3 years). This proposal will be distributed with dues notices and will be voted upon at the 1994 annual IBBA membership meeting.

The Nominating Committee proposed a slate of existing officers to continue in office. Officers for Inland Bird Banding Association currently include the following individuals.

President, **Vince Bauldry** (second term)
First Vice President, and Chair, Annual Conference Committee, **Forest V. Strnad** (second term)
Second Vice President, **John Faaborg** (second term)
Secretary, **Betty Grenon** (second term)
Membership Secretary, **Noel Cutright**
Treasurer, **Tom Bartlett** (third term)

Board of Directors:

Don Beimborn (Past President)
Darleen Ayres, exp. 1996
Jane Dunlap, exp. 1994
Tom Kashmer, exp. 1995

Editor, NAAB, **Peter Lowther**

Co-Editors, Newsletter, **Betty Grenon and Ruth Green**

An Invitation to IBBA Members to Contribute to the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program

Now in its sixth year, the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program is a cooperative, constant-effort, mist-netting program established by The Institute for Bird Populations (see News, Notes, Comments this issue). The Institute is attempting to enlist additional Midwestern MAPS stations, particularly in the South-central Region, to begin operation in 1994. The methodology used by the MAPS program is simple and

straightforward, and the program provides an excellent opportunity for Inland banders to make an important and crucial contribution to avian biomonitoring. We strongly urge banders from the IBBA region to become part of this exciting project. For more information, please write to:

Kenneth Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call (415) 663-1436.

NATURE NOTES FROM NEBRASKA

FOR SALE OR RENT

There can be little doubt that nest-building for birds is primarily an instinctive activity. Birds are genetically programmed to build the particular kind of nest that best fits their needs. But some species are obviously quite opportunistic and will use old



nests of other birds if the right occasion arises. Mourning Doves are one of these species. I have seen hundreds of their flimsy constructions in just about any kind of tree or shrub in the Great

Plains—even seen them on the ground in Nebraska's Sandhills—but I had never seen them use another bird's nest until recently.

On 23 September 1993, a friend called to tell me about a pair of doves in her yard that were using an old robin's nest. I am always interested in any kind of unusual avian behavior, so I went to see this for myself. Sure enough, there sat the parent bird on the side of the nest with two nestlings almost ready to fledge—they did fledge two days later. This behavior is not as uncommon as you might think. There are records of doves using the nests of Cardinals, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers and many others. As you know, any of these nests would be much more substantial than what a dove builds—I think it is highly unlikely that a Mourning Dove will ever be chosen "Avian Architect of the Year!"

In spite of their nest-building deficiencies, whatever home they build or borrow seems to work for them. Mourning Doves are still the most common and widespread game bird in North America.

Ruth C. Green

Partners In Flight - Ohio Working Group Established

The first meeting of the Partners in Flight--Ohio Working Group Steering Committee was held on

31 August. This was an organizational meeting to bring together representatives from governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations who work with wildlife and manage land in Ohio. Participants included Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Defiance College, Ohio Audubon Council, Ohio Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Unit (OSU), Ohio Division of Forestry, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service (Wayne National Forest). Some goals formulated from this meeting for the Ohio Working Group are: 1) Determine what criteria will be used to address Neotropical migratory bird concerns in Ohio. 2) Create technical committees modeled after regional committees to address problems of Neotropical migrants in Ohio (Research & Monitoring, Education & Information, and Management committees). 3) Create a species list of Ohio neotropical migratory birds; prioritize list according to threatened status. 4) Be involved in planning processes of public agencies; provide interaction between PIF and other agencies. 5) Maintain or increase populations of Neotropical migrants by habitat type.

The Steering Committee tackled the first goal of the Ohio Working group. Habitat type was the agreed upon method to look at Ohio Neotropical migratory bird problems. The five habitats the committee felt needed addressing were 1) mature forest, 2) scrub/early forest, 3) grasslands, 4) wetlands, and 5) residential/urban. With this goal defined, we can now develop a species priority list using various criteria of which habitat will be one. Our next meeting will be determining what problems these birds have in Ohio and set up technical committees similar to the Midwest Region (Education & Information, Research & Monitoring, and Management) to address these issues on a more definitive scale. This is a great opportunity for different agencies and organizations within Ohio to come together to develop strategies to conserve neotropical migratory birds

from Ohio Bird Banding Association Newsletter,
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A Banded Bluebird Yields Facts and Stirs Speculation

On Wednesday, 21 April 1993, I was traveling west on Berlin Station Road in Delaware County, Ohio, enroute to check my second bluebird trail of the afternoon. When I was 0.4 mi east of the intersection with Braumiller Road, I spotted a familiar blue, orange and white object on the pavement; a male bluebird had been run over by a car. I quickly braked and backed my car past the remains. I could see the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aluminum leg band protruding from under a wing as I parked in a field driveway.

The body was too messy to preserve any parts for the Ohio Wesleyan University Zoology Museum, so I used wire snipers to sever its leg to retrieve its band. I recorded the number, 1441-98518, put the band in a plastic bag and continued to my next trail. Later, when I arrived home, I immediately sorted through my index cards to see if I had banded the bird. I had.

I had banded the bluebird as a nestling on 2 July 1990. It had hatched from one of four white eggs laid in box #47 in Delaware State Park. (Normally, bluebird eggs are blue; less than 5% of their clutches are white.) At its death, it had lived more than 2 years, 9 months. It had died 8.8 mi south of where I had banded it. Hopefully, it fathered young in 1991 and 1992.

My records also revealed that one of the 11-day-old nestlings in box #47 was a photo prop for the article, "Bluebird conservation; it's for the birds," by Kristy Bender for the 9 July 1990 issue of *The Pacer*, The Delaware [County, Ohio] Gazette Feature Magazine. Finding the dead bluebird prompted me to pull the article from my files and I enjoyed rereading it after three years to reminisce about my philosophies in my career-hobby of bluebird conservation.

Finding a beautiful bird flattened into a unsightly mess did not brighten my day; but learning, with the help of a leg band, that it had lived two breeding seasons to pass its genes to future genera-

tions, gave me a good feeling. My relationship with the bluebird had completed a circle, from nest to death.

Learning that the bird was a prop used to promote bluebird conservation was frosting on the cake. Ideally, three years ago, the *Pacer* article, with several photos of bluebird nestlings, inspired some of its readers to erect bluebird nest boxes, and, perhaps, 1441-98518 successfully nested in one or more of them. And as bluebird tenants thrilled landowners, more boxes were erected as friends, coworkers and relatives were persuaded to provide nest boxes, too.

Conjecture, yes. But bluebird conservation is best promoted by bluebirds on the wing. Many people put up nest boxes only after they witness the brilliant colors advertised by wild bluebirds. Articles with enhancing photographs help the bluebird conservation movement by testifying that it is possible to attract bluebirds to nest boxes erected in proper habitats.

Look for nest boxes as you travel the country roads; many homes have one or more. I've noticed that some rural neighborhoods are saturated with nesting opportunities and bluebirds are responding, becoming more visible as they hunt from utility wires. Some of the boxes may have sprouted after the bluebird article in 1990. If so, this commentary serves as a requiem for the unlucky bird found on Berlin Station Road.

Dick Tuttle

Ohio Bird Banding Association Newsletter
October 1993



SPRING AT SAND BLUFF

The numbers this spring at Sand Bluff Banding Station, Colored Sands Forest Preserve, Winnebago County, Illinois, were not particularly outstanding or unusual--they were average--but you can make an argument for positive interpretation: there seemed to be more warblers and fewer Brown-headed Cowbirds. In the spring of 1993, we encountered 104 species, bringing us 2701 new birds, 208 retraps, and one foreign retrap, a rare encounter anyway, an American Kestrel (1053-11112). We will know in a few months where that one came from.

We will start with dessert--the oddities and rarities and "bests," followed by the "goods" and "improved." Species that are not mentioned registered at or near average. The rare, tiny, and beautiful LeConte's Sparrow has, in the last seven years or so, become an every-other-year regular. We had our first Spotted Sandpiper in a decade or more, which will tell you something about the condition of the river bottoms; the first Belted Kingfisher since 1988, a retrapped Eastern Screech Owl from September 1991; and an unprecedented 3 American Kestrels (including the foreign retrap already mentioned). Not rare but in surprising numbers were 3 Kentucky Warblers, 2 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 4 White-eyed Vireos, 10 American Woodcocks, and 6 Mourning Doves (including a 1992 fall retrap). Among warblers: 1 Cape May Warbler in spring is rare, 2 are unusual: Black-and-White Warblers were best since '84 and '89; Western Palm Warblers scored best since '81 and '83, and 6 Connecticut Warblers was unheard of.



Tennessee Warblers were best since '83. Several deep woods birds recorded best years: Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and Great Crested Flycatcher. Other flycatchers and insect eaters did well: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was best since 1985, "Traill's" Flycatcher scored best since 1984, Eastern Phoebe were best ever by more than double, including the pair that changed a number of bander's lifestyles by nesting between the station's back door and restrooms. Other "bests" for the spring were Gray Catbird, Fox Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, American Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper.

Downs as well as ups: Several warblers failed the test. Myrtle Warblers this year appeared at less than one-third of average. Mourning Warblers have been down the last three years, and they, like Northern Waterthrushes, were about half of average. One Golden-winged Warbler, instead of the more common 2 to 4, reinforces observations of the continuing decline of this species in favor of the Blue-winged Warbler which was average. Nashville Warblers remain down, period, and several species were just missing: Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler. Vesper Sparrows registered half of an already downward-trending average, as did Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Indigo Buntings. White-throated Sparrows were in shorter numbers as well. Two missing species were Philadelphia Vireo and Solitary Vireo.

On the whole, the spring of 1993 had a strong positive feel about it--stronger than in years. In late September, as this is being written, we have already had two 500 bird weekends, and may well be headed toward a 6000+ year. American Goldfinches and many warblers have put in significant appearances, as has the waning Purple Finch, and the big sparrow and goldfinch push is not really due for a few more weeks. Perhaps the fall report will also be the "best since 1984."

Tom Little
Sand Bluff Banding Station Reports
September 1993