

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

Message from the President

Anyone interested in hosting our annual meeting for the years 1995 and 1996 should submit bids at our 1994 Annual meeting. Both hosts and IBBA need adequate time to prepare for the event. For information concerning staging these meetings write or call our 1st Vice President, Forest V. Strnad.

I have also received the resignation from Betty Grenon and Ruth Green, co-editors of the Inland Bird Banding Newsletter, effective the end of this year. They have served our Association in this capacity for the past four years and would like to be able to give more time to other volunteer commitments. Betty and Ruth have done a commendable service for our Association in this endeavor; and speaking for myself and the membership, we express thanks and appreciation to them for a job well done. Betty Grenon is our Secretary and will continue to serve in that position. Anyone interested in becoming our newsletter editor should contact me or Peter Lowther, *NABBE* Editor, as soon as possible.

Vincent Bauldry
2632 Saint Pats Road
Green Bay, WI 54313

1994 Annual Meeting

The date and location for our 1994 annual meeting has been established. **Dr. Jerome A. Jackson, Mississippi State University, extended the invitation to the IBBA to meet 21 to 23 October 1994 at Arleen Hall in Biloxi, Mississippi.** Arleen Hall is a retreat center of the Mississippi Conference Methodist Women, located on a quiet stretch of white sand beach of the United Methodist Seashore Assembly grounds. Facilities are of fine quality and will be an excellent setting for our annual session.

The area is excellent for birding with such major attractions as the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge and the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Also, birding is available on the beach just across the street from the conference center.

A tentative agreement has been reached with Bob and Martha Sargent to provide the banquet program on hummingbird banding. Our meeting will be co-hosted by the Mississippi Ornithological Society and the Coast Audubon Society. Further information will be supplied later.

Vincent M. Bauldry
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Note from the Whitefish Point Meeting

There were Saw-whet stations at Hawk Ridge, Stevens Point, Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Whitefish Point. All have captured owls banded at the other stations. What is more remarkable is that 20 years ago, the Saw-whet was regarded as a rare bird in Wisconsin, with less than seven records per year. When banders at some of the Lake Michigan stations started to leave nets open overnight, they were able to catch as many as 50 owls in a season. With tapes, they may catch a thousand a season. This is another example of the unique contribution banders make to understanding basic bird biology.



Whitefish Point is famous as a spot where Boreal Owls occur in large numbers in the fall. About 150 are netted and banded each spring. None of these has been recaptured and there are no known nests in the Upper Peninsula. This owl migration is relatively late in comparison with the known nesting times of the 10 or so nests known from northeastern Minnesota.

from *Minnesota Bird Bander's Newsletter*
Vol. 5, No. 1, Oct 1993.

A Request for Bluebird Data

Don Beimborn has been logging bluebird return data from Vince Bauldry's records of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Vince has nearly 500 bluebirds trapped in nest boxes with negligible problems. He bands all chicks and catches most adults nesting in his nest boxes. Don would like to compare Vince's set of information with others. The returns suggest that the life span of a bluebird is rather short, about 1.3 years after banding. If you would like to share bluebird information, please contact **Don Beimborn** at 3516 21st Street West, Minneapolis, MN 55416

One of Vince's recent observations are of several female bluebirds that are nearly as bright blue as an adult male. From a distance, they would be indistinguishable from males in a casual observation. Vince feels that field observations of the sex of birds attending nests should be made with great caution.

from *Minnesota Bird Bander's Newsletter*
Vol. 5, No. 1, Oct 1993.

Banding at University of Michigan-Dearborn

Fall banding at UM-Dearborn took place on 59 days between 4 August and 3 November, for a total of 2,878 net-hours. A total of 1,384 birds of 72 species was captured, 990 of which were new birds (48 birds/100 net-hours). This represents slightly more diversity and fewer individuals than last fall (50 birds/100 net-hours, 65 species). Peak capture period occurred between 7 and 29 September, when 56% of the birds were netted. The season started very warm and humid, and turned abruptly cold and windy in October, when netting was greatly hindered by heavy frost or high winds.

Highlights included both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, a Clay-colored Sparrow, and the return of Purple Finches to the area after a long absence. Top five species were Gray Catbird, 204; Swainson's Thrush, 126; American

Robin, 75; White-throated Sparrow, 69; and Magnolia Warbler, 39. Encouraging was the good Gray-cheeked Thrush migration, with 32 banded compared to 7 last year. Twenty-one warbler species were banded, with far fewer Ovenbirds, Tennessees, and Yellow-rumped than last fall. In fact, only 5 Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded this year; this may be due to the problems with wind and frost encountered in the latter part of the season. There were no foreign retraps or unusual returns. The last week in October, we experimented with audio luring for Northern Saw-whet Owls for several hours. Three Saw-whets were banded and one returned twice.

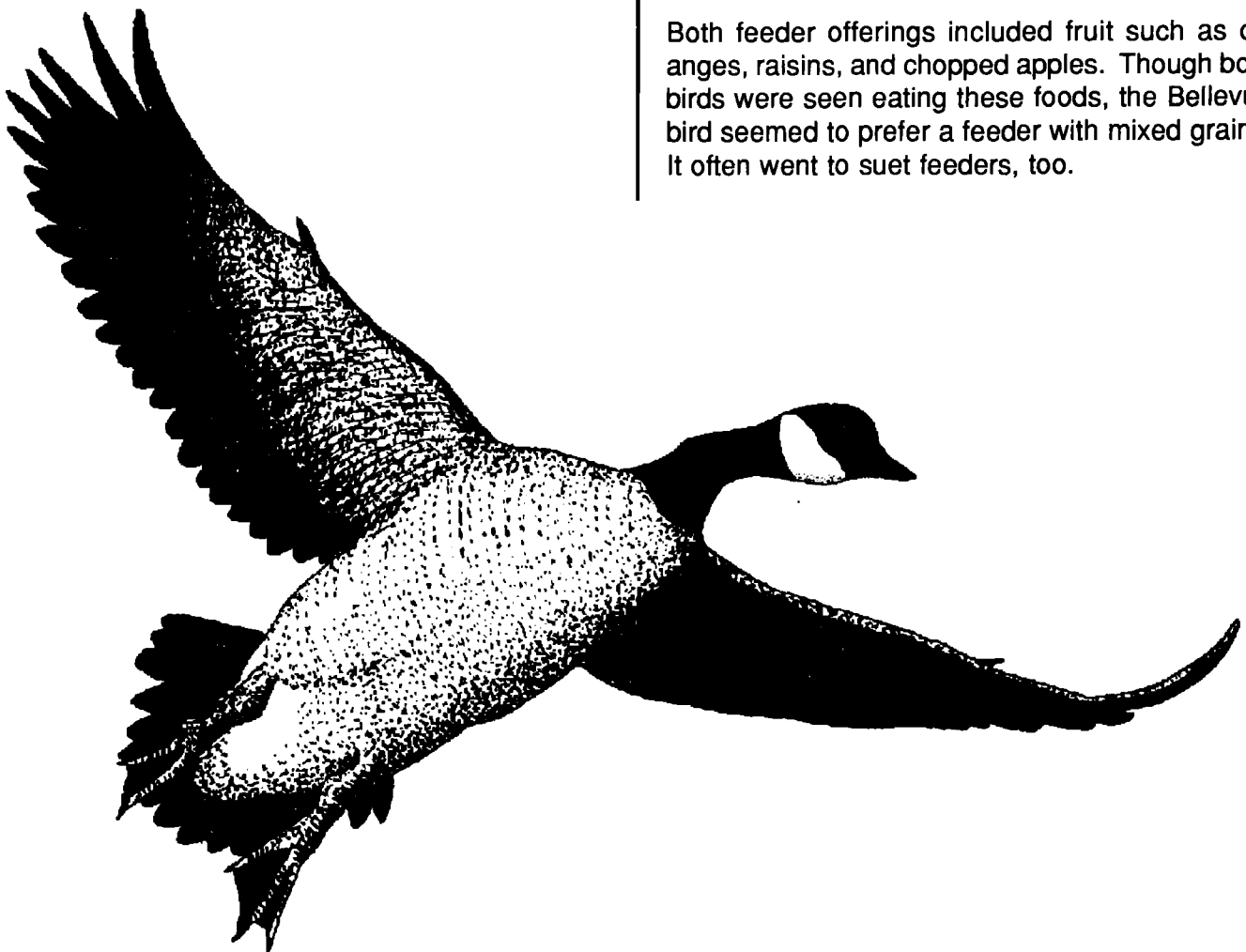
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Nature Notes from Nebraska

Winter in Nebraska often offers the most exciting birding of the whole year. That is the time when most out-of-season or out-of-range birds are found. In December 1993, two really out-of-season species delighted birders in Bellevue and Omaha. A Summer Tanager spent over a month at a Bellevue feeder. It was first seen on 22 November and the last sighting was 27 December. The bird was photographed and documented for state records and became the first Summer Tanager record for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Then on 4 January 1994, another Summer Tanager appeared at feeders in Omaha, but this one stayed only three days. I suppose it is possible this and the Bellevue bird could have been the same; but this sighting was 25 miles north of the first one, so I think it is unlikely. This bird was also photographed for documentation.

Both feeder offerings included fruit such as oranges, raisins, and chopped apples. Though both birds were seen eating these foods, the Bellevue bird seemed to prefer a feeder with mixed grains. It often went to suet feeders, too.



Summer Tanagers are not regular in Sarpy and Douglas Counties, even in summer; one or two sightings a year are considered good. Some years there are none. The question that arises then is why would these birds be here. No one can give a definite answer, but we all like to speculate on possibilities and I think I do see some. First, there were an exceptionally high number of sightings of this species beginning in May, some further north than any previous records. If they attempted nesting, it was probably late, as it was with so many summer nesters. Due to excessive rain, many species nested later than usual and consequently young birds fledged later. I think these two birds may have fledged late and were simply left behind when migration time came. I realize that if this question were thrown out to a dozen different ornithologists, you would probably get a dozen different reasons; but since none of us really know, one thought is about as good as another. I do know this Neotropical species should have been in its winter range of Mexico or Central America.

Summer Tanagers are exciting for a Nebraska Christmas Bird Count, but they really pale in comparison to a Nashville Warbler. One was sighted on a 18 December count, but because the observer knew how much his sighting was out of season, he did not report it that day. But the next day he took fellow birders back to the same spot and found the warbler, a male still in excellent plumage. It was foraging in the same row of pine trees with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets. This is the latest record for this species Nebraska has ever had. I'll let you speculate on its unexpected presence!

Ruth C. Green

Interesting Iowa Returns

For the past six years, Rita Efta of Auburn, Iowa, has invited friends to her home to band birds on the first afternoon of good weather after 1 January. This year it was 23 January 1994. With two nets we caught 97 birds of which about half were

encounters previously banded at her station. The most interesting of the recaptures were:

- Downy Woodpecker banded on 16 Apr 1986
- Downy Woodpecker banded on 16 Dec 1986
- Downy Woodpecker banded on 15 Feb 1987
- Downy Woodpecker banded on 17 Jan 1988
- Hairy Woodpecker banded on 27 Nov 1988
- Blk-capped Chickadee banded on 29 Jan 1989

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