



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

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IBBA President's Letter

As of this writing, we are going through one of the harsher winters in some time along the shores of Lake Erie. In spite of that, we are seeing few winter raptors and virtually no winter finches. Guess we are ready for spring.

It has been an eventful past few months with a major West Nile Virus outbreak in the Midwest with unknown impacts to bird populations in the mid-continent. It will be a story to follow as spring migration commences. Banding stations can provide a valuable monitoring technique as new challenges such as this appear with the avian resource.

The compilation of IBBA region-wide banding

results as presented on the following pages can also begin to develop an index to banding activity and provide feedback information to banders around the region as to who else may be working with similar species make-up. I want to take this opportunity to request banders to send their 2002 accomplishments to **Brent Ortego**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600B, Victoria, TX 77901. Brent is the compiler of this endeavor and will be processing reports over the next few months.

We also invite all to watch for announcements of the 2003 meeting in southern Illinois where a target will be hummingbirds. Hope to see you there.

Mark Shieldcastle

Inland Bird Banding Association 2003 Annual Meeting in Southern Illinois

The Inland Bird Banding Association's annual meeting will take place 15-17 Aug 2003 at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University, in the midst of the Shawnee National Forest. This area is unique in Illinois, having both northern and southern species of flora and fauna and a variety of habitats including oak/hickory forests, cypress swamps, and the flood plains of both the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The conference activities will include banding sessions of both passerines and hummingbirds, afternoon paper sessions, evening programs, and a banquet. Housing and meals for the conference will be provided at Touch of Nature, which has both hotel and dormitory accommodations. Motels are available in Carbondale, which is 8 mi to the north of the conference site. Camping is available at Giant City State Park, which is 2 mi south of Touch of Nature,

and at several sites throughout the Shawnee National Forest.

Abstracts can be submitted for the afternoon paper sessions on topics related to bird banding and its usefulness in the advancement of our understanding of birds. Along with topics, abstracts should list the title, the name(s) of the presenter(s), address, and list of AV equipment required. Please send by 15 Jun via e-mail to: <Kleen@QuixNet.net> or <hutche@siu.edu>

In addition to research presentations, demonstrations of new or improved techniques developed in bird banding are appropriate topics for presentations.

Later in the spring, the IBBA web site will have more detailed information on lodging, registration, travel, and local southern Illinois birding sites and attractions. See <<http://aves.net/inlandbba/ibbamain.htm>>