Old Business:

Grants: Ingold asked the Grant Committee to follow up on previous grants and their status. Bartlett will work with Hutcheson to determine the status.

Future Meeting Sites: Ingold advised that St. Louis, MO, will host the 2009 meeting. Future meetings will be in Ohio for 2010 and in Texas for 2011.

New Business:

IBBA Web Site: Bartlett advised that Vic Fuzis is ready to give up supporting the IBBA web site. Ingold advised that Ron Munden has offered to take on the support, including the web hosting for $100 a year, $50 for maintenance and web design at $50 an hour. Ingold will get more details from Munden and provide the board via email with more information. The board should review links, etc.

Nominations Committee: Bartlett reported that all officers would continue for another year. Richard Keith is completing his second three-year term and must step down. Eric Soehren has agreed to run for the three-year Board position (2009 - 2011). We have an open Board position for two years (2009 - 2010). Requests for nominations will be proposed at the next IBBA business meeting. Keen motioned, Vogt seconded and the report was accepted.

By Laws & Constitution: Bartlett advised that the By Laws & Constitution need to be reviewed, revised if necessary and then added to the website. Bartlett provided a copy the 27 Oct 1984 version of the Bylaws of IBBA. Ingold requested the all board members review their historical files to determine if there is a more current version of the Bylaws. Bartlett will work with Tossing to further research this.

Hutcheson motioned for the meeting to be adjourned; Cimprich seconded and motion was accepted. Meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Second Board Meeting – 4 Oct 2008

President Ingold called the meeting to order at 9:15 pm and welcomed the new Board. Board members in attendance: Bartlett, Cimprich, Hutcheson, Ingold, Kleen, Schieldcastle, Soehren, Tossing, Vogt and Webb.

Tossing will send copies of the minutes of the 4 Oct 2008 business meeting, the abstracts presented at the conference, the list of the officers of the board and the board of directors to *NABB* to be included in the next issue. Bartlett will update the website.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee will remain as the same as last year.

By Laws: Ingold will scan the By Laws of the IBBA, version 27 Oct 1984 and provide a copy to the board.

Correspondence: Ingold will send thank-you letters to the Pantles, Eric Soehren and company, and the Sargents for the banding demonstration. Hutcheson will send a letter to the Grant recipients for a status of the projects. Bartlett will ask Nelson Hoskins to send an article and photo regarding Darlene Ayers to *NABB.*

2008 IBBA Conference: Soehren requested Tossing to submit an abstract about the World Bird Sanctuary presentation to be forwarded to Lowther. A question was raised: Where do profits go to from the IBBA Conference? Ingold will provide information via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Titles and Abstracts for the IBBA 2008 Annual Meeting

History of the North American Banding Council. H. Thomas Bartlett, *Tiffin, OH.*

This is a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the North American Banding Council which was designed by Audrey Heagy and first presented at the Eastern Bird Banding Association annual meeting in April 2008. The information presented covered the history from the idea being presented by David DeSante in 1995, the first meeting with various banding groups (IBBA being one), its incorporation in 1998, to the present. The mission of the organization, the Banders' Code of Ethics, and what the organization has done to date were presented. Discussed were publications, website, certification, education, training, outreach, policy concerns, international future, and data

management. Some of the manuals (in English, French, and Spanish) were available for download or directions on how to get them were presented. Tom has been the Inland Bird Banding Association representative to the Board for the last few years and will gladly answer any questions from the membership.

Prebasic molt in the Black-capped Vireo. David A. Cimprich, *The Nature Conservancy, Fort Hood, TX.*

I studied the prebasic molt of Black-capped Vireos at Fort Hood, TX, over a three-year period. I scored the molt of primaries and secondaries on the right wing of 502 birds. I used the sum of the scores of primaries 1-9 plus secondary 6 to describe the timing and rate of molt in this species. This population molted from mid-June to mid-September with individuals requiring 66 days to complete the process. The sequence of molt was typical of passerines with feathers being replaced in three series: (1) the primaries, (2) secondaries 7-9, and (3) secondaries 1-6. The primaries were replaced sequentially beginning with p1. Tertials typically molted in the order s8, s9, s7, beginning at the time p3 started growth. The remaining secondaries molted in sequence from s1-6 beginning when p5 started growth. I found no evidence that the sexes differed in either the timing or rate of molt. I found no evidence that the ASY and SY age groups molted at different rates, but ASYs appeared to start molt 2d later than SYs. The rate and timing of molt did not differ between 2006 and 2008, but differed in both respects between 2007 and the other years. On average, vireos initiated molt 12 d later and completed molt 8 d earlier in 2007, a year characterized by unusually high rainfall both before and during the first half of the molting period. Although I did not examine the first prebasic molt directly, I found evidence that juveniles rarely replaced up to four outer primaries along with their associated primary coverts during this molt, a pattern common in the related White-eyed Vireo.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration: bits of data and the questions they raise. Lew Hendrix, Cathie Hutcheson. *Makanda, IL*, and Bill Sussky, *Covington, LA.*

We analyze data from two archival sources: 1) Journey North on first sightings of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (RTHU) from 2002 to 2007 to examine the speed of northward spring migration, and 2) all banding re-encounter data for RTHUs from the USDA Bird Banding Lab to uncover directional patterns in migration. We determine that the speed of the northward wave of RTHU migration is about 15 to 16 mi/d, with some variation by longitude, but little across years. Only 69 cases of re-encounters proved useful for studying migration. These data indicate a general southwest-northeast pattern of movement, avoidance of the Great Plains, and also show "superhighways" between major RTHU banding operations. Within year re-encounters (n = 15) are examined to see the direction of movement in the SW-NE pattern more clearly. These suggest a northeastward movement within years. We informally tapped a third source of data—members of NEOORN in central and northern Mexico–to further explore this northeastward movement by asking whether they observed springtime RTHUs. Their affirmative answers (although none of them band RTHUs) suggest that the extent of spring migration over land, rather than over the Gulf, has been underestimated. More re-encounter data and more banders in Canada, the USA, and Mexico are needed to reach solid conclusions about paths or flyways in RTHU migration.

Characters for aging Chipping Sparrows in basic plumage. David A. Cimprich, *The Nature Conservancy, Fort Hood, TX.*

I used known-age birds captured in central Texas to evaluate the five characters described in the Pyle *Guide* for ageing the Chipping Sparrow in basic plumage. I assigned birds to the immature age group based on incomplete skull pneumaticization. The second group, adults, consisted of recaptured birds that were banded in an earlier fall/winter period. I used a digital camera to record images of the crown, primary coverts, and rectrices of both age groups for comparison. To evaluate the first character, crown color, I used images to score the amount of rufous coloration in the crowns of 164 immatures and 165 adults. I found no evidence of a difference in median score between age groups and both groups contained individuals representing all possible scores. Consequently, this character did not appear useful for ageing this species. The second character, the presence or absence of a molt limit in the inner secondaries was useful. I found that 85% of immatures and no adults had this

molt limit. The shape and edge color of the outer primary coverts did not appear to be a helpful character, as I found no consistent differences between age groups. The presence of a molt limit in the rectrices was a helpful character in 32% of immatures I examined, but no adults exhibited the molt limit. The final character, rectrix shape, was somewhat helpful. Differences in shape were subtle and many individuals had intermediate shapes. The most distinctive rectrix shape was that of the juvenal r1 present only on immatures that did not replace this feather in their first prebasic molt. I recommend that banders attempting to age Chipping Sparrows in basic plumage should first examine the inner secondaries and then the tail looking for molt limits before cautiously considering rectrix shape.

Migrational timing and habitat use of rails in the Lake Erie marsh region. Mark Shieldcastle, *Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Oak Harbor, OH.*

A pilot project was initiated in 2000 to determine spring migrational timing and habitat use of rails in the marshes of western Lake Erie. This secretive group of birds holds special interest in bird enthusiasts of many kinds. Rich in hunting tradition of a bygone era where wild birds were staples in the markets of the country, these species have seen considerable population declines, not due to the market hunters, but severe habitat loss and degradation. These wetland obligate species were some of the first to decline with the vast wetland loss of the past century, but may now be responding to the recent increase in wetland restorations across their range. Little information is known about migratory timing and habitat use in Ohio by these secretive wetland birds, and a major objective of this study is to acquire a better understanding of the habitat needs of this group and to refine the migrational timing as they pass through Ohio. An addition in 2008 was the use of transmitters to address questions on habitat use and stopover. While banding operations have provided information on migrational timing, the use of a lure to attract birds to the trap affects analysis of habitat preferences or even normal use. Six radio transmitters were placed on Virginia Rails to begin addressing stopover and habitat use. Radioed birds were checked daily during routine trap checks for presence/absence. Signals tended to remain near their release points until the signal ceased to be located. One bird is believed to have been predated or lost its radio two days after outfitting. Two other signals were recorded throughout the migration period indicating possible breeding. The other three all appeared to have moved out of the study area within six days after release. The Ottawa traps were placed in a variety of habitats for comparative purposes. One trap was placed in sedge meadow that had water variation of 0" - 3" and vegetation height of 3" - 20". The second trap was located in an upland habitat with water of 0" - 1" and vegetation of 3" - 15". A third trap was located in emergent wetland with water 0" - 5" and vegetation 0" - 17" tall. A second wetland trap was located in 1" - 6" of water and 0" - 15" of vegetation. Finally, a special trap designed for King Rails was placed in moist soil habitat with water of 0" - 3" and vegetation of 4" - 15". The Navarre trap was in deeper marsh with water levels of 10" - 20" and vegetation 10" - 40". The banding operation on Ottawa NWR was very successful in spring 2008. In total, 31 Sora, 156 Virginia Rail, and 1 King Rail were captured. The King Rail, the second of the last three years that the species has been captured, leaves hope for this species in the marsh region.

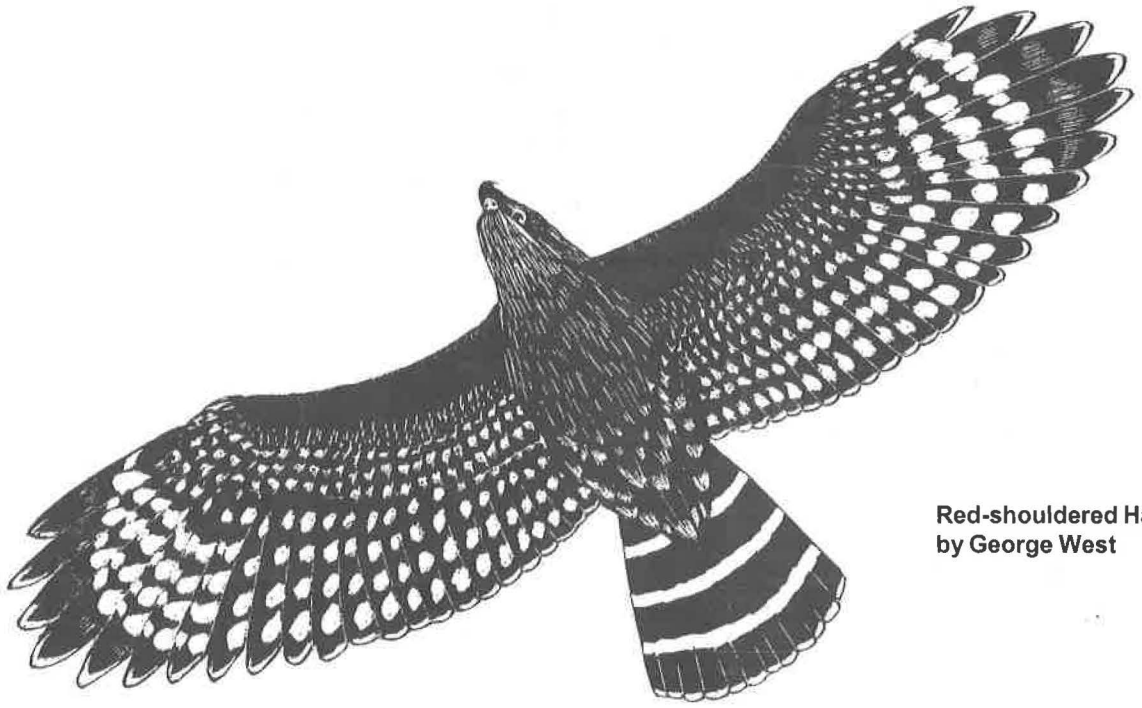
Temporal and spatial variations of habitat associations of fall migrating songbird at an inland site in northern Alabama. Lisa Gardner Barillas, *Alabama A & M University, Normal, AL.*

Songbird species show different habitat associations during the breeding season. Migratory songbirds are sensitive to food availability at stopover sites, when they need to gain energy stores to continue migration. We tested the hypothesis that songbird migrants show different habitat associations spatially and temporally during migration stopover in the fall. We captured songbird migrants at an inland stopover site within the Walls of Jericho Management Area of northeastern Alabama during the fall of 2006 and 2007. A total of 1,776 individuals at the wetland site, and 1,517 individuals at the forested site were captured. The wetland had higher species richness than the forest. Omnivorous species, such as American Goldfinch and Indigo Bunting, were concentrated at the wetland; and species including Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, and Swainson's Thrush showed stronger associations with the forest. Some

warbler species were distributed relatively evenly across both sites. Neotropical migrants used the sites earlier than temperate migrants. Some habitat use patterns are consistent with breeding habitat associations and may be related to food availability and habitat structure. However, some species showed more flexibility in habitat use, which may be related to the need to gain energy stores quickly to continue migration. These patterns have important implications for the conservation of these migratory species, as competition becomes higher with more species using similar habitats.

Overview of the World Bird Sanctuary. Linda C. Tossing, *World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis, MO.*

The World Bird Sanctuary's mission is to preserve the earth's biological diversity and to secure its future of threatened bird species in their natural habitat. We work to fulfill that mission through education, captive breeding, field studies and rehabilitation. The World Bird Sanctuary had its beginnings 31 years ago as a combined effort of Walter Crawford and Marlin Perkins of the St. Louis Zoo. The plan was to create a place where injured Birds of Prey could be cared for and eventually returned to the wild. The initial name was Raptor Rehabilitation Propagation Project (RRPP) and the focus was bird rehabilitation and endangered species propagation. In 1995, the name was changed to World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) to reflect not only working locally but internationally with other countries to provide expert assistance in developing rehabilitation centers and to offer sanctuary to birds confiscated from smuggling operations. WBS is located on 335 acres in the southwest area of St. Louis, MO, and is opened free to the public seven days a week through out the year and closed only on Thanksgiving and Christmas. The focus is Birds of Prey, but there are other creatures such as snakes, parrots and small mammals, which are used in the education programs. Today, WBS functions include education, rehabilitation, propagation, animal training and management, Peregrine bird air strike hazard, and field studies. The WBS Banding Team works under the WBS Field Studies and has been actively conducting the WBS Song Bird Population Study. WBS will host the 2009 IBBA Conference. We look forward to that event.



Red-shouldered Hawk
by George West