

somewhat less attractive over the years anyway, due to the gradual loss of a weedy area as trees and shrubs took over.

To end my commentary on a positive note, I can

report that the "seed-addicted Ovenbird" I wrote about in *North American Bird Bander* 33:66 reappeared on 28 Sep 2008 for its fourth winter, and it remained near my home at least through February 2009.

## North American Banding Council

Braddock Bay Bird Observatory hosted a North American Banding Council (NABC) Evaluation at both Bander and Trainer level on 25-27 Sep 2009. Congratulations to the following who passed at Bander level: **Dave Alexander** of Duluth, MN; **Amy Finfera** of Watertown, NY; **Maren Gimpel** of Chestertown, MD; **Ryan Kayhart** of Vergennes, VT; **Nigel Mann** of Davenport, NY; and **Dan Small** of Chestertown, MD.

Congratulations also to **Dave Alexander**, and **Annie Lindsay Crary** of Phenix City, AL, who passed at Trainer level.

Participating NABC Trainers were Betsy Brooks, Mary Doscher, Mark Deutschlander, Anthony Hill, David Holmes, Bob Leberman, Bob Mulvihill, Richard Joos, Erin Karnatz, Hannah Suthers, and Bob Yunick.

*Betsy Brooks, NABC Trainer*



## Inland Regional News

**Inland Bird Banding Association**

**Founded 1922**

### Inland Bird Banding Association 2009 Annual Meeting St. Louis, Missouri

The Inland Bird Banding Association held their 2009 Annual meeting 6 - 8 November in St. Louis, MO, hosted by the World Bird Sanctuary. The Friday evening welcome reception at the River Chase Community Center featured Brad Jacobs of the Missouri Department of Conservation, who spoke on "Building Partnerships for Bird Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean". Saturday activities included a driving tour of Lone Elk Park and a behind-the-scenes tour of the World Bird Sanctuary. Afternoon paper sessions at the Powder

Valley Nature Center included a report from the Banding Laboratory by Danny Bystrak and a Bandit workshop. Walter Crawford, Founder and Executive Director of the World Bird Sanctuary, along with his staff, presented a Live Bird Program at the annual banquet. Sunday's activities included a tour of the St. Louis Zoo Bird House. Local arrangements were chaired by Linda Tossing with committee members: Valerie Geile, Pat Lueders, Shellee Dwyer, and the WBS Banding Team members.

## First Board Meeting – 6 Nov 2009

Meeting called to order by President Jim Ingold at 4:05 PM. Board Members in attendance: Thomas Bartlett, David Cimprich, Cathie Hutcheson, Jim Ingold, Vernon Kleen, Mark Schieldcastle, Peter Lowther, and Linda Tossing

Minutes of the 2008 meetings were accepted as distributed via e-mail and published in *NABB*. Hutcheson motioned, Bartlett seconded and the minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cimprich provided the Treasurer's report. In order to make a yearly report that compares results for the past 12 months, Cimprich reported results as of 8 Sep 2009. The \$2000 increase in Receipts was primarily from the solicitation of Life Members. A summary of the Treasurer's Report is as follows:

Operations Accounts:	\$22,357.22
Paul Stewart Research Fund:	\$22,003.17
Life Membership Fund:	<u>\$12,348.81</u>
Total:	\$56,709.20

In the Operations account, the 2008 receipts were \$5,927.42 derived from dues, interest and some conference fees. Disbursements were \$5,148.20 consisting of *NABB* fees, postage and conference costs. Hutcheson motioned, Bartlett seconded and the report was accepted.

**Membership:** 78 Life Members, 5 Life Members no *NABB*, 9 Sustaining members, 133 Regular members with 6 no *NABB* members, 1 Student member, and 18 Institutional members. A detailing showed 20 states and two provinces within Inland region plus three countries, three provinces, and 15 states from outside the region. Membership continues to show stability. Kleen motioned, Schieldcastle seconded and the report was accepted.

**Editor:** Lowther reported the *NABB* activity for year 2009. IBBA had articles or notes in three of the four issues in the past year. Lowther encouraged the board to promote contributing articles and notes to Jul. - Sep. 2009

the *NABB*. Lowther described Field Museum's salvage project of window casualties which functions in many ways as does migration monitoring at banding stations. These birds are cataloged with collection date, sex, and age and provide a measure of migration timing in Chicago. Ingold asked about the changes to *NABB*, such as type face, etc. Lowther advised these changes began with volume 34, number 1. Ingold asked about the scanning project of the *NABB* back issues. Lowther advised that there is a pending project to be funded by the banding associations. Lowther was asked if Inland would help share the cost. Lowther agreed to contact the committee to determine the expected amount. Bartlett motioned to authorize Lowther to negotiate up to \$1,000 as a commitment to support the scanning of the past issues of *NABB*. The funds will come from the Paul Stewart Fund. Kleen second and the motion passed.

**North American Banding Council:** Bartlett reported that NABC met in February 2009 in Cork Screw Swamp, FL, with Bartlett and Schieldcastle attending. The conference focus was an in-house cleanup of procedures and policies. Also, NABC established a policy that if a person fails a part of the test, they can ask for arbitration before the NABC Evaluation Committee. Bartlett noted that Schieldcastle is now serving as the NABC President. Bartlett advised that the Banding Manuals are now on NABC's website and includes the ability to download the manuals. The location of the next NABC meeting will be 5 - 7 Mar 2010 in Tucson, AZ. This meeting's focus will be Strategic Planning.

### Old Business:

**Grants:** Bartlett and Hutcheson advised the status of the following grants:

-Kashmer project: Completed.

-Burton photo project: Unknown. The committee needs to have physical proof that Burton's project has been completed.

**Scanning old IBBA Newsletters:** Ingold reported the project is currently inactive.



**Future Meeting Sites:** Ingold advised that Ohio will host the 2010 meeting. Future meetings will be Texas in 2011 and possibly Minnesota in 2012.

**By Laws & Constitution:** Bartlett advised that the By Laws & Constitution needs to be reviewed, revised if necessary, and then added to the website. Bartlett provided a copy the 27 Oct 1984 version as the Bylaws of IBBA. He was able to locate a 2003 Amendment approved in Carbondale, IL; this amendment revised the election process, terms of office and dues. Bartlett believes there are amendments either before or after 2003. Therefore, he 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.

**New Business:**

**IBBA Web Site:** Ingold advised that a new website is up and running. Address: <http://ibbainfo.org> Currently, the website is pretty stark; it was set up just to have information regarding the 2009 Conference and the Grants. Ingold asked the board what we want on the site. He invited suggestions, such as links, pictures, articles, etc. Ron Munden will act as the webmaster at \$50/hr and Ingold will be the liaison for the website and Committee Chair.

**Nominations Committee:** Bartlett reported the following list as proposed IBBA Officers and new Directors for the 2009 - 2010 term:

Thomas Bartlett	President	1st Term
David Cimprich	1st V P	1st Term
Cathie Hutcheson	2nd V P	3rd Term
Linda Tossing	Secretary	4th Term
Brent Ortego	Treasurer	1st Term

David Vogt (2nd term) and Dave Russell have agreed to run for a three-year Board position (2010 - 2013). Bartlett motioned to present the above proposed nominations at the next IBBA business meeting. Kleen seconded and the motion was accepted.

**Grants:** Hutcheson presented a request for a \$500 grant from Thomas May to build Great Horned Owl nest baskets. This would be paid from the IBBA Avian Research Fund. Bartlett motioned to accept the request, Shieldcastle second, the motion was accepted. Further discussion revealed that the Grant Application on the website has the wrong titles. Ingold agreed to have this corrected. Bartlett clarified that IBBA Grant Committee consists of the 2nd Vice-President, a Director, and a person appointed by the IBBA Board President. Hutcheson will be the chair of the Grant Committee; the new IBBA president will appoint the third member of the committee. In addition, Shieldcastle recommended that the committee establish a cycle that includes an Application Date, Review Date, and Submission to the IBBA Board Date, and then when an applicant can expect a check.

Hutcheson motioned for the meeting to be adjourned; Cimprich seconded and motion was passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Tossing  
Secretary

**Second Board Meeting – 7 Nov 2009**

President Bartlett called the meeting to order at 9:15 PM and welcomed the new Board. Board members in attendance: Bartlett, Cimprich, Hutcheson, Ingold, Kleen, Lowther, Shieldcastle, Tossing, and Vogt.

**Nominating Committee:** The Officers and new Board Members were approved at the IBBA General Membership Meeting.

**By Laws:** Tossing advised that there are no meeting notes or files from the 1990s in the Secretary files. Bartlett will continue to research for more information by reviewing meeting notes in past years' *NABB*.

**2009 IBBA Conference:** Ingold recommended that any profits from the 2009 conference be donated to the World Bird Sanctuary. Hutcheson seconded and the motion was carried.

**Future Meeting Sites:** Hutcheson suggested a joint meeting with the Hummingbird Banders in Texas in 2011.

**Editor/NABB:** Lowther advised that the *NABB* online update would cost \$300. Also, Lowther requested photos for *NABB*. Bartlett set up a schedule for board members to submit notes for *NABB* to insure that IBBA will have a presence in every issue of *NABB*.

**Grant Committee:** Bartlett advised the Grant Committee will be Hutcheson, Kleen, and Ingold.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Tossing  
Secretary

### **Business Meeting – 7 November 2009**

Meeting called to order by President Jim Ingold at 6:20 pm.

Minutes of the 2008 meeting were accepted as published in *NABB*.

**Treasurer's Report:** David Cimprich provided the Treasurer's report. Operations Accounts: \$22,357.22, Paul Stewart Research Fund: \$22,003.17, and Life Memberships Fund: \$12,348.818, with a total of all funds of \$56,709.20. Increase was due to donations from the Life Members appeal and interest on Paul Stewart Research Fund. Tom Bartlett motioned to accept, Cathy Hutcheson seconded and the report was accepted.

**Membership:** 78 Life Members, 5 Life Members no *NABB*, 9 Sustaining members, 133 Regular members with 6 no *NABB* members, 1 Student  
Jul. - Sep. 2009

member, and 18 institutional members. A detailing showed 20 states and two provinces within Inland region and three countries, three provinces, and 16 states from outside the region. This is the first time all the states in the Inland Region are represented! Membership continues to show stability but no growth. David Vogt motioned to accept the report, Mark Schieldcastle second and the report was accepted.

**Editor:** Peter Lowther continues to look for submissions to the *NABB*, both the formal articles and informal news and anecdotes. Lowther advised he was very willing to help if anyone wants to publish a report in *NABB*. Bartlett motioned to accept the report, Don Varner second and the report was accepted.

**North American Banding Council:** Bartlett reported that he and Mark Schieldcastle attended the NABC Conference in February 2009 in the Corkscrew Swamp, FL. The primary focus was an in-house cleanup of procedures and policies. Bartlett noted that Mark Schieldcastle is now serving as the NABC President. The next NABC meeting will be March 2010 in Tucson, AZ. Also, at the meeting, NABC established a policy that if a person fails a part of the test, they can ask for arbitration before the NABC Evaluation Committee. Bartlett advised that the Banding Manuals are now on NABC's website and includes the ability to download the manuals.

### **Old Business:**

**Grant Awards:** Hutcheson reported there are two types of grants up to \$500 available from the Paul Stewart Fund and the Avian Research Fund. IBBA has \$22,000 in these funds and would like to use it! This year, the IBBA Grant Committee with Board approval, has awarded a \$500 grant to Tom May for his work with the Great Horned Owls.

**Future Meeting Sites:** Ingold advised that Ohio will host the 2010 meeting. Future meetings will be in Texas for 2011 and Minnesota for 2012.

**New Business:**

**Web Site:** Ingold reported there is a new IBBA website available: <http://ibbainfo.org> Ingold will be the web site liaison and welcomes any suggestions.

**Nominations Committee:** Bartlett presented the proposed slate of nominations for IBBA Officers and new Directors:

Thomas Bartlett	President	2009 - 2010
David Cimprich	1st Vice Pres.	2009 - 2010
Cathie Hutcheson	2nd Vice Pres.	2009 - 2010
Linda Tossing	Secretary	2009 - 2010
Brent Ortego	Treasurer	2009 - 2010
David Vogt	Director	2010 - 2013
David Russell	Director	2010 - 2013

Ingold asked if there were any other nominations from the floor; none were received. Joyce Varner motioned to close the nominations, Hutcheson second and the motion was passed. Joyce Varner motioned to approve the slate of nominations by acclamation. Hutcheson seconded and the motion was passed.

Cimprich motioned to adjourn the meeting, Hutcheson second and the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Tossing  
Secretary

**Abstracts of papers presented  
7 Nov 2009**

**Is the predation rate on Eurasian Tree Sparrows using nest boxes influenced by prescribed burns on a small urban prairie?**  
Colleen Burgess Crank, *Florissant, MO.*

The study took place during the summers of 2008 and 2009 at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, an educational facility that has been managing 4.85 ha of restored prairie through yearly burns and planting native forbs and grasses. Ten nest boxes

are situated on the prairie and have played host to a small breeding population of Eurasian Tree Sparrows, a non-native bird found in St. Louis, MO. This paper covers the natural history of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow and compares the predation rates of the boxes located on the burned portion of the prairie versus those boxes on the unburned prairies.

**Prospective study of US bird banders for evidence of avian influenza virus infections.**  
Dwight D. Ferguson and Gregory C. Gray, *University of Iowa, College of Public Health, Iowa City, IA.*

Previously, we have found that US bird banders, farmers, veterinarians and aquatic bird hunters have evidence of avian influenza virus infections. We have recently been invited to study US bird banders for evidence of avian influenza virus infection. Such bird banders have intense occupational exposures to birds which may carry avian influenza virus. In collaboration with their organizations, we will enroll volunteers via a web-based system with informed consent and questionnaire. Phlebotomy will be performed by the participants' primary health care center, with the sera sample sent to the University of Iowa. We will enroll and annually follow up to 300 adult banders and 50 age-group matched non-wild bird exposed controls over the three-yr period (with replacement for follow-up loss). As per our previous prospective study, each year participants will be sent postal-ready specimen collection kits with questionnaires and asked to seek medical care in collecting and shipping to our laboratory sera, nasal, throat, and conjunctival swabs should they meet case definitions for influenza-like-illness or conjunctivitis during the follow-up period. Per our previous studies, we will study sera with microneutralization assays against H4-H11 influenza A viruses representative of those recently circulating in the United States. A two-fold rise in titer will be considered as evidence of acute infection. Swab specimens will be screened with real-time RT-PCR for influenza A, and when positive, worked up with the CDC's molecular and embryonated egg culture algorithm to characterize

the virus. When serological evidence of avian influenza infection is found in either enrollment or serial sera collections, we will use questionnaire data to identify risk factors for infection, such as specific bird species, specific trapping methods, intensity of bird exposure (1000 bird-yr), geographic region of collection, month of collection, bander's gender, bander's receipt of influenza vaccine, etc.

**Safe handling of incidental hummingbird captures.** Lanny Chambers, *Valley Park, MO*.

Hummingbirds netted during passerine banding operations should be checked for existing bands. The safe handling of hummingbirds is enhanced by techniques that may be unfamiliar to those without hummingbird training. This presentation shares techniques developed by hummingbird banders.

**Summary and results of the 2005-2008 Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle night roost survey project.**

Kelly J. McKay, Cathleen D. Monson, Robert R. Bryant, Walter M. Zuurdeeg, Brian P. Ritter, Brian L. Blevins, *BioEco Research and Monitoring Center, Hampton, IL*, Gary V. Swenson, Joseph S. Lundh, Albert J. Frohlich, Jon R. Schultz, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project, Rock Island District, Pleasant Valley, IA*.

The Upper Mississippi River represents one of the largest wintering concentrations of Bald Eagles in North America. However, human development and activities continue to increase and encroach on the floodplain habitats of the Upper Mississippi River. For example, economic development is occurring immediately adjacent to the Milan Bottoms Complex in Rock Island County, Illinois. Evidence suggests that this area functions as a major night roost location for wintering Bald Eagles. Therefore, we conducted a standardized night roost survey here during three consecutive winters (2005-2008), in order to document the importance of this site to wintering eagles. Each week, one evening and one morning survey were carried out from early December through late March (17 weeks). In order to document Bald Eagle night roosting use of this site adequately, we

determined that at least three strategically placed observers were required. In 2005-2006, a total of 10,386 observations were recorded of eagles entering or exiting the night roost. Of these, 32% were adults, 36% were immatures, and 32% were unaged. In contrast, only 2,553 eagle observations were reported in 2006-2007, including 44% adults, 32% immatures, and 24% unaged. Eagle numbers increased in 2007 - 2008 to 6,957 observations. Among these, 39% were adults, 27% were immatures, and the remaining 34% were unaged. During the first three years of this project, the majority of night roosting eagle observations occurred in December and January, with steadily decreasing numbers in February and March, respectively. The upstream end of Milan Bottoms (i.e., the widest tract of flood plain forest habitat) appears to be the most heavily utilized portion of the study area for night roosting purposes. Although eagle night roosting use of Milan Bottoms varied considerably each year, this project certainly documented this site as one of the largest wintering Bald Eagle night roosts along the Mississippi River.

**Preliminary assessment of avian richness and relative abundance at Green Wing Environmental Laboratory, Amboy, Illinois.** Kelly J. McKay, *BioEco Research and Monitoring Center, Hampton, IL*, and Stephen B. Hager, *Augustana College, Department of Biology, Rock Island, IL*.

[Poster] A preliminary assessment of avian richness and relative abundance was conducted at Green Wing Environmental Laboratory in northcentral Illinois, throughout all seasons, from the early fall of 2001 through the breeding season of 2002. This site consists of approximately 170 ha of edge-dominated forest fragments, scrub-shrub, wetland, and grassland habitats, with little or no interior habitat. During this project, we conducted a total of six unlimited-radius point count survey routes (two fall migration, one winter, two spring migration, and one summer breeding season). Additionally, three random area search waterfowl surveys, and two random area search nocturnal bird surveys were also conducted. We also recorded all birds identified between points (i.e., interpoint

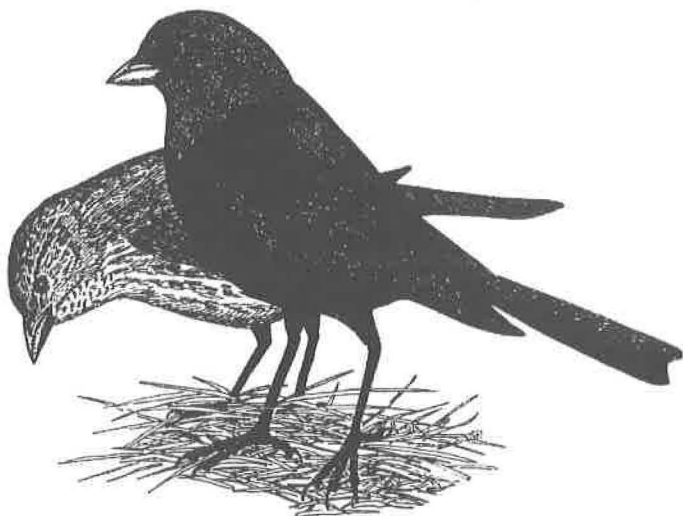


data). Overall, a cumulative total of 140 species were observed during this research. Of these, 62 species were North American Migrants (NAM), 59 were Neotropical Migrants (NTM), and 19 species were Permanent Residents (RES). We recorded a total of 4,440 individual birds throughout this study. Fall migration yielded 88 species (36 NAM, 37 NTM, and 15 RES), as well as 1,954 individual birds. During the winter season, 27 species were identified (13 NAM and 14 RES), including 332 individuals. We recorded 115 species during spring migration (52 NAM, 48 NTM, and 15 RES), and tallied 1,572 individuals. During the breeding season, we encountered 55 species (20 NAM, 23 NTM, and 12 RES), and recorded 582 individual birds. Our overall sampling effort during this project was relatively limited; nevertheless, a large diversity of avian species was documented. This tends to suggest that the 170 ha of edge-dominated habitats at the Green Wing Environmental Laboratory, may be functioning as a "habitat island" within a Midwestern landscape matrix heavily consisting of agricultural row crops.

**The birds of Green Wing Environmental Laboratory in northcentral Illinois.** Kelly J. McKay, *BioEco Research and Monitoring Center, Hampton, IL*, and Stephen B. Hager, *Augustana College, Department of Biology, Rock Island, IL*.

[Poster] Green Wing Environmental Laboratory (GWEL), an Augustana College biological field station in the Prairie Peninsula Physiographic

Area of northcentral Illinois, contains approximately 170 ha of edge-dominated forest fragments, scrub-shrub, wetland, and grassland habitats. Our objective was to assemble a cumulative list and summarize baseline ecological information for the avifauna of GWEL based on various field studies conducted between 2001-2007. During these investigations, we observed 188 species within 17 orders and 47 families. Abundant summer breeding species included the Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, and Gray Catbird. During fall and spring migration, species such as the Lesser Yellowlegs, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Yellow-rumped Warbler were among the most abundant. In winter, the most abundant species included the American Crow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Blue Jay. We also observed many species of conservation concern, such as the Golden-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wood Thrush, and Whip-poor-will. Edge-nesting species, like the Red-winged Blackbird and Gray Catbird, experienced relatively high reproductive success. However, limited observations of various interior-edge habitat nesting species, such as the Red-eyed Vireo and Veery, suggest these birds may be experiencing higher rates of nest depredation and/or brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird. A more complete understanding of the birds of GWEL would result from additional investigations of abundance and richness throughout all seasons, and studies of nesting productivity in all habitats.



**Brown-headed Cowbirds**  
by George West