



# *Inland Regional News*

***Inland Bird Banding Association***

***Founded 1922***

## **President's Notes**

Why do we band? It is a question I am frequently asked. I have a PowerPoint that I give several times a year on bird banding as a tool for studying Ohio's birds. One of the slides lists nine reasons for using banding of birds:

- Monitor populations
- Monitor reproductive success
- Monitor survivorship
- Breeding site fidelity
- Wintering site fidelity
- Migration site fidelity
- Behavioral studies
- Physiological studies
- Education

But within the last two years I have experienced another reason for banding. My data from the Lake Erie Islands has been used to help purchase valuable pieces of land on three islands. The banding data were used as documentation of species using the islands during migration and in the breeding season. There are historical data for the islands but very little current data. It was something I had thought about when I began banding on the island but there is very little land available on the island. I thought my data would be used mainly for management purposes on existing properties. But now it is being used for conservation purposes as well. One of the reasons for this is that I publish a yearly report of what I do on the islands and it is available to anyone who wants it. Get your data out there. You never know what may be done with it. If you have other reasons for

banding, send them to me. I will put them in my PowerPoint. Who knows what else I am missing.

***Tom Bartlett***  
**President, IBBA**

## **Annual Meeting**

IBBA's Annual Meeting will be held 26-28 October 2012 at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Bellevue, NE. Meeting chairs are Rick Schmid, Master Bander at Fontenelle Forest, and Betty Grenon, long-time IBBA member and former Board member. Information on Fontenelle Forest can be found at <http://www.fontenelleforest.org/> visit; a bird checklist of the area is available at [http://www.fontenelleforest.org/images/stories/Birding\\_Checklist.pdf](http://www.fontenelleforest.org/images/stories/Birding_Checklist.pdf)

## **Notice – Back Issues Available**

Cathie Hutcheson, IBBA's Second Vice-President, has undertaken management of back issues of IBBA publications — a function long held by Donald G. Varner until his death in July 2010. She wishes to maintain a complete library of IBBA publications but wants to reduce the bulk of the current inventory by recycling excess copies. To meet these goals, the following announcements are provided: Available for distribution are issues of *North American Bird Bander (NABB)* from 1980 (vol. 5, no. 1) through 2009 (vol. 34, no. 4) as well as a few issues of earlier volumes of *NABB*; issues of *Inland Bird Banding* from 1979 (vol. 51, no. 1) to 1981 (vol. 53, no. 3; issue no. 4 never published);

*IBBA Newsletter* from 1979 - 1986; and *IBBA News* from 1965 (vol. 37) to 1968 (vol. 40). Please email [hutche@siu.edu](mailto:hutche@siu.edu) to make inquiries about obtaining copies of any of these publications. Current inventory will be available for a limited time before excess holdings are recycled.

Hutcheson needs the following issues to complete library holdings: *NABB* 1976 (vol. 1, no. 1, 3, and 4), 1977 (vol. 2, no. 1 and 4), 1978 (vol. 3, no. 1),

1979 (vol. 4, no. 1 and 3); and *IBBA News*, 1965 (vol. 37, no. 1, 3, and 6). Scanned copies are suitable. Also, copies of any of the first 36 volumes of *IBBA News* would be appreciated.

**Cathie Hutcheson,**  
**1 Rowan Road**  
**Makanda, IL 52958**  
**[hutche@siu.edu](mailto:hutche@siu.edu)**



Founded in 1925

## *Western Regional News and Comments*

### **Moving Towards Zero**

An important article was published recently by Erica Spotswood and several collaborators: "How safe is mist netting? Evaluating the risk of injury and mortality to birds\*." Of course, all banders seek to reduce risk of bird injury and mortality towards zero. Regardless of the impact of banding-related accidents from a biological standpoint, they are of real personal consequence to the individual bander and individual birds. As you all know, the North American Banding Council has led the charge to provide tools, training, and evaluation methods to move individuals and banding stations as close as possible towards the zero goal.

Unintentional mortalities and injuries are inevitable with predators lurking in the background, and we must strive through training to balance any losses we cause with gains in scientific knowledge from banding. The days of ring-and-throw are long gone. Thanks to networks of stations like MAPS and LaMNA, and the high quality of data linked

together, we are seeing new avenues of understanding opening up. The situation is now totally different than even a couple of decades ago, as molt is better understood, demographic tools are becoming widespread, and the acquisition of historical data is playing an increasing role in understanding long-term trends in demography and body condition.

Until recently, banders have been on the defensive, subject to criticism from anecdotal accounts from well-meaning critics who have either seen or heard tales of outliers among banders and banding experiences. While the critics are welcome to their own opinions, I would suggest not their own facts. In response to the need for hard facts regarding injury and mortality rates at banding stations, out of the west came Erica Spotswood from UC Berkeley. When denied a mist netting permit in French Polynesia, she decided to look critically at the relatively undocumented assurance from banders