



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

President's Notes

Normally I have no problem writing a President's Note for each issue of the *North American Bird Bander* but this one is cramming my vacation. As I write this, Paula, my wife, and I are on a dream vacation. We have traveled from our home in Tiffin, Ohio, through the upper mid-west to Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Yukon, and onto Alaska. I am sitting on the back porch of fellow IBBA members Jill and Dave Russell's summer place in Fairbanks getting ready to head up the Dalton Highway. Jill and Dave are banders from southwestern Ohio but live in eastern Indiana just over the Ohio border. The last few summers they have been teaching summer classes at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Over the last three weeks we visited four bird banding stations which are part of the Canadian Bird Monitoring Program. They were Pelee Island in Ontario, Wascana Centre in Saskatchewan, Lesser Slave Lake in Alberta, and Albert's Creek in the Yukon. Unfortunately, the stations had just closed up for the season or were weathered out on the day we were there. It was still neat to see the different operations and setups. All banders should make an effort to visit other stations and see how things are done there. I have "borrowed" many ideas over the years which, I believe, have made me a better bander.

So, yesterday I get an email from Peter Lowther, IBBA editor, telling me he needs articles for the next issue within the next few days. I am on vacation

Evidently it doesn't matter to him or *NABB* Production Manager Bob Pantle. *NABB* is on a schedule. So what do I write about. Well, the 2014 Inland Bird Banding meeting is scheduled to be in Regina, Saskatchewan. Only two states or provinces within Inland have never hosted an annual meeting in modern times. Those are Saskatchewan and Kentucky. So Saskatchewan will finally get its chance. Jared Clarke, the naturalist at the Wascana Centre, has agreed to host the meeting. The dates will be 8-10 Aug 2014. We also hope to have an NABC bander certification session before the meeting. The Wascana Centre is part of a large city park in Regina and has a large natural area. Jared runs a MAPS station in the park. We will have a chance to band birds and share banding tips and ideas. More details will appear on the web page soon. Make plans to attend, as it is a beautiful area of the prairies with some very unique birds possible at the banding station.

Now on with my "vacation". Do you know what gas costs up here? And flat tires aren't cheap to have fixed either... If you are thinking about an Alaska road trip someday, start saving your money and budget twice as much as you think you will need... I hope we have enough to make it home.

Tom Bartlett
IBBA President