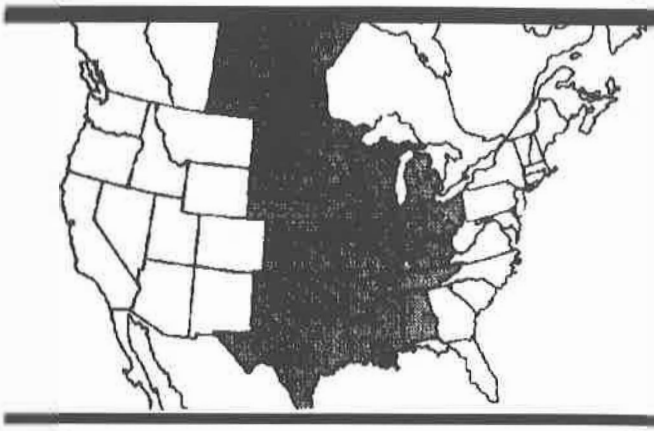

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association *Founded 1922*

President's Notes

You remember how excited I was about the IBBA Board having its first electronic Board meeting. Well, things are getting done but we are still in the meeting. It moves much slower than I thought it might. Hopefully we will adjourn by the time I write my next note or, at least, by next year's meeting in Saskatchewan.

One of the things we did get done was to approve three grant proposals. Two of these were for the Paul Stewart Research Grant and one for the IBBA Research Grant. Some years we do not get proposals and other years we get several. So, in years where we may get several proposals, the committee may grant more than one to make up for years where none were granted. The 2013 IBBA Grant Committee was chaired by Second Vice-President Linda Tossing from St. Louis, MO. Other committee members were First Vice-President Dr. David Cimprich and myself. Linda did an outstanding job making this a very professional process and Dave came up with an excellent worksheet for future committee members to use.

This year's Paul Stewart Research Grants go to Kevin J. Oxenrider (The Ohio State University) and Dr. Jacqueline K. Augustine (The Ohio State University – Lima) for their proposal: ***Habitat use and nesting success of Lesser and Greater Prairie-Chickens in an area of range overlap***, and to Kristen Covino and Dr. Frank R. Moore (University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Biological Sciences) for their proposal: ***Is testosterone production modulated in songbirds throughout spring migration?***

This year's IBBA Research Grant was awarded to Erika Dittmar (University of Illinois, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) and Graham Fairhurst (University of Saskatchewan, Department of Biology) for their proposal: ***Do cortocosterone levels effect habitat selection by juvenile Black-capped Vireos during the postbreeding season?***

I look forward to seeing the results of each of these research projects. Hope everyone had a productive fall banding and Happy Holidays!

Tom Bartlett
IBBA President

Sixty Years Banding at Chippawa Falls, WI

I have been banding in Chippewa Falls, WI, since 1953. My main long-term focus has been on passerine species with few exceptions looking at what species are encountered, which species have been most commonly encountered, their numbers, their phenology, returns and the rare foreign recoveries.

25 Most Common Species Banded with Per Year Averages in Five Year Groups													
Common Name	Total Banded	1954-1959	1960-1964	1965-1969	1970-1974	1975-1979	1980-1984	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2012
Slate-colored Junco	8613	213.0	310.0	64.0	36.8	92.2	108.0	116.8	117.6	106.6	201.4	179.0	224.3
American Goldfinch	6557	39.0	83.6	71.0	46.0	94.6	184.2	232.6	222.0	89.0	107.2	78.4	93.3
White-throated Sparrow	6405	92.7	320.2	140.4	87.4	68.4	64.0	54.2	64.8	57.6	111.6	156.2	75.3
Purple Finch	4054	0.8	380.6	147.6	25.4	44.0	152.4	32.0	16.6	2.8	3.2	1.6	6.0
Song Sparrow	3670	55.0	117.2	36.0	29.4	13.6	37.0	17.4	26.4	69.2	113.2	155.8	88.0
Gray Catbird	3629	30.7	117.4	99.2	82.2	58.6	47.2	34.8	37.2	43.4	54.0	90.6	40.7
Myrtle Warbler	3156	13.7	92.4	80.8	32.0	39.6	75.6	84.8	65.6	69.4	30.2	27.8	27.7
Tennessee Warbler	3091	16.5	93.4	118.6	77.6	44.6	62.6	48.2	46.0	37.4	43.0	18.4	14.3
American Robin	2423	73.7	48.8	62.0	24.4	28.8	45.2	44.6	29.6	15.6	19.0	30.0	80.3
Black-capped Chickadee	2398	35.7	56.8	27.2	17.2	17.0	46.0	49.2	38.0	48.0	48.4	47.2	69.7
Red-eyed Vireo	2297	12.5	84.6	107.4	56.2	41.8	38.4	48.4	25.6	15.4	9.8	8.6	13.7
Ovenbird	2194	4.2	41.0	36.0	39.8	39.4	51.4	93.6	50.8	37.6	28.0	12.2	6.7
Common Yellowthroat	1955	5.8	30.4	23.6	17.8	11.0	14.8	3.6	10.0	56.4	122.6	72.2	36.0
American Redstart	1742	4.0	29.8	33.8	42.4	38.0	65.4	45.8	43.6	17.4	17.0	8.0	4.0
Traill's Flycatcher	1639	5.0	145.2	76.2	27.4	12.0	20.0	12.2	6.6	6.6	1.2	9.6	8.0
Swainson's Thrush	1612	6.2	57.6	62.8	37.4	38.4	20.0	31.6	23.8	23.4	8.4	5.0	11.0
Nashville Warbler	1566	9.7	35.0	50.2	39.4	25.4	37.4	29.4	15.8	17.4	28.6	17.6	9.0
Common Grackle	1491	74.8	23.8	13.0	36.6	71.0	17.2	11.2	5.0	5.6	9.8	7.2	13.3
Savannah Sparrow	1419	206.8	5.6	2.2	0.4	0.0	17.8	0.6	1.0	1.0	4.6	0.6	3.0
Pine Siskin	1418	0.0	2.0	0.0	84.4	56.6	50.4	42.8	31.8	3.2	0.2	5.6	11.0
Swamp Sparrow	1366	17.7	25.0	11.8	4.6	2.6	3.8	1.8	4.6	35.8	92.4	50.0	32.7
Magnolia Warbler	1292	3.2	21.6	30.4	23.4	24.6	43.2	30.4	30.2	21.2	18.2	7.8	6.0
Common Redpoll	1281	1.5	36.0	0.0	55.2	49.2	34.4	2.6	21.8	1.8	14.0	39.2	0.3
Least Flycatcher	1193	0.0	56.6	44.0	24.4	19.6	20.0	11.6	11.0	17.0	15.4	17.4	2.7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1102	9.3	26.4	37.4	18.8	18.2	24.8	20.8	17.4	9.0	16.8	12.2	12.7

I would say, at the very outset, that this study probably does not qualify strictly as a scientific production. It lacks the recording of birds caught per net hour. Yet the long time this project has continued does supply significant data to shed light on what was encountered at this place and time. Generally, I banded at or near my residence on almost a daily basis throughout the year. Of course severe weather conditions, heat or cold, high winds, rain storms, heavy snow, etc., not to mention professional duties as a country doctor, family obligations, all limited banding activity.

All-in-all, I have processed over 100,000 individual birds of 198 species. People have asked, "Just what exactly have you learned from all this?" I have often reflected on this question. I believe the most important thing I have learned is that there is so much more there is to learn and how little we really know – like the how's, the what's, the where's, the origins, the evolutions, the diseases, the ecology and how we might benefit from the knowledge of all this. When one focuses on individual species he realizes that in regard to survival, whether it is decreasing, increasing, maintaining or some too difficult to categorize, we find that each species has its own story. And long-term studies, such as this, do shed light on trends, whatever the causes.

While over all, the results are depressing and human activity is the main culprit. One has to travel farther, spend more energy and money to see fewer birds. Changes in agriculture, use (and disuse) of pesticides, climate warming, hurricanes, tornadoes, hazards of tall buildings, wind turbine farms, water pollution, introduction of non-native species, unwise exploitation of energy resources, lack of conservation laws in undeveloped countries make up some of the harmful changes. Despite this, some species thrive.

Banding results provide some insight into population status and getting out into the field on so many days throughout the year and for many years permits one to observe populations changes from non- or rarely captured species. For example, if we were not in the field we would not see the increase in Bald Eagles, Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes. We would not know that some birds seem to be able to avoid us. Red-winged Blackbirds are one species that, in my area, are seldom caught despite their numbers. Starlings have exploded in numbers belying their capture numbers. But frequent banders witness their increasing numbers.

On a personal note, let me explain that bird banding evolved for me under the tutelage of many generous and knowledgeable people. It was so long ago to remember and have forgotten the names of some of my mentors. As a birder with the serious handicap of poor hearing, it was a natural transition to mature from regular birding (listing and observing) to banding. "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." I would mention some of the people who have greatly offered me assistance and encouragement over the years. Sam and Chan Robbins, Ed Peartree, Bill Evans, members of the Chippewa Wildlife Society, the Beaver Creek Society, Holly Meier, Mike Dahlloy, members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, many who are now deceased. A special thanks to Bruce Steger whose knowledge and assistance has only been matched by his overwhelming generosity in assisting me in the field and help in guiding this old man through the mysterious intricacies of the internet.

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