



Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Founded 1922

President's Notes

By the time you are reading this, I will be preparing to head northwest to Saskatchewan for the 2014 IBBA Annual meeting. There may still be time for you to register and come to the meeting. Check the IBBA webpage for details. The Saturday evening talk by C. Stuart Houston will be worth the trip up. Check the webpage anyway. It is looking good! Board Member, Erika Dittmar, took over as webmaster last year and has done an excellent job. If there are other things you would like to see on the page, email me or Erika. We are especially looking for other good links which would be helpful to banders.

Our first ever electronic Board meeting finished up in March. It was much longer than I expected it might be but the Board was able to get several important pieces of IBBA business completed. There is definitely a learning curve to electronic meetings. The two grants which IBBA supports had their applications updated and the process somewhat streamlined. Hopefully we can offer more grants in the future.

Several of you have commented that it was good to see some communication to banders from the Banding Laboratory recently. It had been a long time and helped to clear up some rumors and misinformation that was out there among banders. And I agree that MTABs are missed by many banders. Communication is a key to any successful operation.

It is funny what happens during the writing of these little notes. I started last night and then set them aside. This morning I got up very early and drove 30 miles to the site of Ohio's only Golden-crowned Sparrow. The bird first showed up in March 2009. At the request of the home owners, I captured, banded, and collected feathers from the bird. The bird was identified as an SY-U. The feather analysis showed the bird had hatched in northwestern British Columbia. It has spent every winter since in their Ohio yard. In January 2012, I successfully recaptured it and collected feathers. Unfortunately, the lab was unable to analyze the feathers due to derogation of the feathers. I suspect they sat on someone's desk for too long. I figured the bird would never be seen again, but it returned for the winter of 2012-2013 and again this past winter. Thinking I had feathers for analysis, I did not attempt to recapture it in 2013. I got the report on the feathers last summer. When the bird returned this winter, I thought it was going to be easy to recapture. The first seven attempts were unsuccessful. This morning we hit pay dirt!!! Birds are smarter than many people think. In addition, the bird was singing all the time we were there. Male? Maybe now we can learn the location of the bird in summer. And if it shows up again in the fall of 2014, it will be another year before I can write all this up for publication...

***Tom Bartlett
President IBBA***