

Stephanie Plautz of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is studying whether the lead shot ingestion rate by **Mourning Doves** is related to the density of shot on the ground. The study will provide evidence (pro or con) relating to the acute toxicosis hypothesis for this species – whether previous research showing ingestion of from 1% to 6.5% lead shot by doves collected in the field is correct, or whether this range underestimates actual ingestion rates because of rapid mortality of the doves after they ingest the lead shot.



Stephanie Plautz is studying toxicity of lead shot in Mourning Doves.

This determination will provide important information in the debate over banning lead shot in Mourning Dove hunting. Two-hundred-fifty

doves will be captured using Kniffin traps, then housed on the wildlife lab property at the SIU Carbondale campus during the course of the experimental program. The grant money provided by IOS will be used to construct 10 cages for the doves, each cage to house 25 doves for the duration of the study. Blood chemistry, X-ray examination, and other techniques are to be used to monitor lead concentration in dove tissue, blood and organ samples.

Editor's Note: All of the grant recipients will prepare a summary article for *Meadowlark* when their respective projects are completed. Eleven grant requests were received this year. All were worthwhile and the selection of the five finally chosen was difficult. Thanks to Steve Bailey and Jeff Walk for their work analyzing the requests and for their recommendations.

Funding donors and request for more monies

Funds for these grants are raised from IOS activities such as the Gull Frolic, Big Day pledges, and the Silent Auction. This year, for the first time, IOS was able to partner with the DuPage Birding Club and several individuals (who funded the Alessi grant in memory of Jerry Kumery) to increase the amount of funds available for grants.

The IOS Board would like to raise additional sums to fund more requests in the years to come, and hopes that both individuals and other birding and bird conservation groups around Illinois will support this effort as the DuPage Birding Club did in 2008. To this end, the Board has established an IOS Grant Fund Donation Program to accept contributions during the year to add to the funding provided by other IOS activities.

*Contributions should be mailed to IOS, Grant Program,
P. O. Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045.*

*Individuals or groups desiring to provide funds
to endow an individual grant in 2009, contact Denis Bohm,
IOS Grants Coordinator at (847) 235-2738
or e-mail denismb@comcast.net.*

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