



Western Regional News

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President's message

Western Bird Banding Association has postponed our annual meeting until Sept 2021 for the wellbeing and safety of our members. In lieu of our annual meeting, we will be offering bimonthly webinars focused on varying topics surrounding bird banding. Our first webinar focused on an introduction to bird banding and how to get more involved. Our two upcoming webinars include: an Introduction to Molt by WBBA board member Dani Kaschube, followed by Some Tips For Aging Birds In the New Year by WBBA board member Chrissy Konrad-Smith. Please be sure to follow our social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @wbba_birds) for all of the latest updates. We encourage all banding operations continuing to run to follow the covid-19 protocols issued by the NABC, prioritizing the healthy and safety of all banding volunteers. Wishing the best to everyone in these difficult and tumultuous times.

WBBA president, Holly Garrod

Announcing the Formulation of The Scientific Committee for the Marking and Monitoring of Birds of Venezuela (MASAVES), a Country-wide Initiative to Coordinate Bird Banding in Venezuela

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Various forms of tagging and the monitoring of birds have provided useful information in the fields of ornithology and ecology for more than a century. Methods have been diversifying in recent years with the rapid development of new technologies such as archival and real-time location tracking devices, although capturing, banding, and recapturing a bird remain widespread techniques that continue to provide important information about the movements, longevity, and general ecology of resident and migratory birds. The capture and tagging of birds also raise technical and bio-ethical considerations because, when done improperly, they involve stress for the birds and can alter their behavior, physical condition, reproductive success, or survival.

Venezuela is one of the most important migratory-stopover areas in the Americas for Nearctic-Neotropical migratory birds. Tens or hundreds of thousands of individuals of scores of species