



*Western*

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*News*

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## Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

<i>President</i>	Otis D. Swisher 1002 S. Oakdale, Medford, OR 97501
<i>First Vice President</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph Dept. of Wildlife Science, Utah State Univ. Logan, UT 84322
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Dr. Charles Trost Dept. of Biology, Idaho State Univ. Pocatello, ID 83209
<i>Secretary</i>	Fern R. Tainter 355 Evans Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
<i>Treasurer</i>	Shirley Spitler 3975 N. Pontatoc, Tucson, AZ 85718
<i>Editor</i>	Eleanor L. Radke P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331
<i>Directors at Large</i>	Dr. Carl Marti (term expires 1980) Bruce Sorrie (term expires 1978)

### Editorial Staff

<i>Recent Literature</i>	Susan Kaiser	<i>Worksheets</i>	Dr. Charles T. Collins
<i>Auxiliary Markings</i>	Jon L. Atwood	<i>Annual Report</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph

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Applications for membership in the Western Bird Banding Association should be sent to the Treasurer. All classes of membership receive *North American Bird Bander*, the joint publication of Eastern Bird Banding Association and Western Bird Banding Association. Membership classifications are: Active Member, \$6.00 per year; Associate Member, \$6.00 per year; Sustaining Member, \$12.00 per year; Student Member, \$4.50 per year; Life Member, \$150.00. Outside the U.S., add \$2.00 to each membership class except Life Member.

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## From the President

Time . . . and, thanks . . .

If there is one major contribution some of us can give to banding, it is the giving of our time.

Those hours spent at a study plot in setting nets or traps, capture and removal, careful recording of measurements and skull ossification, molt, fat, weight, and such other important data as we take may be the highest contribution we may feel we can give to banding.

May I suggest two other contributions of time which are also important.

We all appreciate those well-written articles in our journal. But, they don't just happen. The writing, correcting, re-writing, perfecting, polishing—they all take time. Yet, how important they are.

Surely there are many readers of this message who have something in mind for a beginner or an experienced bander, a short or long article, or something technical or non-technical. Now is a good time to start that article. If you have already started it but have put it aside, now may be the time to finish it and get it off to the Editor.

There may be some articles in which banding is not directly involved, but which will add information to someone's banding study. Give the Editor a chance to see it. Suggestions can be made when necessary.

Photographers: if you have good high-contrast photographs either in color or in black-and-white—they are needed. Artists: pen and ink drawings would be very helpful and useful.

The third important contribution of time is the work you can give to your banding organization. Attend the meetings, participate in cooperative projects, work on a committee, and if nothing else, send in — promptly — your carefully written Annual Report. Your time given to such things is important.

Now, just a word to the out-going officers of WBBA, to those who will continue in office, to those who have stepped in and assumed responsibility, and to those who are assisting the WBBA Editor of NABB by doing special sections—your work is appreciated. Thanks.

Otis D. Swisher

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## Worksheets for Western Birds

Ageing/sexing worksheets for western birds are mailed with NABB only to Western Bird Banding Association members. They are, however, available to anyone interested. For each worksheet desired, send 25 cents (or \$1.00 for any five worksheets) to Mrs. Donald F. Radke, P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

The following species sheets have been issued: Harris' Hawk, Scaled Quail, California Quail, Gambel's Quail, Mountain Quail, Common Snipe, Band-tailed Pigeon, key to kingbirds, Eastern Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Myarchis flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Yellow-billed Magpie, Clark's Nutcracker, Verdin, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, gnatcatchers, Orange-crowned Warbler, waterthrushes, *Oporornis* warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Tanager, Summer Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, towhees, White-crowned Sparrow.

There is a need for additional worksheets. Members are urged to submit data to the worksheet editor, Dr. Charles T. Collins, Department of Biology, California State University, Long Beach, CA 90840, who can help with the final format write-up. Data need not be original; field testing to prove its reliability is all that is required.



### Plan now to attend WBBA's 1979 Annual Meeting

#### *Santa Barbara, California*

The Santa Barbara Natural History Museum will host WBBA's 1979 Annual Meeting. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first part of May and will include papers sessions, business meeting, report from the Bird Banding Laboratory, banquet (with speaker) and field trips.

Look for additional details in forthcoming issues of NABB.

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## Who is . . .? *Charles H. Trost*

WBBA's Second Vice President, Dr. Charles H. Trost, was born in Erie, PA in 1934, and moved at an early age to Denver, CO. This Colorado experience must have instilled a deep desire to get back to the West.

Chuck returned to PA for high school, where an excellent teacher, Donald Knorr, sparked his interest in birds. He has not been the same since. He became fascinated with keeping a bird list and finding new species, which habit did not wear off for at least ten years. He joined the Army to get the G.I. Bill and served in Europe for 2½ years, enjoying the birding immensely. This was quite a challenge since Peterson's guide was not yet available.

Upon leaving the Army, Chuck entered Penn State University and immediately came under the tutelage of Merrill Wood, a fine and careful observer. Following his BS he went to graduate school at the University of Florida, where Charles Collins, David Ligon, and he were office mates. He began banding seriously there and received a \$100 student award from EBBA to watch the then-threatened Dusky Seaside Sparrow. This study was published in Bent. He received his MS in 1964,

going on to UCLA for his PhD. A job at Idaho State University followed, and he has had no desire to leave since.

His special interest is in the welfare of the colonial fish-eating birds, as they seem to be persecuted at virtually every hatchery. Chuck now bands about 1000 of these birds a year in hopes of sensing their population health. He is measuring eggshell quality with a beta-backscatter device and has found shell thinning in Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets in Idaho. Band returns for several White-faced Ibis and a night heron from Mexico lead him to suspect they are getting DDT there in the winter.

He has also banded a considerable number of raptors, believing that—since they too are at the top of a food chain—their welfare is an indication of the state of the environment. Currently, he is studying the behavior of corvids, especially that of the Black-billed Magpie.

As Chuck says, "I have progressed in my banding, as in my bird watching, from a scattered 'Oh, my' approach to a more intense and goal-oriented examination of specific questions. In that sense I guess I have matured."

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## Who is . . .? *Fern Tainter*

Long ago, a skinny little wide-eyed, barefoot girl in pigtails and a blue calico dress sat in the shade of a sycamore tree watching a Whip-poor-will incubate its two eggs near the west bank of a muddy Illinois stream—the same stream made famous by Edgar Lee Masters in his "Spoon River Anthology." If you can conjure up a picture of such a child, you have glimpsed WBBA's Secretary and Membership Chairman, Fern Tainter, in her earliest embryonic stage as a fascinated observer of birds, an interest that has continued unabated for more than 60 years.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, Fern began her career as an educator and soon thereafter married Stan, the mining engineer who had been her high school sweetheart. His work took them to many parts of Canada, the USA, and Mexico. In each new location, Fern found a teaching job and learned to identify most of the birds of the region.

During one period, while studying for a master's degree and instructing classes in Spanish at the University of Arizona, she met and was influenced

by Joe Marshall, Allan Phillips, Gale Monson, and—more recently—Stephen Russell, all outstanding ornithologists. It was Dr. Russell who encouraged Fern to become a bird bander, an activity she still pursues.

Husband Stan, having gracefully accepted the inevitable, shares his wife's enthusiasm. He accompanies her on birding expeditions and has helped her build an AOU life list of more than 650 species. His hobby is photographing such plants and animals as they find in their travels.

Now retired, they live on a small acreage near San Luis Obispo, California, where they grow their own vegetables and fruit, and where the landscaping was designed to accommodate standard length mist nets. Fern also conducts a banding station on a private estate in the dunes south of Oceano. She has published some 300 articles on ornithological subjects in the local newspaper, gives talks to school and club groups, and says she is never happier than when she is out-of-doors among the birds.

# WBBA Annual Meeting

Tempe, Arizona

13 May 1978

The 1978 Annual Meeting of WBBA was held jointly with the Cooper Ornithological Society on 11-14 May at Tempe, Arizona. A warm welcome (102 degrees, to be exact) was extended by the three sponsoring organizations—Arizona State University, Maricopa Audubon Society, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to workshops, while papers sessions filled most of Friday and Saturday. Banquet speaker, Bert W. Anderson, presented "Developing habitat for birds in the lower Colorado River Valley."

Participants in the Sunday field trip visited Lower Sonoran desert and riparian habitats northeast of Phoenix.

## Minutes of the 53rd Annual Meeting

President Charles Collins called the 53rd annual meeting of WBBA to order at 1:30 PM 13 May 1978, in the Pima Room of the Memorial Union Building on the campus of the Arizona State University in Tempe.

In the absence of Otis Swisher, secretary, Fern Tainter read the minutes of the 1977 meeting. A motion by Jay Sheppard, seconded by Bob McKearney, to accept the minutes as read, carried.

In order to acquaint the membership with various items discussed by the board of directors at their 12 May meeting, Martha Balph read a summary of business conducted by them.

Pres. Collins presented the new membership category of "non-subscribing member" proposed by the board to eliminate duplication of the NABB journal in households where more than one person belongs to WBBA, the dues for such a member being reduced to \$3.00, effective 1 Jan. 1979.

A motion to accept this new category, with appropriate changes in the By-laws, was made by Jay Sheppard, seconded by David Bradley. During a short discussion period, it was suggested that the board consider the terms "active subscribing member" and "active non-subscribing member" in differentiating between the two classes. In answer to a question from the floor, Collins explained that non-subscribing members of WBBA who are also members of EBBA will receive only one copy of the journal, but will be entitled to worksheets on western birds. The membership approved the new category by unanimous vote.

Editor Eleanor Radke reported that the *North American Bird Bander* had completed its second year of publication and is mailed to approximately 1300 persons per issue. "Each volume contains about 200 pages," she said. "We have tried to strike a balance between articles that will appeal to professionals and those that will be of interest to amateur banders." She thanked Otis Swisher, Jon Atwood, Charles Collins, Susan Kaiser, and EBBA editor Nadia Mutchler for their assistance in making the journal a success.

President Collins then explained the need for an efficient advertising manager and Jolan Truan volunteered to serve in that capacity. Jay Sheppard quickly moved that the association accept Mr. Truan's services. Elliott McClure seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

In a report on worksheets, Dr. Collins announced that, hopefully, one or more of them would be forthcoming for each issue of the journal. These, he said, would include such species as Clark's Nutcracker, Anna's Hummingbird, Roadrunner, Bushtit, and Verdin—the last two being revisions based upon new information. He indicated that a cooperative program on banding the Common Flicker is under consideration and that a scoring system for characterizing hybrid flickers is planned. Collins also expressed the hope that worksheets on shorebirds will be published soon.

Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt, chairman of the recent cooperative banding project on White-crowned Sparrows, reported that the data are being analyzed and will eventually be published in NABB and elsewhere. "data," he said, "are lacking from several key areas, such as the Northwest and Alaska, and banders in those areas are encouraged to submit their data to aid in completing the study."

In the absence of Mike San Miguel, chairman, Bruce Sorrie read the following slate of officers submitted for approval by the nominating committee:

President—Otis Swisher

First Vice President—Martha Balph

Second Vice President—Charles Trost

Secretary—Fern Tainter

Treasurer—Shirley Spitler

Director-at-large (2-year term)—Carl Marti

A call for further nominations from the floor was answered by silence. Elliott McClure moved that the slate be accepted as read. Howard Cogswell seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Ron Reynolds from the Bird Banding Laboratory reported that a total of 2008 master permittees are actively banding birds in the USA, and an equal number of sub-permits have been issued to students and aides. Approximately 1,200,000 birds were banded in 1977. He stated that the Bald Eagle is now declared endangered in all but five states, but even there a special permit must now be obtained to band them. He reminded those in attendance not to use color markings if the permit to do so had expired. If a bander is no longer using a color permit, he should so report to the Banding Lab so that someone else might be given those markings, he said.

Work is continuing on the age-sex keys and the color marking sections of Volume 2 of the Banding Manual. Mr. Reynolds mentioned that the banding lab file conversion is progressing. He ended his remarks by urging banders to record complete data on every bird banded.

Treasurer Shirley Spitler presented an oral report on WBBA's financial status for 1977. Approximately \$3400 income was sufficient to defray expenses and leave a small balance. During 1977, membership increased to 439. She indicated that an average of 30 new members had joined WBBA during each of the last four years. Dr. Howard Cogswell moved that the report be accepted as presented. Jay Sheppard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Sorrie from Point Reyes Bird Observatory recommended that banders organize their data in the form of charts and graphs which could be made available to others in publications. He suggested that banders use standardized data sheets for easy computerization. Both Drs. Mewaldt and Collins stated that they also encourage this form of record keeping.

Eleanor Radke then made a motion that the association express its thanks to out-going President Collins for his "fine" service during his term of office. Seconded by McClure, the motion met with the approval of all members, who applauded appreciatively.

Not to be outdone, Collins then moved a similar expression of thanks to Eleanor for her service as editor. Jay Sheppard seconded that motion and it, too, met with unanimous approval.

The business of the 53rd annual meeting having been concluded, Dr. Collins called for a motion to adjourn. Jay Sheppard obliged, Elliott McClure seconded, and the motion carried. Collins then declared the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fern R. Tainter, Secretary

## **Minutes of the Western Bird Banding Association Board of Directors Meeting 12 May 1978**

The WBBA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Pres. Charles T. Collins at 7:30 PM in room 624 at the Howard Johnson Motel in Tempe, Arizona, 12 May 1978. Those attending, in addition to Dr. Collins, were 2nd Vice President Martha Balph, Treasurer Shirley

Spitler, Director-at-large Bruce Sorrie, and Editor Eleanor Radke. Also present were Nadia M. Mutchler, EBBA Editor, Fern Tainter, Membership Chairman, and veteran bird bander Enid Austin.

In the absence of Otis Swisher, Secretary, Dr. Collins read the minutes of the 1977 Board meeting, held at Logan, Utah. He pointed out (1) that the office of the WBBA editor is not elective, but is appointed by the Board and that (2) any change in the By-laws must be approved not only by the Board, but by the membership. Motion was made by Shirley Spitler, seconded by Bruce Sorrie, to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

After a discussion of possible places for the 1979 annual meeting, it was decided to try to convene in Santa Barbara in early May, business affairs to be conducted on Saturday and a field trip on Sunday.

Looking ahead, Board members expressed the hope that the 1980 meeting might be held somewhere in Oregon.

Pres. Collins read the report of the 1978 nominating committee which consisted of Mike San Miguel, chairman, Douglas C. Wilson, and Dr. Collins. The suggested slate was as follows:

President—Otis Swisher

First Vice President—Martha Balph

Second Vice President—Charles Trost

Secretary—Fern Tainter

Treasurer—Shirley Spitler

Director-at-large—Carl Marti

It was further agreed that the immediate past-president of WBBA would automatically serve as the chairman of the nominating committee for the next year because that officer has his finger on the pulse of the organization, as it were. Charles Collins will fill that post in 1979.

Treasurer Spitler presented the financial report, which showed a small balance for 1979. A copy of the report is attached.

Pres. Collins then read a letter from Robert Pantle who was recently elected president of EBBA. He commended the work of WBBA editor Radke and EBBA editor Mutchler and congratulated them on their success in making the NABB journal an outstanding publication.

Mr. Pantle also recommended that dues for both EBBA and WBBA be raised, indicating that EBBA might have to operate in the red if this were not done. Editor Mutchler urged that his suggestion be accepted.

Since costs for WBBA can also be expected to increase and since dues in both organizations must be equal, the following changes in fees were recommended:

Active membership, \$8.00 (up from \$6.00)

Student membership, \$6.00 (up from \$4.50)

Sustaining member, \$16.00 (twice active)

Life member, \$200 (25 x active, as set by By-laws)

A non-subscribing membership category was discussed for one of two persons in the same family or to a person belonging to both EBBA and WBBA and paying full dues

to one of them, the idea being to avoid duplication of NABB journals in a given household. The Board agreed that a fee of \$3.00 should be charged for this new category, subject to approval by the WBBA membership at the general meeting.

Bruce Sorrie make a motion to adopt the proposed dues structure to take effect 1 January 1979, subject to the approval of both EBBA and WBBA members. Motion seconded by Eleanor Radke and it passed unanimously.

In light of the proposed changes in dues, a revised budget was estimated for 1979, expected income calculated at about \$4,000. It then followed that certain expenses might be increased where necessary. A copy of the budget is attached.

The problem of dues-in-arrears and the resulting extra cost to WBBA were discussed. Pres. Collins moved that a surcharge of \$1.00 be added to dues not paid by 15 February following the renewal notice mailed in November of the previous year. The motion was seconded by Martha Balph and carried. Collins also suggested that a reminder to pay dues promptly should appear on the NABB kraft cover in late fall. The editors agreed.

Dues notices will continue to be sent separately from the

journal as a more effective means of calling attention to them, the costs being about the same.

Pres. Collins read a letter he and the president of EBBA sent to the president of IBBA encouraging them to join in the NABB journal merger.

Eleanor Radke presented an oral report on the business of editing NABB. She stated that printing costs are rising at an annual rate of about 10%. Individual issues average about 48 pages each. She stated the need for an efficient advertising manager, for ads would help defray costs. Pres. Collins praised Eleanor's work as editor and declared her irreplaceable.

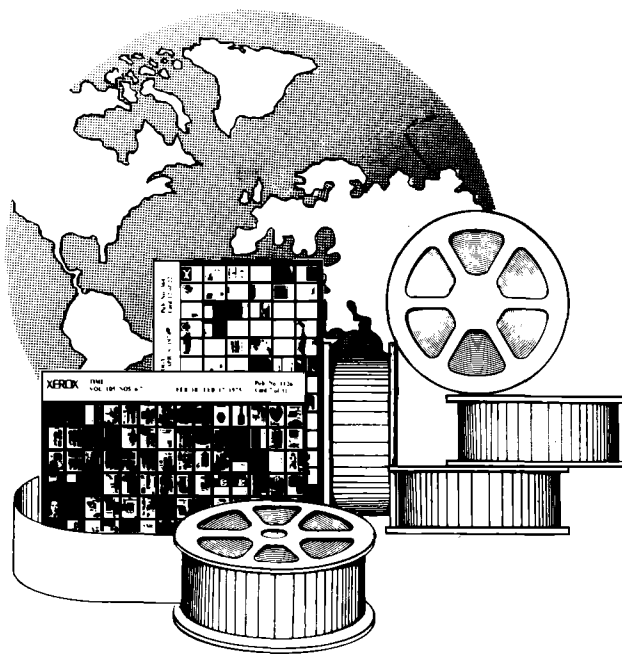
Martha Balph accepted the responsibility for preparing the association's annual banding report, formerly compiled by president-elect Otis Swisher. She will bring the list of species up-to-date, including the nomenclature lumpings, and splittings recently recommended by AOU. She will include sub-species where pertinent. Hawaiian species will be printed on a separate sheet for banders who need such a list.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fern R. Tainter, Secretary

## **This Publication is Available in MICROFORM**

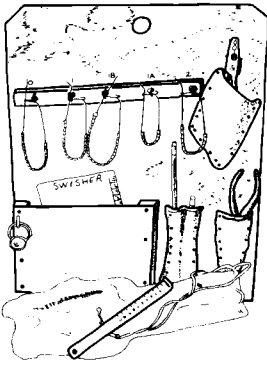
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# E.B.B.A. and W.B.B.A. present . . .

**B.I.R.D. Manual.** The Education Committee of EBBA has compiled the best of old workshop manuals with some new ideas for banders: Ethics, Traps, Nets, Suppliers, Ageing/Sexing Techniques, Identification, and many other aids. It has been prepared for use in a loose leaf notebook and the committee will be adding to the information occasionally with inserts in NABB. The B(anders) I(nformation) R(esource) D(ata) Manual is available from: Tom Mutchler, c/o Hartwood Club, Box 212X, RD 1, Monticello, NY 12701, \$2.50 ppd.

**McCamey Chickadee Trap:** \$9.00 F.O.B. Eugene.

This trap is precision made and is designed to take birds the size of jays, grosbeaks, and cardinals. It is illustrated in EBBA Workshop Manual #5, 1975, p. 22.

It is sensitive to birds the size of chickadees and a 5 gram weight will trip the door. The main features are the sensitive treadle, a door lock for feeding when not activated, and a large handle for a gloved hand in winter. The back is fastened on with clips for easier access in case the treadle gets worked over by a squirrel.

Hundreds of these traps have been sold to nature schools, universities, and individuals in the States and Canada over the past ten years.

Packed individually, they weigh about three pounds and are shipped F.O.B. Eugene, Oregon via United Parcel. Order from Donald E. Payne, 34886 Mathews Road, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

**Banding Supplies:** Bleitz Wildlife Foundation has available a new listing of the more than 100 styles, sizes, colors and types of Mist Nets, Portable Poles, Pesola Scales, etc., which are available from the Foundation. Reprints of "Mist Nets and Their Use" are also available. Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 5334 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90027.

**Back Issues of EBBA News:** Vol. 1 through 17: \$1.25\* per issue. Please note — we have few issues left of the earlier volumes. Vol. 18 through 27: 50\* per issue. Vol. 28 through 33: 75\* per issue. Vol. 34 through 37: \$1.50\* per issue. Vol. 38, No. 1: \$1.50\*. Vol. 38, No. 2: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 38, No. 3: \$1.50\*. Vol. 38, No. 4: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 39, No. 1 (*Bicentennial Issue*), \$1.00\*. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are net prices and appropriate postage for the entire order must be added. **Order from:** Mrs. Roger W. Foy, Box 164, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.

**EBBA Mist Nets** are available in the sizes listed below. Prices with an asterisk (\*) are for EBBA Sustaining Members only. Please write for order blank. Checks must accompany your order. Regular Parcel Post on all orders over \$10.00; for orders under \$10.00, please add 50\* for postage and handling. Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% Sales Tax. Make your check payable to EBBA Net Account. **Order from:** EBBA Net Committee, Biology Department, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15701. Prices appear below:

MESH	5-METER	9-METER	12-METER	
<b>Regular Nylon Mist Nets</b>				
1¼"	3.85*	4.20	7.30*	7.95
1½"	2.75*	3.00	5.00*	5.50
2½"			5.70*	6.25
<b>Nylon Tethered-top Mist Nets</b>				
1¼"		5.95*	6.50	7.95*
1½"		4.60*	5.00	5.70*
1½x2.6M				7.95*
<b>Polyester Tethered-top Mist Nets</b>				
1¼"		7.60*	8.30	10.30*
1½"		6.10*	6.70	8.50*

**Bird periodicals** and other bird magazines. Write for price list to: Mabel Warburton, 15 S. Bell, Yardley, PA 19067.