



Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

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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*. Membership classifications are: Active Member, \$8.00 per year; Associate Member, \$8.00 per year; Sustaining Member, \$16.00 per year; Student Member, \$6.00 per year; Non-Subscribing Member, \$3.00 per year; Life Member, \$200.00. Outside the U.S., postage must be added to each membership except Life Member.

From the President

In a previous message, I mentioned Edgar T. Jones' long-term backyard banding program in Edmonton, Alberta and suggested that there must be several similar data sets in other households in WBBA territory. In response, I had an interesting letter from Joseph H. Jeppson about his operation in Idaho, a relatively large state which still remains somewhat poorly known in terms of bird distribution. Mr. Jeppson's work has contributed to our knowledge of bird migration in Idaho, but has also demonstrated another valuable function of such programs. He plays host to both high school classes and university students, who visit as part of their nature education. I suspect that one such visit does more for conservation attitudes than several books and/or lectures.

WBBA members who attend our annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico this May will learn of the activities of a somewhat larger banding and educational program there, when Chuck Hundertmark addresses us on the activities of the Rio Grande Nature Center. Better yet, we will be able to visit the station as part of the field program during the COS/WBBA meeting.

Members should consider presentation of results of their research in whatever paper and poster sessions are held at the meeting. In addition, WBBA plans a display of banding and trapping techniques. If you have a new technique, have modified a trap for a particular species or to suit local conditions, or have found that age/sex techniques developed elsewhere are not suitable for your area, please contact one of our board members about participation in this display.

The arrival of NABB 7(2), containing WBBA's 1981 annual report and Steve Ervin's recommendations for report form revisions appropriately coincided closely with the arrival of a new Auk supplement consisting of the species and arrangement of North American birds as they will be treated in the forthcoming sixth American Ornithologists' Union check-list. This makes a revision even more important if WBBA is to avoid looking antiquated! There are too many considerations to have enabled a revision of our report form on time for our 1982 annual report, but Steve Ervin, Steve Russell, and Phil Walters are hard at work on a revision for the 1983 report.

In my last message, I mentioned the great debt WBBA owes to its volunteer workers. Recognition of such efforts is often left to a vague indication that necessary work does get done, but we do have a mechanism for recognizing work beyond the call of duty in the form of Honorary Life Memberships. A committee of Martha Balph, Shirley Spitzer, and Bob Tweit are currently drawing up guidelines for such recognition, but I am pleased to announce that the WBBA board has unanimously voted to confer such honor on two dedicated servants: Eleanor Radke and Fern Tainer, both nominated independently by Jane Church and Shirley Spitzer. Fern is a former Secretary and annual report compiler, and Eleanor will be known to all readers as co-editor of NABB and formerly as Editor of *Western Bird Bander*. Congratulations to both!

Martin K. McNicholl

Remember! WBBA's Annual Meeting 19-22 May Albuquerque, NM

Worksheets for western birds

Ageing/Sexing worksheets for western birds are mailed as published with NABB, to Western Bird Banding Association members only. 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: Merlin, 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, Roadrunner, 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.