



Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

The often-repeated statement that an organization rises or falls on the basis of the quality of its journal has special significance in an organization whose far-flung members depend on the journal to tie them together. Thus, the Editor of an organization like WBBA plays a key and vital role through which he/she serves the members enormously merely by doing an adequate job for a single year. WBBA has been privileged to be served by 12 such dedicated souls, beginning in 1925 with J. Eugene Law. The first 10 Editors served 1 to 5-year stints after which William K. Kirscher took over for a record 9 years. His significant record of service was not only surpassed but more than doubled by Eleanor L. Radke, who has just stepped down from a position which began in 1965! Had Eleanor merely filled the role for these 19 years, WBBA would owe her an enormous debt of gratitude. But Eleanor has done far more than fill a role. She transformed *News From the Bird Banders* into the high quality *Western Bird Bander*; then in cooperation with the Eastern Bird Banding Association expanded WBB into its part of NABB. Much of the credit for the very existence of NABB rests on her shoulders, as does much of the credit for keeping it together, along with her counterparts, in EBBA and IBBA. As WBBA Editor for so long, Eleanor has had to translate technical papers into understandable English, transform inadequate papers into quality contributions, assign book reviews and perform the host of other duties that befall an Editor. In addition, as half of Eldon Publishing, she has performed numerous minor changes in style that in themselves go unnoticed but collectively make a journal of fine visual quality in addition to its high standards of scientific quality. NABB owes much to many people, but no single person has done as much for NABB and WBBA as Eleanor Radke, and she will be sorely missed.

More than any other science, ornithology depends on a high level of amateur/professional interaction, with amateur experts long playing a major contributory role. This is especially true of research involving banded birds and NABB can thus reach its maximum effectiveness as a bridge between the "backyard" bander and his/her professional colleagues by publishing high quality

contributions in readable style. Anybody who has tried to edit scientific material or "popular" writing knows that neither task is easy, and bridging the two takes special effort and skill. WBBA has been fortunate in having an Editor with such skills, who has worked very effectively with her advisory board of Keith A. Arnold, Martha H. Balph, Charles T. Collins, L. Richard Mewaldt, and Willis C. Royall, Jr. I trust that new Editor Wilbur B. (Bill) Quay will receive the same co-operative support from potential contributors that has been shown to Eleanor Radke, and that all WBBA members will consider contributing to NABB—remember your banding project is not complete until results are in print.

In closing my two-year stint as President, I wish to repeat my thanks to all the board members and other dedicated individuals who have worked for WBBA in the two years. Space does not permit detailed acknowledgements, so I refer the reader to my previous messages for a perusal of many efforts by various members. But, I do wish to record a special thanks to Jane P. Church for her detailed, thorough and efficient work as Treasurer, plus her contributions to committees and her always helpful correspondence, all in times of a hectic personal schedule. In addition to her role as Editor, Eleanor Radke has also continuously passed along numerous helpful comments and suggestions. Incoming President, Bob Tweit has always been prompt to reply to issues, and the best way that I can wish him well is to ask all new board members to show him the same support that I received from him.

WBBA members who attended the annual meeting at Alviso, California were privileged to welcome incoming EBBA President, Walter Protzman, and IBBA President, Terrence N. Ingram. Kathy Hobson, L. Richard Mewaldt, and Michael Rigney were among several that must be thanked for their superlative performance in hosting the meeting at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and Dave DeSante gave us an enthusiastic tour of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Attendees will now all be inspired to attend the 1985 meeting in Colorado, and readers who missed Alviso are urged to join us there.

Dr. Martin K. McNicholl

WBBA annual meeting—1984

The south San Francisco Bay community of Alviso, the most northerly part of San Jose, was the site of WBBA's 1984 Annual Membership Meeting 20 to 22 April. It was hosted by San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Business meetings, workshops, and paper sessions were held in the fine facilities of the SFBNWR Environmental Education Center, Alviso. Fifty registered attendees came from Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey, Ontario, and Oregon. Another 50 persons from the host organizations helped stage the meeting and attended at least some sessions.

Workshops on Friday afternoon and early Saturday morning included "Raptor traps" by Judd Howell and Williston Shor, and "Passerine traps" by Richard Mewaldt. On Friday evening a buffet dinner, provided by members of SFBBO (Pat Dubois, Chairman) at its Observatory headquarters in the historic Bayside Cannery in Alviso, was attended by about 100 persons.

President Martin McNicholl chaired the papers sessions which included: "Aspects of the reproductive biology of a founding colony of California Gulls in the South San Francisco Bay, California" by Paul Jones; "Noosing—an effective capture method" by Martin McNicholl; "Band show in the city—Lake Merritt waterfowl banding" by Rex Burrell; "Growth rates of colonial birds; new information for banders" by Charles Collins and Jonathan Atwood; "New raptor banding station at Pt. Diablo, Golden Gate National Recreational Area, California" by Judd Howell and Williston Shor; "Abnormalities among song birds, their causes and effects" by H. Elliott McClure; "The Spotted Dove and others in Southern California" by H. Elliott McClure; "Report on California Clapper Rail banding study" by Thomas E.

Harvey and Peter M. Perrine; "Banding and parasite studies" by Stephen Ervin and Wallace M. Harmon; "A cooperative banding data bank" by Stephen M. Russell; "State banding permit regulations" by Ruth R. Ogden; and "Deductible banding expenses" by Stephen M. Russell.

At the Saturday evening banquet at Vahl's Restaurant in Alviso, Tom Rountree showed his excellent video-audio slide show "Birds of South San Francisco Bay".

Field trips on San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Friday and Sunday were led by Thomas E. Harvey and Roy Lowe, and a field trip to PRBO's Palomarin Field Station on Sunday was led by David F. DeSante.

President Martin McNicholl presided at the Saturday Annual Business Meeting of the Members. Reports from the officers and the Board of Directors were accepted by the membership. Election of Officers and Directors resulted in: President Robert C. Tweit, First Vice President Stephen M. Russell, Second Vice President Robert E. Gill, Jr., Secretary Martha H. Balph, Treasurer Shirley Spitler, and Director (1984–86) Wilbur B. (Bill) Quay.

Changes in editorship and production of the North American Bird Bander are reported in detail by retiring President McNicholl in "From the President". The next WBBA Annual Meeting is planned for just before the COS-WOS joint meeting at Fort Collins, Colorado in June of 1985—watch for details.

L. Richard Mewaldt

Dates for the 1985 WBBA meeting

Dates of the 1985 WBBA Annual Meeting have been set by Ron Ryder, June 4–6, 1985, at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. Details will be provided as plans progress.

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An editorial

Introduction of WBBA's new editor

I have been asked by our new President, Bob Tweit, to "write a brief note introducing" myself "to the readers and contributors to NABB." My advent to this editorship was for me a sudden and unexpected event at WBBA's annual meeting in May, 1984. Acceptance of this position, and the work that goes with it, was prompted by the hope that I can contribute in a major way to NABB's continued success and further evolution, as well as to the personal progress and satisfaction of fellow bird banders. In starting out after Eleanor Radke's long and successful tour in this position, I have feelings of humility as well as of excitement!

I am a life-long professional biologist, but I have never been a professional ornithologist. Ornithological and field training started for me in my native northeastern Ohio, where I was an Assistant at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, member of the Kirtland Society and a paid "Trailside Naturalist" at the North Chagrin Metropolitan Park. Another period of major ornithological advance for me was during college years at Harvard, where I was befriended by James Peters and Ludlow Griscom of the MCZ, became an active member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and spent many weekends birding with Bill Drury and Henry Parker. Subsequent years as a professor in university departments of zoology, anatomy and biochemistry have been in Michigan, California, Wisconsin and Texas, with emphasis on aspects of regulatory biology. My bird banding is comparatively recent, but now involves me in projects in Texas, Missouri and California.

W. B. ("Bill") Quay

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Oklahoma Ornithological Society has invited Inland Bird Banding Association to hold a joint conference at Sequoyah State Park, October 26-28, 1984. The park is 6 miles east of Wagoner. A nature center and trails are among the many attractions. Both land and water birds are abundant.

Anyone who wishes to present a paper is asked to contact Don Varner, R.1. Box 1, Welling, Oklahoma 74471. Also contact Dr. Varner for further information concerning meeting arrangements.

With this issue of NABB you will note several changes. First, we have changed publishers, second, a new editor has been chosen to put together this volume, and third, E.V.E. has become the coordinator of the Journal and will see to it that you receive the Journal on time. I hope that these changes will meet with your approval. Inland Bird Banding Association will still keep the Newsletter going for the present time and you will thus receive double value for your membership dollars. Any members of the other associations are welcome to subscribe to the Newsletter for an additional \$5.00 a year payable to the treasurer of IBBA.

Mrs. Lueshen will continue as Editor of the Newsletter and will help me with the Inland portion of the NABB to bring you items of interest for our members.

The big change and perhaps the best to occur is that of the Editorial Policy. The Journal is being returned to the benefit of the amateur bander. The success of this return will depend on you. To be successful we need to have your papers. If you need help just send it along and say so. We will get someone to help you with either analyzing data or in putting the thoughts down for you. Just don't think that you don't have anything to offer. You all do! We will still accept papers from Professionals and will arrange for outside reviewers if requested. Thus, we hope to become the most important way for you to share your banding results with all the other banders.

We will follow very strict deadlines to ensure that you get your copy of the Journal on time so you may send me your papers at any time, the sooner the better. Willie and I will share things so it doesn't matter who you send it to.

Lets all help to bring new life in NABB and make it a Journal that will share your information.

Inland Editor—Volume 9

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