



# Western Regional News

*Western Bird Banding Association*

Founded 1925

## WELCOME TO ALBERTA!

The 1990 meeting of WBBA will be hosted by the Beaverhill Bird Observatory **24-26 August** in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Sitting on the North Saskatchewan River, Edmonton is surrounded by aspen-covered hills, ponds, and wetlands. Elk Island National Park and several other natural areas are just a short distance away; Jasper and Banff National Parks are within a day or so of the city. At the end of August, expect to see waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and much more in the Edmonton area.

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory will offer a banding session during the meetings, and Ernie Kuyt of the Canadian Wildlife Service has tentatively agreed to talk at the Saturday night banquet about his work to preserve the Whooping Cranes.

Edmonton may seem a great distance, but it will be worth the trip! Come join us for the 1990 festivities. **Brian Hornby is in charge of the local arrangements (202, 5008-86 Street, Edmonton, Alta. T6E 5S2; 403-468-1602).** If you are interested in giving a talk or a demonstration, or have questions about registration, contact:

**Program Chairman  
Alan Gubanich,  
Department of Biology,  
University of Nevada,  
Reno, NV 89557  
(702: 784-6652).**

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## WELCOME LIFE MEMBERS!

**C. John Ralph** -- Born in Berkeley, C. J. holds an A.B. in wildlife management from U.C. Berkeley, a M.S. from San Jose State with Dick Mewaldt and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins with a thesis on bird migration. With Dick Mewaldt and WBBA, he founded the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in 1964 and later served as director/biologist of PRBO. During his tenure at the observatory, he founded the Farallon Islands station of the observatory, starting a year-round program monitoring migration and breeding seabirds. After receiving his doctorate, he taught ecology and animal behavior at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and served as director of a 3000 acre wildlife sanctuary and research station. Since 1976 he has been a research ecologist with the Forest Service, first in Honolulu where he worked on endangered birds. Since 1982 he has worked in Arcata primarily on the Marbled Murrelet and other species of birds using older forests. He is also conducting research on birdlife of a coastal dune near his home. At his banding station, he nets migrants and studies survival of ground feeding birds. Another project involves island birds in New Zealand. He is the author of more than 80 scientific papers and has edited three books. As adjunct professor in wildlife at Humboldt State University, he supervises five graduate students.

He is married to Carol Pearson, also a biologist, and they have two sons, ages 8 and 11. They are both active in Boy Scouts and C.J. is now an assistant scoutmaster.

**Kevin T. Mason** -- Lt. Col. Mason, an Army physician specializing in aerospace medicine and family practice, has been a student of ornithology for 20 years. He has studied sparrows using banding for nine years. Upon retirement from the service, he plans to move from Alabama to the Rocky Mountains and study for a Ph.D. in zoology to carry on the traditions of Army physicians/ornithologists.

## WBBA has an archivist!

Katharine H. Loughman has very kindly offered to organize WBBA's archives and currently has the material formerly held by Howard Cogswell. If anyone has additional material such as personal records and papers that document WBBA activities, correspondence, minutes, reports, committee records, identified photographs, program notes and abstracts from WBBA meetings, issues of WBBA publications, etc., please send them to:

Ms. Kathrine Loughman  
393 Gravatt Drive  
Berkeley CA 94705

If you have questions, write her or call her at (415) 841-7428 (evenings).



## 1990 WBBA Research Award

Tracy A. Nielsen, undergraduate student at Beloit College in Beloit Wisc., has been awarded the 1990 WBBA Research Grant for her study of the effects of color banding on male Red-Winged Blackbird territoriality.

