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Western Regional News

Annual Meeting, September 9-12, 2004

The Western Bird Banding Association will hold its 79th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO, 29th Annual Meeting) and Oregon Field Ornithologists (OFO, 25th Annual Meeting).

The Klamath Bird Observatory will host the joint Annual Meetings in Ashland, Oregon, September 9 - 12, 2004 at the Windmill & Windsor Inns.

The Setting

The Klamath Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California offers wonderful opportunities for birders to discover mountain and Great Basin bird species in rural, urban, mountain, and wetland settings. This region is rich in a variety of wildlife and in September participants will be visiting during the height of shorebird and passerine migration. The Klamath-Siskiyou and Cascade Ranges; the Great Basin desert; the creeks, marshes, meadows, and agricultural fields of the Klamath Basin; and the Rogue River Valley are some of the destinations of field trips planned for this meeting to highlight the rich diversity of landscapes, habitats, and avifauna that the region has to offer. Extended post-meeting trips are being planned for the Klamath Basin Refuges, Great Basin Desert, and Oregon Coast (for pelagic birding). Consider bringing the entire family to Ashland for this meeting. For the

enjoyment of all, the famous Oregon Shakespeare Festival (<http://www.orshakes.org/home.html>) is a major event that will be in full swing and continues into late autumn. There are galleries, museums, and excellent restaurants throughout the town.

Conference Activities

The joint annual meeting will offer full-day field trips to the Klamath Basin National Refuges Complex on September 9 and September 12; and local, half-day field trips on September 9, 10, and 11. Other planned activities include banding workshops, photography and sketching workshops, evening field trips, afternoon science sessions on September 10 and 11, and a poster session. Additional events will include WFO's ever-popular expert slide identification and sound identification panels, a WBBA-sponsored Peter Pyle molt-limit workshop, and a North American Banding Council bander evaluation session. Social activities will include a welcoming reception, evening programs with noted speakers, and combined annual dinners. WBBA, WFO, and OFO welcome all levels of birder, from beginner to seasoned veteran. A number of noted western birders, ornithologists, and professional field trip leaders are contributing their time and talents to ensure that meeting participants enjoy good science and good birding.

Call for Papers and Posters

Abstracts are now being accepted for presentations and posters. Oral and poster presentations should reflect original research or summarize existing information. Talks and posters relating to the following special themes of the 2004 meeting are especially solicited:

- * New or expansion of methods of capture, processing, ageing and sexing, to make capture of birds more meaningful;
- * Ecology, population biology, and conservation of the birds of the Klamath/Siskiyou region of southern Oregon and northern California;
- * Identification, status and distribution, and taxonomy of hybrid and intergrades of bird populations found in Oregon and elsewhere in western North America.

Talks and posters relating to the following, more general, themes are also solicited:

- * Techniques for field study of birds, including censusing, monitoring, and other methods; results of studies applying such techniques;
- * New information on field identification problems relevant to the birds of western North America and the eastern Pacific Ocean;
- * Systematics and biogeography of the birds of the Pacific Coast region, the North American interior (including Mexico), and the interface between the two.

All talks and posters should identify study objectives; describe study methods and data analysis; discuss the significance of the research; and propose future research directions. We expect to allot 15 minutes per oral presentation, which should include three minutes for questions and discussion. Dialogue between presenters and audience is a hallmark of all meetings of WBBA and its partners.

Posters should fit within a width of six feet. Graphic materials, tables, and illustrations should be as simple as possible. Sequence the viewing of the poster with arrows, letters, or numbers so as to be self-explanatory. Text, graphics, and illustrations should be readable from a distance of at least four feet. Poster presenters are expected to be available for extensive discussion with meeting participants.

An abstract of your presentation or poster should be submitted electronically to C. J. Ralph (cjr2@humboldt.edu) and John Alexander (jda@KlamathBird.org). We would prefer that all queries and submissions be via e-mail. Because of the joint meeting, papers will be accepted in the order received. We expect to rapidly fill the available slots for WBBA talks, so early submission is strongly encouraged. All abstracts should be received no later than 15 August 2004 and should be submitted in exactly the following format:

* YOUR LAST NAME, YOUR FIRST NAME. Your affiliation (if any), complete mailing address, e-mail address. Title of your talk. Brief (300 word maximum) summary of the objectives, methods, results, significance, and generality of your study. For more information about the meeting, visit the KBO web site at <http://www.KlamathBird.org>, the WBBA web site at <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>, or the WFO web site at <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org>.

Hotel/Meeting Registration and General Information

Headquarters for all conference activities will be The Best Western Windsor Inn (541-488-2330) and Ashland Hills Windmill Inn (541-482-8310), both in Ashland, Oregon. These hotels are well situated to both birding field locations and picturesque downtown Ashland, with easy freeway access. Rooms at both hotels have been reserved at a steep discount from even federal-employee and AAA rates. Both hotels have shuttle service to downtown. Conference information, conference schedule, complete hotel reservation information and meeting registration forms will be posted at WBBA, WFO and KBO websites. For questions about volunteering to help at the meeting, scholarship sponsorship, or any additional information, contact WBBA's conference representative and meeting host: John Alexander of Klamath Bird Observatory.

John Alexander
Klamath Bird Observatory
Email: jda@KlamathBird.org
Phone and Fax: 541-201-0866
Address: PO Box 758 Ashland, Oregon 97520

Annual Meeting - Tentative Schedule at a Glance

Workshops

Wednesday-Friday, September 8-10

Molt Limits Workshop with Peter Pyle (The Institute for Bird Populations)

Friday, September 10

Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warbler Songs with Stewart Janes (Southern Oregon University)

Genetics, Migration and Bird Conservation with Borja Milá (UCLA Center For Tropical Research)

Saturday, September 11

Digiscoping with Clay Taylor and Roy Halpin (WFO)

The Making of *Oregon Birds* with David Marshall (OFO)

MAPSPROG with Nicole Michel (The Institute for Bird Populations)

Banding Techniques (KBO and USFS Redwood Sciences Laboratory)

Sunday, September 12

North American Banding Council bander evaluation

Field Trips

Thursday, September 9 and Sunday, September 12

Klamath Wildlife Refuges, Tule Lake, Lava Beds, Grass Lake, and more Crater Lake and Upper Klamath Lake

Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11

Mt Ashland, Dutchman Peak and the Siskiyou Mountains

Great Gray Owls

The Dead Indian Plateau, Lake of the Woods, and Upper Klamath Lake

Ashland - Emigrant Lake, Lithia Park, Ashland Pond, North Mountain Park

Rogue River Valley - Kirtland Road Sewage Ponds, Denman Wildlife Area, Whetstone

Savanna, Table Rocks, and Agate Lake

Shasta Valley

Banding Field Trips

Migration Monitoring on the Rogue River (Saturday, September 11)

Klamath Bird Observatory Upper Klamath Field Station (Sunday, September, 12)

Meetings

Thursday, September 9

WFO Committees

WFO Board

Friday, September 10

WBBA Board

Saturday, September 11

OFO Board

WBBA Business Meeting

North American Migration Monitoring Network

Results from the Vote on WBBA Issues

In December, President Ken Burton contacted WBBA members with a list of issues requiring a vote of the membership. All questions passed. In summary:

1. The size of the Board may now range from three to eleven members.

1a. We have three new Board members: Mike Boyles (National Park Service, Boulder City, NV), C. J. Ralph (USDA Forest Service, Arcata, CA), and Walter Sakai (Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA). These officers will serve until the next annual meeting.

1b. There is now a Board position for Membership Coordinator.

2. The Institutional category of membership now includes ALL organizations, institutions, and agencies.

3. Institutional members are now allowed to vote.


4. The cost of Life membership is now independent from the cost of Active membership.

In a subsequent vote, the Board agreed to set the cost of Life membership at \$300.

Updated By-laws, membership, and contact information are posted on our website:

<http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>

= Pictures in WBBA's Photo Gallery

When you see this symbol  you will know that there are pictures in WBBA's website Photo Gallery supplementing the text in this issue. Visit the gallery at:

<http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/gallery/albums.php>

Dedicated Amateur!

The work of WBBA member, **Jan Wasserman**, was featured in the December 2003 issue of *Audubon Magazine*. Jan has been working with Tree Swallows for more than a dozen years in an area of Southern California where the species had almost disappeared. By installing and monitoring nest boxes, she and her group of volunteers have facilitated a significant population rebound. Read the Audubon article on the web at:

<http://magazine.audubon.org/fieldnotes/fieldnotes0312.html#2>.

Congratulations, Jan! 

News of members, and especially of their banding-related projects, is welcome. Please obtain prior permission from the subject if you are submitting a note about someone else.

New Members

WBBA welcomes the following new members who joined from August 2003-March 2004.

Archbold Biological Station Library, Venus FL; **Gwen Baluss**, Juneau AK; **Luke Caldwell**, Seattle WA; **Jay Carlisle**, Vermillion SD; **Ross D. Dickson**, Calgary AB; **Kent C. Jensen**, Brookings SD; **Jeff Kidd**, Perris CA; **Thomas Koronkiewicz**, Flagstaff AZ; **Kurt Leuschner**, Mountain Center CA; **Nicole Michel**, Vancouver WA; **Pat Mitchell**, Calgary AB; **Morris Library**, Carbondale IL; **Jessica Murray**, Sidney BC; **L F Ann Nightingale**, Saanichton BC; **Martin T Reedy**, Topanga CA; Gary G. W. Robinson, Mountain Home ID; **Rod Spencer**, Great Falls MT; **Brad Tripp**, Vancouver WA; **Greta R. West**, Yucca Valley CA; **Darlene Woodbury**, Santa Maria CA; and **Richard Zembal**, Fountain Valley, CA.