

candidates who have taken part in group sessions, to improve the certification materials and streamline the session process, while maintaining high standards, simplifying the scoring system, and minimizing the subjectivity of the evaluation process.

Latin American and Caribbean Committee: In 2005 the NABC Latin American and Caribbean Committee was active. We refined the committee's mission which is to build capacity for sustained bird monitoring and banding efforts that promote science and conservation in the new world tropics. In addition we identified objectives for the committee, including: developing training and mentoring opportunities and education and outreach programs in the Neotropics, and supporting infrastructure for banding programs in the Neotropics.

NABC Training: KBO and RSL offer comprehensive internship positions and training workshops that focus on promoting NABC standards. *The North American Banders' Study Guide*, *The Instructors' Guide to Training Passerine Bird Banders in North America* and *The North American Banders' Manual for Banding Passerines and Near-passerines*, all products of the NABC Publications Committee, serve as the core for our curriculum. The NABC bander's code of ethics and a checklist of skills with which an individual should be proficient are among the tools from these materials that we use for training bird banders. This October we took our NABC-based curriculum on the road, participating as co-sponsors of a comprehensive two-week training course hosted by ProAves Colombia and the American Bird Conservancy on Isla San Andres, Colombia.

Education and outreach using banding: Finally, KBO promoted NABC by working with Southern Oregon University and PRBO Conservation Science to support graduate student Melissa Pitkin, who authored the draft manual *Mist Netting with the Public*. This manual was created to meet two goals: connect the public with science, scientists, and conservation, and improve the quality and quantity of education programs delivered in conjunction with mist netting research. The guidelines contained in the manual are based on feedback through surveys from 25 organizations that conduct outreach in conjunction with banding programs in North America, as well as professional experience from conducting education programs with mist netting at Klamath Bird Observatory and PRBO Conservation Science. Near completion, this manual will be a product of the NABC Publications Committee.

NABC's success depends on the participation of certified banders and trainers. By supporting their NABC representatives, the organizations that make up the Council help to promote ethical and rigorous banding principles and techniques throughout the Americas. NABC increases the recognition that the science of bird banding can be used as a sound and effective tool for bird conservation. I have enjoyed serving as WBBA's representative on the Council, and very much appreciate your continued support both of NABC and of my participation.

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Western Bird Banding Association
(Vice President)
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(Executive Director)

The Institute for Bird Populations and the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program

The summer of 2005 marked the seventeenth season of The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) and the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program. MAPS is a cooperative effort among public and private agencies and individual bird banders in North America to operate a continent-wide network of constant-effort mist-netting and banding stations. The purpose of the MAPS program is to provide

annual indices of adult population size and post-fledging productivity, as well as annual estimates of adult survivorship, recruitment into the adult population, and population growth rates at multiple spatial scales for many landbird species. In 2005, 493 MAPS stations operated throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Two hundred thirty one of these stations were operated in states and provinces included in the area covered by the

Western Bird Banding Association. Of these, 49 stations were operated by interns under contract to IBP. The stations were distributed in the Mount Baker, Wenatchee, Umatilla, Willamette, Siuslaw, and Fremont National forests, on the Flathead Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and in Yosemite National Park. The remaining 182 MAPS stations were operated by independent banders and were distributed throughout the WBBA area. We are always very grateful for the contributions of these independent participants, without whom the MAPS program would not be possible. For readers not familiar with the MAPS program, or other programs

sponsored by IBP, I invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.birdpop.org>. We are always looking for additional stations to add to the MAPS network. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the MAPS Program.

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Western Station Reports

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Fall 2005

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's season was very interesting this year with a couple of new species records for banding. We banded 56 Merlins, almost double our previous season high of 29, set last year. Also surpassed was our 2003 Sharp-shinned Hawk record of 628-- 676 Sharpies were banded this season. And we banded three Broad-winged Hawks this year, equaling our highest total ever for this species. We banded our second highest total ever for Cooper's Hawks at 686. On the down side was the total for Red-tails at 221, the second lowest in 22 years of banding. For the second time in our history we failed to band any Northern Harriers, a species for which we normally band about 10 to 15 individuals.

There were just over 100 volunteer banders with us this season, as well as three seasonal interns.

See the WBBA's website Photo Gallery for a great photo of long-time volunteer John Keane with one of the Broad-winged Hawks. To learn more about GGRO, visit the website at: <http://www.ggro.org/>

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Alaska Bird Observatory Denali Institute Migration Station

The Denali Institute Migration Station (DIMS) is a cooperative project between the Denali Institute, Alaska Natural History Association, Denali National Park Wilderness Centers, and the Alaska Bird Observatory. The station is located in Denali National Park & Preserve, along Moose Creek approximately 3 km east of Kantishna. During the 2005 banding season (27 Jul – 17 Sep), the crew banded 2,127 individuals of 31 species during 3,552 net hours. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were the most abundant (29%), followed by Wilson's Warblers (23%), White-crowned Sparrows (9%), and Dark-eyed Juncos (7%). Capture rates for Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Waterthrush, Fox Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco were the highest of all eight years that this station has operated. Conversely, capture rates for Alder Flycatcher and Black-capped Chickadee were the lowest of all years. Interesting captures included two American Three-toed Woodpeckers, two Olive-sided Flycatchers, a Western Wood-Pewee, and our first-ever Sharp-shinned Hawks (2). Approximately 250 guests from Camp Denali and North Face Lodge visited the banding station this year. Special thanks to the Denali Institute for funding this project.

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