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MESSAGE FROM WBBA'S PRESIDENT

Motivated by our well attended and successful annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, the Western Bird Banding Association board of directors is looking forward to an active year. There are two areas where we plan to focus our attention: increasing WBBA membership and continuing active participation with banding communities. We hope to work with our members in these areas during the coming months.

Our board is committed to increasing WBBA's membership. We have been following up with former members to bring them back into our ranks and we are looking for ways to recruit new members actively. We hope western bird observatories will urge their employees, interns, and volunteers to join WBBA. By continuing to offer training and workshop opportunities at our annual meetings and have such opportunities cover a wider array of activities, we hope to attract new members. We also want to identify ways that we can increase WBBA's value to existing members—your recommendations are welcome. Each board member will attempt to recruit at least three new members; we challenge all current WBBA members to bring new people into our organization as well—a revised brochure is available to aid in membership recruitment.

The board has identified several ways WBBA will continue to contribute to our banding communities. First, we are planning a great annual meeting to be hosted by PRBO Conservation Science (formerly the Point Reyes Bird Observatory) at their new headquarters in Petaluma, CA. We will keep you posted as plans develop for this meeting to be held 11-14 Oct 2007. Second, we encourage all WBBA members to help increase the number of articles from the west submitted for publication in *NABB*. WBBA continues to participate in the North American Banding Council (NABC), and we encourage NABC-certified trainers to attend the next Council meeting to be held 9-11 Mar 2007 in Mission, TX. WBBA will continue to offer small research and monitoring grants in 2007—please see our website for details. Speaking of the website, the board of directors has been spending some time discussing how we can improve our internet presence and continue building the site as a tool for our banding community.

We want to hear from our members with suggestions about how WBBA can better serve you, and how you might be able to contribute to our effort to keep WBBA as a valued organization. Please contact me with your ideas. Happy New Year!

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