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# Western Regional News

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## President's Note

I recently returned from our annual meeting held in Ramsey Canyon in southeast Arizona 11-14 September. We had a great meeting with more than 40 people in attendance. The weather was perfect and the surroundings were beautiful. For those of us out-of-towners staying at the Ramsey Canyon Inn, the accommodations were wonderful, especially the fresh-baked pies provided daily by the proprietor.

Never having been to southeast Arizona, this meeting offered me the opportunity to meet researchers and banders working on various projects in the southwest, not to mention the many new bird species I observed. If you ever get the chance to visit this part of Arizona, I highly recommend it. Did I mention the pies?

Meeting events were held primarily at the Arizona Folklore Society. Outstanding presentations were made during the scientific paper session and during the evening programs. The Board of Directors held its annual business meeting on Thursday, 12 September. The Membership meeting was held on 13 September where the 2013-2014 officers and directors were elected. We welcome to the Board Chespi Elizondo as a Board Member and Chrissy Kondrat-Smith as Secretary.

A full write-up of the meeting including a report from the Board of Directors and abstracts from the scientific session is in progress and will be printed in the next issue the *North American Bird Bander*.

C. John Ralph is presently considering serving as host to the 2014 WBBA meetings in northern California in Arcata, CA. We are looking forward to this possibility.

Thank-you to those who attended and a special thank-you to the National Park Service for helping financially with securing the meeting facility. Hope to see you at a future meeting.

Please visit our website:  
(<http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>)  
for more information.

**Howard Browers**, President

## Klamath Bird Observatory Banding In 2012

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) continued its comprehensive, long-term bird monitoring program in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of northern California and southern Oregon in 2012, in pursuit of our mission to advance bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. This report provides a brief summary of our 2012 banding efforts which included tissue sampling, technical training, and banding-associated outreach and education efforts.

KBO operated 12 constant-effort banding stations from May to October and one other year-round. In addition, we held a single one-day banding public demonstration (International Migratory Bird Day festival) and completed four one-day target-species netting efforts (American Dipper nest study). We continued banding efforts at 11 constant-effort stations that have been operated for 10 or more years and one now operated six years. Combined capture totals from 257 banding efforts at the 17 locations totaled 8,611 birds of 93 species captured during 10,908 net hours. Net hours were not tabulated for the target-species netting efforts.

The ten most numerous captured species were Song Sparrow (913 total captures, 561 newly banded), Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (856 total, 608 banded), Fox Sparrow (633, 537), Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler (442, 426), Orange-crowned Warbler (383, 351), Hermit Thrush (381, 351), White-crowned Sparrow (280, 258), Purple Finch (278, 243), Yellow Warbler (281, 227), and Spotted Towhee (285, 219). Unusual species captured included a Northern Waterthrush and two Chestnut-sided Warblers, all at Upper Klamath Lake constant-effort banding stations. The Northern Waterthrush is considered a very rare breeder but is otherwise a vagrant in Oregon, and the Chestnut-sided Warbler is considered a regular transient.

Our bird banding training program is an integral part of our monitoring program. During 2012, eight student volunteer interns received experiential instruction in advanced bird banding and survey techniques. The instruction is supplemented with study materials, published by the North American Banding Council, pertinent scientific literature, and regular

seminars presented by KBO staff. The group of interns included individuals from Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Perú. Our international internship program is made possible through our partnerships with the Ashland Rotary Club, the Southern Oregon University Office of International Programs, and the U.S. Forest Service International Programs' Wings Across the Americas.

In commitment to the North American Banding Council (NABC) mission of promoting sound and ethical banding principles and techniques, KBO coordinated a NABC Bander and Bander Trainer group certification session in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station Arcata at Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory in Arcata, CA. During these evaluations, six of our interns were certified at the Bander level and three of these also certified at the Bander Trainer level. A banding techniques workshop was presented in August at our Upper Klamath Lake Field Station. The 24 participants received instruction in advanced land bird ageing and sexing techniques, standard biometrics, mist net use and maintenance, outreach and education communication skills, and general field safety principles.

Over the course of the year, over 380 people visited our banding sites during field trips and bird walks. Banding sites were visited by over 250 students and teachers from regional schools, including K-12<sup>th</sup> grade and college students. During public banding demonstrations as part of KBO-hosted bird walks and other outreach events, over 130 people visited our mist-netting operations.

Data resulting from these efforts are contributed to several databases including the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory, Institute for Bird Populations' Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program, Klamath Bird Monitoring Network, Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas, Avian Knowledge Network, Avian Knowledge Northwest, and UCLA Center for Tropical Research's Population, Structure, and Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds program.

KBO research and long-term monitoring efforts are conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, Arcata. Those who contribute to KBO's research, monitoring, and associated education and outreach efforts include:

Asa Wright Nature Centre; Ashland Rotary Club; Ashland School District and the Willow Wind Community Learning Center; City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Department and the North Mountain Park Nature Center; Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Harriman Rural Fire District; Institute for Bird Populations; Jiji Foundation; Klamath County, Oregon; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Northwest Nature Shop; PRBO Conservation Science; Rocky Point Resort; Sandra James Music Foundation; San Pancho Bird Observatory; ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum; Southern Oregon University's Office of International Programs; University of California, Los Angeles Center for Tropical Research; U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema, Klamath, and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests and International Programs; Bureau of Land Management Oregon State Office, and Lakeview and Medford Districts; National Park Service Klamath Network and Oregon Caves National Monument; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1 Non-game Landbird Program and Klamath Basin Refuge Complex; West Family Foundation; Wildlife Images; and KBO members and private sector contributors. We especially thank Dave Clayton, Michael DeSmit, and Amy Markus of the U.S. Forest Service; Mike Johnson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Steve Hayner and Marlin Pose of the Bureau of Land Management, and Lani Hickey of Klamath County Public Works. Also, we thank Barb Bresson, the Regional Avian Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and C. John Ralph of the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station Arcata.

KBO accomplished the work described in this report with the considerable efforts made by our volunteers, student volunteer interns, and other cooperators. Many thanks to Ellie Armstrong, Tim Burnett, Sam Cuenca, Jenna Curtis, Debbie Derby, Sara Estrada Vaglio, Andrés Henao Murillo, Marcus Lorusso, Frank Lospalluto, Rachelle McLaughlin, Luis Morales, John Pulliam, Celeste Santos Apolinario, Torreya Swift, Susan Thomas, Brandt Thibodeaux, Vicki Tripoli, Mitchell Walters, and Marc Williams.

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