



Founded in 1925

# Western Regional News

## Featured Highlights of the 2014 Western Bird Banding Association Annual Meeting

The 89<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) was held Thursday, 18 Sept through Sunday, 21 Sept in Arcata, California. Hosted by C.J. and Carol Ralph, the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory (HBBO) and Klamath Bird Observatory, the meeting setting was in a gorgeous location on the HBBO grounds on the Ralphs' property overlooking an estuary and fields bordering Humboldt Bay. The total number of registered attendees was approximately 75 hailing mostly from California but also from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, British Columbia, Mexico, and Peru. Attendees arriving on Thursday were treated to ample amounts of food served family style at the Samoa Cookhouse, "the last surviving cookhouse in the West." A social gathering around the campfire at HBBO followed.

Friday's events began with early morning mist netting with HBBO banders followed by walking excursions into the surrounding dune and ocean shore habitats. Many interesting and informative workshops were held in the afternoon and included: using geolocators, raptor banding techniques, cavity nesting birds monitoring techniques, band adjustment and removal, and bird first aid.

The annual WBBA board meeting was also held Friday afternoon. The board discussed and acted on several things including approving the next budget, reviewing membership statistics, selecting a 2015 annual meeting location in British Columbia

and selecting potential candidates for board positions for 2014-2015. Minutes from the board meeting will be available on the WBBA website in the future. The board also approved a \$1000 research grant to be awarded to Micah Scholler, University of British Columbia. The title of his project is: **Linking Longevity to the Slow Pace of Life of Neotropical Birds.**

Friday evening attendees were entertained by the local bluegrass band, The Compost Mountain Boys, while munching on a wonderful catered meal prepared with locally produced foods.

The Scientific Session was held on Saturday at the Mad River Rapids RV Park. The sessions were attended by registered WBBA participants, student interns and a few guests. In total during the meeting about 30 interesting and informative oral presentations, workshops, and posters were presented. Abstracts are presented elsewhere in *North American Bird Bander*.

Also on Saturday, the General Membership Meeting was held where a new slate of officers and Board members was elected:

Jared Wolfe - President  
Howard Browers - Immediate Past President  
Marlene Wagner - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Wade Leitner - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Chrissy Kondrat-Smith - Secretary  
Pat Leitner - Treasurer  
Danielle Kaschube - Membership Chair  
Walter Sakai - NABB Editor  
Mike Boyles - At-large Board Member  
Allison Nelson - At-large Board member  
Holly Garrod - At-large Board Member

Judith Toms - At-large Board Member  
Pablo Elizondo - At-large Board Member

The Saturday evening banquet events were held at the HBBO in the Ralphs' barn. A competitive silent auction featuring books, T-shirts and wildlife prints netted over \$500 which helps fund WBBA's research and monitoring grant program. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Jared Wolfe who delighted the audience with his recent banding work in West Africa entitled: **Bird Banding in the Country Least Known to Science: Adventures in Equatorial Guinea.**

The 2015 meeting is currently being planned and will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Details will be provided as they become available. As we wholeheartedly welcome our new officers and board members, we want to thank outgoing board members C.J. Ralph and Josée Rousseau.

We especially want to thank our current Webmaster Kay Loughman who is retiring from the Board and WBBA activities after 26 years of service. Kay began banding in 1986 and spent 10 years as a subpermittee with Coyote Creek Field Station (now part of San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory). Kay joined WBBA in 1987 and attended her first annual meeting in 1988 in Arcata. She quickly jumped into WBBA support activities by serving as an Archivist from 1988-1991, charged with cataloguing and storing historical WBBA documents. In subsequent years, Kay has served as an At-Large Director (1991-93, 2006-2013), Secretary (1994-1996), and Editor (2001-2006).

Kay was instrumental in the development and oversight of the WBBA website beginning in 2003. She became the official Webmaster in 2007 where she worked on upgrading the website and adding new pages including Donate to WBBA, past Board Meeting minutes, all issues of *News from the Bird Banders* and *Western Bird Bander*, and the column of announcements we now see on the right side of the page. Also, as part of her Webmaster duties Kay has been responsible for getting Volumes 1-30 (1976-2005) of our *North American Bird Bander* journal uploaded into the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA) thus making the

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information in those volumes readily available via the internet. She was co-organizer for the 1998 annual meeting and, based on that experience, wrote the "Hosting a WBBA Meetings Guidelines" which has been an indispensable document for planning the annual meeting. Kay had a thorough understanding of the history and workings of WBBA including the Bylaws and often helped to keep board meetings on track.

We will miss Kay and wish her well.



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**Howard Browers,**  
**Immediate Past President**

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## ABSTRACTS

**Advancing bird conservation beyond the borders: the case of the San Pancho Bird Observatory in Nayarit, Mexico (talk).**

**Camacho, Aracely\*<sup>1</sup> and Luis Morales<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR

<sup>2</sup>San Pancho Bird Observatory, Nayarit, Mexico

The San Pancho Bird Observatory (SPBO) is a non-profit, grassroots organization based in San Francisco, Nayarit, Mexico. SPBO is dedicated to advance bird and habitat conservation in the southern Nayarit coast region. SPBO's non-advocacy approach to conservation is based on bird population monitoring, education, ecotourism and the creation of national and international partnerships.

In the scope of a "full life-cycle" conservation strategy that includes not only birds but also people, SPBO's conservation strategy is based on integrating education, scientific monitoring and community development. SPBO's programs are