

known for their work with hummingbirds, regularly banding about 800 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds annually. Additionally, they have banded several hundred wintering hummingbirds of several species across the eastern United States in recent years. His program promises to be both entertaining and informative.

The nearest airport, McGhee Tyson Airport, is at Knoxville and is about a one-hour drive from Tellico Plains.

Registration information was sent to IBBA members in May. Complete information on lodging, transportation, and meeting locations will be mailed to registrants upon receipt of registration.

For registration information or if you would like to present at the paper session, contact:

David Vogt, dfv@tnaqua.org
or (423) 785-4036.



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Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association 2006 Annual Meeting
September 14 -17, 2006 at the Rio Grande Nature Center
in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Hosted by Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc.

The Setting

All meeting activities will be at the Rio Grande Nature Center, a state park and a wildlife refuge within the city of Albuquerque. The Nature Center covers approximately 270 acres of woods (bosque), meadows, ponds, wetlands and farmland within the greater river complex of the middle Rio Grande Valley. The Rio Grande Nature Center is about halfway along the Paseo del Bosque trail that runs approximately 16 miles in length from Alameda Boulevard to Rio Bravo Boulevard. Natural surface trails run along both sides of the river and a number of unmarked trails wind throughout the bosque.

There is great access to a variety of habitat types from Albuquerque (desert shrub, pinyon-juniper through ponderosa pine and Engelmann spruce)

giving birders wonderful opportunities to observe a host of species. The Nature Center is at an elevation of 4,900 feet, and within an hour you can be at the top of the Sandia Mountains, elevation 10,500 feet.

The Nature Center is accessed easily from the interstate and there are many hotels within three miles of the Nature Center, near Albuquerque's Old Town, a favorite spot for those that like to shop or look for southwestern art. There are a number of galleries, museums and restaurants in the Old Town area.

Meeting Activities

The annual meeting will offer full- and half-day field trips (see below). Other planned activities include a banding workshop on passerine molting patterns

and advanced aging techniques using molt-limits, as well as a symposium on avian diseases, including bird flu and West Nile Virus; a meeting of the Landbird Migration Monitoring Network of the Americas; and an organizational meeting for a western nocturnal bird monitoring network. Social activities will include a welcoming reception, the WBBA annual Friday BBQ, a Saturday banquet and evening presentations by noted speakers. There will be a board meeting, an annual membership meeting and a scientific paper and poster session.

Field Trips

The first couple of weeks in September are the height of bird migration in the middle Rio Grande Valley. Field trips will include a site visit to the Rio Grande Bird Research Banding Station, where 40 species are typically banded during this time while an additional 40 species are observed.

Extended trips are being planned to areas such as: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge located south (approximately 1.5 hours) of Albuquerque. Hawkwatch International's Capilla Peak Station is located in the Manzano Mountains just over 1.5 hours from Albuquerque. Hawkwatch staff will be observing and banding raptors at this location. The Randall Davey Audubon Center is located in Santa Fe, an hour's drive north of Albuquerque. Other half-day field trips along the Rio Grande and the foothills of the Sandia mountains are also being planned.

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 are especially solicited:

- Bird banding as a tool for studying avian flu and other diseases;
- Innovative methods of capture, processing, ageing and sexing, that make capture of birds more meaningful;
- Population demographics as measured through bird banding efforts; and
- Migration monitoring.

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 20 minutes per oral presentation, which should include 3-5 minutes for questions and discussion. Dialogue between presenters and audience is a hallmark of WBBA meetings.

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 John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory, jda@KlamathBird.org. We would prefer that all queries and submissions be via e-mail; early submission is strongly encouraged. All abstracts should be received no later than 30 Jun 2006 and should be submitted in exactly the following format:

List of authors (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME and affiliation of lead-author and FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, and affiliation of co-authors); complete mailing and e-mail address of presenting author; presentation title (indicating PAPER or POSTER in parentheses following the title; and a brief (300 word maximum) summary of the objectives, methods, results, significance, and generality of your study.

As it becomes available, additional information about the meeting, including registration forms, will be posted on the WBBA web site at <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org>.

For questions about volunteering to help at the meeting, scholarships, sponsorship, or any additional information, contact conference chair Steve Cox (Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., swcox@spinn.net).