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Western

Regional

News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

President	Dr. Charles T. Collins Dept. of Biology, Calif. State Univ. Long Beach, CA 90840
First Vice President	Van A. Truan 833 Harmony Dr., Pueblo, CO 81007
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Applications for membership in the Western Bird Banding Association should be sent to the Treasurer. All classes of membership receive *North American Bird Bander*, the joint publication of Eastern Bird Banding Association and Western Bird Banding Association. Membership classifications are: Active Member, \$6.00 per year; Associate Member, \$6.00 per year; Sustaining Member, \$12.00 per year; Student Member, \$4.50 per year; Life Member, \$150.00. Outside the U.S., add \$2.00 to each membership class except Life Member.

attention. The forms I have in mind are not some far off thing of the future; they are available and in use today. The Manomet and the Point Reyes Bird Observatories have used them for years. Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt had the various participants in our WBBA White-crowned Sparrow Cooperative Project use them for the past two winters.

At first glance, the forms seem intimidating. However, a full set of printed instructions is available and quickly clears up the mysteries of entering single numbers or letters in each column. Students and observatory volunteers who have never been exposed to other less formal schemes learn to work with these sheets in fairly short order. The sheet is set up so that data, without transcription, can be presented for key-punching on the cards which are used for computer analysis. Cooperators can exchange photocopies of data sheets and know that the data are in exactly the same format and ready for analysis. If the data are already key-punched, the cards can then be mechanically duplicated almost as fast as the original sheets can be photo-copied. The potential for increasing the exchange of field data is fantastic.

The point of all of this is that by utilizing such a record sheet, data on various species can be obtained in uniform fashion on a regional or national level and easily compiled for a broader analysis. This will greatly increase the value of data derived from the banding program. Better still, it does not in any way depend on the almost miniscule re-encounter rate we know to be characteristic of the many small passerines most of us handle. We will soon be starting a new WBBA joint project and asking cooperators to use these new data sheets. Hopefully others will consider adopting them in anticipation of making their data maximally available for analysis.

I will be happy to provide samples of the data sheet and instructions to interested banders. Data processing and computers are here to stay and will unquestionably play an even greater role in years to come. Let's move banding into the future with them.

Jul.-Sep. 1977