

1979

## Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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# Western

## Regional

## News

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### Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

<i>President</i>	Otis D. Swisher 1002 S. Oakdale, Medford, OR 97501
<i>First Vice President</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph Dept. of Wildlife Science, Utah State Univ. Logan, UT 84322
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<i>Directors at Large</i>	Dr. Carl Marti (term expires 1980) Bruce Sorrie (term expires 1978)

#### Editorial Staff

<i>Recent Literature</i>	Susan Kaiser	<i>Worksheets</i>	Dr. Charles T. Collins
<i>Auxiliary Markings</i>	Jon L. Atwood	<i>Annual Report</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph

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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, \$8.00 per year; Associate Member, \$8.00 per year; Sustaining Member, \$16.00 per year; Student Member, \$6.00 per year; Non-Subscribing Member, \$3.00 per year; Life Member, \$200.00. Outside the U.S., add \$2.00 to each membership except Life Member.

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## From the President

Carl Richardson, an octogenarian with nearly 50 years of banding experience when I first met him, looked forward to Spring so he could make plans to attend WBBA's Annual Meeting. So long as his health made the trips possible, he attended. And, I can see why he did.

I enjoy the Annual Meeting because of the great people who come. It's a pleasure to spend unhurried moments talking with someone with a like interest, to find out what he is doing, and have a time of give and take about banding in general.

How about the great places where we've met! Sunriver, Oregon with snow-capped Cascades as a backdrop and Ospreys fishing the ponds nearby; Morro Bay and the view of the ocean; the college campuses in Fresno, California, Flagstaff, Arizona, Logan, Utah, and in Tempe, Arizona; and the winter meeting in Washington State was most unusual, I am told.

Remember the papers? Raptors of Eastern Oregon; hummingbirds in Southern California; Blue Jays expanding throughout the West; over 30 years of banding work in SE Asia; the beginnings, and the interim and final reports on the White-crowned Sparrow cooperative project; identification of Audubon's/Myrtle Warblers; ways to keep better records of molt; the interpretation of data; et al.

The Annual Meeting also gives us a chance to keep

up with our responsibilities to the BBL, when a member of the Banding Laboratory gives us an updated report.

And, to top everything off, there is a field trip with the chance to bird some new country. We've been to the high Cascades and the Sierra Nevada; to the pinyon-pine and juniper country of Arizona; to Bear River NWR in Utah; and to many others. Each was a fine way to end the days of stimulating, provocative, and enlightening meetings known as The Annual Meeting.

We attempt to have the Annual Meetings at a time when there will be the fewest conflicts with other organizational meetings. On a few occasions we have been fortunate to schedule joint meetings with their attendant benefits of additional people and greater variety of papers.

The increasing cost of travel makes it necessary for us to plan meeting times and places which will be within the financial capabilities of our members. We are open to suggestions. And, we are open for invitations by those who would host such meetings.

Please write to me if you have a problem of attendance which you feel we may not have considered in our planning. I hope that we have made it possible for you to be at the Annual Meeting of WBBA the 4th through the 6th of May in Santa Barbara, California. See you there.

Otis D. Swisher



## Worksheets for Western Birds

Ageing/sexing worksheets for western birds are mailed with NABB only to Western Bird Banding Association members. They are, however, available to anyone interested. For each worksheet desired, send 25 cents (or \$1.00 for any five worksheets) to Mrs. Donald F. Radke, P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

The following species sheets have been issued: Harris' Hawk, Scaled Quail, California Quail, Gambel's Quail, Mountain Quail, Common Snipe,

Band-tailed Pigeon, key to kingbirds, Eastern Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Myarchis flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Yellow-billed Magpie, Clark's Nutcracker, Verdin, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, gnatcatchers, Orange-crowned Warbler, waterthrushes, Oporornis warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Tanager, Summer Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, towhees, White-crowned Sparrow.

## WBBA's 1979 Annual Meeting

*Santa Barbara, California*

The next Annual Meeting of the Western Bird Banding Association will be held in the beautiful and historic town of Santa Barbara, California, on Saturday 5 May and Sunday 6 May 1979.

The day of paper sessions and workshops will be held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, located at 2559 Puesta del Sol Road. The Museum is in historic Mission Canyon, just over two miles from the Pacific Ocean and near the Old Santa Barbara Mission. The site is characterized by oaks, sycamores, and other southern California streamside vegetation. The ecological setting and the Mediterranean-style architecture of the Museum are conducive to a pleasant and productive meeting. Save these dates and plan to attend.

### Points of Interest

A scenic drive has been laid out around the town and includes such attractions as the Mission Santa Barbara, Botanic Garden, Andree Clark Bird Refuge, Zoological Gardens, Moreton Bay Fig Tree, Historical Society Museum, and El Paseo — the picturesque shopping arcade reminiscent of Old Spain.



### Accommodations

Each participant will have to arrange his or her own lodging. There are a number of reasonably priced motels in Santa Barbara. A full list will be sent out with pre-registration information and a call for papers in early March. Please note that no motel is within easy walking distance of the Museum. If you do not intend to bring or rent a car, you may want to plan to room at the same place as someone who does. With a little cooperation, this should not be a problem.

### Travel Information

Santa Barbara is easily reached by car via U.S. Highway 101, which links Los Angeles and San Francisco and points north. The Santa Barbara Airport is served by United Airlines from Los Angeles and San Francisco. Golden West and Apollo Airlines run air commuter service from a number of cities throughout the state. By rail, Santa Barbara may be reached on Amtrak via Los Angeles, San Francisco, or intervening towns.

Paid advertisement

During W.B.B.A.'s  
Annual Meeting  
Stay at one of these  
fine motels

**El Prado Motor Inn**

1601 State Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 965-4586

**Polynesian Motel**

433 W. Montecito St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 963-7851

**The Sandman Inn**

3714 State Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 687-2468

**Hacienda Motel**

3643 State St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 687-6461

When making reservations, please mention this ad.

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# Orin Alva Stevens

1885—1979

A pioneer midwestern bird bander, Dr. O. A. Stevens, died at Sacramento, California on 12 January 1979, at the age of 93.

Dr. Stevens was born 17 October 1885 on a farm near Blue Rapids, Kansas. He was a young naturalist, developing a deep interest in plants, birds, and insects before entering high school. His education was pursued at Kansas State College in Manhattan, where he received a B.S. degree in 1907. Following a stint as botany instructor at Kansas State, he accepted a position as botany professor and pure seed analyst at North Dakota State College (now North Dakota State University) in Fargo in 1909. Fargo was to be his home, and that of his wife, the former Julia Anna Monroe (whom he married in 1910), for the next 67 years — as a faculty member of the college until his retirement in 1956, and as professor emeritus until he and Mrs. Stevens moved to California in 1976.

Although his main interest lay in botany — he was to become author of the definitive *Handbook of North Dakota Plants* (1950) — he was also keenly interested in bird life. He began banding birds in 1925 and was an active bander for the next 40 years and was still banding on a limited basis until 1976. He prepared an article for the first volume of *Bird-Banding* (in 1930) and a long essay with the late Myron H. Swenk, a fellow pioneer bird bander, "The Harris's Sparrow and the study of it by trapping," which appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin* (in 1929) and included a painting of Harris' Sparrow by George M. Sutton. He served as secretary of the Inland Bird Banding Association and edited the *Inland Bird Banding News* for eight years.

Dr. Stevens was author of a number of articles on bird behavior and distribution, as well as histories of the pioneer ornithologists and botanists of the

upper Missouri River Valley. For a number of years he wrote popular articles on birds for a Fargo newspaper, and thus contributed greatly to public interest in birds throughout North Dakota and adjacent Minnesota.

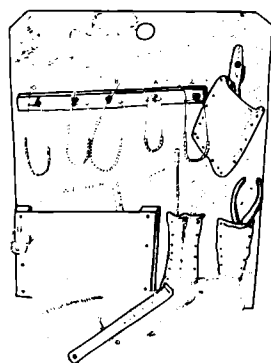
In addition to his notable accomplishments in botany and ornithology, Dr. Stevens was a recognized expert on wasps and wild bees, gathering a collection of more than 12,000 specimens of these insects. He therefore qualifies as a true naturalist, not simply as a specialist in one field. He was unrivaled as an authority on the natural history of North Dakota.

A mild-mannered and quiet-spoken man, and never one to attempt to further his own ambitions at the slightest expense to anyone, his proven ability, his interest in and encouragement to others, and his innate kindness and integrity won him a host of friends and the sincere respect of his colleagues. He took an active interest in the progress of his students, to whom he imparted wise words of advice. One of those students is the writer.

Dr. Stevens' stature as a person and as a scientist was notably confirmed in 1968 when a new natural sciences building complex on the campus of North Dakota State University was dedicated as Stevens Hall. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the State University in 1948, and the same honor was accorded him by the University of North Dakota in 1965.

Dr. Stevens is survived by his wife, a daughter, Muriel, of Livermore, California, two sons, Dudley of Sacramento and Gerald of Washington, D.C., ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Gale Monson.



**B.I.R.D. Manual.** The Education Committee of EBBA has compiled the best of old workshop manuals with some new ideas for banders: Ethics, Traps, Nets, Suppliers, Ageing/Sexing Techniques, Identification, and many other aids. It has been prepared for use in a loose leaf notebook and the committee will be adding to the information occasionally with inserts in NABB. The B(anders) I(nformation) R(esource) D(ata) Manual is available from: Tom Mutchler, c/o Hartwood Club, Box 212X, RD 1, Monticello, NY 12701. \$2.50 ppd.

**McCamey Chickadee Trap: \$9.00 F.O.B. Eugene.**

This trap is precision made and is designed to take birds the size of jays, grosbeaks, and cardinals. It is illustrated in EBBA Workshop Manual #5, 1975, p. 22.

It is sensitive to birds the size of chickadees and a 5 gram weight will trip the door. The main features are the sensitive treadle, a door lock for feeding when not activated, and a large handle for a gloved hand in winter. The back is fastened on with clips for easier access in case the treadle gets worked over by a squirrel.

Hundreds of these traps have been sold to nature schools, universities, and individuals in the States and Canada over the past ten years.

Packed individually, they weigh about three pounds and are shipped F.O.B. Eugene, Oregon via United Parcel. Order from Donald E. Payne, 34886 Mathews Road, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

**Banding Supplies:** Bleitz Wildlife Foundation has available a new listing of the more than 100 styles, sizes, colors and types of Mist Nets, Portable Poles, Pesola Scales, etc., which are available from the Foundation. Reprints of "Mist Nets and Their Use" are also available. Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 5334 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90027.

## E.B.B.A. and W.B.B.A. present . . .

**Back Issues of EBBA News:** Vol. 1 through 17: \$1.25\* per issue. Please note — we have few issues left of the earlier volumes. Vol. 18 through 27: 50¢ per issue. Vol. 28 through 33: 75¢ per issue. Vol. 34 through 37: \$1.50\* per issue. Vol. 38, No. 1: \$1.50\*. Vol. 38, No. 2: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 38, No. 3: \$1.50\*. Vol. 38, No. 4: \$2.25 (*scarce*). Vol. 39, No. 1 (*Bicentennial Issue*), \$1.00\*. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are net prices and appropriate postage for the entire order must be added. **Order from:** Mrs. Roger W. Foy, Box 164, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.



**EBBA Mist Nets** are available in the sizes listed below. Please write for order blank. Checks must accompany order. All orders are shipped UPS. There is a 50¢ handling charge on all orders under \$10.00. Please have a local address, not a Post Office box number. Pennsylvania residents, add 6% sales tax. Make checks payable to EBBA Net Account. Order from: EBBA Net Committee, Biology Dept., Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15701.

Mesh	Length								
	5 Meters			9 Meters			12 Meters		
	Sust	Act	Non Mem	Sust	Act	Non Mem	Sust	Act	Non Mem
Regulation Nylon Nets									
1 ¼	5.80	6.05	6.55				10.50	11.30	12.25
1 ½	4.15	4.30	4.65				7.45	7.80	8.50
2 ½							8.50	8.85	9.65

Nylon Tethered-Top Nets									
1 ¼		8.85	9.25	10.10		11.75	12.30	13.40	
1 ½		6.85	7.15	7.75		8.50	8.90	9.70	
1 ¼ x 2.6 cm						11.75	12.30	13.40	

Polyester Tethered-Top Nets									
1 ¼		11.25	11.80	12.80		15.30	16.00	17.40	
1 ½		9.10	9.50	10.30		12.60	13.15	14.30	

Sust—Sustaining member

Act—Active member

Non Mem—Not a member of EBBA