

1979

Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

<i>President</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph Dept. of Wildlife Science, Utah State Univ. Logan, UT 84322
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<i>Editor</i>	Eleanor L. Radke P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331
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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.

From the President

This is a time when many of us reflect upon, and complete various reports of, our banding activities during the past year. By the time you read this, I hope that all of you who band birds in the western states and provinces have received banding summary forms and return/recovery forms from WBBA. As you know, the information that you submit to WBBA is used in preparing the Annual Report and the Recaptures (encounters) section for publication in NABB.

This will be my second year as compiler of the WBBA Annual Report. I find this job both interesting and informative, as I know of no better way to become familiar with western banders and their banding activities and interests. The Annual Report serves a similar function, of course, for readers of NABB. In addition, the Annual Report Commentary summarizes results for the year and charts long-term trends, thus providing useful information on the status of certain species and on shifts in banding objectives and emphases through the years.

To try to keep pace with NABB's overall growth and development, WBBA has in the past couple of years attempted to update its survey procedures for the Annual Report and Recaptures section. A year ago, several changes were made in the WBBA banding summary form. Common names of species were updated where necessary to reflect taxonomic and nomenclatural changes made by the American Ornithologists' Union. A few rarely-banded species were removed from the list and replaced by others that have been banded with increasing frequency in recent years. To simplify the reporting process for banders in Hawaii, a separate summary form was prepared covering Hawaiian birds, as many of these species differ from those found on the mainland. John Ralph provided valuable help in developing the Hawaiian form. At the suggestion of several banders, clarifications were made in the return/recovery questionnaire. Finally, the deadline for submission of banding reports to WBBA was moved from 1 March to 31 January. Our reasons for this change were to make the date easier to remember (for U.S. banders at least, as it coincides with the BBL's deadline) and to allow the compiler time to make further contact with banders in the event of questions or no response.

During the past year, WBBA has received some suggestions from banders for further improvement

of banding survey procedures. One suggestion was that we attempt to increase our mailing coverage of the WBBA region. WBBA's mailing list has in the past consisted of federal master permittees that the BBL indicates are active in the western U.S., so that some banders of resident game birds under state permits have not received questionnaires. In addition, our list of western Canadian banders has appeared incomplete. I therefore have contacted the Canadian Wildlife Service and a number of state game agencies, and as a result I hope that this year's mailing reaches all of you. A second suggestion was that we try to increase overall efficiency by obtaining data directly from the BBL rather than contacting banders individually; however, due to various constraints, this does not appear feasible. Finally, a question was raised as to why the geographic coverage of the Annual Report is not circumscribed by natural (rather than political) boundaries. The Annual Report covers the WBBA region as defined in the By-Laws. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to tantalizing "near misses" — such as eight Whooping Cranes banded by Ernie Kuyt in 1978 (only a mile out of WBBA territory, we later learned!).

I hope to receive a banding summary from each of you in January. Whether or not you banded birds in 1979, your summary contributes importantly to the success of the Annual Report. In addition, if you have observed noteworthy returns or recoveries, please be sure to send in this information. If for some reason you have not received the questionnaires, or if master banders need additional summary forms for sub-permittees and have not received them in the first mailing, please notify me and I'll be happy to send whatever is needed. Thanks for your cooperation.

Martha Balph

Addendum to 1978 W.B.B.A. Annual Report

Daniel D. Gibson (University of Alaska Museum) has sent us his banding results for 1978, which include three noteworthy species banded for the first time in the W.B.B.A. area: Siberian Rubythroat (1), Dusky Warbler (1), and Brambling (7), all banded at Shemya Island, Aleutians, Alaska, in the fall of 1978.

M.H.B.

WBBA's Annual Meeting 19-23 March 1980

Our 1980 Annual Meeting will be held jointly with the Cooper and Wilson Ornithological Societies at La Quinta Royale Motor Inn, Corpus Christi, Texas. Corpus Christi State University and the Coastal Bend Chapter of the National Audubon Society are sponsoring the general meeting. Brian R. Chapman (Division of Biology, Corpus Christi State University, Corpus Christi, TX 78412) is chairman of the committee on arrangements for the COS-WOS meeting, and Jerome A. Jackson (Department of Zoology, P.O. Drawer Z, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762) is chairman of the scientific program committee.

WBBA's business meeting will be held on Saturday, 22 March. Ralph Moldenhauer (Department of Life Sciences, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77340) will act as our local host. Persons wishing to present papers should apply for a position on the COS or WOS scientific program. However, there will be some time during WBBA's business meeting for brief reports from members.

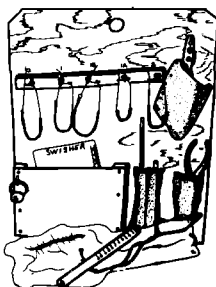
At this writing, details regarding registration, accommodations, and the program are not available. COS and WOS will send this information to their members in December. For those of you who are not members of these societies and would like this information, please write to Martha Balph, Department of Wildlife Science, UMC 52, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322.

A special session during which bird banders and other persons interested in increasing the usefulness of data gathered during banding will meet for a discussion. For further information on this session, contact Stephen M. Russell, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

The Texas Gulf Coast is a birdwatcher's paradise. Marshes abound with a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Raptors in the area include White-tailed Hawks, Caracaras, and Bald Eagles. The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of the Whooping Crane, is a short drive from Corpus Christi. Although the area of the refuge used by whoopers is closed to the public, Brian Chapman is trying to arrange for daily trips with small groups to see the whoopers. In areas open to the public and near the refuge headquarters, one is likely to see Sandhill Cranes, Reddish Egrets, Rio Grande Turkeys, and many other interesting birds.

Don't miss what promises to be an excellent meeting and a memorable birding experience. See you in Corpus Christi!





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Mesh	Length								
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	Sust	Act	Non Mem	Sust	Act	Non Mem	Sust	Act	Non Mem
Regulation Nylon Nets									
1 1/4	5.80	6.05	6.55				10.50	11.30	12.25
1 1/2	4.15	4.30	4.65				7.45	7.80	8.50
2 1/2							8.50	8.85	9.65

Nylon Tethered-Top Nets

1 1/4	8.85	9.25	10.10	11.75	12.30	13.40
1 1/2	6.85	7.15	7.75	8.50	8.90	9.70
1 1/4 x 2.6 cm				11.75	12.30	13.40

Polyester Tethered-Top Nets

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1 1/2	9.10	9.50	10.30	12.60	13.15	14.30

Sust—Sustaining member

Act—Active member

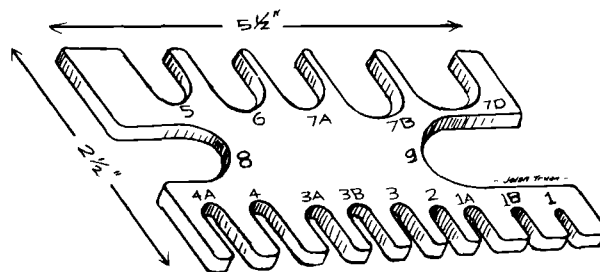
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