

1987

Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1987) "Western Regional News," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 12 : Iss. 4 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol12/iss4/12>

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Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

From WBBA's President

Annual Meeting 1987 - Tucson

WBBA has just completed a most enjoyable, stimulating and successful annual meeting at Tucson, Arizona, October 8-12. The local organizers, Steve and Ruth Russell and Bob and Joan Tweit, have our most enthusiastic thanks! More information about this meeting follows from Ruth. I want to mention some highlights and new developments.

Changes in WBBA's officers: Kerry Reese is our new 2nd Vice-President; Alan Gubanich takes over from Ruth Russell as WBBA Secretary and Ruth becomes a director at large. Howard Cogswell is now WBBA historian and archivist and Richard Bowers is Assistant Treasurer for all publication sales. Other positions and assignments remain as currently listed in *NABB*. Thanks to all retiring and incoming WBBA officers and committee members for their contributions.

Membership Committee

Howard Cogswell has served WBBA in a variety of important roles over the years. Most recently he has made an outstanding contribution as Treasurer and one-man membership committee. Now that Howard has graciously agreed to be historian and archivist we need a new chairperson for the membership committee. WBBA also needs a stronger and more active "networking" of membership communication and support at local levels. Membership in WBBA provides benefits in addition to receiving *NABB*. With regional membership coordinators we can more effectively learn about the activities and needs of banders in our respective areas, and encourage them to join WBBA and participate. I believe many of us will benefit from stronger networking. This will facilitate communication about productive

and interesting collaborative projects: regional comparisons of relative breeding success for designated species, timing of population or species arrivals and departures, relative rates of movement, and changes in nutritional and reproductive status. Dick Mewaldt's study of White-crowned Sparrows is a fine example of the scope of such projects and there are many more areas to study. Therefore, we are starting a stronger focus on WBBA membership and ways by which banders can cooperate on a strictly optional basis.

We need a membership committee chairperson and committee members who can serve as regional membership coordinators or "network nodes." Otis D. Swisher of Medford, Oregon, has volunteered to be Membership Coordinator for Oregon, Washington and Idaho. If you will serve in this or any other capacity in WBBA please write W.B. Quay, 2003 Ida St., Napa, CA 94558, or telephone me at (707) 253-7346.

Advisory Avian Population Committees

At our meeting in Tucson two advisory committees were approved: a Land Bird Population Committee chaired by David DeSante, and a Water Bird Population Committee, chairperson to be selected. The purpose of these committees is to advise WBBA about actual and possible problems concerning particular North American avian populations. We are already flooded with reports and speculations about changes in populations of certain species or in certain regions. We need help to distinguish which of these are credible and which require more extensive research. Banders can make important contributions by providing data to evaluate these reports. These advisory committees will keep us aware of avian population changes in our area through reports at our annual meeting and in *NABB*.

W.B. (Bill) Quay

WBBA Annual Meeting - 1987

President W.B. Quay called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. October 10 at the University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center, Tucson, Arizona. He presented the report of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Robert Tweit, as follows: President, W.B. Quay; 1st Vice-President, David DeSante; 2nd Vice-President, Kerry Reese; Secretary, Alan Gubanich; Treasurer, Howard Cogswell; Directors, Carl Barrentine (1988) and Ruth Ogden Russell (1989). It was moved, seconded and passed that the nominations be closed and the nominees be declared elected.

Bill Quay reported the appointment of Howard Cogswell as historian, replacing Martin McNicholl, and explained that the Bancroft Library in California may become the repository for WBBA records.

Quay then reviewed actions from the board meeting, held the previous day. Copies of the treasurer's report were available, and a request from Treasurer Cogswell to change the beginning of the fiscal year from 1 April to 1 August, approved by the Board, was endorsed by the membership. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written. A membership committee will be formed with representation from various geographical areas for the purpose of contacting non-member banders in the WBBA region and encouraging them to join. Concern regarding appropriate inclusions in the annual report prompted the consensus that bander's reports be limited to birds properly banded with USFWS bands. David DeSante agreed to chair a bird populations committee on land birds, and he will seek a chairperson for the water bird section.

Future meetings: 1988 at Arcata, CA, local chairperson C.J. Ralph; 1989 at Reno, NV, local chairperson Alan Gubanich.

George Jonkel reported on current activities at the Bird Banding Laboratory and several banding programs both here and abroad. He also mentioned plans for a new series of hummingbird bands if an acceptable metal source can be located.

The meeting was Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Ogden Russell, Sec.*

Highlights of the 1988 Meeting

Approximately 90 registrants met October 8-12 in Tucson for the annual WBBA meeting. Events began Thursday morning with banding at 6:00 a.m. at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch, and continued Friday with an all-day field trip to Mt. Lemmon. The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon from 3:00 until 5:54 p.m., followed by an evening reception and book signing at the Tucson Audubon Society's Nature Shop, featuring Bill Clark and his new Peterson Series *Field Guide to Hawks*.

Demonstrations highlighted the Saturday morning program at the University of Arizona Campus Agricultural Center and included raptor capture techniques,

radio telemetry, cloacal lavages, laparotomy and sterilization techniques, blood sampling, hormonal implants, trap making, and specialized traps. Workshops on ageing and sexing criteria and sparrow, *Empidonax*, and hummingbird identification followed. Several traps constructed by Ross Chapin and given to WBBA were auctioned, providing a needed boost to the treasury. Afternoon sessions were devoted to presentation of results of field studies. Bill Calder discussed his many years of research on hummingbirds at the evening banquet.

The meeting ended with additional field trips on Sunday and Monday.