

1994

Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1994) "Western Regional News," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 19 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.

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Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

WBBA MEETING 1994 16-18 SEPT. IN ASHLAND, OR.

If you wish to present a paper or demonstration or need more information, contact:

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KNOW YOUR PERMIT REGULATIONS

Several ornithologists have been investigated and prosecuted by enforcement officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for permit violations which the ornithologists felt were trivial. *Condor* 95:258-260 has an editorial and a letter on this subject.

As WBBA editor I do not know enough of the specifics of these cases to discuss them further, but I feel that they can serve as an important reminder to all banders. Possession of a banding permit is a privilege granted by federal and state governments and in return compliance with specific conditions is required. Permit violations can carry civil and possibly criminal penalties. We have all read of fines and jail sentences imposed on people convicted for violations of laws covering migratory birds. These same treaties and laws provide the legal basis for the issuance of banding permits.

As banders we need to be aware of the legal limitations and obligations of our permits, both federal and state. In this area as in others, ignorance of the law is no excuse. Possible areas of confusion are: use of auxiliary markers, disposition of salvaged specimens, transfer of bands, and banding of endangered species. Probably the best advice to all of us is: **DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR WHICH YOU DON'T HAVE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION AND FULFILL ALL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

R.C. Twelt