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## Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Established 1925

# Western Regional News

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having just finished two years as your president, there are many people I wish to thank for their assistance. First of all, I want to thank the members of the board, Dennis Vroman, Kay Loughman, Ken Burton, Geoff Geupel, Cathy Sandell, Bob Altman, Bob Tweit, Stephanie Jones, and Tom Pogson, who served during the past two years. They have taken the time to provide the guidance for the association to continue its business. Two people need special mention - Kay Loughman, who has been willing to take on extra tasks and Ken Burton, who has been handling the treasurer's and membership tasks that require more time and effort than any other office of the board.

The highlight event of the year for WBBA is the annual meeting, requiring an enormous amount of time and coordination. The meetings for these past two years have been well organized by coordinators Cathy Sandell and her crew in New Mexico for 1995 and Bob Altman and his crew in Oregon for 1996. I thank them both and all their assistants for jobs well done.

Next, several people perform tasks without much recognition. At the top of that list is Dr. Robert Tweit, our WBBA editor for *NABB*. Bob has not only provided the editorship of articles and kept our portion of *NABB* going, he has been one person that I have used frequently as an advisor about WBBA business because of his long time association with WBBA and his sagacious insight. For the past few years, Coyote Creek Riparian

Station, namely Chris Otahal has provided the leadership in producing the annual report for the western states that is printed in *NABB*, a tremendous yearly undertaking. Prior to Chris, Joan Tweit, produced the report for more years than she probably cares to remember. We all owe these two people a debt of gratitude for their dedication to a monumental yearly task.

Some people provide assistance for all the banding associations through their work with *NABB*. Literature Editor, Martin K. McNicholl from Canada, coordinates book reviews and recent literature abstracts that appear in *NABB*. These help us keep up on the literature that applies to banding. Reviewers have included Martin, Bob and Joan Tweit, Jay Mahoney, Geoff Holroyd, Kenneth C. Parkes, and Sharon Skelly. Significant Encounters are compiled for *NABB* by Dr. John B. Dunning. I know I enjoy reading these to see longevity and distance records. Roy Slack is the advertising manager, coordinating the advertising in *NABB* to assist in keeping our costs down and providing a marketplace for equipment that is not found elsewhere. Finally, Bob Pantle (with his wife Rita's assistance) is our *NABB* production manager. He oversees the actual production and mailing of the periodical, which requires much coordination and effort four times a year. I thank all of you for what you are doing for the benefit of all of us.

Our next annual meeting is going to be 3 - 5 October 1997, near Las Vegas, NV, with arrangements handled by Ken Voget. At this meeting we are going to try some new ideas and/or re-implement some old ones. Although we have

had very good paper presentation sessions at our meetings, we have been having fewer equipment and technique demonstrations except for banding itself. I will be assisting Ken by coordinating the technical papers and demonstrations for the annual meeting, and would appreciate any volunteers who have techniques or even equipment (net poles, traps, etc.) they wish to demonstrate. If anyone is adept with the banding lab's Band-Ops program and willing to give a 45 minute demo (or maybe two demos to allow more people to attend) call me. To contact me: Voice (909) 657-3111, FAX (909) 657-5443, or e-mail bcarlson@citrus.ucr.edu. We are hoping to make the meeting more interactive and instructive. Finally, we are going to introduce a silent auction or raffle to help raise more money for some of the association's projects such as the grants to assist

research projects. Stephanie Jones is in charge of this so if you have something you want to donate please contact her. She will welcome items big or small such as mist-nets, traps, poles, any other kind of banding equipment, books, holding bags, prints, notecards, (preferably pertaining to nature), all of which are excellent items. The items can be used or new. Stephanie's address is on the inside of NABB's cover with the officers.

Finally, I want to impart how much I have enjoyed meeting many of you at the WBBA annual meetings. I have appreciated seeing other banding operations and exchanging methodologies and ideas. I have frequently incorporated some of these ideas in my major research tool - banding.

*Barbara A. Carlson*  
Immediate Past President

### *Norman D. Hogg* In Memoriam

On 19 August 1996, Norman D. Hogg, a life member of Western Bird Banding Association, died at age 49 of complications from a stroke. His banding interests were diverse, including herons and cormorants at the Salton Sea, raptors and landbirds in the Santa Monica Mountains and Joshua Tree National Park. He was assisted in these studies by students from Santa Monica College and personal friends.

Norm grew up on a farm in the Coachella Valley and acquired his love of nature at an early age. He spent most of his adult life as a biology teacher after graduating from California State Polytechnic University (Pomona) with bachelors and masters degrees. He taught freshman and sophomore classes at Citrus, El Camino and Santa Monica Colleges, as well as field courses for UCLA Extension. In 1978 he took a break from teaching to learn whitewater rafting and operate his own company running whitewater trips and natural history tours to places as diverse as the California coast and northwest Arizona. In 1986 he married Mary Meacham and returned to teaching.

He shared with his students and friends his love of and fascination with nature through field trips and classes, tours and research trips. Banding was a hands-on means of learning about the natural world.

The Western Bird Banding Association extends its sympathy to his family and friends. Gabrielle de Benedictus wrote this poem in his memory.

#### RECOVERY

Like all the others,  
I never guessed what caught me,  
hung up in midair.  
Startled, I felt your deft fingers  
made wise by experience  
wrapping themselves around my life.  
Strand by strand, with infinite patience,  
you strained to give me back my will.  
I trembled as you worked.

Your confidence inspired mine.  
An opened eye gazed into yours,  
bright pools of love and wonder.  
Feet, legs, tail, wings;  
I felt the noose slip off my neck.  
You placed a band around my soul,  
ready to set me free.

With failing light,  
I was the one reluctant to leave.  
You had to prod me into flight.  
How could you know in your absence  
I would land, clutching the darkness,  
only to dream of being cradled again  
in a net as gentle and generous.

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**W. Ray Salt**  
**(1905-1996)**

Walter Raymond Salt was born in Loughborough, England, 12 October 1905, but grew up in Calgary, Alberta, where his family arrived in 1911. At age 7 he delivered newspapers to help his family. His interest in a customer's collection of mounted birds led to a Saturday job helping a taxidermist skin and mount birds, a skill that helped finance his higher education. His university progress was slow, one course at a time, as he worked full-time, mostly as a teacher.

After finishing his education, most of Salt's career was spent as Professor of Anatomy at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He published widely on Alberta birds and his name was practically synonymous with that subject. He retired from teaching in 1980 and moved to Colwood on Vancouver Island.

While teaching school in small Alberta towns Salt became interested in banding raptors. During that period his totals for hawks and owls exceeded those of all other banders in North America and by 1939 reached 400 raptors of 13 species. His paper

on Ferruginous Hawk recoveries is a classic for this species, documenting movements and causes of mortality. A Ferruginous Hawk banded in 1935 and recovered in 1951 established the longevity record for this species among birds with numbered bands.

Salt also wrote popular style articles to encourage amateur or "backyard" banders. His paper encouraging raptor banding was reprinted and widely distributed.

Salt's most important contribution to banding may well be his extensive anatomical studies of the cloacal protuberance of passerine birds which provided a firm scientific base for the use of this structure in sexing passerines. Salt will be remembered for his pioneering work in banding and his influence on ornithology in western Canada. He died in Colwood on 6 June 1996.

A more detailed memorial appeared in *Alberta Naturalist* 26: 45-46, 1996.

*Martin K. McNicholl*

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**1997**  
**WBBA MEETING**

The 72nd annual meeting of the Western Bird Banding Assoc. will be held at :

**Ash Meadow National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada, 2 - 5 October 1997.** The refuge is near Death Valley National Park. Barbara Carlson's message (p. 175) has more information.

