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North American Bird Bander

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Established 1925

Western Regional News

President's Message

What should be our WBBA priorities for this year? As President, my duties include providing guidance for our members and organization. Here are some things I feel are important to do this year.

New members. Sure, we are a small, close-knit group. Why would we want more members? To benefit both the person becoming a member and WBBA. Throughout the western states there are many people who band, or are interested in banding, who currently are not members. I suggest each of us seek out one such person and convince them to join WBBA. We provide many benefits to each member and each member strengthens WBBA.

Conserving bird populations. How can we do this? By doing what we do best, banding birds -- banding birds with a scientific purpose and collecting data in a standardized way. Simple things, but important. We gather the same kinds of banding data from both research and monitoring projects. Data that we collect can be part of the big picture, but we have to be willing to collect them in a standardized way and share it to benefit birds. If you are not involved with a research or monitoring project and are collecting data, find out how your data might benefit an ongoing project.

Articles for North American Bird Bander (NABB). If you are like me, you are sitting on enough banding data to write numerous articles.

Certainly, each of us could compose one interesting article for NABB right now. We benefit from other banders sharing their data; let's put ours into print for other banders. Presentations at WBBA Annual Meetings are another valuable way to tell banders about your work. What we have learned is lost if we don't share it.

Enter the electronic age. Hopefully, we will not be kicking and screaming all the way. We can be a great benefit to the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) by submitting our banding schedule data in electronic form. Many of us now do; some still do not. If you can not afford an expensive new computer system, a low-priced older system will do the job. Perhaps a friend with a system would be willing to work with you. If you need it seek help, but be willing to give it a try.

Dennis Vroman

Best wishes, Barbara!

Our Immediate Past-President, Barbara Carlson, is recovering from a stroke. Although she is home now and making good progress, she will appreciate your cards (PO Box 55419, Riverside CA 92517), and plan to join her at the WBBA meeting this fall in Nevada.