

1998

Western Regional News

North American Bird Bander

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Established 1925

Western Regional News

President's Message

Could you use additional funds to accomplish your vital avian monitoring program, or to start monitoring? Would you like to have funding for a nature center or to get a bird observatory underway? Would you like to educate the general public about bird populations? Do you see a need to purchase habitat for rare and sensitive bird species? Or, how about funding to help fence livestock from riparian areas where bird habitat has suffered? Have I captured your attention? If so, that was my intent. Did you know that all these worthwhile projects could receive funds if "Teaming with Wildlife" (TWW) succeeds.

Teaming with Wildlife would raise funds based on the "user fee" concept. A small surcharge would be placed on outdoor recreational items such as sleeping bags, tents, binoculars, backyard wildlife supplies, and field identification books. The fee would be from one half to five percent, depending on the value of the item, and would be collected from manufacturers.

Why should we do anything? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then you need to be involved. If TWW is to be adopted by the U.S. congress, then your support is needed. Also, we need to voice our opinion now as to what should be funded by TWW. You can be sure others are.

What can you and I do? At the time of this message, a TWW bill has not been introduced into Congress. What we can do in the meantime is write companies that would be paying the user fee for

non-game wildlife. Start with the ones you do business with. Let them know you support TWW and you are willing to pay the small fee to help wildlife. When a bill is introduced, write your Congressional representatives and let them know your opinion.

As an organization, Western Bird Banding Association is listed as a supporter of TWW. You can help it become reality. The old saying about the "squeaky wheel" could apply, and we need to be one of the "squeaks."

Dennis Vroman

**1998 WBBA Annual Meeting
25-27 September 1998
Marconi Conference Center
Marshall, California
(north of San Francisco)**

Join us for the Association's 73rd meeting at this great location on the shore of Tomales Bay near Point Reyes National Seashore and Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The banding demonstrations, papers, and field trips will add up to a great weekend.

If you did not receive a meeting brochure or have questions, contact: **Kay Loughman at kayloughman@ibm.net or 510-841-7428.**