North American Bird Bander

Volume 34 | Issue 3 Article 23

2009

Western Bird Banding Association 2009 Annual Meeting

North American Bird Bander

Western Bird Banding Association

Western Regional News

Founded in 1925

Western Bird Banding Association 2009 Annual Meeting

The 2009 annual meeting of the Western Bird Banding Association was hosted by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. The Observatory was founded in 1981 and has produced over 25 years of scientific information helping to guide resource management decisions in the San Francisco Bay area. Special thanks go out to Lindy Nice and Jill Demers for all their hard work in making the meeting a huge success. Over 70 people attended the meeting, which was held 28-30 Aug in Milpitas, CA.

On Friday, participants could choose from a variety of activities including a hummingbird banding workshop at Hidden Villa in Los Altos, birding at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, or workshops at the Sobrato Non-profit Center in Milpitas, where the meeting was based. Workshop topics included a demonstration of the use of mist nets and related equipment, techniques for capturing and banding cavity-nesting birds, preserving and preparing specimens, and a demonstration of molt and ageing patterns in raptors. That evening, the group convened at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Nature Center for a barbecue and social.

Saturday's scientific session was equally engaging, with 20 papers and five posters presented. Topics were varied and included research from the immediate area and from as far away as Belize, Central America. Peter Pyle was on hand to share his expertise with molts, and Bruce Peterjohn, Chief of the Bird Banding Lab, spoke about current events in his agency. Keynote speaker Dr. John Takekawa gave a fascinating presentation on the use of satellite telemetry for advancing the understanding of waterbird migration around the globe. The evening also included a catered buffet dinner and a silent auction to generate revenue for the Association.

On both Saturday and Sunday, staff from the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory invited us to their Coyote Creek Field Station where they band birds year-round. Other Sunday field trips included birding along the San Mateo coast with expert field guide Alvaro Jaramillo and a tour of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project sites with Jill Demers.

During the WBBA Board meeting, the group discussed a number of issues, including how to improve annual meetings, methods for upgrading *North American Bird Bander*, better advertisement of our grants program, and strategies for generating revenue for the Association. Board members for the

2009-2010 year are President Michael Boyles (National Park Service, Boulder City, Nevada), First Vice-President C.J. Ralph (U.S. Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Arcata, CA), Second Vice-President Howard Browers (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pullman, WA), Treasurer Pat Leitner (Tucson, AZ), Secretary Renee Cormier (PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA), Editor Walter H. Sakai (Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA), Membership Chair Ken Burton (Arcata, CA), Immediate Past President John Alexander (Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR), and at-large Board members Kay Loughman (Berkeley, CA) and Andrea Wuenschel (Puget Sound Bird Observatory, Seattle, WA).

The meeting was a great success and, like all WBBA meetings, a lot of fun. If you missed it, please try to make it next year.

WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 2009 ABSTRACTS OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Colwell, Rita R. FEMALE ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS DEMONSTRATE SEVERE BAND-CAUSE LEG INJURY IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.

Los Altos Hills, CA rcolwell@sbcglobal.net

At three banding sites in central California, a significant number of recaptured female Anna's Hummingbirds (*Calypte anna)* show leg injuries due to their bands. At the first site, established in 2005, several females were recaptured with varying degrees of banded leg swelling. They had been banded with the Bird Banding Laboratory's recommended 6.0 mm size. Since then, the problem has been observed at two other sites that were started later. At all three sites the band size used on females has been increased to try to alleviate the issue, but it has persisted. Normal breeding season leg swelling along with accumulation of foreign material under the band has proved to be the cause of the problem in the affected individuals.

Cormier, Renée, Thomas Gardali, and Julian Wood. ASSESSING MIGRATORY STOPOVER SITE-QUALITY FOR BIRDS DURING FALL MIGRATION ALONG TWO CALIFORNIA RIVERS.

PRBO Conservation Science, Bolinas, CA.

Consequences of habitat loss and environmental change not only impact birds on their breeding and wintering grounds, but can also affect migration stopover sites. Measuring site-quality for birds at migration stopover grounds and identifying critical stopover habitats is an important component to the conservation of migratory birds. We examined change in mass of recaptured individuals of migrant Willow Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii*), Orange-crowned (*Vermivora celata*),Yellow (*Dendroica petechia*), and Wilson's (*Wilsonia pusilla*) warblers, and we examined relationships between body condition and time of day for the same species, since most migrants are not recaptured, at two sites each along the Mokelumne and San Joaquin rivers. We compared the rate of change in condition over the course of the day as an index of site quality, by inferring food availability, and compared those to similar studies in Canada and the US. Of recaptured individuals grouped by species and site, 64-88% showed an increase in mass. All study species showed increases in condition or condition was stable. Rate of change in condition varied among sites and species. Because most species showed increase in condition, but rate of change varied between sites, comparisons of additional sites and species would provide a better understanding of how we can assess migratory stopover site quality relative to the different needs and strategies of migrant species.

Dybala, Kristen E. A STUDY OF POST-FLEDGING SURVIVAL IN SONG SPARROWS USING RADIO TELEMETRY.

Department of Wildlife, Fish & Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616 kedybala@ucdavis.edu

Juvenile survival in passerine birds is likely to be a critical bottleneck in avian population dynamics; yet, very little is known about juvenile survival rates or the processes affecting juvenile survival. Radio telemetry studies may be essential to