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WBBA 2012 Annual Banding Summary

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STATE														
COMMON NAME	Alpha	MX	HI	AK	YU	NWT	WA	CA	NV	MT	AZ	SUM	HIGH BANDER	
Altamira Oriole	ALOR	4										4	T03(4)	
Baltimore Oriole	BAOR	1634				13		3		7		1657	T03(1634), D01(12), S07(7)	
Yellow-billed Cacique	YBIC	5										5	T03(5)	
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	GCRF				1							1	W02(1)	
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	BCRF									2		2	R01(2)	
Pine Grosbeak	PIGR			1		7						8	S11(7), K09(1)	
Purple Finch	PUFI				91	57	237	406				791	R02(150), P04(136)	
Cassin's Finch	CAFI						2	13		50	5	70	R01(40), P04(8), I02=F01(5)	
House Finch	HOFI	2	15			271	11	1099		244	433	2075	C12(660), A06(383), P02(228)	
Red Crossbill	RECR					173	126	3		2	1	305	D01(173), U05(124), R02(3)	
White-winged Crossbill	WWCR					41						41	D01(41)	
Common Redpoll	CORE			60	34	1595						1689	P02(1535), S11(60), A02(50)	
Hoary Redpoll	HORE					10						10	P02(9), S11(1)	
Pine Siskin	PISI			2	165	302	167	105		215	280	1236	F01(276), D01(228), T02(120)	
Lesser Goldfinch	LEGO						27	294	42	42	102	507	M12(113), H03(98), L01(58)	
Lawrence's Goldfinch	LAGO							10				10	I02(4), F03(3), C01(2)	
American Goldfinch	AMGO					22	176	222	2	67		489	K06(110), P04(68), M12(67)	
Yellow-fronted Canary	YFCA		6									6	U15(6)	
Evening Grosbeak	EVGR				17		7	32		11		67	P04(25), W02(17), R01(10)	
Hawaii Amakihi	HAAM		259									259	U15(259)	
Hawaii Creeper	HCRE		5									5	U15(5)	
Akepa	AKEP		1									1	U15(1)	
Iiwi	IWI		105									105	U15(105)	
Apapane	APAP		46									46	U15(46)	
House Sparrow	HOSP					5	3	170		32	34	244	C12(144), S13(34), R05(25)	
Nutmeg Manakin	NUMA		1					2				3	C12(2), T03(1)	
Unidentified flycatcher	UNFL							1				1	U15(1)	
Totals		29398	1130	12779	8151	28802	16794	34649	5714	14883	9858	162158		

WBBA 2012 Annual Banding Summary

There were 154 Master banders reporting 162,158 banded birds. Compared to 2011, we had fewer banders (n=185) reporting fewer birds (n=170,713). There were 497 taxa (including BBL recognized subspecies, hybrids, and a few unknowns) banded, about the same as in 2011 (n=495). New birds are typically birds from Mexico. Every year I also get a report or two of birds banded in far flung locations in the Indo-Pacific. This year, we had a Tahiti Petrel banded in Guam.

Some highlights: This year we have Manual Grosselett in Oxaca, Mexico whose banders banded 29,157 birds in 158 taxa, including 5325 Yellow-breasted Chats, 4153 Gray Catbirds, 3684 Yellow Warblers, and 3086 Orchard Orioles. On the downside, Alaska Bird Observatory banded its last bird, shutting down operations in 2012.

Keeping up with the changing names and the taxonomy of lumping and splitting as well as what is accepted by different ornithological entities (BBL, AOU, field guides, as well as the banders themselves) has been a challenge. The BBL is admittedly behind in keeping up with taxonomic changes; the AOU does not recognize hybrids that the BBL yet brought the Nanday's Parakeet into the fold; and banders do accept hybrids. Banders also have a category for unknowns (e.g. unknown junco) The AOU publishes changes once a year, and field guide changes appear with each new edition. And the banders see similarities and differences first hand. Thus, the spreadsheet that accompanies request for banding reports tries to address this by listing birds by common name, alpha codes, AOU#s, allowing the bander to sort; however, here I present common names and alpha codes to save space. Of course, there is the impending six-letter (first three letters of the genus and species) codes presented on the IBP website and already in use in Latin America.

As we try to embrace Latin America in the banding of birds, Mexico presents an interesting dilemma. Even with just a few reporting banders, Mexico reports more banded birds than all of the other artificially created regions except California. In addition, as the geography of the country puts it in WBBA and IBBA.

A lot to think about.

Walter H. Sakai

2012 WBBA annual summary compiler.