

2015

Western Bird Banding Association 2015 Meeting in British Columbia

North American Bird Bander

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Western Bird Banding Association and Vancouver Avian Research Centre

Western Bird Banding Association (WBBA) 2015 Meeting in British Columbia, 4 -7 September

The 2015 WBBA meeting's theme.... "Banding across Borders"
**Ornithologists from different countries and cultures to inform science and
 conservation through ethical bird banding practices**

Online registration is open: <http://www.birdvancouver.com/wbba.html>

Introduction

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) is pleased to host the 2015 Western Bird Banding Association's (WBBA) annual meeting in Burnaby, near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from September 4th – 7th (Note: Fri to Mon). Vancouver has been recognized as the top city in Canada for travel and livability. VARC's main field station is in Colony Farm Regional Park, a 404 hectare park consisting in part of old field habitat which is unique in the lower mainland of Vancouver. The old-fields and hedgerows provide habitat for a wide diversity of birds including locally rare and uncommon species such as Great Blue Heron, Lazuli Bunting, Northern Shrike, and the Eastern and Western kingbirds. The avifauna within the region is particularly rich with a total of more than 400 species of birds documented, 250 of which occur annually.

The meeting theme, Banding across Borders, signifies the power of partnerships across cultures and countries to leverage our collective expertise to affect bird science, conservation and land management. In addition to participants from Canada and the USA, we hope to see as many people as possible from our partner countries in Central and South America.

In addition to great talks from WBBA members, we are pleased to announce a Special Session within the scientific program: The use of bird monitoring data in making sound land use and management decisions. If you are interested in presenting during the general meeting or the special session, please contact the program chair Carol Matthews (carol@birdvancouver.com). Participants will also be treated to a keynote address from Dr. John Reynolds of Simon Fraser University (SFU).

Conference Overview

Friday 4 September :

- Registration and a Hospitality Suite 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Informal dinner will be arranged at the Executive Inn restaurant
- For people arriving before Friday please join us at VARC's banding station in Colony Farm Regional Park (about 15 minutes away) which will be operational from 6:30 am

Saturday 5 September :

- Registration and a Hospitality Suite 6:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Field trips
 - Colony Farm Regional Park
 - Reifel Sanctuary & Boundary Bay
 - Hawk Watch - Sumas Mountain
 - Additional field trips maybe added based on the number of registrants
- The Board Meeting at Picken House
- VARC's banding station from 6:30 am to 11:00 am
- Workshops: Afternoon banding workshops
- Dinner, an informal BBQ with a keynote from Dr. John Reynolds, will be at the Scandinavian Centre, our main meeting venue.

Sunday 6 September :

- Hospitality Suite 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- VARC's banding station, 6:30 am to 9:00 am
- Breakfast will either at Banding Station for you if you are signed up or will be provided at the meeting venue, Scandinavian Centre at 9:00 am
- The Scientific Sessions will be held from 9:45 am with the Poster Session from 5pm at the Scandinavian Centre. Lunch and dinner will be held at this location

Monday 7 September :

- Breakfast and lunch will be available
- VARC's Banding Station from 6:30 am to 11:00 am
- Reifel Sanctuary & Boundary Bay

Information about this year's hosts....

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) was formally established by Derek and Carol Matthews in 2009. VARC is a registered Canadian charity and focuses on conducting year round bird monitoring, banding and research. In addition to research activities, VARC provides extensive public outreach and education programs to raise awareness of environmental issues particularly as they relate to breeding and migratory birds. VARC also offers Schools and Youth Programs, Family Days, Bird Identification Courses, Bird Monitoring and Banding Workshops and provides speakers and experts for public events and media appearances.

VARC conducts its bird monitoring/banding and its public outreach in Colony Farm Regional Park (Park). Situated at the confluence of the Coquitlam and Fraser rivers, the Park protects some of the most ecologically diverse lands in the Greater Vancouver area. The extensive old-field and riparian habitats within the Park represent high-value ecosystem features for resident and migrating birds. VARC operates up to 40 nets and traps and band four days each week during the main season (spring and fall migration and the breeding season). More information on VARC and its operations can be found online at: www.birdvancouver.com

Memorial for Barbara A. Carlson, 1940 - 2015

As a beginning bander and later a subpermittee in the early 1990s, I had heard stories about Barbara Carlson. How she was a taskmaster about banding. How she expected and demanded that one was not late to a banding session. If one was late, one could not band that day and was sent home. That said, two of her long time banders recall that Barbara carried out this threat only once. The threat was enough for everyone to be on time. When I became a Master Bander several years later, I found that I made similar demands of my banders.

Barbara did have a fine sense of humor, but her trainees and colleagues will remember Barbara for her insistence on careful, accurate, and complete work—with the welfare of the bird always the topmost consideration. This was exemplified by the fact that after a stroke robbed Barbara of the use of her hands, her crew would help get her out to the field station for a number of years to supervise the banding and keep the station going.

A life member of WBBA, Barbara was the President in 1994-1996, and hosted WBBA's 1992 annual meeting at the University of California Motte-Rimrock Reserve where she was the Director for many years. Barbara received her Master Permit in 1987, after being a subpermittee under Robert L. McKernan for many years. For the next 20 years, she banded over 40,000 birds, averaging some 2000 birds per year. Initially, she banded a wide array of passerines and terrestrial non-passerines, but gradually began to specialize in hummingbirds. She was one of the earliest NABC Certified Trainers, initially teaching both passerines and hummingbirds but later specializing in hummingbirds. She operated several banding stations, and was a MAPS contributor from 1990 to 1996 where she ran three stations (one from 1990-1996 and the remaining two from 1992-1996). She collected mountains of banding data; regrettably, she never quite got to writing it up for publication, although her 2004 article in NABB showing a portable bird bag stand for use in