

WESTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Western Bird-Banding Association was held at the Hastings Natural History Reservation, Carmel, Valley California, May 19 and 20, 1956.

Saturday May 19th was the informal section of the program. Members gathered at the Reservation in the afternoon and made preparations for overnight accommodations and the supper pool held later in the evening. In the evening Dr. Dr. Linsdale showed the Reservation moving picture presenting highlights of the natural history of the area. At 8:00 p.m. a Round Table and colored slides of past W.B.B.A. events was held by President Stoner. Mrs Otis H. Smith gave a report illustrated with slides on her Golden-crowned sparrow project. The program ended with a series of pictures taken in Mexico by Drs John and Betty Davis.

Sunday morning thirty-nine members and guests enjoyed the hospitality of John and Betty Davis for breakfast. Later Dr. and Mrs Linsdale conducted the group over their extensive bird-banding trap lines. Inspection of the many types of traps and their operation followed. Members who had brought traps shown them at this time. Valuable information and helpful hints were exchanged.

At 10:00 the Annual Business was held on the grass covered grounds of the Linsdales Ranchouse. President Stoner opened with words of welcome and requested the reading of the minutes of the 1955 annual meeting. Business Manager Frank Boynton's financial report was read. Members suggestions were received as to how to increase the treasury. Editor Kirsher gave a report on the status of the "News from the Bird-Banders". He asked for more response to the white-crowned sparrow report form. Dr. Linsdale, Dr. McWalt and Howard Cogswell discussed the plumages and age distinction of white-crowns in relation to the report. Mr. Stoner ~~repeated~~ told of the many sales of back numbers of the "NEWS". Regional reports were read from Neff of Colorado and Ransom of Washington. Mr. Ransom wrote of the forthcoming meeting of northwestern banders in Seattle.

Mrs Joseph Grinnell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced that the present slate of officers had accepted renomination for the period 1956-57. Mr. Otis H. Smith acted as temporary chairman for the election of officers as presented. There being no nominations from the floor Mr. Smith received a motion and second that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as read;

Emerson A. Stoner, President; Howard L. Cogswell, Russell H. Pray, William K. Kirsher, Lillian Henningsen, Vice-Presidents; Enid K. Austin, Secretary; Francis H. Boynton, Business Manager and Treasurer. The motion was carried and President Stoner resumed the chair to give a short address on the past and future of W.B.B.A.

A Committee was appointed to receive suggestions and material sent in by the members for the forthcoming Manual for the Bird-Banders to be published by Mr. Duvall of the Bird-Banding Office in Patuxent Md. Mr. Howard Cogswell was named Chairman with Mr. Webb and Mrs Henningsen as assistants. The Committee will segregate and review the material before forwarding to the Banding-Office. Mr. Cogswell suggested that the members send to the Committee their record methods and the baits they use. Dr. Linsdale added that the 90 day return requirement could be revised; also the recovery record should be explained further than was now available in the present manual.

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Due to the lively discussion by the members Mr. Stoner urged all banders to submit to the Committee promptly. Address all communications to Mr. Howard Cogswell P.O. Box 486, Mills College, Oakland 13, California. Mr. Cogswell reported that the Council had taken action to enquire of Mr. John Baker of the National Audubon Society the status of the Migratory Bird Treaty should the Bricker Amendment come before the next Congress.

Mr. Stoner Adjourned the meeting for luncheon at 12:30. Dr. and Mrs Linsdale were our hosts. Short Bird walks and visits to the Reservation Museum were held until 2:00 p.m.

The second session of the meeting opened by President Stoner expressing the appreciation of those present to Dr. and Mrs Linsdale, Drs. John and Betty Davis for their many courtesies during this most successful annual meeting

Dr. Linsdale read a paper on "Reservation Bird-Banding". He had noticed that Laidlaw Williams had been among the first banders on the Reservation. Bird-Banding was inaugurated on the Reservation to ascertain the occurrence of birds in the Biota of the Area. New facts had come to light in molt, population and predation studies as well as seasonal changes in bird behavior.

Dr. John Davis spoke next on "Some Recent Studies of the Hastings Reservation". He told of the work of Dr. Betty Davis, A parasitologist, who is working on mice. His particular study is with Towhees; Behavior, musculature and anatomy were touched upon in relation to Behavior.

At the conclusion of Dr. Davis talk, Dr Richard Mewaldt demonstrated a many celled water drip automatic spring trap.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Enid Austin, Secretary

3965 South Bannock Street,
Englewood, Colorado
May 10, 1956

Mr. Emerson A. Stoner,
285 East L Street,
Benicia, California.

Dear Mr. Stoner :

I have your letter of the 7th asking for a report from me as Colorado-New Mexico representative, and I'm sorry to say that it will be very short.

From prior to my trip to Midway until just recently I fell down completely on my assignment for WBA. From January 1, 1955 until now I've been what is colloquially known as 'snowed under'. For the past two years I have been project leader administratively in charge of the Wildlife Research Laboratory's studies on birds (with the exception of game bird studies and disease), with three men under my supervision ; and I've been working for the past year on a series of reports on field work covering some six years, trying to get it into publishable shape while it's current. Along with the frustrations that come with ineffective top level administration and vacancies in responsible positions I've had no room in my mental apparatus for much else.

During the past 16 months I have made 12 public appearance, 9 of them a Kodachrome show and talk on the albatrosses on Midway. The other three were specific talks on official assignments.

Many of the banders, antagonistic at heart to any form of bird control, may be interested in learning that one of my assignments is the study of the possible use of repellents. Currently our emphasis is on treating forest (largely pine) seeds for direct seeding in the south and southeast. Before our entry into this field Louisiana foresters commonly produced from 150 to 400 longleaf pine seedlings per acre. Last winter 13,000 acres were directed seeded with morkit and anthraquinone treatments that have produced as high as 3,200 seedlings per acre. This winter, in experimental plots, we came up with a new candidate treatment that produced about 6,300 seedlings per acre. All these treatments are innocuous, so slightly toxic that it requires force-feeding to kill an aviary bird with the materials. This winters' new candidate appeared to effectively repel birds, rabbits, and field mice.

The only banding officially done this season was on the Federal Center reservation itself ; it is large, and has a small lake surrounded by cattails. We banded yellowheads, redwings, and a few meadowlarks in traps about the lake shore, and when the doves began to band together in late August banded 50 doves , mostly young of the season. One of these was recovered in Jalisco during the winter.

If I remember correctly the A. C. U. is to meet at the Denver Museum this autumn. Such meetings are usually full, and I do not know what could be arranged, but I'm wondering if any of the west coast banders will be in attendance, and if there might be interest in trying to arrange for at least a brief side meeting of banders. Possibly we might get a few of Colorado's 11 or so active banders to come in for such a meet.

Recently I circularized all New Mexico and Colorado banders as was my semi-annual custom before the 1955 rush piled up on me. In that letter I called attention to the Fish and Wildlife Service's nationwide drive for expanded banding of mourning doves.

Before too long I should have answers from all of the local banders who are cooperative in nature, so that I can send some Colorado notes to Mr. Kirsher.

I must apologize to the WBA folks for failing last year to carry out my duties. The work load officially has shaken down to good operational basis requiring less of my time; the report manuscript writing job has now passed its peak, with several manuscripts ready for publication. So I'm hoping that from now on I won't fall so flat again.

Sincerely,

Johnson A. Neff
Johnson A. Neff

P.S.

Much of this letter is far afield from a report to bird banders. You'd better censor it and read only the pertinent portions !!!!