

**WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION**  
**Board Members Business Summary, September 2005-August 2006**

**Introduction**

The Western Bird Banding Association's 2005 Annual Meeting in Camarillo, CA was cancelled due to low registration. Rescheduling the meeting for spring 2006 was considered, but it was ultimately decided to focus energies on the 2006 meeting which was already planned for New Mexico. The Board agreed to address its business issues via e-mail. The minutes that follow represent a summary of e-mail discussions on a variety of subjects, including both those planned for the 2005 meeting and those that have arisen over the course of the past year.

**Slate of Officers**

In September 2005, all Board members volunteered to continue in their current positions for another year. The Board then approved the slate, which is as follows:

President	Gary Blevins
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Alexander
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Diana Humple
Secretary	Michael Boyles
Treasurer	Tricia Campbell
Imm. Past President / Membership	Ken Burton
Outreach	Walt Sakai
Editor	Kay Loughman
Board Member	CJ Ralph
Board Member	Vacant
Board Member	Vacant

In light of the cancelled meeting, it was agreed not to attempt to fill the vacancies this year. A new nominating committee will search for board members in 2006. It was suggested that there are several bird observatories in the region which may be able to provide good candidates. CJ Ralph will chair the 2006 nomination committee.

**Communication with WBBA Members**

Cancellation of the 2005 meeting resulted in the need to consider how to contact WBBA members, both for updates and announcements, as well as for ballots. After a lengthy discussion about the best form of communication (e-mail versus traditional mail), Gary Blevins suggested that traditional mail would be the more fair and professional method, especially since we do not have e-mail addresses for all members. This would apply to ballots, meeting announcements, summaries of Board decisions, etc. Walt Sakai suggested that we begin regular mailings to all members to add value to their membership. Ken Burton suggested that mailings to members should include a questionnaire asking what types of workshops and activities they would like to see at future meetings. If we want to expand the use of e-mail as a primary means of communication, we need to make members aware of our intention. Ken Burton and Kay

Loughman indicated that for items requiring a response (e.g. ballots), there will likely be a higher response using e-mail than if people have to physically mail something back.

### **Future Meetings**

Gary would like meeting locations to be planned two years out. We are probably due to have a meeting in southern California, especially after the cancellation of the meeting in Camarillo. A large portion of the membership is in California. Ken will consider hosting in 2007 and will look into the feasibility of different locations. Diana will consider hosting in Point Reyes.

### **Treasurer Report**

Tricia Campbell advised the Board in October 2005 that she would not be able to continue in the Treasurer position beyond the 2006 annual meeting. Tricia was thanked for the good work she has done, and the treasurer report was approved in October 2005.

The Board received a request from an individual for reimbursement of expenses after traveling to Camarillo, unaware that the meeting had been cancelled. The request was approved, and the expenses were paid by WBBA.

In August 2006 the Board voted to establish a premium yield business savings account with the Bank of Petaluma. At the same time, the Board approved Ken Burton, Diana Humple, and Tricia Campbell as signors on the account.

### **Grants**

The committee recommended two projects to receive funding from the WBBA grants program: Nathan Burkepile's Monitoring Bobolink Populations on the Yakama Reservation in South-Central Washington; and Camila Gomez Montes' Colombian National Banding Scheme: Training Qualified Banders in Colombia. The Board voted to approve the committee's recommendations in January 2006.

There was discussion regarding the number and amount of grants that should be given out in light of revenue and interest earned by WBBA. There was a proposal to award a single grant in the amount of \$350 as that amount would be covered by earned interest income. However, grants of less than \$500 may not be worth the time and effort. Since the WBBA website indicates that the organization provides two \$500 grants each year (one for research and one for monitoring), it was decided that the commitment should be honored, and that two \$500 grants would be awarded in 2006. Dipping into savings was deemed appropriate since that is partly what the savings are for and since grants are one of the more highly valued functions of WBBA.

Diana Humple prepared procedural guidelines for the administration of the WBBA grants program.

### **Membership**

In September 2005, Ken reported a current total membership of 229, down 13% from the previous year. The breakdown by category is 153 Active, 37 Life, 18 Institutional, 10

Sustaining, 10 Nonsubscribing, and 1 Honorary. Lower dues resulted in several new Life members.

### **Editor's Report**

Effort is needed to increase the number of manuscripts submitted to North American Bird Bander (NABB). It was suggested that Board members commit to a more active role in soliciting manuscripts by encouraging someone they know or work with (even themselves) to prepare a paper or note for NABB. We could also send a quarterly e-mail solicitation to WBBA members (which would tie in with our proposal to establish regular communication with the membership). We may also want to request that grant recipients write up the results of their work for NABB. Observatories are a logical source for manuscripts, and increasing observatory presence on the Board might help to encourage NABB contributions.

There are difficulties using SORA. Partly this is due to the search engine itself, and partly it is due to authors who have not provided appropriate keywords and to users who are unskilled at conducting searches. If Board members spend time using SORA, any questions or comments should be addressed to Kay Loughman, who will coordinate with the University of New Mexico.

NABB's original contribution to SORA was funded by a grant from the Bird Banding Laboratory, and the three banding associations have agreed to jointly cover the cost of adding future volumes of NABB to SORA. At the present time the University of New Mexico has no well-defined protocol for adding to the archive.

### **WBBA Report of Birds Banded**

Walt offered to take over for Chris Otahal in compiling WBBA's annual report of birds banded. Some suggestions for future reporting included that data be submitted electronically; that a website interface be developed where banders could enter their data; that we coordinate our efforts with IBBA who are now also doing an annual report (and EBBA is considering doing the same); and that we lobby the Bird Banding Laboratory to produce a nationwide report. (As of August 2006, Walt is in the processing of preparing the report and has requested electronic submission of data.)

## **Editor's Report to the WBBA Board, September 2005**

### **Major Manuscripts - Received**

Colwell, R. Description of the Second Rectrix of Adult-plumaged Male Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds. Rec'd. January 17, 2004. Re-submitted January 28, 2005. **Published in NABB 30:1.**

DeLong, J. Aging and Preformative Molt in Hatch-Year Flammulated Owls During the Fall Rec'd July 19, 2004. **Published in NABB 29:3.**

Ralph, C. A Rapid Method of Removing Birds from Mist Nets: The Body-Grasp Technique. Rec'd. October 2001. Re-submitted March 16, 2005. **Published in NABB 30:2**

Sakai, W. The Influence of Mist Net Color on Capture Rate: Are Black Mist Nets Really Superior to Colored Mist Nets? Rec'd June 29, 2005. Rejected 8/23/05. Author has been invited to re-analyze data, rewrite, and re-submit paper.

### **News, Notes, Comments - Published:**

- 29:4 Carlson, B. Portable Stand for Hanging Bird Bags
- 30:1 Chessey, A. Hutton's Vireo: Longevity Record and Interesting Movement
- 30:1 Loughman, K. NABB Archive in SORA!
- 30:2 Pyle, P. Updates to Four-letter and Six-letter Alpha Codes based on Revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union.

### **For the WBBA section - Published:**

- 29:3 Report of the 2004 WBBA Annual Meeting  
WBBA Officers for the Coming Year  
2003 Annual Report of Birds Banded
  - 29:4 Selected Abstracts from the 2004 Annual Meeting  
Note on Gene Kridler  
WBBA Grants
  - 30:1 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Fall 2005  
Welcome New Members  
Western Station Reports:
    - Big Sur Ornithology Lab
    - Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
    - Beaverhill Bird Observatory
  - 30:2 Western Station Reports: Alaska Bird Observatory
- Anticipated in coming months:**

Grosselet, M. Recommended Band Size for Inca Dove. Note rec'd 6/21/05. (NNC 30:3).  
Colwell, R. Addendum to Hummingbird Paper. Note rec'd 9/2/05. (NNC 30:3)  
Craig, S. Stainless Steel Bands. Note rec'd 9/6/05. (NNC 30:3)  
Otahal, C. WBBA Annual Report of Birds Banded, 2004. (West. 30:3)  
Blevins, G. Introduction to the WBBA Annual Report. (West. 30:3)  
Burton, K. Important membership notice (West. 30:3)  
Blevins, G. Note about annual meeting postponement, with new meeting date (West. 30:4)  
NABC update (John Alexander new rep; Jim Tietz new alternate)

**Reviewers:** The following people have acted as referees for papers submitted to me for publication in NABB since August 2004: Kenneth Burton, Geoffrey Geupel, William D. Loughman, Robert C. Tweit, Susan Wethington.

**Major Accomplishment:** North American Bird Bander has joined SORA (an expansion of the Condor Archive Project)! NABB v.1-25 is now accessible online.

**Issues:**

*Difficulty of using SORA:* Most NNC notes and most Western Section material are not searchable. Authors (mostly McNicholl and Tweit) of abstracts and reviews in the Recent Literature and Books sections are not searchable. Discussions with Project Coordinator Blair Wolf and staff at Princeton Imaging have elicited sympathy, but no solutions. We are still talking about what to do.

*When can we add NABB v.26 to SORA?* I was under the impression that later volumes of all participating journals would be added to SORA; but I have recently learned that there is neither protocol nor funding established for expansion of the archive. A note from Blair on August 26, 2005 contained this remark: "I would like to roll SORA forward as it currently gets 1 to 2 million hits a month and I will go talk to the library dean about this and ask him what can be done."

*We need more manuscripts.* I am especially interested in having banders design and carry out new projects using marked birds (as opposed to trying to make something out of data collected in years gone by). Too often, when our members actually "do science," they choose to publish their results elsewhere.

Kay Loughman  
September 13, 2005