

**WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION
2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 10/01/2010, Starr Ranch CA**

Attendees: Mike Boyles (President), C.J. Ralph (1st VP), Howard Browers (2nd VP), Pat Leitner (Treasurer), Renée Cormier (Secretary), Kay Loughman (at large), Andrea Wuenschel (at large), John Alexander (past president; NABC rep.), Ken Burton (membership).

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Howard (1st VP for 2011)** – send personal invite to BBL (John Peterjohn) to attend next year's WBBA meeting.
- **Renée (Grants committee member for 2011)** – ensure that Grants Committee has schedule of tasks so 2011 recipients are announced at 2011 WBBA meeting.
- **Walt** – Ask NABB editors to form a committee (including editors and members of IBBA, EBBA, WBBA) to discuss the future of NABB (see below).
- **NO one on this Agenda Item (need a volunteer):** Send a message to let current members, NABB advertisers and people offering bander trainings know we're offering advertising our webpage (see below; one year trial). We did not determine advertising rates at the meeting for non-members.
- **CJ** – Add to next year's board meeting agenda: update on advertising banding related items on WBBA webpage.
- **John** – Update board on Jim Tietz's interest in remaining as alternate NABC rep and initiate board selection of alternate if Jim is stepping down.
- **Pat** – Investigate option of automatic membership renewal via Paypal if it's not already an option.
- **Ken, Michael and Renée** – set up requirements and advertise "member of the year" award.
- **Andrea** – solicit volunteers to be on Board nominating committee.
- **Howard** - will investigate annual meeting options in Utah for 2011.

Welcome, Board Member Updates:

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- Howard now in Utah – still with USFWS (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge) – moved there 3 months ago.

Approval of 2009 Meeting Minutes – The 2009 Board Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

2010 meeting report (CJ): Attendance was about 35-40 people, down from last year. Interns from KBO and RSL helped with food, registration, etc. The meeting may not make money, but shouldn't lose money either. Suggestion made to get money from last-minute cancellations. Ken will go through spreadsheet again to indicate what money still needs to be collected from people.

We discussed how to increase attendance: Kay suggested allowing people to pay later might increase registrations; but people who have not paid may also feel more

comfortable canceling. CJ thought this may encourage more people to sign up. Only 5 people cancelled at this meeting which was similar to other meetings.

No one from BBL will be attending this year's meeting. We will be sure to send them a personal invitation in future years, rather than relying on general announcements that we always send.

Grants Update (Howard; Appendix A): Two recipients selected in 2009 and award winners listed in NABB. Recipients invited to present at 2010 WBBA meeting, although neither was able to attend. Only four proposals were received for 2010 and they are in review by Grants Committee (Howard, Geoff Geupel and Steve Russell).

Geoff does the advertising (committee chair for grants). Board was unsure about where the grants were advertised this year, but some suggestions included Birdnet and Birdband listservs. Ken said there is a schedule of dates when things should happen so that recipients are announced at the meeting. Renée (on Grants committee for 2011) will locate schedule for committee to ensure recipients can be announced at the 2011 WBBA meeting. The grant often goes to individuals but a 2009 award went to Alamos Wildlands Alliance and this money can really be important for their work.

Webpage updates (Kay; Appendix B): Domain registration and hosting plans are paid for a couple more years.

NABB: Kay gave updates on getting NABB into SORA (App B): John asked if we were at the point where we can just provide the PDF to SORA. No because Bob Pantle's way of putting the documents together is not compatible. It would be easy to scan newer issues and you'd be able to search the text, but it would be even better to have compatibility with issues previously scanned for SORA.

Kay redesigned the cover to make it cleaner and was told to go through Walt when she sent it to Bob but hasn't heard back. Ken said Walt said about standardized issue so cover was the same species each issue (would be easier) – artist may not be as interested in contributing a new piece each issue as in the past. Many thought there was a need to work on modernizing and should encourage Walt to take the lead on this to represent WBBA.

What do we want for the future of NABB? Do we want it to stay the same? John suggests that the editors and members from the three boards form a committee to discuss these topics. As the WBBA board we ask them to discuss the future of NABB: style, content, etc. Some suggestions by board during the membership discussion included: publishing the abstracts online so it was accessible immediately, make NABB searchable on Google-scholar,

Advertising: Do we want to consider advertising on the website? Kay counted an average of 194 hits per month on the website from Oct 13, 2009 to Sept 13, 2010. Kay's been tracking how much she goes to the website to not skew the numbers.

We never discussed if we really wanted to sell WBBA webspace; and how much we would charge. But, there's advertising in NABB, so we could duplicate those types of ads.

Board approved that we offer bird banding related advertising (free to members and vendors who are members) for one year to see how it goes. Agenda item for 2011

meeting to revisit this topic to see how it's going. We should send a message to let current members, NABB advertisers and people offering bander trainings know we're doing this. We did not determine advertising rates at the meeting for non-members.

NABC report (John; Appendix C):

Spring NABC meeting will be in Ashland – any trainer can come.

Board voted to keep John as NABC rep. Discussion of alternate position was postponed as all unsure whether Jim Tietz was interested in continuing position. Ken and Renée both interested in position if it's open. CJ also suggested Josée Rousseau at RSL as someone who is involved with NABC. Board would like NABC reps to attend WBBA meetings and alternate to attend NABC meeting when possible. John will follow-up with Board via email once he's discussed with Jim.

Membership Report (Ken; Appendix D):

Low membership and bigger loss of members than usual. Most non-renewal members are those that weren't members long. If we could offer automatic renewal, that would be great, because some people would select to automatically renew. Action Item: Pat will investigate this possibility but we agreed that automatic renewal should not be the default option. Ken sends two renewal notices to everyone (email or snail mail).

Some discussion points included:

- member discounts for referrals
- renewal notices based on NABB publication and not annual cycle (which are not necessarily the same).
- Would like notification from Paypal when someone clicks automatic renewal so we can track and not send them renewal notices.
- Encourage banding organizations to give memberships to interns like KBO
- Missing bird observatories as WBBA members – we want financial and professional support of these organizations.
- People may not be motivated to give NABB as a gift; need higher quality articles.
- Encourage bird observatories to bring young biologists or students to WBBA meetings for first presentation at a professional meeting
- Need to revisit membership rates on an annual basis, but board hesitant to raise rates when we're seeing a drop in membership
- Sustaining memberships are best for WBBA – promote these!
- May be losing money per member for NABB. Income for membership is about \$2400; Annual Meeting about \$2500; NABB expense is about \$2200 which is about \$10 per member and we should aim to cover NABB costs with membership.
- Ken: "Member of the Year" award to help recognize someone for their contribution to banding or WBBA. They could get free membership. Ken can solicit nominations from membership and they would be awarded at the meeting. Ken, Michael and Renée volunteered to be on the committee for a year. Committee will come up with the requirements for becoming member of the year.

Ken was in charge of Membership for 18 years!! Thank you Ken! This is his last year as a board member and his contributions and dedication to WBBA are greatly appreciated.

Nominating committee (Kay, Mike and Ken): The following is the proposed WBBA board for 2010/2011. The board approved the nominations to be approved by the members:

CJ Ralph - President
Howard Browers - 1st VP
Renée Cormier - 2nd VP
Mike Boyles - Past President
Pat Leitner – Treasurer
Andrea Wuenschel - Secretary
Danielle Kaschube - Membership
Kay Loughman - At-large
Josée Rousseau - At-large
John Alexander – At-large
Walt Sakai - Editor NABB

Next year's nominating committee: Andrea volunteered to be on the committee.
Action Item: Solicit additional volunteers for this committee.

Next year's meeting:

Location Options:

- Teton Mountain School is not possible due to cost.
- Howard will investigate options in Utah (some contact suggestions included Russell Norvell at Utah.gov; Hilary White in Salt Lake City; Stefanie Jones, local MAPS stations)
- Other location ideas included Evergreen State College and Humboldt State University

Tips on having a successful meeting?

- Need local organizers, as it's difficult to organize from afar.
- Need resources and ability to delegate (e.g., a committee to coordinate carpools or sharing hotels)
- Hosting guidelines can be found under meetings on our website.

Treasurer's Report (Pat)

- We're about -\$1300 for the year. Membership and the meeting both brought in more money but NABB was more expensive. There were eight payments for four issues, but was still \$1000 over budget.
- Issues with NABB costs include unpredictable factors like cost increase and that WBBA's section varies. The Treasurer pays the bill, but the Editor has no idea about increased costs – suggestions were made that the Treasurer and President monitor cost increases.

- CJ, Mike and Pat met and make the budget for next year to propose to the board. The remaining notes for this section are from the following day's lunch meeting when board met (including new board members: Josée Rousseau and Dani Kaschube).
- Next year's budget is projected to have \$4-5K deficit (Appendix E), but there is \$22K in savings. Options and solutions included:
 - Board agreed to reduce travel money for NABC to \$500 **for this year only**, and to make sure to reinstate funds for next year (this year, John won't have to incur travel costs as the NABC meeting is in Ashland this year).
 - Agreed to advertise grants by saying "Up to two grants of \$1000 each will be awarded..." to give the board the option to reduce grants given to only one in the case of low quality applications or lack of funds. However, board agreed that providing grants are very important to WBBA and we don't want to stop giving these.
 - Board passed proposed 2010/2011 budget.

International New business (John): John Peterjohn is proposing to put a halt to issuing new permits on banding North American migrants in Latin America. Obviously, we want to encourage our partners south of the border to band birds. Peterjohn is not in favor of groups like Hummingbird Monitoring Network, assuming that USGS will be the only group doing this work. The Federal Advisory Committee no longer advises the BBL (and no longer exists). Peterjohn also does not support groups like the Landbird Monitoring Network of the Americas, Avian Knowledge Network, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Institute for Bird Populations, etc. Permitting procedures that he is putting in place may be large. There are big challenges now in the federal government. AKN and other groups are demonstrating that they've surpassed government capacity on database management. While BBL provides bands and permits that we really like – there may be a perception that NGOs aren't capable.

What will WBBA do? CJ: Some of the above is speculation; some is information from colleagues in Costa Rica. But we need to get on it really quick if regulations do come out. We need to stay on this and be prepared to respond quickly to proposed changes and show our support for continued collaborations with colleagues and working with shared species for conservation.

Appendix A. WBBA Grants Committee Report

2009 Grants

Eight research and three monitoring proposals were received for consideration in 2009 for projects across the US and in Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. The proposals receiving the grant awards are listed below.

Monitoring

Award Recipient: Adam Hannuksela, Alamos Wildlands Alliance

Title of Proposal: Wintering Passerine Bird Community Distribution and Species Richness in Southern Sonora Mexico.

Project summary: Migratory bird populations have shown declines in recent decades. In southwestern Sonora, Mexico a rare habitat known as el Pitayal is a wintering area for migratory birds of western North America. This habitat is relatively understudied and faces numerous threats. Since 2007, The Alamos Wildlands Alliance has been developing an assessment and monitoring program designed to help fill gaps in knowledge concerning wintering bird communities and identify species and habitats in need of conservation. Specific objectives are: 1) Measure and describe the plant communities in 3 different habitat types 2) determine survival rates of resident and migratory bird species, and 3) ascertain the relationships of bird communities to vegetation structure within coastal thornscrub. Outreach to schoolchildren and local people are also a part of the monitoring effort. A Mexican national is employed as a biologist to assist with monitoring. Continued monitoring in this ecosystem will provide valuable information concerning the avifauna of a rare habitat.

Research

Award Recipient: Leo R. Douglas, American Museum of Natural history

Title of Proposal: Studying the Effect of Parrot-Citrus Frugivory on Citrus Frugivory and Habitat Quality of Bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*) on the Island of Dominica, and Training for Local Researchers in Mist Netting and Banding Techniques.

Project Summary: Species that are involved in wildlife-agriculture conflicts can have a profound influence on ecological community structure and function. On the island of Dominica, *Amazona* parrots are an important cause of crop losses for farmers of citrus. In some areas parrot frugivory produces large quantities of partially opened/eaten citrus fruits that provide a readily available food resource for passerine birds. The current study aims to determine whether and how parrot frugivory of citrus fruits influences habitat quality and reproductive condition of passerines within citrus agriculture landscapes on the island. Additionally, this project will provide targeted training in the methods of bird monitoring for a graduate of the Dominica State College, the islands only state managed institution of higher learning, and members of the Division of Forestry, Wildlife, and

Parks, of the Ministry of Agriculture and institutionalizing the research methods necessary for avian-agriculture conflict research within these institutions.

A small article about the grants was printed in the most recent issue of North American Bird Banding.

Grant recipients were encouraged to present results of their project at an upcoming WBBA meeting.

2010 Grants

Four grant proposals have been received for the 2010 grant period. Those proposals are undergoing review by the grants committee.

Appendix B. Webpage Updates. Report to the WBBA Board, October 1, 2010

WBBA website domain: westernbirdbanding.org

Hosted by: WestHost, 164 N Spring Creek Parkway, Providence, UT 84332

Cost for domain registration \$62.50 for five years. Our registration expires October 10, 2015. Our hosting plan (“Personal Starter”) is currently paid through Oct. 10, 2012. The price for a two-year renewal normally is \$169.80; but this year will be \$155.90, which includes the credit for down time in February.* We pay for 500 GB bandwidth and 25 GB storage space, of which are using 291 MB.

*(Due to significant equipment failure at WestHost, our website was offline February 20-28, 2010. In compensation, WestHost gave us credit for \$13.90 against our renewal fee.)

Actions in the last year:

1. Added:
 - a. 2008 Annual Banding Report
 - b. Report, abstracts, and pictures from the 2009 Annual Meeting in Milpitas
2. Announced:
 - a. Bander training sessions at Starr Ranch and Rocky Point Bird Observatory,
 - b. Note to Banders from BBL,
 - c. New Longevity Record webpage from BBL,
 - d. 2010 Annual Meeting,
 - e. NFBB-WBB,
 - f. Avian Flu study.
3. Updated: Recent Articles in NABB
4. Uploaded: a color version of a photo published in black-and-white in NABB
5. and most importantly:

During November and December 2009 I hand-scanned the complete set of *News From the Bird Banders* and *Western Bird Bander*, v.1-50, 1926-1975 (2700+ pages!), created a searchable PDF for each volume, and created a combined Table of Contents – also a searchable PDF. After modifying the Publications page, those files were uploaded to the website.

In January – with the authorization of the Board – I offered CD copies of the NFBB-WBB set, at no charge, to 23 libraries in the US and Canada whose records indicated they had at least some portion of the print set. Initially fifteen libraries requested the CD. An August follow-up offer to the remaining eight libraries brought one additional response.

For the record, CDs were sent to the following:

University of Alaska

Cornell University

Harvard University

University of Michigan

Occidental College

Oregon State University, Corvallis

Humboldt State University

Chico State University

Stanford University

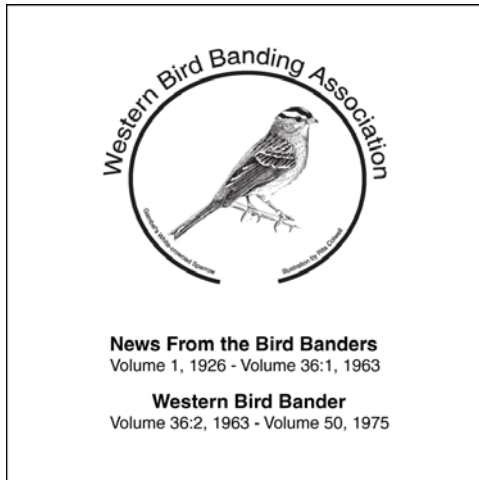
University of California, Berkeley Museum
of Vertebrate Zoology

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University of California, Davis
Washington State University, Pullman
Smithsonian Institution
American Museum of Natural History

Bird Banding Laboratory
Blair Wolf (Editor for SORA),
Univ. of New Mexico

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CD LABEL



NABB in SORA: In a related – and continuing activity – at last year’s WBBA meeting, the Board agreed to support the cost of Princeton Imaging scanning NABB v.26-30, for uploading to SORA. The total cost is expected to be just over \$1000. Both EBBA and IBBA have since agreed to share the cost with WBBA. *However*, on March 3 when I asked Blair Wolf to be sure to send the volumes to Princeton Imaging, I received this response:

“I have yet to send those to Gary [Johnson]. We are currently moving very slowly with SORA because of budgetary issues. I will get them out this week, but don't have a date for getting them on SORA as the library has already

invested about \$200,000 in the project and I am working with them to continue to invest in the project.”

Anticipating the WBBA Annual Meeting, I asked Blair for an update on August 14 and again on September 27. I have not yet received any response. On September 29, I received this message from Blair: “I have a call in to Princeton Imaging to see where they are at with the update.”

NABB vs Color Photos: At last year’s meeting Walt Sakai led a discussion on how to make color photos available to NABB readers. It was suggested then that color versions of b&w photos could be posted to various association websites. The first example of that procedure appeared in NABB 35:1, p.26, with the color photo being accessible via the WBBA website. Regrettably, Walt gave me the first author’s last name as “Row,” the article itself lists her as “Rowe,” and the NABB Table of Contents lists her as “Rose.” Fortunately, the color picture is wonderful!

Website Use: In email discussion during the fall, it was suggested that we might allow or even encourage banding-oriented advertising on the website. We agreed that potential advertisers would want to know how many people were likely to see their ads; and we agreed that none of us had any idea. I installed a counter on the website on October 13 and logged 207 hits by Oct. 31. The counter was reset on Nov. 1 and logged 1928 visitors by Sept. 13, 2010 – for a total of 2135 hits over 11 months, or an average of 194 hits per month.

Appendix C. North American Banding Council Report

Western Bird Banding Association; October 1, 2010 Board Meeting; John D. Alexander

Spring meeting in Tucson, AZ

- WBBA attendees: John A., CJ Ralph, Bob Frey, Steve Russell

Strategic Planning Session

- Chair- Mark Shieldcastle
- Well facilitated
- Final plan pending

Certification, Western trainers continue to certify more landbird banders than in other areas (speculation)

NABC Curriculum

- Being developed by Bob Frey from KBO with support from RSL and PRBO
- Based on Training Manual
- Slated as NABC publication pending approval by editorial committee
- Funding from Forest Service International program

Certification

- Efforts to simplify the process
 - Revising current certification materials
 - Slow movement of Council towards acceptance of a simplified process
 - Various attempts to propose revamping finally approved
- Developing a new process
 - Ian Ausprey and Steve Russell building on groundwork laid by CJ, Bob Frey and myself
 - Checklist-based system bander certification being designed to make the process less cumbersome – Training Manual
 - Trainer certification process
 - Proposed by Tom Gardali
 - Set of criteria, a proportion of which will need to be met

International

- As BBL Chief Monica Tomosy led the charge on NABC International Committee and support for the development of coordinated banding throughout the Western Hemisphere
- Discussion of merit
- NABC cautious endorsement of continued development
- Continues to be a priority of Meso-American Partners In Flight
- Funding from various partners for a fall session in Costa Rica
 - Led by Latin American trainers

Spring 2011 Meeting in Ashland, Oregon

Appendix D. WBBA Membership as of March 31, 2010.

<u>Class</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
Active	126	148	-15%
Life	45	45	0%
Institutional	20	24	-17%
Nonsubscribing	13	15	-13%
Sustaining	17	18	- 6%
Honorary	0	0	0%
 Total	 221	 250	 -12%

New members, FY	2009-2010:	15
	2008-2009:	42
	2007-2008:	36
	2006-2007:	38
	2005-2006:	15
	2004-2005:	23
	2003-2004:	20
	2002-2003:	26
	2001-2002:	20
	2000-2001:	24
	1999-2000:	22
	1998-1999:	28