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# Western Regional News

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## Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

### Officers

<i>President</i>	Dr. Martin K. McNicholl 320 Markham St. Toronto, Ont. M6G 2K9, Canada	<i>Second Vice President</i>	Dr. Robert C. Tweit 4100 N. Romero Rd., Sp. 108 Tucson, AZ 85705
<i>First Vice President</i>	Dr. Stephen M. Russell Dept. Ecol. & Evol. Biology University of Arizona Tucson, AZ 85721	<i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Martha H. Balph Dept. of Wildlife Science UMC 52, Utah State University Logan, UT 84322
	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane P. Church P.O. Box 39 Sonoita, AZ 85637	
<i>Directors at large</i>	Peter Bloom (term expires 1984) Michael Rigney (term expires 1985)	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Dr. Charles T. Collins Dept. of Biology Calif. State College Long Beach, CA 90840
	<i>Editor</i>	Eleanor L. Radke P.O. Box 446 Cave Creek, AZ 85331	

### Editorial Staff

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<i>Historian</i>	Barbara McKnight		Dr. Martha H. Balph
<i>Worksheets</i>	Dr. Charles T. Collins		Dr. Charles T. Collins
<i>Annual Report</i>	Van Truan		Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt
			Willis C. Royall, Jr.

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Applications for membership in the Western Bird Banding Association should be sent to the Treasurer. All classes of membership receive *North American Bird Bander*. Membership classifications are: Active Member, \$10.00 per year; Sustaining Member, \$20.00 per year; Non-Subscribing Member, \$3.00 per year; Life Member, \$200.00. Outside the U.S., postage must be added to each membership except Life Member.

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## From the President

Science tends to move in a series of progressions, with the results of one study leading to new questions and further studies. Sometimes, however, behavior of the organisms being studied or other events will suggest unexpected avenues of study. An interesting example of this was presented by James F. Parnell at the Colonial Waterbird Group Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this October. An oil spill near a colony of Brown Pelicans under observation by Parnell and his colleagues presented them with an opportunity of evaluating the effects of oil on hatching success in a natural situation. I have personally had new studies suggested to me by birds caught in nets. Several years ago, I agreed to demonstrate netting techniques to David M. Ealey in preparation for a proposed study on American Dippers. As these preparations were being undertaken in Edmonton, Alberta in the midst of winter, we used Evening Grosbeaks at the feeder of Fred C. Zwickel. The discovery that the legs of several grosbeaks were too large for the recommended band size led to further studies on the grosbeaks at the feeder of Ray Salt at Pigeon Lake, Alberta. Large numbers of Black-capped Chickadees captured during attempts to capture grosbeaks led to questions about chickadees, which I tried to follow further at Langley, British Columbia. Chickadee banding at the latter site was too light to be very helpful but variation in the amount of brown flecking in Dark-eyed Junco hoods led to the beginning of yet another study.

My latest move to Ontario has resulted in all these studies going on hold, but they have taught me to be alert to new opportunities whenever I set out on a particular course of study. A practical example of this lesson was recently provided by two papers in *Corella*, an Australian journal, in which faeces voided by birds caught for banding were examined for food habits. Such studies could eliminate or reduce collecting needed to examine diets of some species. So, banders should keep their eyes open for opportunities for new studies suggested by the birds themselves.

Such studies are, of course, never complete until published. Banders should routinely examine their files and notebooks for material that should be in print. In particular, minor pieces of data that are not likely to be replicated by the same bander may be buried forever if left in a file, but if printed as a short note may contribute to a broader survey or review or may pose a question which leads another researcher into a new avenue of investigation. Don't forget NABB when considering such publications.

Proposed by-law changes are printed elsewhere on this page. Members will receive a ballot with their 1984 dues and are asked to vote on their approval or disapproval

when they send in the dues. The proposed change regarding publications simply reflects reality. The proposal to drop the associate membership category is based on the fact that the dues for this category are no different from that of regular membership and that the only difference between these categories was whether or not the member was an actual bander. The proposal to drop student membership reflects on current finances in which dues barely cover the cost of production of an issue of NABB. Thus, any reduced category would have to be subsidized by other members.

At the end of September, I had the enjoyable experience of IBBA hospitality at their annual meeting in southwestern Wisconsin. I hope that EBBA and IBBA members will join WBBA members in the meaningful fellowship that such meetings generate at our annual meeting next Easter, 20-22 April 1984, at the South San Francisco Bay and Point Reyes Bird Observatories in California. All are very welcome.

Martin K. McNicholl

## Proposed By-laws Changes

### Article V. Membership

Section 2 currently reads: There shall be eight classes of membership as follows: (a) Active Members; (b) Student/sub-permittee Members; (c) Associate Members; (d) Sustaining Members; (d) Institutional Members; (f) Life Members; (g) Honorary Members; (h) Non-subscribing Members.

The proposed amendment would read: There shall be six classes of membership as follows: (a) Active Members; (b) Sustaining Members; (c) Institutional Members; (d) Life Members; (e) Honorary Members; (f) Non-subscribing Members.

If this amendment is approved, appropriate deletions to sections 3 and 4 would be made regarding Student/sub-permittee and Associate Members.

### Article VIII. Publications

Section 1 currently reads: The official publication shall be called the *Western Bird Bander*. The Editor of the official publication shall be an *ex officio* member of the board. All classes of Members shall receive the publication except non-subscribing members. This section shall not be construed to prevent merger of the *Western Bird Bander* with the official publication of one or more of the other North American Bird Banding Associations.

The proposed amendment would read: The official publication shall be called *North American Bird Bander*, published according to agreement with one or more

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other North American banding organization(s). The WBBA Editor of the official publication shall be an *ex officio* member of the board. All classes of Members shall receive the publication except non-subscribing

members. This section shall not be construed to prevent publication of an independent journal should WBBA wish to terminate its publishing agreement with other organizations.

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## **W.B.B.A. Annual Meeting 20 May 1983 Albuquerque, NM**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

President Martin McNicholl called the meeting to order at 1900. Thirty people attended.

Secretary Robert Tweit moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of last year's meeting. Passed.

Tweit gave a brief synopsis of the Board of Directors' meeting.

McNicholl presented a report of activities and introduced officers and guests. He announced that the W. B.B.A. Research Grant has been awarded to Thomas A. Stierhoff of Flagstaff, AZ for a project on Cooperative Breeding in the Western Bluebird.

Editor Eleanor Radke presented the Editor's report. Volume 7, #4 has been mailed; Volume 7 is the first volume to include Inland Bird Banding Association. The Dunning weight manuscript will be published by W. B.B.A. separately from NABB. The index of volumes 1-5, prepared by Joan Tweit, will be published soon as a NABB supplement. The Editor thanked

M. McNicholl for Recent Literature  
M. Balph for Significant Recoveries  
P. and J. Walters for compiling the Annual Report  
J. Truan for obtaining advertising  
The Advisory and Review Board

Tweit gave the Treasurer's report for Jane Church. W.B.B.A. had a deficit in 1982-83, so dues are being raised to \$10 for members and \$15 for institutions. This, plus cutting expenses, will reduce our deficit for 1983-84. *Donations are welcome.*

C. Hundertmark gave a talk on his banding group at the Rio Grande Nature Center.

Charles Collins presented the Nominating Committee Report:

President — Martin K. McNicholl  
1st Vice President — Stephen M. Russell  
2nd Vice President — Robert C. Tweit  
Secretary — Martha H. Balph  
Treasurer — Jane P. Church  
Director at Large - Michael Rigney  
(Continuing Director - Peter Bloom)

L. Richard Mewaldt moved election of these nominees. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2050.

Respectfully submitted.

R.C. Tweit

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### **Worksheets for western birds**

Ageing/Sexing worksheets for western birds are mailed as published with NABB, to Western Bird Banding Association members only. They are, however, available to anyone interested. For each worksheet desired, send 25 cents (or \$1.00 for any five worksheets) to Mrs. Donald F. Radke, P.O. Box 446, Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

The following species sheets have been issued: Merlin, Harris' Hawk, Scaled Quail, California Quail, Gambel's Quail, Mountain Quail, Common Snipe, Band-tailed Pigeon, key to kingbirds, Eastern Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Myarchis flycatchers, Violet-green Swallow, Tree Swallow, Yellow-billed Magpie, Roadrunner, Clark's

Nutcracker, Verdin, Bushtit, Varied Thrush, gnatcatchers, Orange-crowned Warbler, waterthrushes, *Oporornis* warblers, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Tanager, Summer Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, towhees, White-crowned Sparrow.

