



Western Regional News

Western Bird Banding Association

Founded 1925

From WBBA's President

WBBA's 1988 Annual Meeting at Arcata, California

This year our Annual Meeting will be October 7 to 10 (Friday to Monday) at Arcata, California. C.J. Ralph is Chairman of the local organizing committee and plans for the meeting are progressing well. This will be a superlative meeting for families as well as for singles; the natural and unique landscapes and wetlands of the north coast form the heart of this exciting region.

There will be an emphasis on workshops and "hands-on" experiences with diverse capture, marking, cloacal lavaging and other techniques. Brief papers and poster presentations are solicited from all who have new observations, findings or interpretations to share.

Workshops, demonstrations and some other activities including the WBBA Board meeting (open to all) will be held at the home of C.J. and Carol Ralph, 7000 Lanphere Road, about 3 miles west of Arcata. Immediately ESE of this site are Mad River Slough and the inlets, backwaters and marshes of the west side of Humboldt Bay. Binoculars and telescopes will be useful for observing the wetlands birdlife from the Ralph's hilltop home. On the WNW side lie the conifer

forests of the stabilized dunes of the Nature Conservancy's Lanphere-Christenson Dunes Preserve. Many trails (and net lanes) can be explored; a 20-minute walk leads to the still uncovered moving dunes and the wide beaches of the outer coast.

Places to stay are many; camping will be available, with whatever simplicity/complexity meets your fancy. If you have never camped in a redwood forest, now is the time to try it. Some of California's most beautiful State Parks are not far away, including Patrick's Point and Prairie Creek. Motels are 5 to 8 miles from the Ralph's home. Our banquet will be at the historic Samoa Cookhouse on Humboldt Bay W of Eureka.

Early morning and post-meeting field trips will be led by experienced birders and biologists from the area, exploring the avifaunas of coast, dunes, marsh, fields, forests, inland river valleys and mountains.

All banders and those interested in banding are enthusiastically invited to this North Coast and Redwoods Meeting of WBBA.

W.B. (Bill) Quay

COME TO THE 1988 ANNUAL MEETING IN ARCATA, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 7-9.
(Note that October 7-9 is Columbus Day weekend, a long weekend for many people. See *President's Message* above for details on the meeting.)

Submit papers to, and request further information from:

Dr. C. John Ralph
Redwood Science Lab, USFS
1700 Bayview Drive
Arcata, CA 95521.

Western Canada's Bird Banders Make Wildlife '87 a Success

G.R.A. Ebel
Beaverhill Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 4943
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5G8

On 7, 8, & 9 August 1987, the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) in cooperation with the Town of Tofield and the Beaverhill Lake Nature Centre hosted the First Annual Western Canada Bird Banding Workshop/Conference in Tofield, Alberta, a small community about 50 km south-east of Edmonton. The BBO, consisting of a couple of buildings, is on the south shore of Beaverhill Lake 7km east of Tofield.

Beaverhill Lake had been declared a RAMSAR site earlier this year on 8 June because of its importance as a staging area for waterfowl and shorebirds. Over 250 species of birds have been recorded with 115 of these breeding in the area.

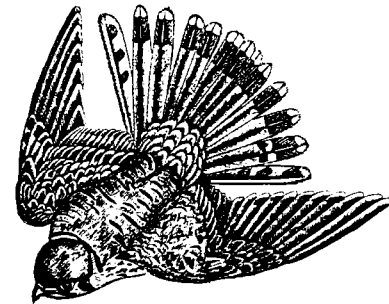
The entire weekend was a Wildlife '87 project. For those who wish to know more about Wildlife '87 please contact the author. On 7 August the Beaverhill Natural Areas (1.6 square miles) was officially designated by the Minister of Forestry, Land and Wildlife. The BBO has sponsored the natural area and with various provincial agencies is responsible for managing the area's natural resources.

The banding workshop/conference had 80 registrants who came from as far east and west as Ottawa and Kelowna respectively. The programs varied from aging

and sexing rehabilitated raptors, statistics for banders, cages and cage construction for the bander, aging and sexing House Wrens, bird banding around the world, to interpreting and understanding Alberta's new wildlife act regarding the handling and banding of its wildlife.

This two day event was geared to finding out who the banders are and what there needs are, as banders in western Canada. The community of Tofield was treated to 15 static displays from government and non-government organizations. This first effort has encouraged the BBO to put on the second annual workshop in Tofield, Alberta to be held on 12, 13 & 14 August 1988. An extremely relevant program is currently being developed for both both experienced and novice banders.

As Chairman of the BBO, I extend to WBBA an invitation to develop and share in our bird banding workshop in Tofield this August. This event will provide us in the western half of the continent the opportunity to share our objectives and directions which otherwise must be done through the various journals at our disposal. Any readers who wish to give papers at the workshop and enjoy a warm bird-filled August, please contact me at the above address or call (403) 444-4486 home; 428-7582 work.



WBBA T-SHIRTS

"A BIRD IN THE HAND CAN BE MESSY" says the cartoon on WBBA's t-shirt. T-shirts, with the WBBA logo on the back and the small cartoon on the breast, are available in blue or tan, in sizes small, medium, large, and extra large. Price: \$8.00 (US) per shirt (postage included). Send orders to:

Dr. Charles T. Collins
Department of Biology
California State University
Long Beach, CA 90480.

(State size(s) and color(s) desired and include a check made out to *Western Bird Banding Association*.)

STILL AVAILABLE FROM WBBA:

Body Weights of 686 Species of North American Birds

by John B. Dunning, Jr.
\$3.75 prepaid

Send a check or money order to:

Richard K. Bowers, Jr.
2925 N. Cascada Circle
Tucson, AZ 85715.

(Back issues of NABB also available from the same address.)