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# Western Regional News

## Western Bird Banding Association

**Michael J. Boyles**, President  
September 25, 2008

Dear Members:

Having recently assumed the presidency of the Western Bird Banding Association, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and update you on the organization. Some of you may know me from the annual meetings, but many of you do not. I work for the National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, just outside of Boulder City, Nevada. I am the park's Environmental Compliance Specialist and former wildlife biologist. My interest in birds started with a pet I had as a child, and my master's degree included a thesis on the biogeography of Mountain Chickadees.

I learned to band in the mid-nineties at a wildlife refuge and operated a MAPS station at Lake Mead for several years. Ken Burton invited me to join the WBBA Board in 2003, and I have since served as Secretary, Second Vice-President, and First Vice-President. I am really looking forward to this new role and to serving the organization in any way I can.

The 2008 annual meeting was held earlier this month in Boise, Idaho. The Idaho Bird Observatory sponsored the event, which included several outstanding paper and poster presentations, Oct. - Dec. 2008

a keynote speech by Dr. Reuven Yosef of the International Birding and Research Center in Israel, a Bandit workshop, and a variety of field trips, all within a beautiful high-desert setting. For a full report of the meeting, please visit our website [www.westernbirdbanding.org](http://www.westernbirdbanding.org).

We also elected a new slate of officers at the meeting. I am proud to be working with First Vice-President C.J. Ralph (US Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Arcata, CA), Second Vice-President Howard Browers (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pullman, WA), Treasurer Gina Barton (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Milpitas, CA), Secretary Renee Cormier (Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Bolinas, CA), Editor Walt Sakai (Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA), Membership Chair Ken Burton (Arcata, CA), at-large Board members Kay Loughman (Berkeley, CA) and Andrea Wuenschel (Puget Sound Bird Observatory, Seattle WA), and of course Immediate Past President John Alexander (Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR). They are an outstanding group of people, and I am truly excited about what we can accomplish over the next year.

Your membership in WBBA is sincerely valued, and we want to be sure that the organization is, in turn, valuable to you. In addition to our annual meetings, WBBA actively participates in the North

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American Banding Council, which works to improve the science of banding and provides training to new banders. We also offer grants to support banding-related research and monitoring. If there are other things you would like to see WBBA doing, we want to hear your ideas.

We also want to know about the exciting projects that our members are involved in and hope you will consider submitting your work to *North American Bird Bander*. Short summaries of your work are ideal for the journal's Western Regional News, and reports of significant encounters are always of interest.

Finally, we want to see more of you at the annual meetings. I have attended eight of the last nine meetings and always find them to be a great way to

meet interesting people, learn new things, explore new areas, and see species of birds I do not see at home. To make the meetings even more worthwhile, we intend to offer more training and educational opportunities in the future. Your input on the meetings is most welcome.

I hope to have frequent contact with the membership because I believe that communication is the key to progress. My contact information, as well as that of the other Board members, is available on the website. Please share with us your thoughts about how to make WBBA the best organization it can be.

Sincerely,  
**Michael J. Boyles**



**Mountain Chickadee**  
by George West