



Western Regional News

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WBBA President's Message

Greetings everyone! In lieu of exacerbating the continuing cases of covid, we opted to hold our annual meeting virtually this year in mid-September. We started off with a virtual happy hour to catch up and kicked off our first night with a fantastic, wide-ranging keynote by Jared Wolfe on using banding data to understand how changing climate is decreasing bird diversity. Be sure and check this and the others at our website (www.westernbirdbanding.org).

We started out the next day bright and early with a banding demo from the station I am currently working at, Rushton Farm, Pennsylvania, followed by an excellent banding demonstration from Nancy Ransom in Chico Basin, Colorado (courtesy of Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), then made our way down south for a fascinating banding demonstration from Pedro Martins of the Mantiqueira Bird Observatory in Brazil.

We took a rest and had some important virtual scientific talks., Be sure to check out the abstracts in this issue of NABB. Then we finished off with a insightful and entertaining keynote from Stu Mackenzie of Bird Studies, Canada, about some of the recent findings using Motus transmitter technology.

Overall, it was a great way to stay connected and learn more about bird research and bird banding. We are very excited to remind you of our upcoming in person meeting at the Great Bear Divide near Los Angeles for the last weekend in April. Dates are still being finalized, but we are

looking forward to seeing everyone for some epic western spring migration.

Are you interested in getting more involved in WBBA?? We are currently seeking active and interested people to help on our board or planning committees. Be sure to shoot me or CJ Ralph an email if you're interested. We hope your fall migration banding is off to a good (and safe) start, and we're looking forward to seeing some station reports in upcoming issues. Cheers from the west coast!

Holly Garrod

Save the Date for Annual Meeting 29 Apr to 1 May 2022 in southern California

This coming spring of 2022, we will host our annual meeting at a recently-discovered Pacific Flyway dawn migration site in southern California. The meeting will be held from 29 Apr to 1 May 2022 during the potential peak migration. Thousands of birds have been documented passing through the site known as Bear Divide each morning during spring migration. It is located in the Angeles National Forest, approximately 9 km east of Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County, in the San Gabriel Mountains. Large numbers of spring passerines have been documented using this narrow pass during migration, including Western Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings, Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows, Warbling Vireos, Black-headed Grosbeaks, 10 species of warblers, and many more.