



Western Regional News

Founded in 1925

Notes and News From Around the Western Bird Banding Association

WBBA President's message

We made it to 2021! It has been an interesting year, and it has been inspiring to see how people and banding stations alike have adapted to changing circumstances, still pushing forward to keeping research going amidst difficult times. While we unfortunately had to postpone our 2020 WBBA meeting in Grass Valley, California, we were able to launch a series of webinars on banding, molt, and aging birds. Be sure to check out our webinar summary and follow our social media for more updates! At this point, we are awaiting on a decision for our 2021 WBBA meeting. Stay tuned for more information. Follow our social media accounts (Instagram and Twitter: @wbba_birds, Facebook: Western Bird Banding Association) for WBBA updates and banding opportunities. Be sure to tag us in your banding posts for the chance to be featured! We would love to hear more about how banding plays a role in your research, and how your banding station has adapted to continue during Covid. Thanks everyone for your continued work. It has been wonderful to see this community of banders come together.

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Forest Fragments and Wood Thrushes in Costa Rica



A WBBA student grant was awarded to Samuel Lopes Oliveira, a PhD Candidate at Michigan Technological University, for his exciting project “Assessing the Value of Forest Fragments and Easements in Conserving Populations of Wood Thrush in Costa Rica”.

Populations of many migratory birds that breed in North America and spend the winter from Mexico to South America, have sadly declined in the past several decades. Extensive research in many areas shows that deforestation in the wintering grounds is an important factor in the sliding population trends of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), that has suffered a population decrease of 62% between 1966 and 2015. In its wintering area it mainly uses primary forests, but it can also be