

Table 2. Banding region and encounter region of Black Vultures banded and encountered in the United States and Canada between Jan 1960 and Jun 2022 (n = 1,034).

Banding state	Encounter State																				Totals				
	CT	DE	DC	FL	GA	IN	KY	MD	MA	MS	NH	NJ	NY	NC	OH	PA	QC	RI	SC	TN		TX	VA	WV	
DE		2														3									5
FL				307															1						308
IN						3	1																		4
MA									1																1
MI							1			1															2
NC														15											15
OH						1									1										2
PA	2	13	1					50			1	38	3			255	1						8	2	374
SC					5			1								1			11						18
TX																						17			17
VA			1					11										1					15	1	29
WV		1	1				1	58				2		2	14	41				2			71	66	259
Total	2	16	3	307	5	4	3	120	1	1	1	40	3	17	15	300	1	1	12	2	17	94	69	1,034	



Western Regional News

President's Message

This is my first letter as WBBA President, and it gives me an opportunity to look forward to what vision I have for WBBA in the next year or so. WBBA, and the other banding associations, are gathering places for banders' unique skills and perspectives on what happens when we have a bird in hand. Very few people are so lucky to experience holding these feathered treasures in our hands for a few moments before releasing them again. I hope that you still experience wonder and joy in each of those moments. However, it is important to remember that it is not about us, but about each of those individual birds and what we can do to learn about them, how to share that knowledge, and how to make the world a better place for them.

So, my goals are to help you with the learning, the sharing, and the making the world a better place and ask you to help others do the same. Invite a school or Scout group to visit your banding operation, prepare a social media post about something unique about your banding station, or ask the local nature center if you can give a talk during their summer kids programs. The more people see birds, the more they will appreciate the birds around them and work to conserve a place for them to thrive.

By the time you read this, we will have sent WBBA members an email survey asking what WBBA can do for them and what they can do to help WBBA be the best organization it can be.

You might not be part of WBBA (though we will welcome you if you would like to join!) and so would not receive the survey, but you can reach out to your banding associates to see how they can help you and how you can help them. As I mention above, we banders are very small in number, so it becomes important for each one of us to contribute what we can to make our community a strong one.

I am writing this note in the midst of the holiday season while snow lies thick on the ground outside. It makes me look forward to the upcoming spring and all the renewed movement of birds. The WBBA meeting this year will be held 6-9th May at the Bear Divide banding station, just outside Los Angeles. Please join us at this meeting and in sharing and learning at this new, and very busy, spring migration banding station.

Danielle Kaschube President,
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**Western Bird Banding Association
Grant Announcement
2022 Grant Award**

The Western Bird Banding Association small grants program for 2022 awarded a \$500 grant to SELVA, a grassroots NGO based in Columbia. SELVA has been running banding stations and courses in Columbia for several years. Since 2009, SELVA has trained ~200 students from Columbia, Chile, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, and Brazil. Five to seven-day courses are taught to give a solid base in banding techniques with particular emphasis on ethical banding. The grant will help fund travel and course costs for student banders from throughout the region. Expanding capacity in the region will increase monitoring opportunities and knowledge of the resident and migratory birds. The WBBA is happy to support SELVA and its important work.

2023 Grant

WBBA plan to offer a grant of \$500 in 2023 for a research or monitoring project for individuals and/or organizations engaged in projects in the

New World using marked birds. Preference will be given to projects taking place in the WBBA regional area. Research projects should help test a hypothesis, while monitoring projects are intended to help individuals or institutions establish or continue monitoring programs that investigate changes in bird populations. Students (graduate & undergraduate) as well as organizational interns are encouraged to apply.

Grant awardees will be asked to submit results of their grant projects for publication in future issues of *North American Bird Bander*, as well as to present results at a future WBBA annual meeting(s).

More information on how to apply is available on the WBBA website at: www.westernbirdbanding.org/research-grants

**WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION
2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

Los Angeles, California - 6-9 May 2023

Join us at the Western Bird Banding Association 2023 Annual Meeting in the Los Angeles area at Bear Divide. Early May is peak spring migration time in the southern California area, and especially in the Bear Divide area. Bear Divide is a new locale in southern California to witness spring dawn migration flights. Over 10,000 birds have been documented in a single morning flying through this pass, and over 140 species have been observed in the last three years. It is such a spectacle to witness! In addition, the area is especially suited for birders with disabilities. All birds can be observed standing or sitting in a single area. The site is especially well known for observing numerous west coast warbler species, including Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Yellow, Townsend's, Hermit, Townsend's-Hermit hybrid, Nashville, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, and the occasional Yellow-breasted Chat. In addition to the migrating warblers, multiple Los Angeles summer residents are returning to the area, including Ash-throated Flycatchers, Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Bullock's and Hooded orioles. Other migrants that can easily be observed are Western Tanagers, Warbling Vireos,