

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.

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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](http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/research-grants)

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**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,

Cassin Vireo's, Phainopeplas, and Swainson's and Hermit thrushes. We have not even mentioned the chaparral and southern California endemics yet! In the area, possible resident birds include California, Spotted, and Green-tailed towhees, California and Mountain quails, California Thrasher, Wrentit, and California Scrub-Jay. Last, catch *ALL* six hummingbird species in the area, including Anna's, Allen's, Rufous, Costa's, Black-Chinned, and the smallest bird in the United States, the Calliope Hummingbird. You do not want to miss this meeting!

The meeting will feature a full schedule of keynote speakers and scientific talks given by ornithologists, ecologists, students, and banders on current topics and innovations. Special awards will be given for top student presentations. We will also be holding our annual silent auction. Nature-related item donations are accepted.

We will also have active workshops featuring the latest and greatest gear and techniques in field ornithology and banding. A new MOTUS tower was recently installed in the Bear Divide area! Some potential topics will include MOTUS tag deployment and set-up, molt techniques, and feather analysis. There will also be a visit to the Bear Divide Banding Station which was established in 2021.

### **Call for papers**

We invite abstract submissions for oral presentations, workshops, and posters. While banding birds constitutes much of what we do, the WBBA and its members encompass much more within ornithology, and every year we showcase this fact at our annual meeting. Please see our website for instructions on how to submit an abstract - [www.westernbirdbanding.org](http://www.westernbirdbanding.org).

## **WBBA 2022 Meeting Summary**

University of California, Davis

14-17 September 2022

Chrissy Kondrat

This September, members and guests joined the Western Bird Banding Association for the 2022 Annual Meeting held at the University of California at Davis. Fifty-seven people registered and participated in the conference, with 12 new members joining WBBA!

The first night social began with a tour of the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology's bird collection (<https://mwfb.ucdavis.edu>). The collection included bird specimens from near and far, including a toxic New Guinea species known as the Hooded Pitohui (*Pitohui dichrous*), a vast collection of owls, and so much more. We then feasted on a variety of pizzas and good conversation in the courtyard next to the museum.

The first day of meeting, 15 September, began with a guided bird walk along Putah Creek in the UC Davis Arboretum, located on campus grounds. The meeting portion of the day began with feature speaker and host, the Curator of the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, Andrew Engilis Jr., who discussed the documentation of avian diversity in the Sacramento landscape through the many research programs sponsored by the Museum. Peter Pyle grabbed everyone's attention as Saturday morning's keynote speaker with an update on the upcoming new edition of his landmark *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, better known as the 'Pyle Guide'. The morning and afternoon sessions of talks shared interesting and informative presentations of research from banders throughout the region. The list of Friday speakers and workshop details can be found at [https://www.westernbirdbanding.org/\\_files/ugd/5a2de9\\_2305c8fd919944ad9b18f548fa00baad.pdf](https://www.westernbirdbanding.org/_files/ugd/5a2de9_2305c8fd919944ad9b18f548fa00baad.pdf). All talks and workshop abstracts are published in the next issue of NABB.

While the WBBA board met on the afternoon of September 15th, two workshops were available to attendees including helpful lessons on avian first-aid with Jennifer Brown and Rebecca Duer, DVM; and how to work with specimens with Andrew Engilis. The Thursday night Keynote Speaker, Professor Oct. - Dec.