

## Western Field Ornithologists

### Fall 2004 Newsletter & Announcements

Well, our 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Ashland, Oregon was real success. Combined with the Western Bird Banding Association and Oregon Field Ornithologist, this meeting gave WFO a wonderful opportunity to see a new region of the West and experience one of our best paper and poster sessions in recent memory. Ted Floyd, CJ Ralph, and Jay Withgott deserve not only thanks but also admiration for this along with all those wonderful scientists and ornithologists who took the time to give us a view of their research. Peter Pyle, the three editors of Oregon Birds, and Joe Morlan, along with a panel of experts (Kimball Garrett, Jon Dunn, Steve Howell and Rich Hoyer), gave wonderful evening programs. It was amazing to sit in the audience each evening and listen and learn from these talented people. We even had a last minute surprise when bird sounds expert Arch McCallum volunteered his expertise by providing the sounds for our experts' panel. Klamath Bird Observatory, under the aegis of John Alexander, hosted the event along with his army of staff and interns. They did a wonderful job and each of us was lucky they stepped forward. The field trips were organized by Rob Hewitt of LBJ Enterprises, who also acted as WFO's liaisons to the 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting steering committee, and Pablo Herrera of the USFWS. They did a wonderful job and were up early making sure the early morning rabble were in the right cars at the right time headed in the right direction. All the field trip leaders were excellent. And, you need to ask those who went and saw how they liked that Great Gray Owl. Both hotels, The Windmill and the Windsor Inns of Ashland, were wonderful to us.

#### **2005 Annual Meeting - Set this date aside!**

WFO's 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria, California from September 29 - October 1, 2005. You can expect this meeting to be lively and scientifically diverse and the field trips fantastic. There will be morning field trips, evening programs, workshops and social activities. The Santa Maria Valley is near great birding locations. Detailed information on submitting papers and posters for the science session, registration, hotel rooms, meeting program, calendar of events, and contact numbers will be up on our website, [www.wfo-cbrc.org](http://www.wfo-cbrc.org) by February. This hotel is a resort destination so consider bringing your family. There is a steering committee for this meeting that includes Robbie Fischer, Jennifer Jolis, Ted Floyd, Jay Withgott, Tom Ryan and Catherine Waters. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate, submit research, work at the meeting or serve on the steering committee for our 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, send an E-mail to Catherine Waters at [robcatwaters@earthlink.net](mailto:robcatwaters@earthlink.net) or just give her a call at home, 562-869-6718.

#### **Helping with the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Volunteers from WFO will be needed to help out with various aspects of the meeting in Santa Maria. We especially will need people to staff the registration table; act as greeters/hosts for the meals; do field trip check-in; and help set up, host and break down the opening reception; sit on expert sound/slide panels; and most importantly, lead field trips. If you would like to help or participate contact Catherine and copy to Tom Ryan [wtswift@aol.com](mailto:wtswift@aol.com)

#### **Helping with WFO Projects**

- Peter La Tourrette and Dave Krueper are taking a look at the WFO website and are open to having experienced help on their committee. If you have website design expertise and would like to help, please contact either Peter or Dave.

- At the suggestion of Jon Dunn WFO is going to try something different at our meeting this year: a silent auction for books. Jon was very impressed by the Kansas Ornithological Society's use of a silent book auction for fundraising when he attended their annual meeting this autumn. So, check out your book shelves for duplicates or references/texts/field guides that you no longer want but that remain timely and useful. Think about bringing your offering(s) to the 30<sup>th</sup> annual WFO meeting and donating them to auction for a good cause (the WFO publications fund).

## News from WFO

In Ashland this past September the amazing Jean Brant of L. A. Audubon and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles was voted in as our new recording secretary taking the place of Kei Sochi who has moved on to a new challenge. David Yee was re-elected into the presidency. And, Dave Krueper has stayed on as vice-president. The amazing Ken Able, now of McArthur, California agreed to join the publications portion of WFO and become our editor of special publications. If you know someone you would like to see on our board or if you have a suggestion for a board member or committee member or if you would like to participate, please contact any WFO Board Member (e-mail addresses of all are listed on the website).

#### **Committees**

We are hoping our membership will become involved and consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees: finance, fundraising, publications, grants/scholarships, and future meetings. Your board and committee members are a fun group of hard-working people who would welcome your interest with open arms. Some of the positions involve true experience and expertise in an area and others require energy and interest and heart but no experience. If you would be interested in working on one of these committees, contact any WFO Board member.

### Changes

In 2003, WFO Board member, Tom Ryan, while working in Venezuela, met and subsequently married the wonderful Yelitza. Yelitza Ryan is now happily residing in Pasadena, California and enrolled at Pasadena City College polishing her English writing skills. Yelitza finished her graduate degree in Venezuela just before coming to us so double congratulations are in order.

Former WFO officer and current WFO Board member, Kei Sochi and Ted Floyd, have recently announced the birth of WFO's newest and youngest member, their daughter Hannah Floyd. We understand Hannah came into the world with a view of birds from her hospital window. Those who want to see the happy family can travel to the San Diego Bird Festival in February where Ted is to be the keynote speaker and Hannah is to be the star.

### Publications

Still available and timely is Western Birds editor, Philip Unitt's and co-authors Michael Patten's and Guy McCaskie's book, BIRDS OF THE SALTON SEA. Contact Phil or Guy (see the website) for purchasing information or contact the bookstore at the San Diego Natural History Museum, [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org). Jay Withgott's ENVIRONMENT: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE STORIES and is widely available, including on Amazon.com. IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF CALIFORNIA, Dan Cooper's 2003 publication, can be ordered from Audubon California [dcooper@audubon.org](mailto:dcooper@audubon.org). Audubon California is offering a unique fundraising arrangement for this book associated with Audubon Chapters. Ask Dan for details. Co-editors, Dave Shuford's and Kathy Molina's, volume, Ecology and conservation of birds of the Salton Sink: An endangered ecosystem is available for \$17.00 including shipping and handling. Contact Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, [wfvz@wfvz.org](mailto:wfvz@wfvz.org) to order. Many WFO members and board contributed to this volume. In conjunction with Phil and Guy's book, the two volumes provide a comprehensive view of this crucial bird area in the West.

### Up coming publications

Still in the wings are RARE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA by the California Rare Birds Committee and edited by Richard Erickson, Robb Hamilton and Michael Patten and BIRD SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN. Watch these pages for publication dates.

### Manuscripts

WFO is looking for original field ornithology related monographs, manuscripts and research papers from throughout the WEST. Complete information for submission is on our website, but if you have questions feel free to e-mail Dave Shuford and/or Kathy Molina. Be patient - these are two busy people and it takes them a bit of time to get around to their mail.

### Artwork

We want you! If you are interested in submitting your photographs or black and white sketches of birds for publication in Western Birds contact Peter La Tourrette, Western Birds photo editor, at [petelat1@stanford.edu](mailto:petelat1@stanford.edu). For guidelines see <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/journal.html>. Feel free to ask questions before submitting! We look forward to hearing from you.

### Activities

Tom Ryan and Mike San Miguel are planning regional activities for WFO members and friends in 2005/06. Please keep an eye on the website for updates on these trips. In the future, Western Field Ornithologist is hoping to have regional, once a year, activity by area. That will include field trips, pelagic trips, workshops, lectures, etc. If you would be interested in being a regional contact for WFO, coordinating a regional activity for WFO members, arranging for or hosting a lecture, or leading a regional field trip contact Tom Ryan at [wtswift@aol.com](mailto:wtswift@aol.com). Currently being planned are trips to the Channel Islands, Central Valley National Wildlife Refuges, Eastern Sierras, Chiracahuas, Bosque del Apache, and Baja Norte Weekends.

### Field Trips

For 2005 and 2006 WFO is offering an outstanding series of field trips. First will be El Triunfo and Chiapas led by Kimball Garrett and Kathy Molina coming up March 22 - April 4, 2005. After that comes Venezuela: September 29 - October 12, 2005. Led by Chris Sharpe, expert in the identification and distribution of Venezuelan birds, the trip will go from the shores of the Caribbean to the Andes to the llanos. In February of 2006 look for a trip featuring birding the Durango Highway and San Blas, Mexico. Also in 2006 (April) is an anticipated "Chicken Run" to be led by Bruce Webb and Jim Dazenbaker - this trip, a run through the west in search of Grouse and Prairie Chickens and anything else that pops up, will be led by two of the best. Information will be posted in April of 2005. And, finally, there is a chance WFO will be returning to Cuba in 2006! Let us know if you are interested. All information on the trips scheduled for 2005 is posted on the WFO website. Don't hesitate if you are interested. Sign up now! If you have questions contact Tom Ryan or Mike San Miguel.