

## Western Field Ornithologists

### Winter/Spring 2004 Newsletter & Announcements

Since our 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Silver City, New Mexico various WFO members and friends have been working to match the efforts of Dave Krueper of WFO and Roland Shook of NMOS and Western New Mexico University, who coordinated and hosted that meeting. Soon after Silver City, Rob Hewitt of LBJ Enterprises volunteered to be WFO's planner for our 2004 meeting set for southern Oregon. Rob immediately recruited the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) to host the meeting, which will be held in Ashland, Oregon, September 8 - 12, and he came up with the idea of combining our meeting with those of two wonderful western organizations, Western Bird Banding Association (their 79<sup>th</sup> annual meeting!) and Oregon Field Ornithologists (their 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting). So, expect our 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting to have lively and diverse science programs, workshops, field trips and social activities. Ashland is a great location so consider bringing your family. There is a steering committee for this meeting that includes representatives of all organizations. Detailed information on submitting papers and posters to be presented at the meeting, hotel and program information, calendar of the meeting, and contact numbers are listed on [www.wfo-cbrc.org](http://www.wfo-cbrc.org). If you would like to volunteer to coordinate or serve on the steering committee for our 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, send an E-mail to [WFOornithologists@yahoo.com](mailto:WFOornithologists@yahoo.com). We hope to see you in Ashland!

#### Helping with the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Volunteers from WFO will be needed to help out with various aspects of the meeting in Ashland. 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; lead field trips. If you would like to help or participate contact Rob Hewitt, [lbjent@humboldt1.com](mailto:lbjent@humboldt1.com) and copy to [robcatwaters@earthlink.net](mailto:robcatwaters@earthlink.net).

#### Scholarship/Grants Fund

WFO is starting a fundraiser that will allow us to have a viable scholarship and grants program. The grants will be to fund part or all of the costs of selected field ornithology research projects and to give travel scholarships to students so that they can participate in our annual meetings. If you would like to serve on the committee that fundraises and sets the parameters for this endeavor send your name and information to Dave Krueper, [dave.krueper@fws.gov](mailto:dave.krueper@fws.gov). Do keep in mind that this will honestly be a volunteer job with responsibilities. If you would like to **contribute** to the fundraising endeavor, send your check to WFO C/O Robbie Fischer, Western Field Ornithologists, 1359 Solano Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044 and write WFO grants/scholarships on the check memo line.

## News from WFO

Changes in leadership. In Silver City in 2003, David Yee took over the reins of WFO from president Mike San Miguel who fearlessly led our organization with zeal. To help David Yee in his journey, Dave Krueper stepped up to the position of WFO's vice-president. You can contact David Yee at [davidyee@lync.net](mailto:davidyee@lync.net) and Dave Krueper at [dave.krueper@fws.gov](mailto:dave.krueper@fws.gov). Also at the meeting in Silver City, WFO welcomed to its board Jay Withgott. Jay is a freelance science writer, textbook author and long time birder. Jay resides in Portland, Oregon and can be contacted at [jwithgott@msn.com](mailto:jwithgott@msn.com).

Committees. At our 2003 meeting, your WFO Board formed a number of working committees in order to better facilitate our annual Board meeting. We wanted to have some time to get out and bird along with you in these incredible locations. We are hoping our membership will become involved and volunteer to serve on one of these committees: *finance, fundraising, publications, grants/scholarships, future meetings*. 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 [WFOornithologists@yahoo.com](mailto:WFOornithologists@yahoo.com) or any WFO Board member.

Legal help. WFO needs the assistance and guidance of an attorney. We need to develop a memorandum of understanding that we can use for making clear arrangements between WFO and authors, editors, copy editors, artists and photographers, etc. Please contact publications committee chair, Dave Shuford, [dshuford@prbo.org](mailto:dshuford@prbo.org) and copy to [wforornithologists@yahoo.com](mailto:wforornithologists@yahoo.com).

Changes. In 2003, WFO Board member, Tom Ryan, met the woman of his dreams in Venezuela. They were married in Trinidad/Tobago in December of 2003. Yelitza Ryan will soon be joining us in the northern hemisphere, so make sure you say hi to her when you see her in Ashland. WFO's newest and youngest member is Elizabeth Louise Cady Hazard, the daughter of WFO board member Gjon Hazard. All three Hazards are still awakening during the night in Encinitas, California.

#### Published.

- Western Birds editor, Philip Unitt and co-authors Michael Patten and Guy McCaskie published their book, BIRDS OF THE SALTON SEA, in late 2003. The book can be purchased from the bookstore at the San Diego Natural History Museum, [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org) and is widely available at other locations.
- WFO Board member, Jay Withgott's, book has been recently released. It is titled ENVIRONMENT; THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE STORIES and is widely available.
- Dan Cooper, National Audubon Society biologist, has just published IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF CALIFORNIA. The book is available through Audubon California, [dcooper@audubon.org](mailto:dcooper@audubon.org). It is the first in a series of books highlighting IBAs throughout North America. Audubon California is offering a unique fundraising arrangement for this book associated with Audubon Chapters.

#### Up coming publications.

- Later this year, WFO will be publishing RARE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA by the California Rare Birds Committee and edited by Richard Erickson, Robb Hamilton and Michael Patten. This book has been a huge effort for the editors to compile and all of us are anxiously awaiting its arrival. Look out for the announcement and order form. If you would like to help WFO by distributing this book to your bird club, Audubon Chapter, local bookstore or arranging for a program on the Rare Birds of California contact Robbie Fischer, [robbie22@pacbell.net](mailto:robbie22@pacbell.net).
- Dave Shuford and Kathy Molina co-edited the volume, Ecology and conservation of birds of the Salton Sink: An endangered ecosystem. Many WFO members contributed papers for this volume that will be available in 6-8 weeks for \$17.00 including shipping and handling. Contact Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, [wfvz@wfvz.org](mailto:wfvz@wfvz.org) to order.
- A combined project between Calif. Fish and Game, WFO and PRBO, BIRD SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN, should be "in press" in the near future. If you or your bird club or Audubon Chapter is interested in becoming a partner in publishing this important book, contact Dave Shuford at [dshuford@prbo.org](mailto:dshuford@prbo.org).

Manuscripts. WFO is looking for original field ornithology related monographs and manuscripts for potential future publication. For information or to submit see <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/journal.html>

Artwork. Western Birds is always on the lookout for photographs and line drawings appropriate for publication in Western Birds. If you are interested in submitting your photographs or black and white sketches of birds see the guidelines at <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/journal.html> and contact Peter La Tourrette, Western Birds photo editor at [petelat1@stanford.edu](mailto:petelat1@stanford.edu)

Membership directory. Catherine Waters requests help with the WFO membership directory that will be an online (members only, must-have-a-codeword-to-access, directory). If you have WORD or Excel on your computer and would like to volunteer to make phone calls, write letters and/or do some data entry on this project, she would be grateful for the help. 562-869-6718 or [robcatwaters@earthlink.net](mailto:robcatwaters@earthlink.net)

#### Activities.

- Western Field Ornithologist is hoping to have regional, once a year activities for their members in the future: 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 in leading a regional field trip contact [WFOornithologists@yahoo.com](mailto:WFOornithologists@yahoo.com).
- A WFO trip to Cuba has just returned (20 endemics and 170+birds overall). Cuban birds and culture and people were an amazing experience for all 14-trip participants. A WFO trip to El Triunfo (3/24 - 4/4/2004) is full. If you are interested in future WFO trips, contact Mike San Miguel at [Sanmigbird@aol.com](mailto:Sanmigbird@aol.com) or Tom Ryan at [WTSwift@aol.com](mailto:WTSwift@aol.com) with your questions. Future 2004 WFO trips are being planned for San Blas, Mexico and Venezuela. Stayed tuned for 2005!