

Western Field Ornithologists

Winter/Spring 2005 Newsletter & Announcements

Call for Papers - 30th Annual WFO Meeting, Santa Maria, California, September 29 - October 1, 2005 As always, WFO is interested in your research. The guidelines for submission of abstracts for presentation at the meeting are on the WFO website at wfo-cbrc.org. Science sessions are scheduled for the afternoons of Friday, September 30 and science and poster sessions are scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2005. All are welcome to submit their papers and posters. Abstracts will be published with the meeting program and then published on the WFO website. If you do not have access to the WFO website, please drop a note or call Catherine Waters (12079 Samoline Avenue, Downey, CA 90242, 562-869-6718) and she will mail you the submission guidelines. Questions? Contact Jay Withgott, withgott@nasw.org or Ted Floyd, tedfloyd@aba.org.

30th Annual Meeting Room Reservations The WFO annual meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria, California from Thursday, September 29 - Saturday, October 1, 2005. The address is 3455 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria and the phone is 805-928-8000. The handicapped accessible facility is 3-stories with an elevator and has plentiful onsite parking. There is a restaurant and a bar/lounge on site. ***You are urged to make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible.*** September/October is a popular time of year in the Santa Maria valley. We have set aside a block of rooms at the guaranteed price of \$89.00 per night for a double room. Please refer to Western Field Ornithologists when making your reservations. Problems? Contact cpannellwaters@yahoo.com or call at the above listed phone number. WFO will not be able to do a room sharing service for those looking for a roommate for the meeting but if you send your name to Catherine, via e-mail or snail mail, she'll try to keep an informal list. There are absolutely no guarantees, though. All field trips for the meeting will begin and end at the Radisson Hotel Santa Maria parking lot, departing on a staggered schedule between 6 and 7 a.m. and returning between 11 a.m. and Noon.

Transportation to Santa Maria for the WFO Annual Meeting The Radisson Hotel Santa Maria is within 1.5 miles of the 101 Freeway. Santa Maria is located in the very north of Santa Barbara County, north of the City of Santa Barbara and south of San Luis Obispo. The hotel is literally within walking distance of the Santa Maria Airport and a short ride (20 minutes) from the Amtrak Station in Guadalupe. There is transportation from the Guadalupe Amtrak Station to Santa Maria, contact the Guadalupe Flyer. Commercial airline companies service Santa Maria.

Meeting Location Waller County Park, a passerine migratory "bird trap" and bird over-wintering location, is directly across the street from the Radisson Hotel, Santa Maria for those who want to try their luck birding on their own. The Santa Maria visitors and convention bureau has information on local camping, galleries, restaurants, activities, alternative hotels/motels, etc. The Santa Maria Airport is immediately adjacent to the Radisson. There are many wineries in the area. Most of them don't require reservations and you can just drop-in. Las Pilitas Nursery, one of the central coast's premier wholesale native plant nurseries, is located nearby in Lompoc. If anyone is interested in doing a non-birding related post meeting side tour to visit this nursery contact cpannellwaters@yahoo.com.

Book Silent Auction to benefit our publications and scholarship funds Think about donating a book or books for a good cause: our silent book auction, new to our annual meeting this year, will benefit the WFO scholarship fund and publications fund. Check out your bookshelves for duplicates or references/texts/field guides that you no longer use or need but that remain timely and useful and bring your offering(s) to the 30th annual WFO meeting. Questions? Contact cpannellwaters@yahoo.com.

New Way to Pay Changes are afoot. Your requests have been heeded. It took the WFO finance committee some time to do it but we will soon be in a position, beginning around April 1, 2005, to accept Master Card and Visa charges for field trips, meeting registration, donations and renewals. Cash, money orders and checks will still be welcome, of course. This change will coincide with the availability of the registration form for the annual meeting.

Representatives Directly connected to the room we'll be using for this meeting's science sessions and evening programs and opening onto the reception area, WFO has arranged for a room for displays and tables for representatives of local Audubons, environmental organizations, optics companies, book sellers and others seeking an opportunity to promote their projects or books. All are welcome to sign up for a space, which is limited. Tables and the room will be paid for by WFO and spaces will be dispensed on a first come first served basis but reservations are necessary. It is understood that companies/organizations availing themselves of this free space will register for the meeting. There will be a one-table limit per company/group. Hours of operation will be limited. If you want a space, contact Catherine Waters at cpannellwaters@yahoo.com. If you want to see how the rooms are arranged, go to the Radisson website, which has a floor plan of the hotel meeting spaces.

News from WFO

Changes

WFO would like to welcome Gram Chisholm to Audubon California. We are sure he will do a wonderful job furthering Audubon's conservation efforts in California.

Publications

If you haven't seen it yet, look for it. The San Diego County Bird Atlas is here! It is amazing and the army of talented and devoted atlas volunteers are very rightfully proud of this publication. Edited by Phil Unitt, editor of *Western Birds*, the Atlas took over five years and over 55,000 man hours by more than 400 volunteers (statistics provided by the San Diego Union). It is a significant achievement.

Birding Field Trips

For 2005 and 2006 WFO is offering an outstanding series of field trips. Please see the website for itineraries and expected birds and more detailed information, www.wfo-cbrc.org. If you have any questions or suggestions on any WFO field trip contact either Tom Ryan, wtswift@aol.com or Mike San Miguel, SanMigBird@aol.com.

Venezuela: September 29 - October 12, 2005. Led by Chris Sharpe, expert in the identification and distribution of Venezuelan birds. This trip will go from the shores of the Caribbean to the Andes to the llanos. Tom Ryan, who made the arrangements for this trip, has posted the details on the WFO website.

Durango Highway and San Blas, Mexico: February 2006. Leader: Tom Ryan. Website information will be posted in April of 2005. If you have not done this trip, think about it. It is a wonderful location to bird in Mexico. The food is good. The location is beautiful. San Blas is still a small beach community. See it while it lasts.

Chicken Run: April 2006. 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, is led by two who know the West best. Information will be posted at wfo-cbrc.org in April of 2005.

Cuba in 2006: There is a chance WFO will be returning to Cuba in 2006! If you are interested in doing this trip, contact Mike San Miguel

Helping with the 30th Annual Meeting

Our registration coordinator for this meeting has asked that we find a replacement. If you are interested in taking on this job give Catherine Waters a call (562-869-6718, cpannellwaters@yahoo.com). There is a modest honorarium that goes along with this position. We also need people to staff the registration table; 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

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, www.wfo-cbrc.org 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

See yourself in print. 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. For guidelines see <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/journal.html>. Feel free to ask questions before submitting! We look forward to hearing from you.

WFO Annual Board Meeting

The WFO Board of Directors and committee members will hold their annual meeting in Santa Maria at the Radisson Hotel on September 28 commencing at 1 p.m. Space is limited. If you would like to attend the Board meeting as an observer please contact David Yee or Dave Krueper to reserve a seat.