

Western Field Ornithologists Newsletter for Spring and Summer 2006

Hello, WFO Members!

Our 31st annual meeting is fast approaching and this year we will be convening in lovely Boulder, Colorado, September 21 - 24, 2006. A whole group of wonderful volunteers from Colorado has been hard at work planning every aspect of this meeting. If you would like to join them in helping out with the annual meeting, we need people to submit their current research, make-up pre-meeting packets; make name badges; staff the registration table; do field trip check-in; help set up, host, and break down the opening reception; sit on the expert sound/slide panels; and lead field trips.

Call for Papers - 31st and Description of the Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists

Call for Papers: This year Jay Withgott & company will be handling the science sessions for our annual meeting in Boulder, Colorado. WFO is interested in having you submit your research abstracts for this year's program. Guidelines for submission of abstracts for presentation at the meeting are on the WFO website at www.wfo-cbrc.org. 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 abstract submission guidelines. Questions? Contact Jay Withgott, withgott@nasw.org or Cat at robcatwaters@earthlink.net.

Meeting Description: The 2006 meeting, September 21 - 24, 2006, will be in Boulder, Colorado at a time of year that should be excellent for a fascinating mix of western and eastern birds—migrants, residents, and vagrants. We will be lodging at the Best Western Boulder Inn, a ten-minute drive from spectacular (and ever-birdy) Gregory Canyon. Numerous restaurants and galleries are within walking distance of the Boulder Inn, and the University of Colorado is directly across the street.

Field Trips include the Eastern Plains, mountains and foothills, and several notable vagrant traps. Shorebird diversity will still be high in late September, and the time of year is superb for passerine migrants—rarities and regionally common species alike. Nearly all montane specialties of the eastern Rockies will be present and findable. A special focus of this meeting will be documenting and understanding nocturnal landbird migration, and several field trips will include pre-dawn excursions for observing migration by night.

The meeting will feature a wide variety of workshops, panels, and paper sessions. Our ever-popular and edifying Slide ID panel will be moderated by WFO stalwart Joe Morlan. Our Sound ID panel will be moderated by Nathan Pieplow, a Boulder-based recordist and expert on bird vocalizations. Our diverse scientific paper sessions will be moderated by WFO board member Jay Withgott.

Best Western Boulder Inn, www.boulderinn.com will be our base of operations. September is a popular time of year in this part of Colorado. You are urged to make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible. All field trips will depart from this location, and all workshops will be held here. Please note that certain evening events (expert panel, sound panel, banquet, members' meeting, and keynote address) will be held offsite. In order to qualify for the special group rate at the Best Western Boulder Inn, you must make your reservations at least 30 days prior to arrival. To place your reservation, call 800-233-8469 and make reference to the following: Group Code: WFO; Group Dates: 21-24 September 2006; Group Rates: \$64 (one king bed), \$69 (two queen beds). 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.

Conference Registration: Please register online! You can register online at <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/confer.html>, starting on **Thursday, 15 June 2006**. If you have questions that cannot be answered via the online registration form, please contact the conference registrar, Robbie Fischer robbie22@pacbell.net. But first, please go through the online registration process. If you are on the other side of the digital divide, you are welcome to register via the U. S. Postal Service. Contact Robbie Fischer (1359 Solano Drive, Pacifica, California 94044; 650-359-2068) for details. Payment may be made by check, money order, VISA, or MasterCard. Please note that there is a **financial inducement to register early**. All registrations received on or before Thursday, 31 August 2006 will result in an automatic **\$15 discount**. Registrations must be **received** (not just postmarked) by 31 August to be eligible for the discount.

Hard at Work: Gjon Hazard with a committee of Tom Ryan, Jean Brandt, and Catherine Waters have been hard at work reassessing our by-laws in order to adapt our organization to the 21st Century. At the Santa Maria meeting in September 2005, the WFO Board determined that the current Bylaws were in need of revision. To promote turnover in Board membership, the Board has endorsed the concept of term limits for the voting members of the Board and has established the WFO Bylaws Review Committee. The first task of this committee was to develop a proposal to incorporate term limits into the Board structure. The second task is to update the remainder of the Bylaws. As of the Santa Maria Annual Meeting, the Bylaws Review Committee has a proposal for term limits and hopes to have the remainder of the changes ready for adoption at the 2006 annual meeting of the Board of Directors. Once adopted, the revised Bylaws will be made available on the WFO website (www.wfo-cbrc.org). WFO Members with questions, comments, concerns, or an interest in participating in this process should contact Gjon Hazard, Gjon_Hazard@fws.gov. (newsletter continued on reverse side).

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Publications: Jon Dunn announces that the 5th Edition of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is on the way. The text and maps have been completely reworked and there is considerable new art work. All of the North American accidentals are included in an appendix with one illustration each and text. For the moment, the new edition includes all of the species ever recorded in North America. You'll want to add this one to your bookshelf.

Birding Field Trips - Hit the Road With WFO:

Cuba with Western Field Ornithologists: Join WFO **Nov. 7 - 18, 2006** for an exclusive bird-study program that unites rich birding opportunities, incl. Cuban endemics, with a taste of Cuban culture. Ornithologist-led trip with a maximum of 14 participants. For potential bird list, itinerary and trip information see the WFO website, www.wfo-cbrc.org or contact Mike San Miguel, sanmigbird@aol.com. Phone inquiry: 626-355-5058.

El Triunfo, Chiapas, Mexico: Join WFO **March 22 - April 3, 2007** for a wonderful birding experience at El Triunfo and in the Chiapas region of Mexico. Trip is limited to 10 - 12 participants. Fees, bird list, itinerary, and travel information are available at www.wfo-cbrc.org or by contacting Mike San Miguel, SanMigBird@aol.com. Phone inquiry: 626-355-5058.

The WFO website has complete itineraries, expected birds and detailed information on our trips. If you've never been on a WFO field trip, this is your chance to enjoy the friendliness and camaraderie of our leaders and participants. If you have any questions or suggestions about any WFO field trip contact Mike San Miguel, SanMigBird@aol.com or Tom Ryan, wtswift@aol.com.

We Want to Hear From You: Nomination of New Board Members. The WFO nominating committee wants to hear from you. WFO welcomes your input on potential new candidates for the Western Field Ornithologist's board of directors. Please send the candidate's name, qualifications and contact information to WFO nomination committee chair Gjon Hazard, gjon_hazard@fws.gov.

Manuscripts, Artwork and Photographs: WFO is looking for original field ornithology related monographs, manuscripts and research papers from throughout the West, including Mexico, Canada and the Pacific. 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. See your artwork 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 Boulder, Colorado at the Best Western on September 21. If you would like to attend the Board meeting as an observer please contact David Yee, dyee@lycnet.net or Dave Krueper at dave.krueper@fws.gov to reserve a seat. At the annual meeting of WFO there will be a vote on a new slate of officers for the board of directors of WFO. The new slate of officers will have been nominated at the Thursday afternoon (21 September 2006) board meeting, to which all WFO members are invited to attend as non-voting observers. Note that board members may be nominated from the floor, as well as by the board.

New Membership Brochure: The hard working team of Jean Brandt, WFO Recording Secretary, and Gjon Hazard, WFO Board Member, have just completed WFO's wonderful new full-color membership brochure. They did an incredible job on doing the design and layout. Make their work meaningful and fruitful and remember to renew your membership while keeping in mind that the gift of *Western Birds* and WFO membership can be the perfect present for those hard-to-buy-for people.

Getting to Know Us, Getting to Know You: In the future we are hoping to highlight WFO's small army of volunteers as the newsletter has space, but we'd like to hear from you, too. Do you have a book in press? A friendly comment? We can't promise you much — or any — space, but you never know. It is worth a try. Contact: Catherine Waters, robcatwaters@earthlink.net.

Future Planning: The WFO conference and future meetings committee would love to hear from you if you or your group would like to help host a future WFO meeting or want to help plan a future meeting. Right now we are set for 2007 with Red Rock Audubon & Friends, Las Vegas, Nevada having accepted the challenge and fun. If you'd like to see one of our future meetings closer to home then we are as close as your keyboard. Contact either Ted Floyd, tedfloyd@aba.org, Jay Withgott, withgott@nasw.org or yours truly, robcatwaters@earthlink.net.