

Western Field Ornithologists Newsletter for Summer/Fall 2012

Edited by Catherine Waters (contact@westernfieldornithologists.org)

Birding by Season

As this is being written the last of the 2012, 4th of July fireworks are calming and the smoke is clearing. In densely populated areas you cannot help but wonder if the resident birds were affected – especially the late or multiple clutch nesters – by the amazing din of Independence Day celebrants. However the rhythm of natural life manages to continue and in the west the very first shorebirds of the fall migration have already appeared. And, throughout our region, the hardiest and most successful breeders are raising their third clutches. There are still surprises out there just waiting for you to find. Many are in your own neighborhood as summer water resources diminish and seasonal fires burn, the urban and suburban settings many of us live in, with their abundant water and shade, become havens for birds. We need only pick up our bins and walk out the door. Take a picture and let us know what you find by sending your rarities to webmaster@westernfieldornithologists.org for the website.

WFO's Annual Conference is in Petaluma Sept 26-30

WFO's amazing annual conference team has been hard at work for months and will be right up to the end of our highly anticipated conference in Petaluma. It is not too late to register to attend! The Sheraton Hotel in Petaluma is fully booked for the conference rate. You may reserve at full price or there are other local options available and they are easy to find whether you are using the internet or an Auto Club AAA guide. We had an amazing and very early response to registration this year. All of the arranged field trips are excellent. If you did not or cannot "get" the field trip you had your heart set on, remember that someone, a WFO volunteer, has worked very hard to make sure every trip is worth going on. Plus, if you have never done so before, this may be the year to consider attending one of the excellent workshops that are arranged to enhance your field skills. Conference details, agenda, and schedule are available on the WFO website, www.westernfieldornithologists.org.

If, while in Petaluma, you are planning to attend the annual meeting of the WFO Board of Directors, let Dave Shuford, WFO president, know in advance so he can arrange seating, dshuford@prbo.org. Our annual meeting is open to the membership and will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2012. And, as a member, this is your last chance for this year (2012) to involve yourself in the nominations process for the Board of Directors of Western Field Ornithologists. Send your nominations or suggestions for nominations to contact@westernfieldornithologists.org attention Cat Waters and Dave Quady.

Scholarships

Western Field Ornithologists always welcomes young people to our meetings. Field ornithology and science oriented youth from junior high to high school age can arrange to have their basic meeting registration covered by registering as a "Youth (18 or younger)".

WFO also offers two scholarships that cover registration and expenses to attend our meetings. These scholarships are sponsored by Pasadena Audubon in honor of Mike San Miguel. This year the scholarship committee has chosen two young women as recipients of the scholarships to attend our annual conference in Petaluma, CA in September: Kimberlyann Harvey, 13 years old, from French Camp, CA and Ioana Seritan, 17 years old, from Davis, CA. We are very excited and proud to welcome these two accomplished young women. Make sure you seek them out and introduce yourself to them in Petaluma.

Board News

Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta (Baja California, Mexico), WFO Board Member, has been named a 2012 National Geographic Emerging Explorer for his conservation projects and efforts. Details and even a photograph of Osvel can be found at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/bios/osvel-hinojosa-huerta/>

And WFO continues to grow! We recently welcomed two future WFO members. The first was Ella Sullivan, daughter of WFO Board member Brian Sullivan and his wife, Sophie De Beukelaer. Ella is still too young to hit the field with her father but we have hopes to see them both in the field soon. Following on Ella's heels was the debut of a daughter, Annabelle, born to board member Kurt Leuschner and his wife, Candace.

News of the Membership

Long time WFO member, Paul Baichich, has launched a new website that is worthy of attention. Besides his interesting Birding Community E-bulletin, Paul's new Great Birding Projects, <http://www.greatbirdingprojects.com/> is simply wonderful. Check it out.

WFO membership has benefits and one of them is being able to have your field ornithology project, endeavor, or publication included in this newsletter. This would include such things as expeditions, in-the-field opportunities, recent publications, announcements, etc. Let us know what you are doing. Another benefit is having your photography and drawings included on the WFO website or in *Western Birds*. Please see the WFO website for information on how to do this or email us at contact@westernfieldornithologists.org. Don't be shy.

Future Travel

If you are interested in traveling through the northern portion of the Sierra Nevada with WFO in July of 2013, keep an eye on the WFO website, <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/> Leaders will be Ken Able, Jon Dunn, Lena Hayashi and Dave Quady.

In the works next year is a Cuba trip, too. Details will be posted as they are available, on the WFO website. There is no pre-announcement waiting list. Strictly *first come, first serve* will be the sign up process. When the information is available the trip will immediately be posted on the WFO website with registration information.

With Gratitude

Nothing at WFO happens without volunteers, whether it is papers delivered for the annual conference, expert panelists, publications, editorial help, meeting planning and registration, workshops and submission of rare bird records. The list goes on. You need look no further than our Board and Executive Committee for a goodly portion of these volunteers. However, the list does not even begin to start or end only with them. The entire staff of *Western Birds*, the endeavors of the bird record committees, our associate editors, special editors, and donors are all important to the function of WFO. Thank you to each of you.

And, thank you to the people who answered my call for help with formatting a "jazzier" looking newsletter. The process should begin this fall.