

Western Field Ornithologists

Newsletter December 2017

As we approach the end of the year I would like to bring you up to date on several events and upcoming opportunities for your organization.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WFO YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

It is not our practice to send out endless solicitation letters, but an opportunity presented itself to us recently. A member who wishes to remain anonymous has offered a \$10,000 matching grant for our Scholarship Fund. This donor has been impressed, as I have, with the scholarship youths' growing participation in our annual conferences. In our donor's own words:

"We are relative newcomers to Western Field Ornithologists and have thoroughly enjoyed the publications, lectures, field trips and camaraderie. One of the unexpected highlights, however, has been the time spent with the young students. Conversations with these scholarship recipients have shown them to be very knowledgeable about the bird world and passionate about finding solutions to problems facing that world. With the many things vying for their attention, it is encouraging to see young people with such a strong connection to the outdoor world. We feel that our financial contribution to the outreach, education and encouragement of these young scientists is an investment not only in the future of WFO but in the future of birds, their habitats and, ultimately, the world we all live in."

So WFO is kicking off this fundraising opportunity before the end of the year for your tax strategies. We hope you take advantage of this "match" to maximize dollars going to the Scholarship Fund. Payments can be made to:

WFO Scholarship Fund c/o
Suzanne Carota
Treasurer, WFO
3476 Armourdale Ave
Long Beach, CA 90808

This past year we had a fundraising campaign for the Mike San Miguel Publications Fund. WFO received an unsolicited matching grant from the Paul H. Johanson Fund in the amount of \$10,000. Our members responded and matched that amount in ten days. We are hoping the Youth Scholarship matching grant described here is just as successful

PUBLICATION NEWS

As noted above, robust giving to the Mike San Miguel Publications Fund has allowed WFO to finalize the publication of two works of interest to our members. Here is an update on these efforts.

Trends and Traditions: Avifaunal Change in Western North America is a compilation of twenty-five papers presented at our annual conference in San Diego several years ago. The process of putting this book together has taken longer than we expected due to the logistical task of working with many authors, editors and copy editors. The good news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. WFO has established a publishing date of Spring of 2018 for release of *Avifaunal Change*. The copy editing is being completed and a printer is being chosen.

The second work to be aware of is *The Biology of a Desert Apparition: LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*)*, by Jay Sheppard. This is a very thorough effort of over 300 pages, the biology of this remarkable desert thrasher, from taxonomy and distribution to all aspects of its life history. The timeline for this publication is similar to that of *Avifaunal Change*. WFO publications committee is in the process of contracting with a printer. Look for late Spring for the availability of this WFO publication.

WFO's NEXT CONFERENCE

Finally mark your calendars for the 43rd annual conference to be held in Ventura, CA 26-30 September 2018. Details and registration for the conference will be available in late May.

Thomas A. Blackman, President
Western Field Ornithologists