

Western Field Ornithologists Newsletter
Summer/Fall 2018
Compiled by Staff

Venturing to Ventura :

The annual WFO Conference (our 43rd!) is scheduled for September 26 – 30, 2018. Registration has begun, workshops and field trips are filling, the science sessions are set. If you cannot find room on the field trip you were hoping for, remember the birding around Ventura is wonderful this time of the year and all our field trips will have special opportunities.

A group of hardworking volunteers have given considerable effort and a year's worth of time to putting WFO's Ventura Conference together from field trips to menus for us to enjoy. When you see them at the conference say hello to Wendy Beers, Tom Blackman, Suzanne Carota, John Garrett, Homer Hansen (Youth), John Harris (Workshops), Karen Havlena (Facilities), Kurt Leuschner, Frances Oliver, Dave Pereksta (Field Trips), Diane Rose (Registration) and Steve Rottenborn (Science Sessions).

Registration and hotel information can be found on the WFO website, <https://westernfieldornithologists.org>.

The WFO annual Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27. Though space is limited you, as a member, are always welcome to attend the meeting. If you would care to join them let Tom Blackman, WFO President know you would like to attend. His email is obeach@cox.net.

Is a book in your future? We hope so. Authors, editors, our Special Publications Editor, members of the fundraising committee, and members of the WFO Publications Committee have cause for celebration. They have been working on publishing two books significant to western field ornithology, # 2 and # 3 in our Studies of Western Birds monograph series.

- *The Biology of a Desert Apparition: LeConte's Thrasher (Toxostoma lecontei)* by Jay M. Sheppard.
- *Trends and Traditions: Avifaunal Change in Western North America*, edited by W. David Shuford, Robert E. Gill, Jr. , and Colleen M. Handel

The *LeConte's Thrasher* monograph will be available at the conference! Information on the *Trends and Traditions* monography will be available soon. Bring your check book! Details are below.

On September 1, our sales page for these books will go live on the WFO website, www.westernfieldornithologists.org .

Is a Book in your future? - Continued

However, If you would like to purchase one or both of these important books at the Ventura conference, save on shipping and meet the wonderful Kurt Leuschner who is handling this table at the conference - let Cat Waters, cpannellwaters@gmail.com, 949-254-3586, know so we have an idea of how many copies to bring to the conference. We are not taking advance payments, so bring your checkbook or cash to the conference.

For those of you who are not attending the annual conference our website will have a special page (Remember, September 1) to handle sales and your book or books will be delivered right to your doorstep. If you do not wish to do online purchasing, we will accept checks and details will be on the ordering page on the website.

Our significant others: In case you are unaware, WFO's institutional address is the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo, California. The Foundation is a pretty amazing place really, and for nearly half a century they have sheltered all things WFO – the records of the California Bird Record Committee, our original paperwork, our publications, and the WFO archive. Quite recently the foundation was featured in two wonderful NPR programs. If you have never been or would like to go again, this time virtually, you can read the text of the interview on the NPR website and see the excellent photography AND you can listen to the program.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/10/626511601/from-a-million-eggs-putting-together-clues-about-sciences-past-and-future>

And, please remember: When packing for the Ventura Conference, along with your binoculars, think about reviewing your book shelves and bringing a book or books of interest to a field ornithologist for our annual silent book auction that benefits WFO. Ask at the registration desk and they'll tell you where to leave your gift. This year Wendy Beers and Jon Dunn will be managing the auction. If you want to help them with pricing and setting up for the auction, sign up at registration or tell Jon and/or Wendy when you see them at the conference.

