

REPORT TO MEMBERS

TERENCE WAHL, President, Western Field Ornithologists

Western Field Ornithologists' annual meeting was held at San Rafael, California, 28-30 September 1984. Registration was about 50, with the usual predominance of California members. The WFO Board of Directors met on Friday, 28 September, from 1700-2200. The membership business meeting took place on Saturday, 29 September, prior to the papers session. A brief board meeting took place following the papers session, and the annual banquet and program followed. Field trips were offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

WFO's situation has improved considerably in the past year. *Western Birds* publication is almost up to date and the journal continues to improve, thanks to the efforts of Editor Alan Craig, associate editors, contributors, Editorial Board, and members of the Board of Directors.

Our financial condition has strengthened past the point of solvency to a welcome degree of security. This reflects new memberships, sales of reprints and T-shirts, income from boat trips and last year's annual meeting, and attention from board members.

Board members, officers and members on the membership promotion committee have set WFO on an enthusiastic drive in soliciting memberships through advertisements in ornithological publications, distributing brochures at meetings throughout western North America, and other efforts too detailed to describe here.

All this good news reflects the dedication of WFO members and officers toward strengthening the organization and its journal. We hope all members will point out to others interested in western field ornithology the value of belonging to WFO, receiving the journal, attending annual meetings (see below for further information), and being able to publish papers in what we believe is a quality scientific journal with its emphasis on identification, distribution, and western field ornithology. New members increase our ability to publish more articles on these subjects.

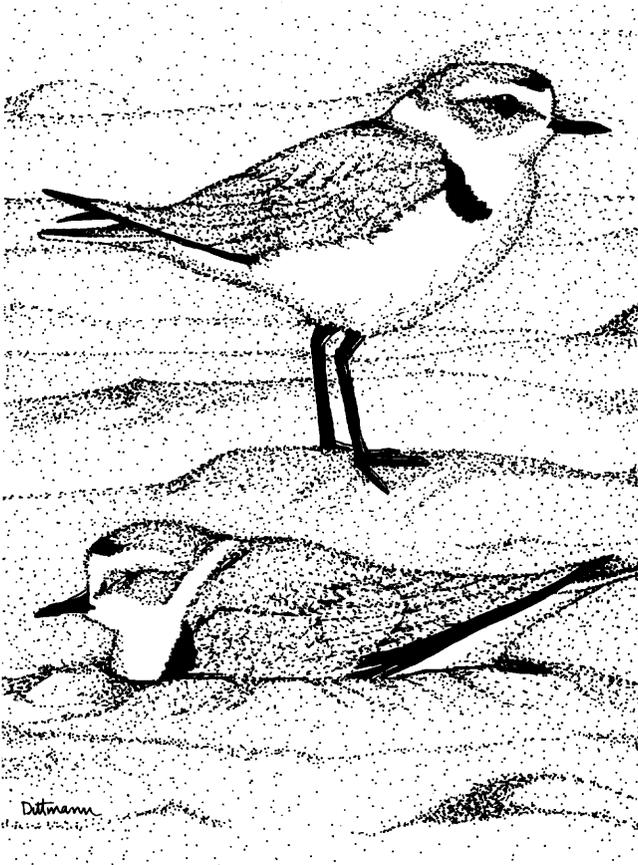
Dave Shuford gave a presentation on the Marin County breeding bird atlas. Tim Manolis discussed creating a county recording system in California. Jon Winter told us about the status of the Great Gray Owl in California. Joe Morlan discussed problems of identification of fall warblers. And Ed Harper presented an identification quiz, using a series of slides of mystery birds. Ed also presented the post-banquet program of beautiful slides of birds from many parts of western North America. As usual, these presentations were well received and much appreciated.

The membership elected Tim Manolis, Guy McCaskie and Joe Morlan to 3-year terms as WFO directors. The board elected Laurie Binford to be President, Tim Manolis Vice-President, Garth Alton Treasurer/Membership Secretary, and Jean-Marie Spoelman Recording Secretary for 1-year terms.

Field trips during this annual meeting visited a number of the well-known birding spots in Marin County and the Point Reyes area and, while vagrants were minimal, were enjoyed by all. Undoubtedly the most memorable event of the weekend, however, was the now-famous discovery of the Dusky

Warbler and subsequent convening of seemingly all California birders within a matter of hours at the Hayward Shoreline Marsh. Naturally, we believe that circumstances associated with our meeting led to its discovery at that time—another reason for attending meetings!

We thank John Luther, Tim Manolis, Kurt Campbell and all those who served on the local committee for their efforts. I thank all the members of WFO's board, its officers and members for their efforts over the past 3 years in getting us to where we are now, and feel confident that the efforts have laid the groundwork for further strengthening of WFO and growth of *Western Birds*.



Snowy Plover

Sketch by Donna Dittmann