

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our annual meeting in Reno last fall your WFO board of directors made several important decisions aimed at improving the quality of our journal, increasing our appeal to a broader range of field ornithologists and ensuring the continued financial health of your organization. *Western Birds* has and always will be the primary focus of WFO, and we continue to work for its improvement. The publication fund we established about a year ago is the primary tool for this objective, and to that end we have substantially increased the amount in the fund. In the most recent issue of *Western Birds* we appealed for donations to the publication fund, and you have been both quick to respond and generous with your gifts. For those of you who have already responded we are pleased and very grateful. If you have not yet sent us your contribution please consider doing so. The recent WFO-sponsored trip to Yucatan, Mexico, led by Steve Howell and David Yee was a great success, and the tour participants also contributed generously to the publication fund. Because of your generosity we expect in the near future to publish more color photographs in the journal and continue our series of monographs. Thank you all for your support!

Since its inception 31 years ago the WFO board of directors has been made up of nine members. Both to improve the balance of the board and to increase our appeal to a broader constituency we changed the WFO by-laws to increase the membership to 12. The board is currently well represented by top field ornithologists and experts from wildlife agencies. While maintaining our focus on field ornithology, we hope to improve the board by filling the new positions with members who have experience and expertise in the areas of law, marketing, and fund raising. If any of you have some of these qualifications I invite you to join the board. If you are interested you should submit your name and biography to the nominations committee, chaired by Dave Krueper, or to Dave Shuford or Gjon Hazard who also serve on the committee.

In the past few months there have been several changes among key positions in WFO. For nearly nine years Dori Myers has served as your treasurer and membership chair. This is a very important responsibility in WFO, and Dori has served us very well for all those years. It was with great reluctance that we accepted her resignation at the last board meeting. Fortunately, Robbie Fisher has stepped in as her replacement, and recently the transition from Dori to Robbie was completed in a smooth and timely manner. At about the same time Lucie Clark resigned as recording secretary, but we were very fortunate that Kei Sochi has stepped forward to fill that position. To represent the Great Basin region better the newest member elected to the Board is Ted Floyd from the Great Basin Bird Observatory, who replaces Mark Sogge from Arizona. Thanks to all who have served us so well, and welcome to the new officers and board members.

The annual WFO meetings continue to improve and grow in appeal to our membership. The upcoming meeting in Orange County should prove to be no exception. Under the fast-paced and very capable leadership of Catherine Waters from Sea and Sage Audubon, our co-sponsor, the meeting is shaping up to be one of the best ever. It will include a Friday evening barbecue and feature the great seabird expert Bob Pitman as our banquet speaker. The field trips should appeal to every level of interest among birders and include a wide variety of destinations. For the meeting, we have booked a first-class facility, the Ayers Country Inn and Suites in Costa Mesa, so mark your calendars for 10–13 October 2002.

Look for details on our web site, www.wfo-cbrc.org. We hope to see you there.

Mike San Miguel
President, WFO

27th ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

will be held 10–13 October 2002 at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine, California, and at Ayres Country Inn in nearby Costa Mesa. The meeting is hosted and co-sponsored by the Sea and Sage Audubon Society.

Our featured speaker on Saturday evening, 12 October, will be famed marine biologist Robert L. Pitman, addressing the seabirds of the eastern Pacific. We'll enjoy also day and evening field trips, a pelagic field trip, afternoon scientific research presentations, and break-out sessions focusing on documentation for the California Bird Records Committee, an update by Philip Unitt on the surprises revealed by the San Diego County Bird Atlas, and social activities.

Membership in Western Field Ornithologists, subscription to *Western Birds*, and the afternoon sessions are included in the meeting registration fee. For details see the WFO website (www.wfo-cbrc.org) or the Sea and Sage Audubon website (www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or contact Catherine Waters at robcattwaters@earthlink.net or 562-869-6718.

Call for Papers

Oral and poster presentations should reflect original research, or summarize existing unpublished information, and be presented in a manner that will be of interest to serious amateur field ornithologists. We welcome talks on a wide variety of topics relevant to the ornithology of western North America, such as distribution, migration, identification, geographic variation, behavior, ecology, conservation, and field techniques. Plan on 20 minutes per oral presentation, which should include 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Slide and overhead projectors will be available. Should you wish to make a presentation by means of Power Point, you must bring the equipment necessary and test it before your presentation. Posters should fit within a width of 6 feet.

An abstract of your talk in the following format should be submitted no later than 20 June to Philip Unitt at birds@sdnhm.org or San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 121390, San Diego, CA 92112-1390.

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME. Your affiliation (if any), complete mailing address, and (optional) e-mail address. Title of Your Talk. Brief (300-word maximum) summary of the goals, results, and conclusions of your study.

Procedures for submission can also be downloaded from the Sea and Sage Audubon website (www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or the WFO website (www.wfo-cbrc.org), or contact Catherine Waters at 562-869-6718 or robcattwaters@earthlink.net.