

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

The seventh annual meeting of Western Field Ornithologists in San Diego, 9-12 September 1982, was very informative, enjoyable and productive. Credit and thanks to Elizabeth Copper and Sarah Brooks and all those on the local committee, to Dr. Richard Phillips and the Environmental Studies Program at USD, and to San Diego Field Ornithologists. Many other people, from masters of ceremonies, to field trip leaders and post-banquet speaker Ken Fink who dazzled us with outstanding slides of Alaskan wildlife, made the meeting a real success. About 140 persons from over the U.S. and Canada attended.

Papers and presentations covered birds of San Diego County, Lark Buntings breeding in desert shrub, Yellow-footed Gulls, California Least Terns, vocalizations of Lesser Goldfinches, raptors of San Diego County, woodpecker feeding ecology, marshland stability, pelagic birds, bird photography, field identification challenges, and wildlife films. Field trips to the Salton Sea, the San Diego vicinity and offshore to San Clemente Island upheld the area's reputation for great birds and thorough birding effort, with species lists ranging through Salton Sea specialties, to Red-faced Warbler and Painted Bunting, and to Red-billed Tropicbird, Buller's Shearwater, South Polar Skua and Sperm Whale!

Actions taken by the Directors included increasing dues of Regular Memberships to \$14, a decision overdue and necessary to maintain WFO's financial capability. This was in conjunction with a decision to publish 5 issues of *Western Birds* in 1983: Volume 13, which will consist of one issue (Number 1-4), and Volume 14 which will include four issues (Numbers 1 through 4). This action will bring *Western Birds* to date, provide the opportunity for more publications and give subscribers five issues instead of four within the year.

Other decisions relative to improving the efficiency of WFO's organization and facilitating publication of the journal included some rearrangement of duties of officers and of people assisting with publication of *Western Birds*. The officers for the coming year are Terry Wahl (President), Laurie Binford (Vice-president), Garth Alton (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) and Jean-Marie Spoelman (Recording Secretary). Sarah Brooks was appointed chairperson of the Membership Promotion Committee and will be assisted by Ginger Johnson. Changes and additions relative to *Western Birds* are Elizabeth Copper (Circulation Manager), Don Roberson (Photo Editor), and Cameron Barrows (Associate Editor). Of course Alan Craig and Narca Moore-Craig continue in their positions as Editor and Associate Editor, respectively. The Identification Committee, headed by Tim Manolis and assisted by Bruce Webb, seeks manuscripts on identification of birds in western North America.

Our 1983 annual meeting will be held in Santa Cruz, California, from 29 September to 3 October. Debbie Shearwater promises seabirds, shorebirds and landbirds in migration, with exciting possibilities indeed. More details will be coming later, but mark your calendar and plan to see us in Santa Cruz.

—Terence Wahl