

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent return of WFO's president, Dr. Laurence C. Binford, to Illinois has left a major gap not only on the inside front cover of *Western Birds*, but in the ranks of bird students in the West. Laurie leaves behind a legacy of commitment and leadership that, as far as western field ornithologists are concerned, has brought us to the doorway of an exciting future for amateur field ornithology in western North America. We wish him only the best in future endeavors.

ANNUAL MEETINGS, PAST AND FUTURE. Approximately 160 members and friends of WFO, including 47 new members, attended the 11th Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California, 7-9 February 1986.

Among the highlights of the meeting were a jam-packed workshop on breeding bird atlas efforts in the West, an excellent series of informative papers during the Saturday session, an enthusiastically debated workshop on field identification, and a round-the-world cruise presented at the banquet by Arnold Small. Brisk, sunny skies prevailed for the wide-ranging field trips.

The vitality of WFO depends entirely on the level of participation by its members. It was thus very encouraging to see such a high level of intensity and involvement sustained through the meeting. All who helped put on the convention deserve considerable thanks for making it a success.

The 1987 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 21-23 August at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. The scenery should be glorious, and the shorebird migration—well, who knows what might turn up! Past President Terry Wahl is heading up the local committee. More details will be forthcoming.

NEW TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR WFO. Art Cupples of Sherman Oaks, California, was appointed treasurer and membership secretary for WFO at the Sacramento convention, replacing Garth Alton. Garth deserves much thanks for his years of service to the organization. The new treasurer brings a strong financial background to an often thankless but vitally important position.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO PETITION. On May 15, 1986, WFO joined with eight environmental and wildlife organizations in submitting a formal petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requesting that the western race of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*, be added to the federal endangered species list over a major part of its range (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and California).

The decision to put WFO at the forefront in calling for endangered species status for the cuckoo was made at the Sacramento convention's Board of Directors' meeting. Members of WFO and other western field biologists have long been concerned about the cuckoo's status in the region. The most recent detailed report on the cuckoo in California appeared in *Western Birds* (Vol. 15:49-80) in 1984. Much critical habitat in California remains threatened by destruction and alteration.

Addition of the cuckoo to the federal list apparently has been held up because of the general impression that populations of the species in Arizona and New Mexico are still relatively healthy. However, the status of these

populations, and of any remnant populations that may still exist in the Northwest and the intermountain states, remains to be established quantitatively. Given the loss and alteration of riparian habitat throughout the West, the cuckoo deserves concern throughout its range. Observers in the region are encouraged to contribute information in support of the petition to list the cuckoo. This information should be provided to regional offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service or to the Office of Endangered Species at the Service's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Tim Manolis, Acting President

BULLETIN BOARD

WFO ANNUAL MEETING

WFO's 12th annual meeting will be held 21-23 August 1987 at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington. The program will include discussions of distribution, identification, and atlas mapping. There will be field trips to nearby areas of interest such as shorebird habitat and the Cascade mountains. For further information contact T.R. Wahl, 3041 Eldridge, Bellingham, WA 98225, (206) 733-8255.

1987 WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION MEETING: CALL FOR PAPERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The 1987 WBBA meeting, 9-11 October at Tucson, Arizona, will emphasize techniques useful to field biologists. There will be workshops on special methods of netting, trapping, making traps, capturing raptors, marking (from hummingbirds to eagles), ageing, sexing, laparoscopy, cloacal lavage, and tissue and blood sampling. If you have developed a useful technique, plan to come and share it with others. If you need to learn a new technique, plan also to participate in the program. Please contact Dr. Stephen M. Russell, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

British birdwatcher and photographer, of raptors, shorebirds, and gulls especially, wishes to exchange letters, photos, and possibly reciprocal visits with West Coast birders/photographers of similar interests. Please contact Paul Doherty, 10 Cheriton Way, Maidstone, Kent, England ME16 0PH, England. (Readers of *Western Birds* may look forward to seeing some of Paul's fine photographs on future covers.—Ed.)