

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

WFO's 14th Annual Meeting was held jointly with the Western Bird Banding Association in Reno, Nevada, during the crisp days of mid-October, as Evening Grosbeaks arrived in the foothills of the eastern Sierra. Activities ranged from excellent, informative paper presentations to demonstrations of banding, raptor trapping, radio telemetry, and tree-climbing techniques. An enthusiastic, overflow audience joined WFO's panel of experts in debating identification problems. Ron LeValley's excellent banquet program on "The Sea of Cortez" culminated the proceedings. Field trips to Pyramid Lake, Mt. Rose, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, and Honey Lake focused on the birds of the eastern Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin desert.

WFO thanks Alan Gubanich, who so ably organized the meeting for both organizations, and his helpers for their gracious hosting of a superb gathering.

Our next annual meeting will be in San Diego, 7-9 September 1990—watch for details!

THANKING WFO'S VITAL VOLUNTEERS

WFO's sincere thanks go to retiring President Tim Manolis, whose thoughtful expertise and tact have guided WFO well indeed for the past 3 years, and to retiring Director Ginger Johnson, whose quiet, behind-the-scenes work with *Western Birds*, boat trips, T-shirts, and numerous other nitty-gritty jobs has enabled WFO to function much more smoothly. Ginger, who has aided WFO since its inception, will continue to serve as graphics manager and layout artist for *Western Birds* and to handle T-shirts and spring boat trips; Tim will continue to contribute to *Western Birds* as Associate Editor and Chairman of the identification papers committee.

Taking over the fall boat trips is Marjorie Hastings, who has also worked on the Membership Committee for several years, and whose generous help we welcome.

Three truly key figures who enable WFO to be a vigorous, purposeful organization are our Editor, Phil Unitt; our Treasurer, Howard Cogswell; and our Circulation Manager, Jerry Oldenettel. All three contribute valuable birding time to do essential chores for WFO, and we appreciate your high professionalism and conscientious work!

Among the many who help WFO in ways small and large, I'd also like to highlight our membership committee: in Alaska, Dan Gibson and Thede Tobish; in Arizona, Carol deWaard and Janet Witzeman; in British Columbia, Wayne Weber; in California, Sarah Brooks, Elizabeth Copper, Marjorie Hastings, Ginger Johnson, and Jean-Marie Spoelman; in Colorado, Peter Gent; in Hawaii, Sheila Conant; in Montana, Jon Swenson; in Nevada, Vincent Mowbray; in New Mexico, Dustin Huntington; in Oregon, Steve Summers; in Texas, Mike Austin; in Utah, Martha Balph; and in Washington, Gene Hunn. To all of you, and to former members Doug Inkle and Terrell Rich (who both moved east), thank you!

Discerning readers will have noticed that we need membership committee help in Idaho and Wyoming—and we always welcome more help in any state! If you have time to hand out a few WFO brochures at meetings of local bird clubs and Audubon chapters, please contact me.

NEW OFFICERS

Your officers for 1989-90 are President, Narca Moore-Craig; Vice President, Peter Gent; Past-President, Tim Manolis; Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Howard Cogswell; Recording Secretary, Jean-Marie Spoelman; and Directors, Ron LeValley, John Luther, Joe Morlan, Robert McKernan, Guy McCaskie, and Janet Witzeman.

NEWSLETTER

WFO plans to publish a pilot issue of a newsletter, edited by Bruce Webb, with Tim Manolis helping. This newsletter will tell you about boat trips and other special field trips in our focal area, notify you of meetings of state ornithological groups, and report other news of the western birding world.

Bruce welcomes your input and ideas; you can send submissions to him at 8204 Cantershire Way, Granite Bay, CA 95661.

RENEWAL POLICY

WFO will be mailing renewal notices separately from *Western Birds*, instead of including notices with the journal, where they may be inadvertently thrown away. (As before, a year's membership corresponds to a year's four issues of *Western Birds*, and not necessarily to a calendar year.) We are hoping that this change will prompt everyone to renew quickly, before memberships expire, and thus save WFO the extra mailing costs and save our volunteer staff from extra work!

One option that allows you to avoid completely the nuisance of renewing each year is to become a Life Member for only \$250. Life Member contributions go into a special endowment fund to build WFO's long-term financial foundation.

SUBMISSIONS TO WESTERN BIRDS

Finally, I'd like to appeal to all of you who are doing field work and who make interesting, unusual, and scientifically valuable observations to submit your findings for publication in *Western Birds*. Our journal's high quality begins with *your* fieldwork and manuscripts! This is *your* organization, and we welcome your involvement at any level.

Good birding to you—

Narca Moore-Craig