

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this issue of *Western Birds*, I am reinitiating the President's Message, which is my chance to communicate with you and to promote dialogue between the Western Field Ornithologists' directors and membership.

I first want to recognize David Yee for his leadership as president over the past three years. Under David's leadership, we accomplished much, and although at times it might have seemed like herding cats, it has paid off for the directors and the organization as well. Thank you for your persistence, patience, and guidance these past three years, and for your 18 consecutive years of contributions to this organization on our board of directors!

Within these past three years, the board of directors initiated and adopted a new mission statement within the revised WFO by-laws (please see [www.wfo-cbrc.org](http://www.wfo-cbrc.org) for both). The board has also established seven committees to focus efforts of skilled board members to specific tasks. These committees are field trips, finance, future meetings, membership, nominations, publications and scholarships. We welcome members' input on these committees, and invite you to assist the board in development of policy and planning for our organization's future. The board has expanded to include 12 directors plus 4 officers to reach our goals of diversity in skills, gender, and geography goals. We continue to seek energetic and qualified people to maintain and increase the quality of WFO as a regional, field-oriented ornithological organization.

Our September 2006 annual meeting in Boulder was a huge success as described in the concise recap in *Western Birds* 37(3). Because we seek membership from throughout the West, we will continue to hold our annual meetings in a variety of states. The plans for the 2007 meeting in Henderson, Nevada, are nearing finalization, and we look forward to seeing you all at this great venue.

The challenges faced by WFO and the board within the next few years are considerable. We want to increase regional representation in our membership, as well as to attract and retain new members. As with many professional ornithological organizations, ever-increasing publication costs necessitate increasing membership dues and cost of other publications. I am proud to say that *Western Birds* continues to be our flagship effort and has not been seriously affected by these cost limitations. The quality and diversity of the articles and the photos are a source of great pride for this organization. Special WFO-sponsored publications such as the forthcoming *Rare Birds of California* exemplify our commitment to the production of affordable, high-quality ornithological products. Additionally, the WFO website will become an increasingly important tool for WFO by providing relevant ornithological information to our members as well as by promoting WFO programs, field trips, and membership.

As we address these challenges, I want to assure you that the board is committed to maintaining our core values as a western-region, field-oriented ornithological organization. We will be working on short- and long-term goals as we chart the course for the next 2, 5, and 25 years. We welcome your participation in this process. I am impressed with the dynamism, energy, and diversity of the board, and together I am sure that we can use these qualities to guide WFO in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As your new president, I thank you for your trust and support, and I look forward to serving WFO to the best of my abilities.

*Dave Krueper*