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Front cover photo by © Andrew W. Piston of Ward Cove, Alaska: Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), at its nest in a cavity in a stump at Vallenar Bay, Gravina Island, Alaska, 4 June 2006.

Back cover “Featured Photos” by © Michael A. Schroeder of Bridgeport, Washington: (top) Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), male near Turner Valley, Alberta, 14 May 2005. This male has red apteria on the neck, apparently typical of all Dusky Grouse; (bottom) Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*), male south of Terrace, British Columbia, 15 May 2008. Red apteria appear to be the rule in Sooty Grouse from Terrace north through southeastern Alaska, rather than yellow as they are farther south.

Western Birds solicits papers that are both useful to and understandable by amateur field ornithologists and also contribute significantly to scientific literature. The journal welcomes contributions from both professionals and amateurs. Appropriate topics include distribution, migration, status, identification, geographic variation, conservation, behavior, ecology, population dynamics, habitat requirements, the effects of pollution, and techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds in the field. Papers of general interest will be considered regardless of their geographic origin, but particularly desired are reports of studies done in or bearing on the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states and provinces, including Alaska and Hawaii, western Texas, northwestern Mexico, and the northeastern Pacific Ocean.

Send manuscripts to Kathy Molina, Section of Ornithology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. For matters of style consult the Suggestions to Contributors to *Western Birds* (at www.wfo-cbrc.org/journal.html).

Good photographs of rare and unusual birds, unaccompanied by an article but with caption including species, date, locality and other pertinent information, are wanted for publication in *Western Birds*. Submit photos and captions to Photo Editor. Also needed are black and white pen and ink drawings of western birds. Please send these, with captions, to Graphics Manager.