

WFO Spring 2009 Newsletter

Western Field Ornithologists is proud to announce that this is the 40th year and the 40th volume of Western Birds. We hope you will be in attendance at Boise to celebrate with us. You will notice that Volume 40 of Western Birds has an additional logo added to its covers. *Swarovski Optik of North America* is now sponsoring the colored covers of WB! All of WFO is appreciative to have this sought-after sponsorship and we extend our thanks to Dean Capuano (Connecticut), Clay Taylor (Texas) and Bruce Webb (California) of Swarovski Optik, who worked hard to make this a reality for us. Editor Phil Unitt (California) and Assistant Editor Kathy Molina (California) and the wonderful associate editors and Western Birds staff do a beautiful job of making Western Birds a reality. Western Birds does not get published single-handedly. Please read the masthead and note the names of the many talented volunteers who make this stellar field ornithology publication happen. There's not enough room to list each member of WFO. However, each of you deserves thanks for your continuing support. It is truly appreciated. FYI - make sure you look at the website, www.westernfieldornithologists.org for the 40:1 preview of the covers.

2009 Meeting Information

The dates of our **34th Annual Meeting will be September 10 – 13, 2009**. Registration for meeting and rooms begins mid-May 2009. Our local hosts for our 34th annual meeting and 40th anniversary of Western Birds will be Idaho Bird Observatory, www.idahobirdobservatory.org. Jay Carlisle and Gregory Kaltenecker of Boise State and IBO are key members of the meeting committee. They will consult on the science sessions, format the field trips and introduce us to the local expert field ornithologists of Idaho. Dr. Craig Benkman www.uwyo.edu/benkman will be our featured speaker in Boise. His research into crossbills (*Loxia*) has been very exciting, and we now have a brand-new species to seek—the South Hills Crossbill (*Loxia sinesciuris*)!

Hotel information: Our annual meeting will be held at the Oxford Suites of Boise, 1426 S. Entertainment Ave., Boise ID. 83709, Phone: 208-322-8000, Website: www.oxfordsuitesboise.com. The hotel is a short driving distance from downtown Boise and offers what all of you clamor for...good access to the interstate, free breakfast, internet access, free parking, refrigerators in the room, free airport transportation. There are excellent nearby activities for the family including movie theatres, shopping, and river rafting trips. The rooms will be \$89.00 per night plus tax. Please book when rooms become available. This year WFO will not be able to acquire last minute, discounted room reservations.

Travel to Boise: Delta, Frontier, Horizon, Northwest, SkyWest, Southwest and United all fly to Boise daily. The Boise Convention Bureau, www.boise.org has a wonderful website and you can find out about alternatives to flying to Boise by clicking on the “getting here” tab.

Activities: There will be wonderful opportunities to hear the research of our local hosts, the Idaho Bird Observatory of Boise State University, and that of others too. The call for papers will go out shortly. Besides our excellent science sessions there will be field trips, workshops, and opportunities to see IBO's amazing Lucky Peak at the peak season for hawk migration. They tell me they are open and banding 24 hours a day this time of year! Also being planned are expert identification programs and updates by bird record committees. Other activities are the opening reception, a party to celebrate Western Bird's 40th anniversary, some informal gatherings, excellent field trips, a book signing and silent book auction, and opportunities to make new friends and see old friends and acquaintances.

Youth scholarships for Boise: WFO will once again be offering youth scholarships for the entire meeting registration in Boise for qualified young people of junior high and high school age. A single paragraph describing your interest in studying birds in the field and your background is a requirement. You must submit this with your and a parent's name and contact information, including phone numbers. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Send emails of interest to president@westernfieldornithologists.org beginning April 15, 2009. We strongly suggest that young people avail themselves of the WFO student membership of \$10.00.

Exhibitors: If you would like to exhibit at the WFO meeting in Boise please let the meeting/exhibitors committee know by contacting contact@westernfieldornithologists.org. We ask that any exhibitor register for the meeting.

Annual Meeting Election: Every year is an election year at WFO. If you would like to have a role in nominating board members or officers of WFO, please let Dave Krueper (New Mexico) know by sending him an email at dave.krueper@fws.gov. WFO recently formalized the role of immediate past president and Dave drew the short straw and became our first Immediate Past Prez. He barely caught his breath before taking over the helm of the nominating committee.

Member News

Announcements: Jay Withgott (Oregon) has been elected to the Oregon Bird Records Committee. Congrats to the OBRC – you all got a great guy when you recruited Jay. AND, WFO extends a welcome to Paul Lehman (California) who recently stepped up to the chairmanship of the California Bird Records Committee. As birds, and the responsibility of charting them goes, these are difficult positions that entail a high degree of work and The West is lucky to have so many wonderful people willing to give their time.

Books, Books, Books: Western Field Ornithologists *California Bird Species of Special Concern* and *Rare Birds of California* are currently available through the WFO website. The cost of BSSC is \$12.00 and that includes handling and postage. *Rare Birds* is \$49.00, including shipping.

Participate in an on-line book survey. Alan Contreras (Oregon), Western Birds book review editor will be doing a presentation on bird books of the past, present and future in association with the book signing and book silent auction in Boise. Send the answers to these questions to acontreras@mindspring.com results to be opened, with a flourish, at the meeting:

1. What is the oldest bird book that you referred to for a technical or identification question in the past two years?
2. What is the oldest bird-related book that you read for pleasure in the past two years?
3. What bird book related to the North American West do you consider the most underappreciated?
4. If you opened your mailbox tomorrow and found a brand-new bird book useful in the West in it, what would its title be?

Special Publication on Alaska. Western Birds special edition of “Birds of the Ketchikan area, southeast Alaska” will be coming out soon, as Vol. 40 no. 2. If you are interested in having an extra copy of this stellar, stand-alone publication send, a request to Robbie Fischer (California), robbie22@pacbell.net.

Of note: WFO has two field skills workshops on the books right now. One is in Kern the first weekend in October '09 working on feather identification in the field with John Schmitt. Another is the last weekend in February 2010 in the Klamath Basin working with Dave Shuford to sharpen raptor identification skills in the field. They will be posted on the website. There will be a fee to cover the presenters' expenses

And, It has recently come to our attention that those of you who are looking to replace a lost issue of Western Birds should give Buteo Books a call (800-722-2460). They stock a limited number of back issues of WB. This is a wonderful public service.

President's note: Boy! The president of WFO sure doesn't get much space, it seems. So, I'll make this brief. I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing Dan Gibson and me your v-pres. and president. Dan is a pleasure to know, much like Dave Krueper, and this will be an interesting two years for us and for WFO. We've been blessed with the most amazing people to work with. Men and women who bring new meaning to the word volunteer. Dave Shuford is our publications chair; Tom Ryan our field trips chair; Robbie Fischer our membership chair; Dave Krueper the finance AND nominating committee chair; Gjon Hazard the by-laws committee chair, again, in hopes of dragging us into the 21st century. Joe Morlan has taken over the helm of our website. Jay Withgott has steered our website committee from inception and Jon Feenstra is stepping into his shoes. I couldn't hope to be surrounded by better people. There are some challenges we are facing and some exciting things, too. I am very proud to be your president. Joe even gave me my own WFO address, president@westernfieldornithologists.org. Hope to hear from you. Yt, Cat.

This newsletter was compiled for the benefit of WFO members. [Perceived] omissions and errors are to be ignored. Comments or potential inclusions for future newsletters should go to contact@westernfieldornithologists.org. Thank you.