

27th Annual Meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists

10–13 October 2002

**The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine
and Ayres Country Inn in Costa Mesa, California**

Conference Information

Orange County, California, offers wonderful opportunities for birders to discover southern California resident and migrant bird species in rural, urban, suburban, and pelagic settings. The area is rich in bird life, and October will find WFO visiting during autumn migration. Bolsa Chica, Newport Back Bay, Limestone Canyon, Dripping Springs, the “gold coast,” the Pacific Ocean, Starr Ranch, and urban parrot roosts are examples of the field trips that have been planned for this meeting to highlight the rich diversity of landscape zones and birds that Orange County has to offer. With sufficient interest, postmeeting trips will go to the Salton Sea and Baja California.

Activities

WFO 2002 offers a mix of half-day field trips on October 11, 12, and 13. Other planned activities include a workshop on documenting bird records, evening field trips, a banding trip for hawks or owls, a full-day pelagic trip, afternoon paper sessions, and identification panels using both slides and recorded sounds. Social activities will include a welcoming reception, barbecue at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, the annual dinner, and evening programs.

Speakers

The featured speakers for WFO 2002 are renowned marine biologist Robert L. Pitman and our own Philip Unitt. Bob will speak on the eastern Pacific pelagic frontier at the annual dinner to be held on Saturday, October 12. Phil will speak on the surprises revealed by the five years of field work for the San Diego County bird atlas at the barbecue on Friday, October 11.

Meeting Sponsors

WFO 2002 is locally hosted and sponsored by Sea and Sage Audubon Society and co-sponsored by Los Angeles Audubon Society. A number of local organizations are lending their support for this meeting.

Hotel Information

Headquarters for all conference activities will be Ayres Country Inn and Suites, 325 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California 92626. This is a world-class small hotel that is well located with easy airport or freeway access. Ask for Western Field Ornithologists when booking your reservations: 714-549-0300, 800-322-9992. Consider bringing the entire family. There are two pools and, for the enjoyment of nonbirding family members, free transportation to nearby sights and activities. The hotel has set aside a block of 50 double rooms for WFO at \$69.00 per night for a 3-night minimum stay, if the room is booked prior to September 15, 2002. The hotel is located 5 minutes from the Orange County/John Wayne Airport and will provide free transportation from the airport for hotel guests. The conference schedule, costs, and registration forms are posted at www.wfo-cbrc.org and www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

For additional information contact robcattwaters@earthlink.net.