

**Western Field Ornithologists
Annual Conference
Ventura Beach Marriott, Ventura, CA 26–30 September, 2018**

WFO's 43rd Annual Conference will be held along the central and northwest southern California coast at the height of Fall migration. Many field trips will be searching for migrant shorebirds, raptors and passerines. Especially exciting will be two pelagic trips to Santa Cruz Island and around the other Channel Islands. Our theme bird of the year, the Island Scrub Jay, attained its own status as a full species in 1998. It is a California endemic found only on Santa Cruz Island.

The Saturday night banquet will host David Ainley, PhD, as our keynote speaker. His address is titled "Population Dynamics of Seabirds in Response to Their Prey in the Gulf of the Farallones, 1980's to the present." David Ainley received his BS degree from Dickinson College and PhD from Johns Hopkins University. He has made ~30 trips to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, about half on oceanographic research vessels. Currently, he is involved in research on penguin demography, as well as studying the effects of penguin and cetacean foraging on penguin prey availability around Ross Island using an ocean glider and Remotely Operated Vehicles. He's also worked extensively in the California Current, including many research cruises, and he founded and then worked at the PRBO marine research program on the Farallon Islands; he led the restoration of the islands, removing 100 years' debris as well as feral animals. He initiated efforts to designate the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area, then followed up justifying its existence through papers, presentations, and film; in part the effort was successful (www.lastocean.org). He's written four books, 12 monographs and ~230 papers about the ecology of marine top predators: seabirds, mammals, and sharks.

In addition to field trips and the banquet with Dr. Ainley's program, WFO will offer seven workshops on Friday and Saturday mornings. Peter Pyle will give 2 workshops: (1) on Identifying California Vireos, and (2) 'Everything' about Feather Molt. Jon Dunn will present Fall Warblers' Identification. Ted Floyd will teach Data Mining on the Internet. Phil Unitt will show you Specimen Preparation. Nathan Pieplow will repeat Identifying Bird Sounds. And John Schmitt will teach Sketching Birds in the Field. (Paraphrased titles). To round out the conference, please attend the and Science Sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons. The Plenary speaker will be Paul Collins from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center. We will have the popular ID Quizzes on Bird Sounds and Bird Photos, as well.

Registration will begin in June. **The last day to register is Monday, 10 September, 2018.**



