43rd Western Field Ornithologists Conference

WFO's annual conference was held at the Four Points by Sheraton located in Ventura California. A record 324 participants attended the venue who worked with WFO to provide excellent hospitality.

Board of Directors Meeting

The BOD held the annual meeting on Thursday August 26. The board voted on new officers for 2018-2019 with Kurt M. Leuschner as President and Jon Dunn as Vice President. Three Directors have completed their terms and were thanked for their efforts and service to the organization. They are Larry Modesitt, Diane Rose, W. David Shuford. Four new Directors were nominated by the board and elected by the membership at the general meeting held on Saturday. The new Directors are Matt Baumann, Dan Gibson, Bryce Robinson and Chris Swarth. The fourth Director was due to Jon Dunn taking an Officer position.

The Board approved new guidelines for Life Membership. The cost of a Life Membership will be $800 payable over two years, if needed. Life Membership privileges will begin at the time of the first installment. These changes take effect on January 1, 2019.

Southeast Arizona Sparrow field trip with Homer Hansen was announced. The proceeds will go to the Youth Scholarship Fund. The trip will be on January 10-13, 2019. The trip is limited to eight persons. Look for the email announcement shortly.

Field Trips

Forty-six field trips were held with 301 participants. A total of 269 species of birds were reported.

Two pelagic trips to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island were well attended with the Island Scrub Jay sited on the trips as well as the Masked Booby on Anacapa Island. The first Masked Booby in Ventura Co in 21 years! Naval Base Ventura Co Point Mugu was popular with over 116 species seen on Thursday trip to the base. A rare opportunity to visit Tejon Ranch was enjoyed by many people, the ranch was a great host. Dave Perekstra did yeoman's work in putting together the trips, scouting and giving tips to our many leaders as to the best locations to find birds. Diane Rose's efforts in getting people on the trips desired as well as handling the wait listed birders was invaluable.

Workshops

Three workshops were held on both Thursday and Friday with an additional skinning workshop at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology. The workshops were well attended with overflow crowds at Jon Dunn's Identification of Fall Warblers and the ever-popular Nathan Pieplow's Identifying birds by their Sounds. John Harris arranged and coordinated the workshops.

Youth Scholarships

As WFO has done in the past we sponsored eight youths to attend the conference. Two were from Alaska and two from Colorado. A reception was held on Friday night for the young birders to meet Guy McCaskie and others. The youth scholarship alumni joined in with the current scholars to trade information. The group set out on a field trip to observe a mist netting operation under the care of Homer Hansen.

Science Sessions

Steve Rottenborn once again assembled a great collection of speakers for the Science Sessions on Friday and Saturday. The kick off plenary speaker was Paul Collins, of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, who spoke on Avifauna of the California Channel Islands from the Pleistocene to the present. Amazing slides showing the effects of grazing in the past to the restoration efforts on the islands today.

This was followed by ten presentations of fifteen minutes each by ten presenters on Friday and eleven presenters during Saturday's session. Ryan Terrill stood in cold for a presenter unable to make it to Ventura due to car problem and knocked them cold.

Sound Quiz and Photo Quiz

For the thirtieth year Nathan Pieplow challenged the WFO members with his diabolical sound quiz. A record eight teams competed with the wining team, Buff-breasted Birders overcoming the Urgent Owl Movement by a single point.

Ed Harper followed up Saturdays Science Session with his annual photo quiz and a panel of experts.

Banquet and Awards

The banquet was held on Saturday night with over 210 people in attendance. WQFO Guy McCaskie and Ginger Johnson introduced as well as WFO's past Presidents and current Board Members. The new directors Matthew J. Baumann, Daniel D. Gibson, Bryce W. Robinson and Christopher W. Swarth were approved by the membership.

WFO's Outstanding Service Award was presented to three individuals. Each received a certificate and an Andy Birch painting of Sabine's Gulls.

Two of the nominees, Jerry Johnson and Joseph R. Jehl go back to the beginnings of CFO (and WFO). Both were nominated by WFO founder, Alan Craig, who felt that their contributions to the fledgling CFO were important and deserving of recognition, even though considerably belated.

1) **Jerry Johnson** is an attorney and life member who now lives in Banning, CA. In the formative years of CFO, he was instrumental in writing its by-laws and very helpful in the process of registering the organization as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

2) **Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.** is a professional ornithologist who was, during the founding of CFO, associated with Hubbs Sea World. He is the world's authority on the biology of eared grebe. Now retired, he remains active in the field, now associated with the Smithsonian in D.C. Alan Craig notes that Jehl brought vital professional expertise to the production and editing of the early California Birds (later Western Birds) as it went through the fledging process of becoming a real professional journal. His son Dan Jehl is accepting the award on behalf of his father.

3) **Roberta (Robbie) Fischer** was, from 2004-2014, the Treasurer and Membership Secretary of WFO. However, it is not the work that she performed in that capacity for which she was nominated for this award. Robbie has been, for more than 15 years, a dedicated and tireless volunteer and ambassador for WFO. Her most notable work has been in the areas of our annual conference and our scholarship and youth programs. Robbie overhauled how our conferences work and participated in almost all aspects from online registration, working the registration desk at the meeting, greeting attendees, handling the many on-site problems that inevitably arise, leading and coordinating field trips, and managing activities for scholarship winners.

Harry S. Swarth Award in Western Field Ornithology

Seven years ago, WFO's Board of Directors established *The Harry S. Swarth Award in Western Field Ornithology*, to honor a body of work that significantly advances field ornithology in the west. The award's name honors a giant of field ornithology who worked throughout much of western North America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and who contributed more than 200 publications to the literature.

Daniel D. Gibson

Excerpt from WFO Awards Committee:
True field ornithology, however, bears with it the demands of scholarship, for which Dan is an exemplar. His vitae of almost 60 publications is noteworthy for several reasons. Half of them concern the nomenclature, taxonomy, or status and distribution of single species, including two contributions on wagtails for the *Birds of North America* series (1996, 1998), and first records for North America or Alaska for Common Rose Finch, Intermediate Egret, Sooty Tern, Gray Bunting, Wood Warbler, and Red-breasted Flycatcher, among others.

Dan's professionalism and leadership have been equally recognized through numerous awards and positions held, including his election in 2009 as a Fellow within the American Ornithologists' Union, his long service as regional editor of *North American Birds* from 1967 to the early 1990s, his 19-year-long tenure on the ABA Checklist Committee, and, beginning in 1970, his care and feeding of the Alaska Checklist, which, since 2000 has increased from 353 to 521 species. And let us not forget his various roles serving Western Field Ornithologists, including as a Member of the Board of Directors (2001–2007 & 2011–2016), as Vice-President (2008–2010), and first as an Associate Editor and then since 2013 as Assistant Editor for *Western Birds*.

Keynote Speech

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.

Silent Auction

The silent auction was a financial success this year primarily from the donations of the binoculars, scope with tripod, and the island jay original artwork. These 3 items garnered $3,750.00. The sale of the donated books brought in about $1,000.

WFO Books Published in 2018

The Biology of a Desert Apparition: LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) by Jay M. Sheppard made its debut at the conference and was on sale. If you did not pick up a copy at the meeting the book can be purchased online at the WFO website (www.westernfieldornithologists.org). In addition, the long-awaited ***Trends and Traditions: Avifaunal Change in Western North America by*** W. David Shuford, Robert E. Gill Jr., and Colleen M. Handel, editors arrived just in time with a shipment of thirty books sent by the printer. Unfortunately, these books sold out. Look at the website for the posting when book is available online which should happen shortly.

See you in Albuquerque 2019

August 21-25

Thomas A. Blackman
Past President

WFO Ventura Checklist

Snow Goose	X				Rufous Hummingbird				
Ross's Goose					Allen's Hummingbird	X			
Gr White-fronted Goose	X				Ridgway's Rail				
Brant	X				Virginia Rail	X			
Cackling Goose					Sora	X			
Canada Goose	X				Common Gallinule	X			
Wood Duck					American Coot	X			
Blue-winged Teal	X				Black-necked Stilt	X			
Cinnamon Teal	X				American Avocet	X			
Northern Shoveler	X				Black Oystercatcher	X			
Gadwall	X				Black-bellied Plover	X			
American Wigeon	X				Pacific Golden-Plover	X			
Mallard	X				Snowy Plover	X			
Northern Pintail	X				Semipalmated Plover	X			
Green-winged Teal	X				Killdeer	X			
Canvasback					Whimbrel	X			
Redhead	X				Long-billed Curlew	X			
Ring-necked Duck	X				Marbled Godwit	X			
Lesser Scaup	X				Ruddy Turnstone	X			
Surf Scoter	X				Black Turnstone	X			
Bufflehead					Red Knot	X			
Hooded Merganser					Surfbird	X			
Common Merganser					Sanderling	X			
Red-breasted Merganser	X				Dunlin	X			
Ruddy Duck	X				Baird's Sandpiper	X			
Mountain Quail	X				Least Sandpiper	X			
California Quail	X				Pectoral Sandpiper	X			
Pied-billed Grebe	X				Western Sandpiper	X			
Horned Grebe	X				Short-billed Dowitcher	X			
Eared Grebe	X				Long-billed Dowitcher	X			
Western Grebe	X				Wilson's Snipe	X			
Clark's Grebe	X				Spotted Sandpiper	X			
Rock Pigeon	X				Solitary Sandpiper	X			
Band-tailed Pigeon	X				Wandering Tattler	X			
Eurasian Collared-Dove	X				Lesser Yellowlegs	X			
Common Ground-Dove					Willet	X			
White-winged Dove	X				Greater Yellowlegs	X			
Mourning Dove	X				Wilson's Phalarope				
Greater Roadrunner	X				Red-necked Phalarope	X			
Lesser Nighthawk					Red Phalarope	X			
Common Poorwill	X				South Polar Skua	X			
Vaux's Swift	X				Pomarine Jaeger	X			
White-throated Swift	X				Parasitic Jaeger	X			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	X				Long-tailed Jaeger	X			
Anna's Hummingbird	X				Common Murre	X			
Costa's Hummingbird	X				Pigeon Guillemot				

WFO Ventura Checklist

Scripps's Murrelet					Least Bittern				
Guadalupe Murrelet					Great Blue Heron	X			
Craveri's Murrelet					Great Egret	X			
Cassin's Auklet					Snowy Egret	X			
Rhinoceros Auklet					Reddish Egret	X			
Sabine's Gull					Cattle Egret				
Bonaparte's Gull					Green Heron				
Franklin's Gull					Black-crowned Night-Heron	X			
Heermann's Gull	X				Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	X			
Ring-billed Gull	X				White-faced Ibis	X			
Western Gull	X				Turkey Vulture	X			
California Gull	X				California Condor	X			
Herring Gull	X				Osprey	X			
Glaucous-winged Gull	X				White-tailed Kite	X			
Caspian Tern	X				Golden Eagle	X			
Black Tern					Northern Harrier	X			
Common Tern	X				Sharp-shinned Hawk	X			
Arctic Tern					Cooper's Hawk	X			
Forster's Tern	X				Northern Goshawk				
Royal Tern	X				Bald Eagle	X			
Elegant Tern	X				Red-shouldered Hawk	X			
Black Skimmer	X				Broad-winged Hawk				
Red-billed Tropicbird					Swainson's Hawk	X			
Red-throated Loon					Red-tailed Hawk	X			
Pacific Loon	X				Ferruginous Hawk	X			
Common Loon	X				Barn Owl	X			
Black-footed Albatross					Western Screech-Owl				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel					Great Horned Owl	X			
Leach's Storm-Petrel					Northern Pygmy-Owl	X			
Ashy Storm-Petrel					Burrowing Owl	X			
Black Storm-Petrel					Spotted Owl				
Least Storm-Petrel					Long-eared Owl				
Northern Fulmar	X				Short-eared Owl				
Buller's Shearwater					Northern Saw-whet Owl				
Sooty Shearwater	X				Belted Kingfisher	X			
Pink-footed Shearwater	X				Lewis's Woodpecker				
Flesh-footed Shearwater					Acorn Woodpecker	X			
Manx Shearwater					Williamson's Sapsucker	X			
Black-vented Shearwater	X				Red-naped Sapsucker	X			
Brown Booby	X				Red-breasted Sapsucker	X			
Brandt's Cormorant	X				Downy Woodpecker	X			
Double-crested Cormorant	X				Nuttall's Woodpecker	X			
Pelagic Cormorant	X				Ladder-backed Woodpecker	X			
American White Pelican	X				Hairy Woodpecker	X			
Brown Pelican	X				White-headed Woodpecker	X			
American Bittern					Northern Flicker	X			
					American Kestrel	X			

WFO Ventura Checklist

Merlin	X				Verdin				
Peregrine Falcon	X				Bushtit	X			
Prairie Falcon	X				Red-breasted Nuthatch	X			
Nanday Parakeet	X				White-breasted Nuthatch	X			
Mitred Parakeet					Pygmy Nuthatch	X			
Yellow-chevroned Parakeet					Brown Creeper	X			
Red-crowned Parrot					Rock Wren	X			
Lilac-crowned Parrot					Canyon Wren	X			
Ash-throated Flycatcher	X				House Wren	X			
Tropical Kingbird	X				Pacific Wren				
Cassin's Kingbird	X				Marsh Wren	X			
Western Kingbird	X				Bewick's Wren	X			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X				Cactus Wren	X			
Western Wood-Pewee	X				Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	X			
Willow Flycatcher	X				California Gnatcatcher	X			
Least Flycatcher	X				American Dipper				
Hammond's Flycatcher					Golden-crowned Kinglet	X			
Gray Flycatcher					Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X			
Dusky Flycatcher					Wrentit	X			
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	X				Western Bluebird	X			
Black Phoebe	X				Mountain Bluebird	X			
Say's Phoebe	X				Townsend's Solitaire	X			
Vermilion Flycatcher	X				Swainson's Thrush	X			
Loggerhead Shrike	X				Hermit Thrush	X			
Bell's Vireo	X				American Robin	X			
Hutton's Vireo	X				California Thrasher	X			
Cassin's Vireo					LeConte's Thrasher	X			
Plumbeous Vireo					Sage Thrasher				
Warbling Vireo	X				Northern Mockingbird	X			
Pinyon Jay					European Starling	X			
Steller's Jay	X				Cedar Waxwing	X			
Island Scrub-Jay	X				Phainopepla	X			
California Scrub-Jay	X				Northern Red Bishop				
Clark's Nutcracker	X				Pin-tailed Whydah				
Yellow-billed Magpie	X				Scaly-breasted Munia	X			
American Crow	X				House Sparrow	X			
Common Raven	X				American Pipit	X			
Horned Lark	X				House Finch	X			
Tree Swallow	X				Purple Finch	X			
Violet-green Swallow	X				Cassin's Finch	X			
N. Rough-winged Swallow	X				Red Crossbill				
Bank Swallow	X				Pine Siskin				
Cliff Swallow	X				Lesser Goldfinch	X			
Barn Swallow	X				Lawrence's Goldfinch	X			
Mountain Chickadee	X				American Goldfinch	X			
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	X				Chestnut-collared Longspur				

WFO Ventura Checklist

Green-tailed Towhee	X				Black-throated Gray Warbler	X			
Spotted Towhee	X				Townsend's Warbler	X			
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	X				Hermit Warbler	X			
California Towhee	X				Wilson's Warbler	X			
Chipping Sparrow	X				Summer Tanager	X			
Clay-colored Sparrow	X				Western Tanager	X			
Brewer's Sparrow	X				Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
Vesper Sparrow	X				Black-headed Grosbeak	X			
Lark Sparrow	X				Blue Grosbeak				
Black-throated Sparrow	X				Lazuli Bunting	X			
Bell's Sparrow	X				Indigo Bunting				
Savannah Sparrow	X								
Grasshopper Sparrow					Write-ins:				
Fox Sparrow	X								
Song Sparrow	X				Red-throated Pipit				
Lincoln's Sparrow	X				White-throated Sparrow				
White-crowned Sparrow	X				Masked Booby				
Golden-crowned Sparrow	X				Blue-footed Booby				
Dark-eyed Junco	X				Little Blue Heron				
Yellow-breasted Chat	X				Mew Gull				
Yellow-headed Blackbird	X				Savannah Sparrow (large-billed)				
Bobolink					Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
Western Meadowlark	X								
Hooded Oriole	X								
Bullock's Oriole	X								
Scott's Oriole									
Red-winged Blackbird	X								
Tricolored Blackbird	X								
Brown-headed Cowbird	X								
Brewer's Blackbird	X								
Great-tailed Grackle									
Ovenbird									
Northern Waterthrush	X								
Black-and-white Warbler	X								
Tennessee Warbler	X								
Orange-crowned Warbler	X								
Lucy's Warbler									
Nashville Warbler	X								
Virginia's Warbler									
MacGillivray's Warbler	X								
Common Yellowthroat	X								
American Redstart	X								
Yellow Warbler	X								
Chestnut-sided Warbler									
Blackpoll Warbler	X								
Palm Warbler	X								
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X								