

REPORT TO MEMBERS

TERENCE WAHL, President, Western Field Ornithologists

WFO's annual meeting was held in Santa Cruz, California, 29 September-2 October 1983. The meeting was co-hosted by the Santa Cruz Bird Club, whose members assisted the local committee. Debi Love Shearwater was convention organizer and did an outstanding job. Jerry Langham ably introduced speakers at the papers presentation which included Birding Santa Cruz County, Aging Jaegers, The Manx Shearwater Group, UCSC Predatory Bird Project, Farallon Islands Birds, and the Survey of Central and Northern California Seabirds: 1980-1983. The banquet speaker, Bruce Elliott, brought home the need for people like WFO members to assist with management of nongame species by providing good and otherwise unavailable information. To the many people who made the meeting and field trips so successful and enjoyable, I'm sure over 100 persons who attended will add thanks to mine. Field outings included pelagic trips which featured the impressive flocks of storm-petrels and other birds and many marine mammals on Monterey Bay, land and water birds of the Santa Cruz area, and a cooperative Sharp-tailed Sandpiper hung-out long enough to allow meeting attendees to see it during off-hours excursions. The weather saved northern resident WFO members from suffering heat-stroke and there was even enough rain to bring a touch of nostalgia.

BUSINESS MEETINGS SUMMARY

Items discussed at the Board of Directors' meetings included the status of *Western Birds* in respect to publication and circulation. Also covered were aspects of business operations of WFO, communications and relationships with members and authors, and ways of improving these. Board members were assigned to new committees dealing with the journal, membership promotion, and with finances and budget. The membership elected Laurie Binford, John Luther and Virginia Johnson to three-year terms on WFO's Board of Directors. The Board elected Terry Wahl as President, Laurie Binford as Vice-president, Garth Alton as Membership Secretary/Treasurer, and Jean-Marie Spoelman as Recording Secretary for one year terms. Peter Gent was appointed chairman of the nominating committee for next year's meeting. Members should contact him with any ideas on board or officer nominations. Bruce Webb was appointed Photo Editor and WFO annual meeting coordinator to work with local committees. The location and dates of the annual meeting for 1984 were not set but members will be advised as soon as possible on this.

WESTERN BIRDS

Editor Alan Craig, Associate Editors Narca Moore-Craig and Cameron Barrows, Layout Artist Virginia Johnson and the circulation crew in San Diego have succeeded in bringing WFO's journal up to date, fulfilling the outline in the President's Message [WB 13(1-4):42]. Issue 4 of Volume 14 is scheduled to be mailed in January 1984, after the Christmas mail rush. As explained in the last President's Message, the Board of Directors decided in

1982 that the only way to bring WB's publishing schedule to its calendar year was to publish Volume 13 as one issue, and to cover the cost of this from within the dues received for Volume 14. A word of explanation about Volume 13 (1-4): this issue was unfortunately delayed by two months due to a major paper being withdrawn by the author after the final proof for the issue had been returned to the printer. It is kind of thing which, in spite of valiant efforts of both editorial staff and printer in changing layout, articles and artwork, can cause much frustration and delay. We regret this and we hope members, awaiting their issues at the mailbox, will understand retroactively. We can also report that a back-log of accumulated manuscripts has been processed and WB is as "current" as possible in receipt, review, and publication of articles and notes submitted.

FINANCES

As anticipated when the decision to publish five issues within a year was made, it has taken virtually all of our cash reserves to accomplish this. Paying necessary printing and mailing bills will require careful cash management of dues receipts in the near future. The Board is confident that problems will be minimal and, assuming support from members through renewal of existing memberships and gains in new memberships, WFO will be in solid shape financially.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES FOR VOLUME 15 — 1984

Members received notices for renewal of 1983 memberships in September-October 1983. This was late, but we are trying to keep dues notices in sequence with WB mailings. Correspondingly, notices for renewal of memberships for 1984 will be sent out in early January 1984. This is certainly close timing, but members will receive four issues between the two membership renewal notices. We hope this is not confusing and that you will support WFO by renewing promptly. Your support by doing this, and by encouraging new memberships and submission of articles to the journal will determine WFO's future ability to put out a quality journal. Thanks.