

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists was held jointly with the San Francisco Bay Bird observatory from 18 through 20 September 1992 at the Holiday Inn in Sunnyvale, California. The annual meeting was a great success, with boat trips out of Monterey Bay (Streaked Shearwater!), field trips in the San Francisco Bay Area (Garganey, Ruff, etc.!), a well-prepared and excellent paper session, and a lively panel discussion of identification problems, not to mention a fine barbecue and banquet. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory was the host for the annual meeting, and its organization of the meeting was exceptional and very professional. One person who deserves special credit is Janet Hanson, who kept all things running smoothly. Thanks, Janet.

The eighteenth annual Western Field Ornithologists' meeting will be held from 30 July through 1 August 1993 in Tucson, Arizona. We expect this annual meeting to be excellent, as it is being held at a perfect time to observe the suite of avifauna specialties for which southern Arizona is famous.

Our WFO board meeting was very productive. Our financial condition is good, and, needless to say, the publication of *Western Birds* is very strong, thanks to the efforts of Editor Philip Unitt, associate editors, the editorial board, and contributors. WFO is embarking on a membership drive to strengthen the organization, so please let others who are interested in field ornithology know of the merits of belonging to WFO and enjoying our first-rate scientific journal. By generating a greater membership the organization will enlarge its base of field ornithologists and researchers and thereby add to our ability to publish more articles in *Western Birds*.

The membership elected Kimball Garrett, Bill Tweit, and Janet Witzeman to three-year terms as WFO Directors. The board elected Robert McKernan as President, Steve Summers as Vice-President, and Dori Myers as Treasurer/Membership Secretary. Peter Gent is our outgoing President who made the President's job appear so easy while devoting so much to WFO over his tenure. Thanks, Peter. Two members of WFO who deserve special mention are Howard L. Cogswell and John Luther. Howard has been our Treasurer/Membership Secretary for six years and deserves high praise for keeping WFO financially sound. The treasurer's is often a thankless job to which Howard has selflessly devoted his time throughout his tenure. Thanks, Howard. John Luther has been a cornerstone of WFO, serving in the past as President and continuously as a Director as far back as the era of *California Birds*. Both of these members of WFO deserve much thanks for years of service. I look forward to WFO growing as an organization as well as continuing as an important source of scientific information for professional and amateur field ornithologists.

We look forward to seeing you in Tucson in 1993. More details on this next meeting of WFO will be coming.

Robert McKernan  
WFO President