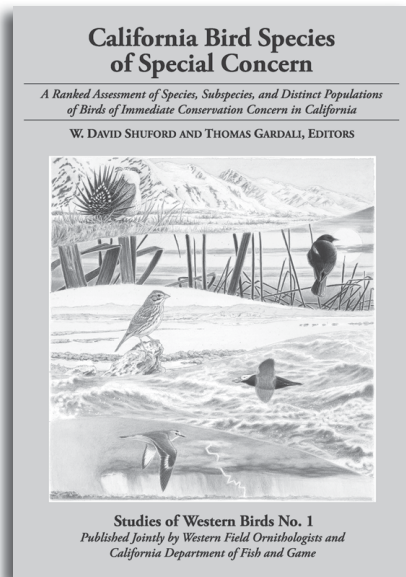Western Field Ornithologists announces the first volume of its new monograph series, *Studies of Western Birds*, with the publication of *California Bird Species of Special Concern: A ranked assessment of species, subspecies, and distinct populations of birds of immediate conservation concern in California,* edited by W. David Shuford and Thomas Gardali. This volume, co-published with California Department of Fish and Game and prepared with a host of collaborators, will be of value to every field ornithologist, conservationist, wildlife biologist, biological consulting company, and planner in California.

California Bird Species of Special Concern

A Ranked Assessment of Species, Subspecies, and Distinct Populations of Birds of Immediate Conservation Concern in California

W. DAVID SHUFORD AND THOMAS GARDALI, EDITORS

Studies of Western Birds No. 1
Published Jointly by Western Field Ornithologists and California Department of Fish and Game

This 450-page softcover volume is a must-have reference on the status of California's declining and vulnerable bird species. An overview section describes the process of identifying species at risk and ranking their conservation priority, distinguishes the habitats and geographic areas of the state with high numbers of birds at risk, and pinpoints the most pressing threats they face. The heart of the book is the section with species accounts for 63 species, written by 48 experts, which include maps of current and historic ranges and describe birds' status, population trends, ecological requirements, threats, and management, research, and monitoring needs. Illustrations of birds in natural settings include a stunning color cover by Keith Hansen and imaginative black-and-white vignettes by Andy Birch and Tim Manolis interspersed throughout the text.

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