

WFO NEWS

Looking Back on 2022, Anticipating the Coming Year

WFO President John Harris summarizes the achievements of the past year, previews upcoming programs for 2023, and discusses the financial status of the organization: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/looking-back-on-2022-looking-ahead-to-2023/>.

New Program for Students and Young Birders

Getting advice for becoming a professional ornithologist, sharing ideas and experiences with other young birders, learning about careers in conservation. These are among the topics in WFO's Zoom sessions open to all students and young birders. And all the programs are free! See the upcoming schedule and spread the word: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/new-program-for-students-and-young-birders/>.

WFO's Birdathon Returns

It's not too soon to start planning for the 2023 Birdathon—to be held from April 1 to May 15. Reunite with your team from the 2021 Birdathon, or form a new one. Gather sponsors and raise funds to support both WFO's programs and a conservation project that will benefit the threatened Tricolored Blackbird—on which *Western Birds* has published many important studies. Check out all the details: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/wfos-birdathon-returns/>.

Coming Soon to the WFO Website: Podcasts

Nicholas Earnhart joined WFO about two years ago. Now the ninth grader is working with WFO Board member Teresa Connell to create podcasts for the WFO website initially aimed at involving young birders. For the project, they are using a program called “Bird is the Word.” How did Nicholas come up with this idea? When did he start birding? What fascinates him about birds? Meet Nicholas—in his own words: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/coming-soon-to-the-wfo-website/>.

WFO's 2023 Conference Is Colorado Bound

If you have never birded in Colorado or even if you have, you do not want to miss this year's event, July 19–23, held jointly with the Colorado Field Ornithologists. Trips to see a variety of mountain specialties, the ever-popular ID panels, and special programs for young birders are among the attractions. Preview the conference highlights: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/wfos-2023-conference-is-colorado-bound/>.

Research Grant Program Enters Fourth Year

Western Field Ornithologists gives three grants of \$1,500 each to undergraduate and graduate students to support their research in the field biology of birds within the WFO region. Application deadline for the 2023 season is March 6. Learn how to apply: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/research-grant-program-enters-fourth-year/>.

Member Update for 2023

Good news for the new year: WFO is transitioning to a software program that will facilitate renewing your membership as well as making donations. Membership Secretary Shaun Wilde describes the changes and shares some interesting facts about the WFO membership. Read Shaun's update: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/member-update-for-2023/>.