

**Minutes of the 16 January 2007 Conference Call of the Board of Directors
Western Field Ornithologists**

Recorded by Jean Brandt, Recording Secretary

The conference call of the Board of Directors of the Western Field Ornithologists was convened by President David Krueper at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, 16 January 2007.

Present: Board members and officers in attendance included: President David Krueper, Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Jean Brandt, Kimball Garrett, Dan Gibson, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, Tom Ryan, Mike San Miguel, Cat Waters, and David Yee.

Also Present: Phil Unitt

Absent: Jon Dunn, Robbie Fischer, Ted Floyd, Dave Shuford, and Jay Withgott.

A transcript of the meeting follows:

Welcome and Introductions: President David Krueper called the meeting to order and welcomed the members present.

1) Treasurer's Report: (Robbie Fischer absent) Cat Waters

- Robbie recently sent out financial information (Friday, 29 December 2006) for everyone to review. Cat commented that the report looked very good.
- Cat said that the Finance Committee needs to look into the cost of setting up a new website and hiring a webmaster. She recommended that we save any questions for Robbie. Dave K. asked about renewals income posting and when notices are sent out. Cat explained. Renewal dates go by *Western Birds* volume and are sent in the appropriate mailing.

2) Western Birds – Phil Unitt

Publication schedule:

- Issue 4, Vol 37 is in the mail. Phil has sent 40 pages for Vol 38 No 1 to the typesetter. He needs to get photos and reviews finished. He plans to get Vol 38, No 2 out in April. He has manuscripts for it. California B.R.C. report will be in Vol 38, No 3 (can be out by July). Phil replied that he has not received the information. Kimball will follow through. The last C.B.R.C. report was in Vol 37, No 2. Phil expressed his concern that accepted manuscripts not be pushed back to later issues because of the need to incorporate records committee reports, etc., in a particular issue; therefore timely submission of CBRC reports is essential if they are to go into a particular issue. We are now enjoying the embarrassment of riches in terms of submitted and accepted papers.
- Elisabeth A. asked if we want Nevada records reports. The response was enthusiastic. We should print all state reports, if possible. The Arizona report is infrequent and was printed 2 years ago.

Sponsor update

- Phil has no new information and no one has followed up on this since the Boulder meeting. Color on inside covers of Vol 37, Nos. 3 & 4 was donated by Crest Offset Printing. Cat – did a thank you letter go to Crest?
- Cat – Ted Floyd recommended a contact: Nikon. Phil needs to know within 3 weeks. Robbie needs to be consulted if WFO has to pay for it. Dave K – what is the cost and can we do two at a time rather than four? Phil – \$1100 for color for 2 issues.

Big Donors policy document

- Cat – she and Robbie are still looking at it. Solicitations and letters should be handled by the Executive Board and then presented to the full Board. Nothing has been done yet. Copies should be sent to Jean for archives. Mike will draft what he did with Swarovski and give it to Dave K. who asked if we have a policy for soliciting big donors? Cat – no. This issue was tabled to the Finance Committee and nothing has been done.

President's Column

- Dave K. would like to do at least one (prefers two) per year. Phil said to get something to him in next two weeks for Vol 38, No 1.

Promotion

- Ted's offer to promote each issue of *Western Birds* on the listserve in Colorado is a good idea. Dave K. – should we try for other listserves? Elisabeth A. offered to put it up for Nevada. We should include the table of contents and availability. Ted will get information from Phil in PDF files (we all will) re: issue about to be printed.

- **Storage**

I was unclear as to what was said so I emailed Cat – see below * for her response.

3) Publications Committee (Dave Shuford absent) Cat Waters

Bird Species of Special Concern monograph

- The final draft will be completed by May 1. Some articles are still out for review but basically it is ready to go. It will only cost shipping and handling and a small additional fee. Allen Press will print it. Artwork has been a problem. Guidelines for submitting artwork are on website, but we have not had a good response.

Rare Birds of California

- Should be finished by February 10. Robb Hamilton has finished his part. One minor hurdle is the back cover: to make it blend with the front cover. A final bid from Allen Press will be sent tomorrow. We expect to make it “hard bound”. MSM asked about Chevron's sponsorship and acknowledgments. Cat said it is settled. They are still trying to clean up details and February 10 is the drop-dead time limit. Cat asked if the California Birds Records Committee will participate in sales and distribution. It was decided that it is better to store a disk at Allen press and republish than to print too many copies
- Cat reported that Utah has approached WFO about publishing their atlas. They are just beginning the work involved in putting it together.
- Dave K. – where do we store legal documents? Dave Y. said Dave S. should know. Kimball – where are archives of WFO? Dave K., Dave Y., and Kimball will investigate where to store our archives and where they are right now.
- Cat – there is a new ornithological library in Orange Co. This could be a possible site for archiving WFO documents. *See below.

4) Future Meetings Committee – Cat Waters

Las Vegas, Nevada: 27 – 30 September, 2007

- Cat is working on this. Phil wants an announcement by end of January for *Western Birds* Vol 38, No 1.
- Gjon – should we add a day for more field trips/workshops? Participants indicated that they want more time for trips and workshops. Cat – the Las Vegas conference will begin on Thursday and end on Sunday. She wouldn't mind scheduling an extra day but it would be better to wait for 2008. Gjon, Cat, and Robbie will work on the extra day for San Francisco.

San Francisco area: 2008

State of Washington: 2009

5) Field Trip Committee – Tom Ryan

El Triunfo 2007

- Mike – the trip was cancelled as there were only three signups. Dave K. asked if we can offer the trip for 2008. Mike said that we need five plus a leader to break even and that he will plan a trip for 2008. Cat – we can't rely on *Winging It* for national interest; we need better publicity and she will follow through. Tom will set a Field Trip committee meeting soon.

Cuba 2006 results.

- We did not make as much profit as hoped for but it was a great trip. Kimball has been asked to lead the next trip. We have a long wait list. Gary Markowski needs to obtain the State Department papers ASAP. Cat – do we announce this on our website first or should the people on wait list get first crack. Jean said that the Natural History Museum gives wait list people the first chance. Tom – the general announcement of each trip should be on our website and with the *Western Birds* mailing so they arrive at the same time.
- Field trip guidance document – has been sent to Field Trip committee.
- Standardized post-field trip evaluation form. To be sent to Luke Cole for review.
- Carol would like to add a research trip to Sierra de la Laguna for breeding bird surveys. Are we interested in monitoring species trips? Cat – is this for fundraising or just a work trip. Carol – not a fundraiser. Kimball – would this involve our membership? Yes, it should be done for our membership not outsiders. Carol – this is not a *Partners in Flight* event - it would be a joint venture. Phil thinks it would be of interest to our members. Participants would have to be screened for ornithological ability and endurance. Carol, Kimball, Cat, Tom, Phil, Mike, Dan, Gjon, and Dave K. will confer about this. Bob will help with logistics.

6) Nominations Committee – Gjon Hazard

- There will be 3 openings. (Dan and Mike are termed out and Ted has expressed a desire to step down).

7) Web Site Update and webmaster – Dave Kreuper

- Peter LaTourrette is stepping down.
- Dave K. – our website is California based. Do we want to make it general with links? Kimball – how realistic is it to keep the WFO-CBRC? Dave K. – other people have commented that California is the default for many people. We need a new web address.

Dave K. asked for help and Elisabeth, Gjon, Cat, and Dan volunteered. Dave K. said that everybody should be in on this and asked what do we want it to offer? It should not just be a data webpage. This is our portal for information and links. Jean suggested we ask Joe Morlan for help/advice because he has created an excellent website himself.

- Dave K. – what do we want from a webmaster? 60/40 time Peter spent was CBRC not WFO. Should the new person continue to work with CBRC too?
- Dave K. – what else can we add besides links to state organizations? Cat – people need to be able to contact us through the webpage. Webmaster should reply to queries. Kimball – we need to expand upon what we already have and it should publicize upcoming publications, etc. Dave K. will check other websites to see what is offered. Website should be interactive. We will probably have to consider paying the webmaster. Dan – this site is important to people beyond California.
- Web-working group should get started on this right away. We need to find the new webmaster ASAP. Dan said we should pay this person for accountability and we need a job description.
- Decision should be made at next conference call.

8) Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting at Boulder, Co. 21 September 2006

Approved as written: Dan moved, Kimball seconded. Unanimous.

9) Final Comments:

Dave K. thanked David Yee for setting up the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Next call planned for the end of April.

Clarification by email:

* Cat: What I said was that there would be a new ornithology library in Orange County associated with the Huntington Beach Wetlands Recovery project. They have indicated that they would like to have sets of volumes of Western Birds. So have Chapman University, Cal State Fullerton, and a few other institutions. Right now I'm currently looking for a volunteer to sort out the various boxes that Dave Yee has stored for four years now, into sets of volumes of Western Birds. This is my last ditch effort before disposing of them as recycling material as the pubs committee voted to do at the Colorado meeting. Dave Y. cannot go on endlessly storing them for us and it is unfair of us to put this onus of keeping this collection of unsorted issues safe now that all our years are accessible on a website