

Western Field Ornithologists' Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Call, February 9, 2010, 12 noon PST
Minutes prepared by Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec.*

Board Members present: Carol Beardmore, David Quady, W. Dave Shuford, *Pres.*, Debbie Van Dooremolen, Edward R. Pandolfino, *Vice Pres.*, Jon L. Dunn, Kenneth Able, Kimball L. Garrett, Kurt Leuschner, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Robbie Fischer, *Treas.*, Robert E. Gill

Board Members Absent: Thomas P. Ryan, Jay Withgott, Catherine Waters,

Guests: Dan Gibson, Publications Committee Chair, Philip Unitt, Editor, *Western Birds*

SYNOPSIS

Action Item Summary--1
Committee Staffing-- 2
Annual Conference Sierra Vista 2011 Conference Plan Update -- 3
Youth Involvement at the Conference-- 3
Annual Conference Northern California 2012-- 3
Finance Committee Report-- 3
 Options for San Miguel Fund--4
Insurance for Officers--4
Tracking System and Electronic Storage of WFO Materials-- 4
WFO Research Award -- 4
Publications-- 5
 The Bob Dickerson issue of WB-- 5
 Rare Birds of California Sales—5
 Western Birds -- 5
Field Trips -- 5
 Cuba Trip-- 6
 Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico-- 6
 Expedition into Sonora -- 6
 Eastern Sierra Trip July 7-13, 2011-- 6
Cost of trips and donations as part thereof -- 7
Outreach Committee--7
Website --7
History of WFO on Website -- 7
2011 Teleconference Schedule -- 7

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY (from February 9, 2011)

- Action Item 1:** Committee Staffing. Call for people to populate Field Trip, Nominating, Youth Scholarship and the new Outreach Committees
- Action Item 2:** At the Annual Conference Sierra Vista 2011 all Board members need to help with field trips and/or the registration desk
- Action Item 3:** The Annual Board Meeting is going to be on Thursday and will start at 11:00am
- Action Item 4:** Advertising the Sierra Vista Conference through local organizations, newsletters, etc. Information for advertising in the Ornithological Newsletter will be sent to Ed. Carol will contact local AZ organizations.
- Action Item 5:** Criteria for a Young Ornithologist Support Grant - Ed and DaveS and anyone who can suggest candidates for this
- Action Item 6:** Annual Conference Northern California 2012 - need for hotel location and contacting local people who can assist. This is for all members.

- Action Item 7:** Future Conference site perhaps scheduled for a possible Winter date - Jon
- Action Item 8:** Sending out announcement to the local AZ organizations relative to the youth.- Carol
- Action Item 9:** Setting up an application, dollar amount and name for Youth Scholarships – members of the Finance Committee.
- Action Item 10:** San Miguel Fund: We should make a decision based on the Finance Committee recommendations in the May Board meeting. Input by members welcomed before May
- Action Item 11:** Bob Dickerson edition of WB - Dan Gibson will coordinate papers and all that that entails starting around May for publication in 2012
- Action Item 12:** Cuba 2012 trip: Jon will contact Gary Markowski re: a possible trip
- Action Item 13:** Rio Grande Valley, New Trip – Check with Dave Krueper on disbursement of funds from this trip and if need be, put it before the Board in the May teleconference.
- Action Item 14:** Expedition into Sonora - Carol will set date and let everyone know
- Action Item 15:** Eastern Sierra Trip July 7-13, 2011 - Jon will discuss and give information to Ed.
- Action Item 16:** Jon: Will discuss ramifications of designating funds accrued through trips by trip leaders and/or WFO having special fund raising trips with the Finance Committee Chair who will report back to Board.
- Action Item 17:** Policy for the structure of how we price trips - Cat, Kurt, and Jon, as regards the Eastern Sierra trip and future trips.
- Action Item 18:** Outreach Committee will set some guidelines to present to Board
- Action Item 19:** Brian Sullivan will try to come up with a compelling message to encapsulate the WFO mission statement on the WFO website and send that out for review. All members are invited to contribute and discuss with Brian.
- Action Item 20:** History of WFO on website is deferred until May meeting - Cat
- Action Item 21:** Links to other organizations on our website. With input from all Joe can do this.
- Action Item 22:** 2011 Meeting Teleconference - Periods being considered: *16-27 May* and *29 Nov-9 Dec*. A Doodle poll will be sent out for the teleconference meetings.

MINUTES

12:00 p.m. Meeting called to order, welcome, roll call

12:05 Acceptance of minutes from October 2010, the Palm Desert Board Meeting.
Ed moves to approve minutes, DaveQ seconds, all approve to accept minutes

12:10 Committee Staffing:

- **Update:** DaveS: There are vacancies on Field Trips, Nominating and Youth Scholarships committees. The Outreach Group should be made a Committee. Some names that came up for the Field Trip Committee were Ken Able, Carol Beardmore and Dave Quady. Cat is looking for people outside of California for the Nominating Committee, perhaps Bob Gill and Ken Able. For the Youth Scholarships we have Tom Ryan and Jay Withgott, but they will term out in a year so we need other people on the committee.
- Carol Beardmore volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee, along with Bob Gill, and Jon Dunn.
- Kurt is the Chair of the Field Trip Committee. Carol and Dave Krueper are on this committee. Jon Dunn volunteers. Another member is needed.

12:15 Annual Conference Sierra Vista 2011 Conference Plan Update

- **Report:** Ed: Kurt, Debbie, Ken and DaveQ have come up with everything we need at this point. We are scheduled to go live by the first of March. We will put together the registration site toward the end of month. Once the Conference Schedule is confirmed by the Meeting Committee I will send it to the Board, so right now is the time for any additional input. We are going to need everybody on the Board to help with field trips and/or the registration desk. The Board Meeting is going to be on Thursday, but it will start at 11:00am instead of noon.
- Debbie: The schedule for getting out the Call for Papers was by six months out from, but it makes sense to wait until the information gets on the website the 1st of March as that would help generate interest and desire in coming to present at the Conference.

12:20pm: Youth Involvement at the Conference

- **Discussion:** No age qualifications are stipulated at this time, as long as a need is presented. Since this meeting is in August, there should be no conflict with school.
- Carol: We hit the list serves pretty hard in the past and we will do that again. We are contacting regional organizations, i.e., the NMOS meeting in April will be a perfect opportunity for this. I would like to have something written up with all the details and then I can get that out to the regional organizations.
- Phil: Do we have a procedure on the website to apply for scholarships?
- Ed: I am putting together criteria for a Young Ornithologist Support Grant and I sent it around to the Committee to get a consensus.

12:25pm Annual Conference Northern California 2012

- **Discussion:** Ed: We need to discuss a location so that we can get a hotel right away. Perhaps in Sonoma County, Petaluma or Santa Rosa.
- DaveS: Some members of PRBO will be involved, and possibly people from Madrone Audubon and Redwood Regional Ornithological Society - all are very active.

Future Meeting Locations and Times:

- **Discussion:** Jon: Is there any opposition to having a winter conference, i.e., Salton Sea or the Sacramento Valley?
- DaveS: I think this is a good idea, but this might mean having two meetings close together. We should think about the scheduling so we could make that happen.

12:30pm FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Robbie:

- We talked about Youth Scholarships and the San Miguel Fund and how to disseminate the funds.
- We discussed long-term financial goals for WFO. Presently we appear to be in good shape.
- The last time we increased membership dues was in 2007. We should be able to continue with this same rate in 2011 and 2012.
- As requested by the Finance Committee I sent out a report to Board based on fixed versus discretionary income for the last three years. The \$122,000 balance includes dedicated funds as

well as approximately \$36,000 in the Publications Fund, the San Miguel Fund as well as the youth scholarship fund (whose specific name has not as yet been determined).

- **Discussion:** Robbie: We need to determine the specific amounts of the scholarships we plan to offer for the current meeting and what our criteria and limitations are before we advertise for these scholarships.
- Ed: In the past we done it informally and called it a Youth Conference Scholarship where for a given meeting we gave young folks free registration and free access to most of the events and lodging. The use of the San Miguel Fund as discussed in the Finance Committee Meeting is much more open ended and not necessarily tied to a conference. It might be a more sizable grant or scholarship. These are two different things.
- DaveS: There was a mandate for the Finance Committee to make a recommendation how we disburse those funds.

Options for San Miguel Fund

1. Color on inside of Western Birds (for approx. 10yrs)
 2. Scholarship Program to help with an ornithological student's training
 3. Research Grant for a project that would advance one's career.
- Robbie: We should make a decision based on the Finance Committee recommendations in the May Board meeting.
 - **Action:** DaveS: If anyone has any additional input regarding these funds let the Finance Committee know so that they may take it into consideration when forming recommendations.
 - **Action:** All concur and support this.

12:40pm: Insurance for Officers

- **Update:** Robbie: We have been unsuccessful in finding a less expensive alternative at this time. We are covered for now but we will continue to pursue this.

Tracking System and Electronic Storage of WFO materials

- **Discussion:** Robbie: It is not worthwhile digitizing old records from i.e., year 2000. My Dell computer is backed off site. Everything I have since becoming Treasurer is backed up; prior to that I see no reason for digitizing it, as there are no tax implications or anything of that sort.
- Liga: Jean Brandt has handed off to me the WFO CD with past minutes, reports, etc., which I am updating with current material.

12:45pm WFO Research Award

- **Report:** DaveQ: I summarized the issues concerning the award, and have sent it back to the committee members for a second review. We should have something concrete to present to the Board by the May teleconference call.

12:50pm PUBLICATIONS

The Bob Dickerson issue of WB

- **Update:** Dan Gibson: I have contacted potential authors for contributions to the volume which will emphasize Western North American birds and subspecies. After May first I will follow up and by December have the revised manuscripts ready with a view to publication in 2012.

- **Discussion:** Dan: I have a question to put to the Board. Several people connected directly with Bob have asked if it would be appropriate to include papers on which Bob himself was a co-author. I haven't answered that. Bob does not know this is happening.
- Dan: Bob has irons in so many fires that it probably is relatively easy for this to happen. He would be grateful that one of his co-authors handled the whole thing.
- Phil: I see Dan as the lead volume editor who would be recruiting the reviewers and coordinating the reviews, just as an associate editor would.
- **Action:** Dan: I'll be pleased to do that until we reach a critical mass which I hope to do early in the summer. We plan to do a special issue of *WB* and not a stand-alone issue. There will be included a very brief biography of Bob.

Rare Birds of California Sales

- **Update:** Robbie: The announcement on the web of a price reduction generated the sale of 60 copies in January 2011. We have about 100 copies left.
- Phil: There are no updates as to getting the *Rare Birds of California* on the website. We want to make sure the files are not so large as not to overwhelm downloading.
- **Action:** DaveS: We will table that until Cat returns. Brian Sullivan may be interested in helping out in that regard, if that is needed.

Western Birds

- **Update:** Phil: We have three papers typeset for issue *42-1*. We have two very large and interesting papers, one on elevational distributions of birds in the Sierra Nevada and the other on birds of Aguanga, an area of Riverside County, Ca. We are about 4-6 weeks from getting that out.
- Joe Morlan has stepped down as Featured Photo Editor but he kindly recruited a replacement, John Sterling.
- Kimball: Kathy has a number of new manuscripts in the mail, so that is ongoing.

1:00pm FIELD TRIPS

DaveS: We welcome the new Field Trip Committee Chair, Kurt Leuschner, who is taking over from Tom Ryan.

Cuba Trip

- **Discussion:** Jon: I favor doing trips to Cuba because it raises money for the WFO. Maybe March of 2012 would be a possibility assuming that Gary Markowski gets his permit for 2012.
- Robbie: We could wait to see if travel restrictions to Cuba would be lifted by this August.
- **Action:** Jon: I would be happy to call Gary on behalf of WFO and indicate that we would be potentially interested for 2012.

Other trips:

Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico:

- **Update:** DaveS: Dave Krueper is planning a trip to the Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico very shortly.
- Ed: There are seven registrants which is enough to make it a go. We have collected \$2500 and the only expenses will be Dave's cost because registrants will pay for their own rooms and meals.
- **Discussion:** Robbie: Since the meeting is being held in Arizona and since DaveK is from New Mexico, maybe we should designate that the profit from this trip go to the *Birds of New Mexico*.
- DaveQ: I am more comfortable putting this money into a 'general pot' and then we can decide how much to designate to *BNM*.
- **Action:** DaveS: Let's hear from DaveK and let's try to make a quick determination on this matter.

Expedition into Sonora:

- **Update:** Carol: The expedition to Sonora may be in May with a limited number of participants.

Eastern Sierra Trip July 7-13, 2011

- **Update:** Jon: It's all set up except for the cost which is to be determined by Lina and Cat. All the information is there to be put immediately on the website.
- **Discussion:** Ed: Could you ask Lina to get the information to me so I could advertise it on the website so we can better attendance.
- Jon: For those of us who do tours, we need to have a discussion in the future of things like leeway of leaders designating funds and/or WFO having special fund raising trips.
- **Action:** DaveS: We need to have further discussion on the ramifications of this. Maybe Jon should report back to the Committee Chair, who then will report back on this.
- **Discussion:** Robbie: The question is how to structure the pricing.
- Kurt: We should have a policy for this but I don't know if we will get it in place for this trip.
- **Action:** DaveS: It seems if everyone would talk to each other, Cat, Kurt, Robbie, Jon, and Lina, it should all work out shortly.

Cost of trips and donations as part thereof

- **Discussion:** DaveS: In the past we have advertised some trips as part of the cost, a donation to WFO, but participants can potentially request a refund for that portion. They can do this under IRS rules. Perhaps we should not advertise trips that way.
- Ed: We should just list the cost of the trip and any profit WFO we will designate as we see fit.
- **Motion:** Ed: I make a motion that we not indicate that any portion of a field trip fee is a donation. Jon: Seconds. All agree: Opposed: None
- **Motion so carried.** This will be our policy going forth.

1:15 Outreach Committee

- **Discussion:** Jon: I will get together with Cat, put some guidelines together regarding what we can offer other organizations that we may partner with, and report back to the Board on this.

1:20pm Website

- **Report:** DaveS: Brain Sullivan thought that a focused mission statement is not evident on the website so he will try to come up with a “message” delineating exactly what we are all about which he will send out for review.

1:25pm History of WFO on Website

- **Update:** This is a project with Cat and Guy, but since Cat is not available right now, we should defer this to the next meeting.
- DaveS: There have been discussions about having links to other organizations. I think Joe may be willing to do that, but he wants some guidance as this can be pretty open ended.

1:28pm 2011 Teleconference Schedule:

- Periods being considered: *16-27 May* and *29 Nov-9 Dec*. A Doodle poll will be sent out for the teleconference meetings.

1:30pm Meeting adjourned