

**Minutes of the 20 March 2008 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 2:10 PM on Thursday, 20 March 2008.

Present: Board members and officers in attendance included: Dave Krueper (President), Jean Brandt (Recording Secretary), Robbie Fischer (Treasurer/Membership), Directors Jon Feenstra, Kimball Garrett, Bob Gill, Ed Pandolfino, Tom Ryan, Dave Shuford, and Jay Withgott, and Editor Phil Unitt.

Not Present: Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Jon Dunn, Gjon Hazard, Cat Waters, Debbie Van Dooremolen, and David Yee.

Approval of the 13 December 2007 Conference Call Minutes – Jean Brandt

- Garrett moved, Pandolfino seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Web Site – Jay Withgott and Dave Krueper

- Withgott thanked everyone for input. All pertinent information is in Tim Avery's hands and he has all the documents he needs. However, Withgott has had no recent response from Avery and there is no current status report today. Withgott noted that the job has been bigger and slower than anticipated.
- The announcement for the San Mateo conference has not been posted yet and Withgott asked Fischer to ask Joe Morlan to put it on old website. Fischer wants to get all info out ASAP. She will ask Morlan. Call for papers, newsletters and workshops should also be posted now.
- URL: <<http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/>> (not "live" yet)
- A discussion followed on having a shorter URL for the organization. Fisher and Krueper will write a proposal to e-mail the board for further discussion and vote. Fisher commented that there could be a link from the longer URL to a shorter one.
- Withgott offered to help Krueper put together wording for the contract with Tim Avery which will cover what is mutually expected from both parties. We do not have a contract now. This will be discussed within the Finance Committee and the Web Committee. Krueper does not think it will require full board approval.
- Fisher stressed that there is a real need for the ability to do timely updates.
- Krueper remarked that we have requested that there be two back-up people who can update the site.
- Unitt is concerned because the *Western Birds* page has not been updated.

Publicity for San Mateo 2008 Meeting – Ed Pandolfino

- It is very important that we get announcements in local Audubon chapter newsletters, Ornithological newsletters, websites, etc. Garrett volunteered to follow through.
- We need to have a committee and Garrett, Withgott and Floyd were mentioned.
- Pandolfino suggested sources for attendees and possible funding could be professional organizations and asked if we ever do this?
- Krueper said we have not done this for conferences. Garrett said that we ask for support of our publications but not for conferences.
- A possible source of attendees and perhaps sponsorship would be consulting companies like H.T. Harvey, Jones and Stokes, etc. Pandolfino will draft something to start an e-mail discussion among the Board about requesting sponsorships.
- Fischer said that it should go through the Finance Committee before he sends something out.
- Krueper questioned if this a good precedent? We need to have an e-mail discussion.

San Mateo 2008 Meeting (see appendix) – Robbie Fischer

- Fischer said that she needs everything pertaining to the registration form by 1 June. She wants to open registration by 15 June. She also needs a budget and schedules. All expenses and details for food, reception, workshop fees, etc, are due by 15 May.
- We need to decide who gets compensation and we need a “Steering Committee”. She suggested Waters, Krueper, Pandolfino, and Brandt. This committee will be informed on everything that goes into the planning.
- Field trip planning is going fairly well. Leaders are being recruited and she does not anticipate any problems. We need to have one board member and one local leader on every trip except Thursday.
- She complimented Pandolfino who has done a good job with workshops.
- Feenstra reported that pelagic trip planning is running well. Debbie Shearwater is arranging the trips with discount to conference participants. It is important to get announcements out ASAP since she is already booking these trips for the general public. Feenstra said it is first come, first served.
- Gill will help out but wants to do more. He will be on trip send-offs but is available to help before conference. Krueper asked the board to review their assignments and let Fischer know if they have changed. Fischer stressed the importance of having defined committees and letting people know what their commitments are.

Treasurer’s Report (see appendix) – Robbie Fischer

- We are in hole on CBRC book but that was anticipated since the book has only been out for about six months.
- We have used up all of the Publication Fund, but these funds will be replenished as funds come in and we can start putting funds back.

- We need to review our contract with Allen Press. Fischer has not received any invoices from them re storage of CBRC book and she said that Allen Press wanted to combine the CBRC and CBSSC books together in one contract.
- Shuford noted that the contract has not come through. Waters and Krueper are dealing with it. Shuford thought that we had received it last December but Krueper said that it is in the works and should now include both books.
- Fischer reported that we have a lot of money compared to five years ago. We have at least 2 years of operating expenses in-hand.

Publications Committee Report – Dave Shuford

- BSSC (our first “*Studies in Western Birds*”) is now printed (3000 copies) and available. CDFG will do a press release. The book is being sold at only \$12.00 because costs have been subsidized.
- Books may be ordered directly from Allen Press
- Unitt asked if we can get CDFG to put a link for ordering it on their webpage. Shuford said they will probably do this. Fischer said that it should be on our web site too. Tim Avery has all the information needed to do this. It was asked if we need to wait until the new web site is up and running to post this information.
- Withgott will talk to Avery about the time involved in doing this.
- Shuford mentioned that we need a policy as to where to archive things such as our publications.
- Unitt announced that *Western Birds* 38 (1) is at the printers and he has enough material for issue #2.
- Garrett said that the next California Records Committee report will be available soon. Kathy Molina said that we have 11 manuscripts in process.
- Fischer mentioned that the inside front cover of the next issue is very fine and has a 2 photo layout (by Pete LaTourrette) of Orange-crowned Warblers for the “Western Specialties”, along with some text. Gjon Hazard had suggested that text should be included and everyone thinks it is a great idea.

Nominating Committee Report (see appendix) – Tom Ryan

- Ryan said he was not prepared. Gjon Hazard and Jay Withgott are not on the call.
- We will need 2 new directors coming onto the board at the next annual meeting. We will also need a new Nominating Committee chair as Hazard has a busy year coming up.
- Everyone should check their committee assignments for the WFO Board and make sure you are comfortable with them.
- We will also need a nominee for Vice President.

Field Trip Committee – Tom Ryan and Kimball Garrett

- Carol Beardmore is still working on the Sierra de la Laguna trip.
- “Birding with the Experts” is still in the planning stage.
- Eastern Venezuela 2008 will probably not happen.
- Jalisco/Colima: Unitt just got back and it was a rough trip but is possible. He saw 225 species in 6 days (including a boat ride); two days in lower thorn scrub/forest;

two days around the base of Volcan de Fuego; one day on Cerro Grande in Biosphere Reserve (this was not enough time). We should consider this as a WFO trip and he will give details to Ryan. Many options are available. Itinerary could be expanded. Ryan asked for details by the October 2008 board meeting.

- The guidance document has been completed but it still needs review by Krueper.
- Cuba: Garrett reported that the 2007 Cuba trip was cancelled. Gary Markowski now has permission for future trips and we are planning a 2 – 13 November 2008 trip. Eight people who signed up for the aborted trip have expressed interest in the 2008 trip and we should have no trouble filling the trip.
- El Triunfo: This trip is possible for 2009 or 2010 with either Mike San Miguel or Krueper as leaders.
- Thailand 2010: Krueper talked with Will Russell at WINGS about freeing up Jon Dunn for this trip. Russell thinks it is a good idea and will discuss details with Dunn. It was asked if WINGS will take care of the logistics. Dunn would donate his fee and the price would be about the same as the WINGS trip. Ryan thinks it is a good idea to work with WINGS.

Miscellaneous Business and schedule the next conference call

- We need someone to take over the Scholarship Committee Chair! We need this to be addressed. Ted Floyd got it going but he isn't available now.
- Discussion on a new logo for WFO? Should we have a professional artist do this? Perhaps have a competition. What would be concerns in approaching five California artists to do this gratis?
- Garrett said that the logo should be simple. Not artsy.
- Names suggested were Narca Moore-Craig, Keith Hansen and Andy Birch.
- A committee was appointed to review the logo situation: Jon Dunn, Cat Waters, Dave Krueper, and Kimball Garrett.

Next Conference Call

- Field season will be upon us in June and so next conference call might be sometime in the latter half of June or early July?
- We need to pick a date and Feenstra suggested having the call at a later hour.
- Krueper will send an e-mail about the date and time.
 - 24 June
 - 26 June
 - 1 July
 - 8 July
 - 10 July
- Krueper is in contact with Idaho people about the 2009 meeting – possibly in Boise, Idaho. It is on the table right now.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22

Appendix and Committee Briefings

Finance (Robbie Fischer)

We have about \$78,000 on hand after printing BSSC.

BSSC - We had \$9700 dedicated to this book in the Pubs Fund. We have spent \$7335. CDFG paid our invoice for \$3550 and I have invoiced them for an additional \$3285. Allen Press charged \$17133 for printing in March. I will invoice CDFG in March.

Rare Birds of CA - There are about 450 copies of the book at Allen Press as of Feb. 29. The publication committee is reviewing the contract with Allen. Once the contract is approved, Allen will invoice WFO for services for 2007 and 2008.

Our publication fund balance will be depleted until CDFG pays the BSSC invoices.

We have 900 current members. Additional renewals are expected in the next month.

Please let Robbie know if anyone has any questions. She will mail a copy of the Excel membership files to anyone on the board who requests them.

Future Meetings Committee (Robbie Fischer)

San Mateo, CA 9-11 October 2008

- Robbie Fischer has provided us with some guidance with the San Mateo Meeting Planning document. Please review and see where you can help with your respective committees

Nominations Committee (Gjon Hazard, Tom Ryan, Jay Withgott)

- Bob Gill and Kimball Garrett will be "terming out" as Board Members at the 2008 meeting
- Dave Krueper and Cat Waters will be "terming out" as President and Vice President at the 2008 meeting
- If anyone else would like to leave their position (Board members or Officers), please contact Gjon
- Need nominations, including Board (currently 2 openings), VP, and Pres (though Cat is the anticipated nominee)
- Currently Dan Gibson has been nominated for the Board, but Dave Quady has also been discussed
- Send e-mail to Gjon (and group?) with additional nominations

- Seeking new Nominations Committee Chair for next year and beyond [as an aside, I think Debbie would be good, but she may have her hands full with scientific sessions organization each year]

Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors election status as of October 2007 (start of 2008 election cycle), incorporating the elections from the 2007 Las Vegas meeting.

Position	Person	Years until next election (year of that meeting)	Years until position “terms-out” (year of that meeting)
Dir A	Ed Pandolfino	3 (2010)	6 (2013)
Dir B	Debbie Van Dooremolen	3 (2010)	6 (2013)
Dir C	Bob Gill	N/A	1 (2008)
Dir D	Kimball Garrett	N/A	1 (2008)
Dir E	David Shuford	N/A	2 (2009)
Dir F	Jon Feenstra	N/A	2 (2009)
Dir G	Gjon Hazard	N/A	3 (2010)
Dir H	Elisabeth Ammon	N/A	3 (2010)
Dir I	Jay Withgott	1 (2008)	4 (2011)
Dir J	Tom Ryan	1 (2008)	4 (2011)
Dir K	Jon Dunn	2 (2009)	5 (2012)
Dir L	Carol Beardmore	2 (2009)	5 (2012)
Pres	David Krueper	1 (2008)	1 (2008)
VP	Cat Waters	1 (2008)	1 (2008)
IPP	David Yee	N/A	1* (2008)

* David Yee is assumed to be replaced by Dave Krueper upon the completion of Krueper’s second term as President.

San Mateo Meeting Plan Committee Reports:

Site: (Catherine Waters, Robbie Fischer)

Field trip planning: (Robbie Fischer, Jon Feenstra, Ed Pandolfino, Joe Morlan, Tom Ryan, Jon Dunn)

Jon Feenstra and I have been in touch with Debi Shearwater. We will have a pelagic on Thursday and another on Sunday. Details are below. Jon and I have assured Debi we will publicize these as soon as possible. I intend to e-mail members about the conference as soon as I have the announcement from Jay. The newsletter in Western Birds will have information as well.

Full day trips on Thursday and Sunday will be the same. I would like to limit them to 12 participants and 2 leaders, one local, one WFO board member. A tentative schedule here

would accommodate 72 people. ADDITIONAL SECTIONS WILL BE ADDED AS REGISTRATION WARRANTS.

Thursday and Sunday full day land-based trips:

Point Reyes	2 sections	24 people
Half Moon Bay	1 section	12 people
Hayward Shoreline	1 section	12 people
SF (Presidio probably)	1 section	12 people
Hawk Hill / Rodeo Lagoon	1 section	12 people

Friday and Saturday half day land-based trips (72 people):

Coyote Point	1 section	12 people
Redwood Shores	1 section	12 people
Golden Gate Park	1 section	12 people
San Bruno Mt.	1 section	12 people
An inland county park	1 section	12 people
Palo Alto Baylands	1 section	12 people

The half day trips are all within about 30 minutes of the hotel (some closer). Additional sections or one or two other choices can be added but I would like all destinations firm by May 1. In my opinion, registration should not begin before June 15.

(Debi's description of the pelagics are not included here but see Robbie's e-mail on 3 March 2008 for the entire package of information)

Field trip sendoff: (Tom Ryan, Bob Gill)

Advance Registration: (Robbie Fischer, Jean Brandt)

Registration on site: (Robbie Fischer, Gjon Hazard)

Publicity/Promotions: (Kimball Garrett, Ted Floyd, Jay Withgott)

Jay Withgott sent an announcement of the meeting to Tim Avery on March 10.

The website needs to be updated to show the announcement of the meeting.

Receptions: (Catherine Waters, Elisabeth Ammon, Dave Krueper)

Science sessions: (Debbie Van Dooremolen, Jay Withgott, Dave Shuford)

- Debbie distributed the Call For Papers to various persons for distribution to various locations. She also CC'd all members of the sub-committee on scientific paper sessions, as well. The call also went into Western Birds.
- Thus far the Call for Papers has been distributed to these listserves: Sonoran Joint Venture, West Working Group, AZ/NM WG05 Birding Listserve, others (?)

Abstracts: (Ted Floyd, Carol Beardmore, Gjon Hazard, Phil Unitt)

Printing/Copying: (Jon Feenstra, Jean Brandt)

Presenter biographies: (Carol Beardmore, Dave Krueper)

- In the Call for Papers is a note to include a bio for each presenter
- Banquet speaker Carla Cicero will need to be approached. Either Krueper will personally do that, or if Kimball would prefer to approach Carla, that is fine also

Workshops: (Ed Pandolfino, Carol Beardmore, Ted Floyd)

We have six workshops set up as below:

Friday AM October 10

- Field Sketching with John Muir Laws
- Use of GPS in Field Biology with Tom Ryan
- Bay Area Tidal Marsh Restoration Project with Danielle Le Fer (short class session, then field trip)

Saturday AM October 11

- Field Sketching with John Muir Laws
- Hands-on eBird workshop with Brian Sullivan. Carol Beardmore will coordinate with Brian on this workshop
- An Ecological Transect of the San Mateo Peninsula with Al Jaramillo (short class session, then field trip)

Though we could consider more workshops, I think this is about all that I can be responsible for managing at one meeting.

Open items:

- Financial - need some guidance about how much to charge for each workshop
- Logistics: need to visit site to see about room requirements and confirm wireless access for the eBird workshop; need to investigate cost of renting van(s) for Al's workshop.

Vendors: (Catherine Waters, Bruce Webb)

Book sales: (Dave Shuford, Elisabeth Ammon)

- No progress to report due to finishing up BSSC

Evening programs: (Kimball Garrett, Jay Withgott, Robbie Fischer)

- Evening Banquet Speaker has accepted – Carla Cicero

Expert panels: (Kimball Garrett, Joe Morlan, Nathan Pieplow, Jon Dunn)

Breakfast & Lunch: (Tom Ryan, Ed Pandolfino)

Banquet: (Catherine Waters, Carol Beardmore, Dave Krueper)