

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Western Field Ornithologists
10 June 2009 – Conference Call**

Submitted by Jean Brandt, recording secretary

A conference-call meeting of the Board of Directors of Western Field Ornithologists was called to order at 2:00 PDST on 10 June 2009 by President Cat Waters.

Board Members and officers in attendance included Cat Waters (President), Dan Gibson (Vice-President), Dave Krueper (Immediate Past President), Jean Brandt (Recording Secretary), Robbie Fischer (Treasurer/Membership Secretary), and Directors Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Gjon Hazard, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Dave Quady, Tom Ryan, and Debbie Van Dooremolen, [Jay Withgott](#). Also present: Phil Unitt, Editor of *Western Birds*. Jon Feenstra, unable to attend, submitted the attached report.

Status of donation letter to membership (Cat/Dan)

- In April, the finance committee decided that a letter for donations should go out and that Cat and Dan would write it. This has not been done yet **however, it was brought up that it should be done and Cat said that it will be done soon. She and Dan will coordinate with the finance committee.**

Tejon Ranch potential for WFO members (Cat/Carol/Tom)

- Graham Chisholm has taken Directorship of Audubon California
- They asked WFO if we would be interested in doing **projects** similar projects **to** Carol's work in Mexico.
- The ranch has been closed to the public for over 100 years. Elisabeth volunteered to be part of the team.

- The Tejon people **may** underwrite the expeditions. (Pack animals, food, equipment, etc). Tejon Ranch is sensitive to politics. **Discussions are preliminary at this point.**

Status of proposed Western Birds Issue dedicated to Robert Dickerman (Dave K.)

- Dave proposed that a future issue of *Western Birds* be dedicated to Robert Dickerman to celebrate his over 40 years of work. We will try to get manuscripts from students, colleagues, etc. who would like to contribute. Many names have come up.
- Phil – when we do anything special, the slowest item in the process determines the rate of publication
- **Phil requested** a Volume Editor to coordinate reviews, . **collection of manuscripts, revisions, cut-off date, etc. to keep things on time. Ken Able was suggested.**
- Dan asked about the time line. Phil suggested the 2nd or 3rd issue for 2010 at the earliest. We can't schedule anything until we know that we have the materials. Dan said that this should be a special publication. We don't need to hamstring *Western Birds* to do this.
- Robbie asked how it would be funded and how would it be distributed if we consider doing it as a special publication. Do we just send it to members?
- Cat said we should table it for further discussion via email.

Committee Reports/Committee Business

Addition of a line item for the WFO budget for the CBRC (Cat)

- CBRC wants to publish new checklist – Guy and ? are working on it. Cat thinks that things like this should be planned in advance and put in the budget. Which funds does it come from? Dave K. wants annual updates on financials for CBRC. Robbie said that we pay under \$200/year for a PO Box. We also pay for the website. Guy makes these payments and she reimburses him.
- Cat wants it in the budget. All agree.

Publications committee report (Dave S.)

Status of publishing official California State Bird List

- Dave S. thinks we should publish the California Checklist (and it should be in the budget). We should shop for the best printing price and get bids. There should be a policy as to how many to print.
- Paul Lehman sent a formal request for publication of the list. It is in Dave S hands. We are waiting for the new AOU list to coordinate list order. Dan said that AOU makes changes to their list every year so we should publish the California List just after AOU comes out with the latest order.
- Robbie noted that CBRC did not make the decision that it was time to publish a new checklist. She asked Guy to do this. We sell the list – 2000 copies in 2005 – and we made back the money it cost by end of 2006. This has not been a loss for WFO – we made some money. Robbie initiated this – it is not that CBRC decided to do this arbitrarily. She said that it makes sense to wait until August. Cat thanked Robbie for clarifying this.
- Dave K. remarked that the North American checklist will be coming out soon too.

Status of proposal for using publications funds for donating to other worthy field ornithology books in the west

- Dave S. said that this is in progress and he will work on this after he comes back from field work.
- Birds of New Mexico is a possibility. Dave K. gave details:
 - Authors are Sartor (Sandy) O. Williams III and Patricia Melhop
 - revision to Florence Merriam Bailey's Birds of New Mexico (1928)
 - signed contract with University of New Mexico (non-profit) status)
 - WFO would like to help offset cost of printing of the book, resulting in a lower retail cost to the public
 - Sandy would welcome any amount. Cat, Dan and I discussed "appropriate" amount, and we had a wide range from \$1000 to \$5000. Did not decide on a total at this point. Perhaps \$3000 is appropriate?
 - WFO will get our logo on the frontispiece (we prefer it that way)
 - WFO should pay our contribution when the manuscript is complete
 - letter of monetary commitment needs to go out to the UNM Press so that they know of our intention. This letter will detail what we (WFO) will receive and also what each party expects and will provide
 - contact at UNM Press is Clark Whitehorn (505-272-7193)

By-laws committee report (Gjon)

- Gjon noted that the By-laws Committee consists of him. He is trying to get an understanding of issues raised in San Mateo. He plans to work with Executive Committee and will send a draft to those board members who are interested. He wants and needs input.

Meeting Committee Overview/Status of Idaho and California meetings (Cat)

- Cat sent this information in an email and it is appended to minutes.
- Everything is on time for the meeting.

Scientific Committee report/paper status (Debbie)

- We have 3 abstracts so far and 1 in the pipeline. We need more. The deadline is 15 June but this will have to be extended. Debbie asked the board to send suggestions.
- Boise State asked if we do poster sessions. We do not but Debbie will ask the keynote speaker about doing a symposium.
- Several suggestions were made. Elisabeth, Dave, and Carol have people in mind.

***Western Birds* Report (Phil)**

- Vol. 40, No. 2 is being printed now and it should be in mail soon. We have enough final drafts for Vol. 40, No. 3 and some for Vol. 40, No. 4. We are OK respect to *Western Birds* now.

- We need to think of printing covers now. We do 2 at a time. Gjon has manuscript that may be suitable for cover or back page.
- NEWS - Gjon has joined *Western Birds* as an Associate Editor.
- All illustration suggestions should be run past Peter Tourette.
- Phil mentioned that he was leary of having reviews of our publications in *Western Birds* but that Allen Contraris, who is not a Californian, wrote an excellent review of Dave S is thrilled with review.

Treasurer's Report (Robbie)

- Sent reports via email. No issues to discuss. Please send any comments directly to Robbie.

Finance Committee Report (Robbie)

- Cat said that there is a need for a primer/guidance document for specific instructions on how to do banking, payment for publications, membership rolls.
- She and Dan asked Phil how we would continue if Phil gets hit by bus (God forbid!). Dan worked with Phil and now we have an accounting of how we get *Western Birds* published.
- Cat and Dan want to know what happens with day-to-day finances. Robbie is wonderful and is very careful. However, Cat and Dan don't know how it is done and asked to work with her to understand the whole job. Robbie noted that she wrote the procedures some time ago. She will update them and will put them on paper rather than discuss it. She will send this to the finance committee for comment, then to the whole board.

Memorials (Cat)

- Does WFO need or want to have a policy or continue on as we have been doing?
- Cat writes notes from WFO when she hears of passings. Someone asked if we should send \$\$ in honor and that was turned down. Jean suggested we treat this case-by-case. Tributes could be in the newsletter or in *Western Birds*. The letter from Cat for the board is very good.
- Phil noted that the only previous tribute in *Western Birds* was for Howard Cogswell. (2 pages). The board agreed that this is a good guideline.
- Let Cat know if you hear of any passings that need to be acknowledged.

New Business

- Cat: asked Carol about her upcoming expedition. Carol is working on it for the end of April 2010. She needs to confirm the date and expenses and locations.
- Phil needs the information as soon as she makes the arrangements.

OOPs, we forgot

- Gjon reminded us that we had not approved the minutes of the January conference call.
- Gjon, moved, Cat seconded, unanimous approval as written.

3:20 Meeting Adjourned

See attachments below:

- Standing Committees

- Email from Cat re: old business
- Email from Feenstra re: Website

WFO Standing Committees as of June 10, 2009

***WFO Committees:** The president and vice-president of WFO are ex officio members of all committees and should be copied all reports. Contact directly the appropriate committee chair if you are interested in participating in that committee. Thank you.

By-laws: Gjon Hazard (chair), Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Kimball Garrett, Dan Gibson, Debbie VanDooremolen, Daniel Gibson, Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman

California Bird Records: (chair) Paul Lehman

Field Trips: Tom Ryan (chair), Carol Beardmore, Mike San Miguel, Cat Waters

Finances: Dave Krueper (chair), Robbie Fischer, Ed Pandolfino, Cat Waters

Meetings: Cat Waters and Dave Krueper (co-chairs), Jean Brandt, Kurt Leuschner, Ed Pandolfino, Debbie Vandooremolen, Jay Withgott

Membership: Robbie Fischer (chair), Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Dave Quady

Monograph Series Publications: Ken Able (editor), Ted Floyd, Dave Shuford

Nominations: Dave Krueper (chair), Elisabeth Ammon, Tom Ryan, Jay Withgott

Publications: Dave Shuford (chair), Jon Dunn, Ted Floyd, Dan Gibson, Bob Gill, Cat Waters, Jay Withgott

Website/E Communication: Jon Feenstra (chair), Dave Krueper, Joe Morlan

Western Birds: Philip Unitt (editor), Kathy Molina (assistant editor)

Awards/Award Guidelines: Dave Quady, Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Ted Floyd

Dear Board,

We had a number of old business items remaining from our January meeting. Please see below for the status of each and any resolutions.

Status of Old Business from 15 January 2009 – Conference Call Board Meeting

****Please refer to Jean's copies of the minutes that she distributed****

Website - Jon Feenstra is now the chair of the website committee and our "e consultant."

Recognition and Awards report - Dave Quady has been named chair of this committee and his target date is for our first award(s) will be given at the Coachella Valley meeting.

Recognition of Associate Editors: No suggestions were rec'd by Cat and Dan so the suggestion remains tabled for the time being

By-laws Changes on BRCs : The planning for this change continues

Reminders – Cat:

The Committee “Roadmap” (i.e., “field guide to responsibilities”) is still a work in progress.

The finance committee decided that a fundraising letter would be appropriate and Dan and Cat were to write it. It is still a letter in the works.

Publications

Sales of BSSC continue to languish

The cost of Rare Birds was lowered and sales picked up.

Programs to promote BSSC and Rare Birds are still wanting

. State of California provided a link on their website for purchase of hard copies of BSSC

Western Birds

Swarovski got all the information that they needed

Field Trip Committee Updates

Midway w/ Wings is delayed to 2011. The cost is extravagant. Narca would lead.

The Federal Gov't requires licensure to take field trips to Midway. Began sounding like we were asking them about going to Cuba.

Future Meetings Committee

2009 meeting – Boise, Idaho (local coordination with Idaho Bird Observatory). Dates: 10, 11, 12, 13 September

2010 meeting – Coachella Valley, California (Kurt Leuschner)

2011 meeting – Arizona (Alan and Narca Moore will sponsor)

2012 meeting – Northern California

2013 meeting – Billings, Montana

Nominations Committee Update: No news

40th Anniversary of *Western Birds* events: No progress

Central Valley Bird Symposium

There is no longer a problem.

Feenstra report:

This report is being submitted for Jon Feenstra who is in the field and out of cell phone range for the Conference Call Board Meeting tomorrow, June 10, 2009.

The website is in good shape.

WFO is getting a facebook account

Requests for posting more out of state photographs on the website have been made. This will take promotion.

The realization of the fact that people could not charge donations to WFO from the website was recently brought up and plans are afoot to change this.

Still in the works is the development of the links to other states BRC's, ornithology groups, etc.

Requests and comments regarding the website can be sent to Jon
Webmaster doing an excellent job
