

**Minutes of the 28 June 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 2:00 PM on Thursday, 28 June 2007.

Present: Board members and officers in attendance included: Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Jean Brandt, Robbie Fischer, Ted Floyd, Kimball Garrett, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, David Krueper, Tom Ryan, Mike San Miguel, Dave Shuford, Cat Waters, Jay Withgott, and David Yee.

Also Present: Phil Unitt

Absent: Dan Gibson, Jon Dunn,

A transcript of the meeting follows:

Welcome and Introductions

- Dave K. called the roll of those present and said that he had a heavy agenda. There are many items to address and if we don't get to everything he welcomes phone calls and emails.

Approval of 16 January 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

- Elisabeth moved and Carol seconded to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous for approval.

Treasurer's Report – Robbie

- No questions were asked about the most recent financial statements and Robbie said that finance matters will be discussed in various reports later in the meeting.

Meetings Committee – Cat

- Update on the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV: Cat said that we are on target; however, she is having a problem in getting bird experts in NV to lead trips or be involved at all. They seem to be very unsure of their skills. Elisabeth will help find trip leaders. Mike asked Elisabeth for list of people – he might be able to help. Martin Meyers wants to have a meeting of NV Bird Records Committee during the conference. Cat is working on this. Many local names were mentioned and those people will be approached.
- Another big problem: Cat needs a bookseller to bring and sell books in connection with the scheduled authors' book signing event. She has a line on someone but has had no response. There are no natural history bookstores in Las Vegas. (Surprise). She is contacting Los Angeles Audubon and Sea & Sage Audubon as they both have active bookstores and may be interested. They will be selling our books anyhow. Cat requested input and Elisabeth volunteered to help.
- Robbie: Please register and book hotel NOW as space is limited in Henderson. She is going to South Africa (will be unavailable 10 July – 10 August) and would like to have Board reservations before 10 July. Dave K. asked if she had solicited Board members for help. No, she hasn't, but she will. The Board meeting is on Thursday so do not sign up for full-day field trips for that day.

- Book signing social: Cat needs assistance from the rest of the Board for organization and logistics. Arranging for the availability of books (local booksellers) is a problem. (See bullet 2 above) Do members need to bring their own copies of books to be signed and should we make that announcement? Dave K. wondered what facilities we have for transporting books to Henderson. Alan Contreras will bring his own books to sell. We should put a notice on the website for people to bring their own.
- Board meeting scheduled for 1:00 – 5:00 PM on Thursday.
- Future meetings:
 - 2008 – San Francisco Bay Area - Robbie and Joe will host. Kimball reminded us that this meeting will attempt to partner with MVZ because of the Joseph Grinnell centennial events that year. Cat said that once the hotels have been picked, the dates will be set – probably sometime after mid-October. Cat is researching hotels. Robbie has contacted Debi Shearwater to arrange a pelagic trip.
 - 2009 – Possible conference in Boise, Idaho in conjunction with Jay Carlisle and the Idaho Bird Observatory. Dave K. is looking into it. Kimball said we should contact Lloyd Kiff at The World Center for Birds of Prey/Peregrine Fund in Boise. Kimball will make contact with Lloyd. Jay W. just joined us and will try to get the Washington people interested in hosting us. Cat said people are interested in doing pelagics off Washington. Elisabeth has contacts in Washington too and will work on them. One possibility is to meet in eastern Washington and involve Idaho people as well.
 - 2010 – Los Angeles?
 - Carol is interested in having a meeting somewhere in NW Mexico. (Ensenada, Bahia Kino, Guaymas/San Carlos – somewhere on the coast.) Tom Ryan supports this idea. Dave K. said that Carol has organized many trips in Mexico and could head this meeting. Others joined in with their support. Alamos, Sonora was also suggested as a potential meeting site.

Western Birds – Phil

- Publication schedule – *Western Birds* Issue Vol. 38, No. 2 was mailed on 22 June from a San Diego post office). Volume 38, No. 3 is in the works and should go to printer the first week in July. Phil said that we are on target with the publication schedule this year. He needs announcements to go into 38, No. 3 immediately.
- Phil – We may have to suspend color on the inside covers of *Western Birds* for Issues 3 & 4 as we have no sponsorship. Cat contacted Nikon and they are talking but nothing has happened yet. Mike hasn't been able to get a response from Clay Taylor at Swarovski. Dave K. was asked to release money from the treasury for inside cover color and he didn't feel comfortable doing this. Mike said that as long as we have the money we should consider doing it. Dave K. asked for opinions from the Board. Robbie said we have many expenditures coming up and we should wait. She recommended that we do not have color for Issues 3 & 4. If we don't have a sponsor for next year, we should drop color entirely. We don't have the money right now. Dave K. said we should solicit life members, etc, for donations. Robbie reminded us that she suggested 9 months ago that we send letters to the life members soliciting donations for color pages and that has not been done as yet. Phil said we will go without color on inside covers on 3 & 4.
- Ted – He posted *Western Birds* to many organizations. Kimball asked if people request .pdf files in response to these postings. Ted sends them to Phil. Phil said the authors should do

their own distributing of .pdf files and reprints. The whole reason for posting the Western Birds table of contents is to encourage membership in WFO.

- Dave K. – Is there a need to recruit more editorial staff for *ms* reviews? (diversification, perspective, give reviewers a break, etc.) Phil said that none of the associate editors have complained so he doesn't think it is necessary. Rather than more associate editors, we should encourage more submissions to *Western Birds*. Dave K. said he brought this up to find out if we have a policy to have guest reviewers? Kathy Molina handles this very well. She has many respected sources for doing the reviews. Kimball said that Kathy would welcome recommendations as sometimes she is overwhelmed.
- Updating the .pdf files for SORA – Phil said that this is not a problem. It is just a matter of contacting the authors. We are up to 2005 now. When should we update? Dave S. said that there might be a problem with the type of .pdf file we use. Phil will check. Dave S. will send him the name of the contact person at SORA.

CBRC *Rare Birds of California* - Phil and Cat

- Text went to printer on Monday 25 June. The cover can go as soon as Peter Gaede gets back. Phil hasn't heard back from Allen Press. He wants the blue line and asks what is the planned time line. Logic dictates that it should only be 3 weeks to 2 months to have the book printed after submission. Cat said that it depends on speed of blue line. Phil says blue lines are not a problem as he is very fast doing this. Cat said that our patience has been tried due to Allen's slowness. Dave K. is concerned about the timing. He wants to have the book at the September meeting. Cat said Phil should have the blue line within 10 days after receiving the cover. Dave S. asked if we are going cut these guys a large check while Robbie is gone. Robbie said that she can get them a check as soon as she knows how many we are printing. Dave K and JB can sign checks in emergencies. Phil is to find out details.
- Cost of individual volumes to be determined (estimates). Cat – we cannot discuss this today. Her computer crashed. The book is going to be pretty expensive. Looking in neighborhood of \$50.00 to \$60.00 if we print between 750 - 1000 copies at this price. Cat will send everyone the budget for the book.

Publications Committee – Dave S.,

- *Bird Species of Special Concern* – Dave Compton finished the copy-editing. We are promised \$25,000 from CDFG for publication. Dave S. said mid-July is a good date for completion and sent to Allen Press.
- How to promote notification of publication of bird books in the West. Ted suggested a "point person" to run a "bulletin board" of recent and upcoming publications for our membership. Should this be just books or also notification of applicable articles in state ornithological journals as well? Ted said WFO should be a clearing house 'bulletin board' to let everyone know what is going on with bird-wise publications in the west. Phil said this is appropriate for *Western Birds* and for the website.
- We need a point of contact for the Utah Breeding Bird Atlas once the CBRC and BSSC books are published and on the street. Cat said that there was no further discussion on publishing their Breeding Bird Atlas, which is just getting off the ground. This is something we should discuss at Henderson. Dave K – our publications will show how WFO can effect similar publications throughout the west. The board should think about other organizations and what are they doing? Elisabeth asked what we are offering. Phil Phil answered: editing, type-setting, production. We have the experience to help others.

Date of next Conference Call

- 23 August was the most favorable date for those present.

Field Trip Committee – Tom

- We need a standardized post-field trip evaluation form and Tom will get this out before the 23 August conference call.

Nominations Committee – Gjon

- We do not have time to discuss qualifications for each person but we ask for qualifications and level of interest from each nominee
- Dan Gibson and Mike San Miguel are not eligible for re-election this year; Ted Floyd intends to end his term on the board this year as well.
- The first terms of Gjon Hazard and Elisabeth Ammon expire but they are eligible for re-election
- Suggestions for nominations thus far for Board membership:
 - Jon Feenstra (Mike San Miguel)
 - Ed Pandolfino (Dave S. and Tom Ryan)
 - Jessie Barry (Ted Floyd)
 - Noah Strycker (Ted Floyd)
 - Eduardo Palacios (Carol and Dave)
 - Dan Cooper
 - Horacio de la Cueva
 - Osvel Hinojosa
 - Oscar Johnson
- Cat asked if Gjon has time to contact these people. Gjon said yes but he needs help and the contact information. Robbie said that Board members should be WFO members before they are elected to the board. Kimball and Jean agreed. Cat said that we need a good level of participation. Kimball said that the people who recommended these potential nominees should contact them – not Gjon. The Nomination Committee will need CVs on these people.
- Gjon said that reaching out to foreign members is a long-term process. Robbie said that right now we have 0 members from Mexico and 5-8 from Canada. We should work on recruiting foreign members. Much discussion followed.

Last Minute Discussion Items

- Cat and Dave K are working on finding a new webmaster. Cat recommended Jason Stuck of Los Angeles Audubon to re-design the website but he won't be web master.
- Robbie – is there a chance that she should send out the life member solicitation letter or wait until she returns. Kimball said that Jon Dunn should be the one to sign it. Robbie said Ted has a draft for Jon to sign. Robbie needs it by 10 July. Cat will follow through.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.