

**Minutes of the 10 July 2008 Conference Call of the Board of Directors  
Western Field Ornithologists**

*Recorded by Kimball Garrett (for Jean Brandt)*

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, 10 July 2008.

**Present:** Board members and officers in attendance included: Dave Krueper (President), Cat Waters (Vice President), Robbie Fischer (Treasurer/Membership), Directors: Elisabeth Ammon, Jon Dunn, Jon Feenstra, Kimball Garrett, Gjon Hazard, Ed Pandolfino, Dave Shuford, Debbie Van Dooremolen, and Jay Withgott.

**Not Present:** Carol Beardmore, Jean Brandt (Secretary: called in at 3:00 to say there was an emergency in her department in the museum and she could not participate in the call), Bob Gill, Tom Ryan, Phil Unitt (Editor), and David Yee.

**Minutes of last meeting:**

Approval moved (Garrett), 2<sup>nd</sup> Ammon, approved

**Treasurer's Report (Fischer)**

[See Attachment at end of notes]

Breakdown of costs of most recent issue of WB provided

Suggest raising membership fees \$5 per year (\$10 for overseas and contributing member, \$15 for supporting, and increase Life to \$600); this should hold us for about 3 years.

This increase will go into effect for Volume 40 (2009), but those who sign up for San Mateo conference will still get next volume for \$30.

Membership fee increase as outlined above: Ammon (move), KLG second, carried (see Agenda Appendix for details)

About half Robbie's time is managing membership and subscription base.

DK asked about impacts of increasing fuel costs, etc. – will that cause our costs to go up over the next few years?

CW: Cost of postage recently went up and is likely to go up again within a year; how will this affect WB mailing costs? She feels RF's suggested dues increase will cover this.

*Western Birds:* Need to decide whether to do color inside covers for #3 and #4 for current volume (39); RF suggests skipping color inside covers for these two issues (we currently have no sponsor for the additional ~\$2000/year to do this color).

DS: argues to maintain the color for the rest of this year, and switch at beginning of v. 40 if needed.

Do not need to decide today, but Robbie would like the board to decide rather than having to decide herself based on budget considerations.

GH: Why not have membership dues cover the cost of color on the inside covers? (would be about \$2 per membership)

CW: If Peter LaTourrette, Joe Morlan, and Phil Unitt agree that there is no need for color on the inside covers of the next two issues, then let's forego the color; if it is needed, then we'll go with color. DS suggests further that Phil (etc.) try to seek out more color contributions for the "Western Specialty" inside front cover. Cat W. will contact Joe M and Peter L. to get their decision and report back to the board.

We are out of Vol. 39 No. 1; so any new members who sign up the rest of the year will be members immediately but will not receive Western Birds until v. 40.

We generally have ~50-100 extra copies of recent issues

DK suggests increasing Treasurer salary \$75 per month because of additional work involved with publications, orders, etc. (which is taking her an extra ~5 hours/month)  
Her salary will increase from \$6000 to \$6900/year  
CW moves, Ed P. seconds, carried

### **Publications Committee Report**

DS: Rare Birds of California has sold 577 out of 1000

California Bird Species of Special Concern; 3000 printed, 590 have been sold, and another ~600+ have been distributed, so about 1800 left (sales are averaging about 1.6 books per day)

DK: Should readvertise BSSC on listserves, and also promote it more in states adjacent to California

DS: Concern about how few reviews have been published for each of our books; WFO board members need to try harder to get our books reviewed in journals. KLG will continue to try to place reviews in Wilson Bulletin.

### **Western Birds Update**

(Unitt not present)

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The following was e-mailed to the Board by Gjon Hazard prior to the meeting:

Here's where things stand in terms of nominations:

Bob Gill and Kimball Garrett will be "terming out" as Board Members at the 2008 San Mateo meeting. Tom Ryan's and Jay Withgott's first terms will end this year, but each may serve another 3-year term before terming out.

Dave Krueper and Cat Waters will be terming out as President and Vice President at the 2008 meeting.

No one has contacted me with a request to leave other posts. (I had made such a request as part of the Nominating Committee report included in the agenda from the previous conference call.)

As such, we have the following openings with the following nominees/potential nominees (followed by the nominator[s]):

President (1 opening) (1-year term, 2 terms max)  
Cat Waters (Krueper)

Vice President (1 opening) (1-year term, 2 terms max)  
Dan Gibson (Cat)

Recording Secretary (1-year term, no term limit)  
Jean Brandt (for re-election)

Treasurer/Membership Secretary (1-year term, no term limit)  
Robbie Fischer (for re-election)

Directors (2 re-elections, 2 openings) (3-year term, 2 terms max)  
Jay Withgott (for re-election) (Oregon)  
Tom Ryan (for re-election) (California)

Osvel Hinojosa (Beardmore, Krueper) (Mexico)  
Dave Quady (Cat, Dunn, Mike) (California)

(Potential Director nominees, not yet approached formally)  
Alison Hilf (unconfirmed; Cat) (Colorado)  
Alison Sheehy (unconfirmed; Cat) (California)  
Bob Barnes (unconfirmed; Cat) (Nevada/California)  
Bruce Webb (unconfirmed; Cat) (California)  
Dan Casey (unconfirmed; Krueper) (Montana)  
Darlene Smyth (unconfirmed; Cat) (Arizona)  
Shawneen Finnegan (unconfirmed; Cat) (Oregon)  
others???

### **San Mateo Meeting**

RF: Reserve hotel rooms soon!

RF: Will be out of town late July and early August.

One additional task: putting together overall program (all events for all days of meeting); people who are registering want to know this (what time different sessions are, etc.) Last year Cat W. did this for the overall meeting, Debbie van D did it for the science sessions. For San Mateo, Cat and Debbie will work on putting together overall program to put on website.

RF: Other concern is about lunches for Thursday and Sunday full day field trips; Ed P. will make final arrangements in August.

A block of rooms are supposed to be discounted for Wednesday night, but people are reporting that the hotel is saying that discounted rooms are not available for Wednesday night.

Ed P.: Publicity about meeting. Information has been sent to newsletters for 8 or 9 Audubon chapters in the northern California region.  
Info on meeting is on new web site, and that site is functional; people need to know that new web site is up  
GPS workshop will not be conducted by Tom Ryan; info is still not on web site.  
Somebody from REI will be giving it instead of TR.  
Venders: Five already signed up; may not be room for many more.  
JF: Pelagic trips. Debi Shearwater was concerned about lack of publicity for our pelagics, but that has been remedied (more info now on web site). Any publicity and blurbs we put out on listserves about the meeting should emphasize that there will be pelagic trips on Thursday and Saturday.  
JW: Has a template for announcement about meeting and the new web site; he will send this to everybody

### **Website**

New site is up and running  
DK: Has asked for 2 back-up people who can make changes (quick postings, updated information, emergency postings, etc.) on the web site when Avery is not available. Joe Morlan has been serving in this capacity and RF says he can continue to do so; need one more backup. Jon Feenstra has volunteered to also be a backup. EA says that her Information Technology person can possibly also help if needed.  
JW: Establish a listserv that members could join to post announcements about events, field trips, etc. (like our newsletter but in more timely fashion); also a forum for further discussion of talks at conferences, field trips, etc., about interesting papers in other journals relevant to WFO audience, etc. Would need to have a list moderator.  
DK: Asks that people think about how listserv should function; decisions can be made at October board meeting. DK, Jay, Jon F., Gjon Hazard, Ted Floyd, Tim Avery will discuss this in more detail and report back.  
DK: Working on webmaster agreement document  
URL for web site:  
Three choices for URL;  
DK, KLG, EP, JW, DS, EA, DvD, JF, CW, JLD, CB – all in favor of full, longest name: www.DOT.westernfieldornithologists.org

DK: Just got update from Tim Avery. 669 unique visitors as of Tuesday; 442 views on annual conference page

### **Field Trip Committee Update**

Thailand 2010: JLD will come up with a draft itinerary; still need approval by Will Russell of WINGS.  
Sierra de la Laguna trip is leaving this coming Saturday; on mountain all next week.  
Two sound recordists, banders, etc.; total of 8 people.

### **Miscellaneous business**

DK: Any need to have another telephone board meeting before the San Mateo meeting?  
DK, CW strongly urge that we do.

First week of October suggested, but probably too late to be useful. Prefer to have call no later than mid-September. RF: Suggests we no longer need to involve David Yee in paying for these conference calls.

DK will be unavailable 3-20 September

23 September Tuesday or 2 September Tuesday

Most dates are not good for multiple people

Right now tentative date is 23 September, but DK will send out an announcement

WFO logo

CW, DK, KLG, JLD have been discussing logo.

CW is working with two people, with aim of modifying existing logo

It HAS to be a logo (not detailed artwork, photo, painting, etc.).

Scholarship Committee:

CW is recruiting Lori Fujimoto (formerly from ABA) to get involved and maybe take over WFO youth programs. JLD worked with Lori for years on ABA youth birder programs and says she is outstanding. Lori will come to San Mateo meeting.

EA: Suggests free conferencing system (but requires long-distance call from each participant); will send out information in case we want to change teleconferencing venues.

RF: Suggests that somebody needs to sign newsletter when it goes out; board agrees CW should be listed as editor and sign it.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### **Appendix and Committee Briefings**

**(Please review before the conference call)**

#### **Finance (Robbie Fischer)**

Robbie will provide detailed financial reports by July 18, once the bank statements are reconciled. Briefly, here are the highlights:

1. We have \$115K as of June 30. \$15K of this is dedicated to the publication fund. \$11K represents deposits for the Cuba trip.
2. We are essentially out of Western Birds volume 39, issue 1. All new members will now begin receiving Western Birds volume 40, 2009.

3. 25 people have registered for San Mateo to date. Please do send in your registrations by July 19, if possible. I will be in Ecuador from July 23 thru Aug. 10.
4. Reconciling Allen Press shipments to the Douglas County, KS bank statement continues to be my greatest challenge. We now have 4 bank statements each month; Capital One earning 3% has \$82K, Bank of America (our checking account), Washington Mutual (our credit card account) and Douglas County Bank for Allen Press deposits.
5. Discussion and vote on giving Robbie a raise due to additional auditing and accounting work for BSSC and Rare Birds of California (additional \$75-100 per month).
6. Cost analysis for publishing an issue of Western Birds was sent as an attachment with the agenda (spreadsheet).

**WESTERN BIRDS PUBLISHING COSTS VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2  
60 PAGES, COLOR ON INSIDE  
COVER**

1/4 LA TOURRETTE	125
1/4 JOHNSON	150
1/8 FISCHER	750
UNITT	625
TYPOGRAPHY	360
PRINTING ISSUE	2746
PRINTING COVER	1313
ENVELOPES	87
MAILING DOMESTIC	317
PHOENIX MAILING HOUSE	295
TOTAL EXPENSE	6768
EXPENSE PER COPY (936 DOMESTIC MAILED)	7.23
ADD 5% CREDIT CARD FEES	7.59
<b>ANNUALIZED (4 TIMES A YEAR)</b>	<b>30.37</b>
<b>76 PAGES WOULD BE</b>	<b>32.55</b>
<b>NO INSIDE COLOR 60 PAGES ESTIMATE</b>	<b>28.18</b>
<b>NO INSIDE COLOR 76 PAGES ESTIMATE</b>	<b>30.36</b>

**PROPOSED NEW MEMBERSHIP COSTS**

		<b>1 YEAR</b>	<b>2 YEAR</b>	<b>3 YEAR</b>
USA	\$5 INCREASE	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>85</b>
MX & CAN	\$5 INCREASE	<b>40</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
OVERSEAS	\$10 INCREASE	<b>50</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>130</b>
FAMILY	\$5 INCREASE	<b>40</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
CONTRIBUTING	\$10 INCREASE	<b>50</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>130</b>
SUPPORTING	\$15 INCREASE	<b>75</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>LIFE</b>	<b>INCREASE TO \$600</b>			

AVERAGE POSTAGE \$4.50 PER ISSUE FOR OVERSEAS