

**Minutes of the 23 September 2008 Conference Call of the Board of Directors  
Western Field Ornithologists**

*Submitted by Jean Brandt, recording secretary*

The conference call of the Board of Directors of the Western Field Ornithologists was convened by Vice-President Cat Waters at 2:00 PM on Thursday, 23 September 2008.

**Present:** Board members and officers in attendance included: Dave Krueper (President), Cat Waters (Vice President), Robbie Fischer (Treasurer/Membership), and Jean Brandt (Recording Secretary).

Directors: Carol Beardmore, Kimball Garrett, Dan Gibson, Gjon Hazard, Ed Pandolfino, Tom Ryan (10 minutes late), Dave Shuford, Phil Unitt, Debbie Van Dooremolen, and Jay Withgott.

**Not Present:** Elisabeth Ammon, Jon Dunn, Jon Feenstra, Bob Gill, and David Yee.

**Minutes of last meeting:**

- M/S/C to accept minutes of 10 July 2008 conference call.

**San Mateo Meeting:**

- Robbie - We need volunteers at the registration desk. Send her an e-mail to tell her when you will arrive and what you can do to help. Talk up field trips as there is plenty of space left.
- Cat - We need someone to pick up young people at the airport. Jean mentioned that the hotel should have shuttle service and Ed said that Lorena (at Marriott) would make the arrangements.
- Ed – Jack Laws needs a white board and the hotel charges \$90 for this. Cat volunteered to bring one. Ed will get the markers, etc.

**34th Annual Meeting (2009)**

- Cat – We need to make sure that the people in Boise are prepared for us and we need to set the date. We have to work around Boise State football schedule as the town fills up when they are playing at home. Jay Carlisle is the local committee contact. Dave K. will contact people in Boise about the date. Cat has picked the hotel.

**35th Annual Meeting (2010)**

- Cat – We have the opportunity to go to San Diego. Stan Walens and San Diego Field Ornithologists can help out. Concern was expressed about various other bird-related conferences in San Diego in 2010 – AOU/Coopers in February and San Diego Bird Festival in March. One more conference (WFO) many strain their volunteers and hospitality. Cat said we should table this until we get more information. Phil will talk to local people.
- Dave K. - We should think about alternative California locations for 2010 – perhaps in the Los Angeles area.

**How many individuals do we reach w/newsletter/membership/*Western Birds*?**

- Cat is trying to get a long-term commitment from Swarovski to sponsor color in *Western Birds*. They want an estimate as to how many people are reached by our various publications, events, web site, membership, etc.
- A long discussion followed as to how best to make this estimate. Phil asked Brian Fields about hits on SORA – for July 2008 30,300 hits – (July was the month with the heaviest

hits). It was mentioned that the web site reaches an audience beyond our membership and Robbie said that we are getting new members from this.

- We need more information before we can make the estimate and get back to Swarovski and will discuss it further in San Mateo. Cat came up with the figure of 3000, including all outreach, libraries, etc.
- We should make it clear that if Swarovski does commit to this, we will mention their support in *Western Birds* and on the web site and provide a link to them.
- Cat will tell them that we will have the information for them after San Mateo. Tim Avery and Robbie, etc will bring figures to San Mateo.

#### **Help with web site mail management.**

- Robbie volunteered to be the second person for the web site management (managing the mail that comes in through the web site, particularly the membership-related items).
- Tim Avery will not be coming to San Mateo.
- Jay – will pursue ideas for more efficiently distributing queries, etc., that come in through the web site. He will work with Tim on this.
- Currently, web site users can contact appropriate people through the drop-down menu on the “Contact” part of the web site but the “miscellany” box is a catch-all and questions are not properly dispersed.

#### **Status reports from committees.**

- **Finances** – Robbie. Full financial reports will be presented at the Board Meeting. No other report was given at this time.
- **Cuba** (2-13 November 2008) – Kimball. The trip is full – 15 people. WFO will receive \$300 per person. There will probably have to be some itinerary changes due to Hurricane Ike.
- **Other travel** – Tom. He sent an email to Cat and Dave K. about short trips (Weekends with Experts, etc) and has not heard back. He asked if people are really interested in doing these trips. Cat said that we didn’t get any “experts” interested in leading these trips. Perhaps we should try something different; there is some interest in having specialized “classes” – Bob Mc Kernan doing an egg class at San Bernardino County Museum, somebody doing a nocturnal migration class, etc. How best to determine interest in such classes? We can get information out in the newsletter and on the web site.
- **Ecuador** – Cat is arranging a trip with Bob Ridgely in late July or August 2009 through the Neblina Forest Organization. She will have more information at the Board Meeting.
- **Nevada** – Elizabeth Ammon is working on this with a new Great Basin Bird Observatory board member. They are hoping to plan a trip into a remote area of Nevada not open to the general public.
- **Alaska Retreat** (2009) – Dave K. There is a possibility of holding a board retreat in a secluded spot somewhere in Alaska. Two or three days in conference (think tank) and some quality birding will be involved. This will be at Board Members’ own expense. Kimball sees the danger of our future determined by the wealthiest sub-set of Board Members. Everyone should have a chance for input. It will be necessary at least for the President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past-President to be present for this to work. Cat and Dave K. noted that the New Mexico meeting was very productive. Carol said that this kind of retreat is good and that we should have a facilitator to move things along.

Dave K. agreed and asked if someone on the board is qualified to do this as hiring someone is very expensive.

- **Pelagic trips** – (Jon Feenstra not present). Stan Walens (San Diego) brought to our attention the fact that WFO does not sponsor pelagic trips anymore. Phil said that Terry Hunefeld is arranging most of the southern California pelagic trips now and coordinating them with Los Angeles Audubon, etc. He and Jon F. will investigate any San Diego pelagics that we could co-sponsor. Kimball said that the niche is filled and that we should think carefully before committing although a possibility would be to have a “floating teaching” pelagic trip.
- **Other business** – A vote of thanks to Dan Gibson for spearheading the Ketchikan issue of *Western Birds*. The Heintz and Pison manuscript will run about 80 published pages and this is very expensive. Dan contacted agency people in Alaska and has already been promised donations to cover well over half of the publications cost of this paper. Page charges would be  $80 \times \$25 = \$2000$ . This will probably be published no earlier than v. 40, issue 2.

**Conference Call Adjourned** –3:15 PM