

**2007 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Western Field Ornithologists
27 September 2007 – Las Vegas, NV**

The 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Field Ornithologists was called to order at 1:15 P.M. on Thursday, 27 September 2007 by President Dave Krueper. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV.

Board Members and officers in attendance included Dave Krueper (President), Cat Waters (1st Vice President), Jean Brandt (Recording Secretary), Robbie Fischer (Treasurer, Membership Secretary), and directors Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Jon Dunn, Ted Floyd, Kimball Garrett, Dan Gibson, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, Tom Ryan, Mike San Miguel, Dave Shuford, and Jay Withgott.

Also present were the following: Bob Barnes, Jon Feenstra, Ginger Johnson, Kathy Molina, Dave Quady, Phil Unitt and Debbie Van Dooremolen.

Absent: David Yee

Review and Approval of 2006 Boulder Board Meeting Minutes (Krueper and Brandt)

- Moved to accept by Waters, seconded by Hazard, unanimous to approve.

Review and Approval of 23 August Conference Call Minutes (Krueper and Brandt)

- Moved to accept by Ryan, seconded by San Miguel, unanimous to approve.

Finance Committee Updates and Treasurer/s Report (Fischer)

- Fischer said that by the 15 of Oct we will have her report. (See Appendix 3). We have had a very good response to the fund raising plea that was sent to Life Members (See Appendix 2). We have received about \$4100 so far - \$2500 came from Dan Singer (he's chairman of the CBRC) and his company (Arroyo and Coates).
- Dunn asked about the percent of life members donations generated by the letter. (Copy of letter attached). About 10 percent have answered. Waters said that we should encourage all members to become life members.
- Dunn said a subsequent letter should go to general membership over Kruepers signature. Garrett asked if money raised is designated to particular cause. Fischer said that one contribution was for the scholarship fund. Fischer sends a donation receipt for all contributions. Krueper and Waters will send thank you letters to donors of more than \$100.
- Withgott said that some people in Oregon have complained about receiving the letter. Discussion on letter. Withgott suggested that specific needs be itemized. Ammon said that we should get a lot of publicity out of the CBRC book and members should know that this is the kind of thing we do. Brandt suggested a program to adopt-a-color-cover in *Western Birds*. Brandt volunteered to kick off

the program and will work with Unitt on logistics. Fischer suggested a vote on fundraising but Waters said to table it to the finance committee.

- Mike San Miguel and David Yee are resigning from the finance committee – San Miguel because his term of office is over and Yee for personal reasons. Waters moved and Gibson seconded to accept Hazard as chair of finance committee. The vote was unanimous to accept.

Nominations Committee Update and Election of Board Member (Hazard)

- All officers are up for renewal. Hazard moved to accept slate, Ammon seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept.
- Floyd has resigned from the board 2 years early and Yee's term expired.
- The first terms of Hazard and Ammon have expired, and they are eligible for reelection to a new term.
- Two full, one-term positions (3 years maximum) available to fill.
- Two full, two-term positions (6 years maximum) available to fill.
- One partial term position (2 years maximum – Ted's replacement).
- Garrett asked if there 5 positions to fill with 7 candidates. Yes. After much discussion, Hazard read the by-laws pertaining to board positions and term limits.
- Nominees and guests left the room for the discussion and vote.
- Seven candidates for the five positions are:
 - Jon Feenstra
 - Ed Pandolfino
 - Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta
 - Debbie Van Dooremolen
 - Dave Quady
 - Gjon Hazard
 - Elisabeth Ammon
- No additional candidates were presented to the board.
- The vote was for five of the seven nominees and Brandt counted the ballots. Withgott audited the count.
- The nominees elected were Feenstra, Pandolfino, Van Dooremolen, Hazard, and Ammon.
- This slate will be presented at the general meeting for the official vote.

[The slate was presented at the Annual Meeting (29 September 2007) for vote, and without further nominees from the floor, the vote was unanimous to accept the slate as read.]

[See Appendix 1 at end of minutes for the new Board of Directors.]

Discussion on WFO Licensure for Cuba (Krueper)

- Krueper opened the discussion about WFO acquiring the licensing for these trips.
- Waters: Our insurance carrier is not in favor of us becoming a licensee for other people to take trips. They have referred this to their legal department.

- Withgott asked what our insurance covers? Waters said that it covers liability for our members.
- Krueper had spoken with Gary Markowski (current licensee), who said that anyone who goes on a trip must become a WFO member. He said that there would be some kind of “finders” fee for our doing this.
- Garrett: Markowski left a message with Garrett that he finally had contact with United States Treasury Dept. so we may not have to deal with this now. However, if we get our license, we might be able to salvage or get a trip in the future.
- Ryan: people are uncomfortable with our running trips for others.
- Floyd: we should do trips in the west. Cuba is outside our venue.
- Krueper: the attraction is that this is the only way to bird Cuba.
- Garrett: who would handle the money for these trips? Krueper said that the organizing group would handle the money.
- Gibson remarked that it is too much of a stretch for us to do trips in the Caribbean.
- Krueper: we can still take trips to Cuba but not sign up for the license.
- Gibson moved that we do not pursue the licensing. The vote was unanimous not to pursue.

Website Update (Krueper)

- Krueper said that Tim Avery has agreed to become our webmaster. He wants an advisory committee. Krueper appointed Jay Withgott. Avery expects to have the new site up by the end of the year.
- Floyd reported that Avery is a young birder and a professional web designer. He is Utah (inter-mountain region). Floyd recommended that board members check out Avery’s website at www.timaverybirding.com/
- Waters: WFO now have two web sites domain names: www.westernfieldornithologists.org and www.californiabirds.org
- Floyd recommended that our institutional history be kept on the website. Krueper will ask Joe Morlan to be an advisor and will ask Guy McCaskie to write up a history of WFO.
- Garrett mentioned that the website is the biggest key to link all of our efforts.
- Anticipated cost is: 5 hrs time per month, \$100 per month – not to exceed \$1000 per year; \$500 - \$1000 to make the design.
- Floyd: the committee should report to the board at least twice a year. We should have a third person on the committee.

Field Trip Committee Updates (Ryan)

- Hazard asked what is the definition of a “field trip”. Ryan said he will address this in the document he is preparing.
- Hazard said that we need a mission statement of why we do trips. Dunn asked if there is any formula as to where the proceeds from trips are used. Ryan will address this.
- Ryan asked for comments by Oct. 15 as he wants to set a schedule for 2008-09 trips with estimates of dates, costs, etc by then.

- Ryan suggested a field skills class for serious birders. Unitt remarked that he did class for CalTrans many years ago and people with degrees and important status could not describe the bird in front of them.

Future Meetings Committee (Waters)

- Waters: Do we want to hold the 2008 Meeting in San Mateo, CA? Yes.
- Waters: 2009 meeting – Idaho or Ensenada? No decision was made.

Publications Committee (Shuford et al.)

- Shuford thanked Waters and Unitt and all other that worked so long and so hard in getting the Rare Birds of California book completed. We have copies for sale now at \$53.95 (10% discount for members). The regular price is \$59.95.
- *California Bird Species of Special Concern* is in the final stages. Unitt recommended Tim Britton for typesetting. He does *Western Birds*. The deadline is 26 September and he estimates it will be finished by mid-November. This will be the first monograph in the series Studies of Western Birds published by WFO.
- Hazard asked if we have anything else pending? Shuford: not yet.
- Ammon asked if there interest in doing a monograph for Nevada. Yes.

Western Birds (Unitt)

- Unitt: 38: 4 – he has enough material. If you have anything to add, get it to him right now. He hopes to make it a color issue and can use an additional associate editor.
- Fischer: With the new postal rates, bulk mailing has changed dramatically. This might be an opportunity to limit pages – mailing house has specific information and we should ask about the rates. She asked Unitt to call the mailing house.
- Unitt: Scott Morrison talked about possibility of doing an issue on the Santa Cruz Island Scrub Jay. Unitt said yes as long as we have the ability to review it and use it in our time frame.
- Beardmore: Have we considered having the option of either an electronic *Western Birds* or the paper copy. Other societies are doing this now. Much discussion followed on security and privacy issues on the website. No conclusion was reached.

Membership Committee (Garrett)

- Garrett: Dunn is making contacts outside of California. We need appeal to such people for membership and articles.
- Dunn: We should make WFO appeal to all people in the west. Particularly in publications. Perhaps we should publish RBAs for other states and get involved with other state organizations.
- Withgott: Membership Committee should work with Website committee.

Honoraria, Recognition and Awards (Krueper, Waters, Dunn)

- Krueper: Announcement: Phil – thank you for your 21 years as editor. The board is presenting you with a life membership. Unitt thanked everyone. Krueper also

thanked San Miguel, Gibson and Floyd for serving on the board and gave them honorary gifts.

- Dunn: We should have an award for outstanding publications outside of *Western Birds* and/or for historical writers. He suggests Grinnell. Next year we should give an award in Grinnell's name for lifetime achievement. Dunn will sit on committee to consider recipients for these awards. Grinnell Award Committee: Dunn, Gill, Ryan.
- Unitt: note of caution. Key aspect is that we bridge science and amateurs. They are mutually harmonious.
- Shuford: Annie Alexander, who founded the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley and was the one who hired Joseph Grinnell, is a good candidate for the award. Her pioneering efforts have not been fully recognized.
- Quady: San Francisco Audubon gave such an award and they did it in 3 weeks so that there is plenty of time for choosing the recipient. We should ask for recommendations.
- Krueper asked about honoraria that we currently present. He has contacted these people but most are comfortable with the current stipend. Shuford and Withgott said these people should get a raise since they haven't had on in years. Unitt said he does not need a raise. Neither does LaTourette. Ginger Johnson, on the other hand, has not has a raise for 20 years. Fischer suggested upping it from \$500 a year to \$150 per issue. San Miguel moved, Withgott seconded, unanimous.

“Bulletin Board” and **“Unusual Sightings Committee”** for recent publications throughout the West (Floyd, Garrett, Dunn)

- Floyd left the meeting but he is enthusiastic about this.
- Dunn: This is appropriate for our website. Garrett recommended that we could list all atlas projects (review status of atlases in western USA).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45

Submitted by:

Jean Brandt
Recording Secretary

Appendix 1.

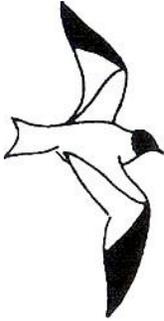
Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors election status as of October 2007 (start of 2008 election cycle), incorporating the elections from the 2007 Las Vegas meeting.

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.

Appendix 2

Western Field Ornithologists



20 August 2007

Dear Fellow Life Members,

As teenage birders growing up in southern California in the 1960s, we were excited to get an announcement in 1969 that a new organization was being formed to be devoted to California field ornithology. We both joined immediately. The founding group, centered in San Diego, included Guy McCaskie, Pierre Devillers, Alan M. and Jean T. Craig, Clifford R. Lyons and Virginia P. Coughran. Devoted to subjects of interest in California and adjacent regions, the first issue of the quarterly journal *California Birds* appeared early in 1970. It contained detailed articles on a wide variety of subjects, including status and distribution, identification, and conservation. Its content was peer-reviewed, like that of the widely known professional ornithological journals. Alan Craig was the first editor of *California Birds* (remaining so through 1986), and the Sabine's Gull became our familiar logo.

In 1973 the Board of Directors sought to broaden the organization's coverage to include all of western North America from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountain states and provinces and to the adjacent regions of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. They changed the organization's name to Western Field Ornithologists and the journal's to *Western Birds*. Color, now frequent in the journal, first appeared in 1979. Editor Philip Unitt began his tenure in 1986, and his peerless guidance of our flagship journal is now in its twenty-first year.

As we are sure you will agree *Western Birds* is one of the finest journals in North America devoted exclusively to field ornithology. Several years ago the Board committed to making all of the past volumes of the journal available on line. Now, global access to *Western Birds* is a mouse-click away (for all but the most recent volumes, to encourage membership). If you have not yet availed yourself of this remarkable access to our journal, we encourage you to "Google" SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive) and click on an older volume of *Western Birds* to see for yourself. In addition WFO will soon publish its first two books, including the long awaited *Rare Birds of California*.

Seeking growth and participation that will lead to an organization that more fully represents the length and breadth of WFO's area of interest, we continually look for new ways to encourage active participation in WFO and in *Western Birds* by persons in, or interested in, all of the states and provinces involved. Recognizing that in some states and provinces we may compete with state and regional journals for sound, fieldwork-based articles, we always point with pride to the skilled editorial processes and broad readership that *Western Birds* brings to the table.

Despite all of our organization's and journal's accomplishments, however, the membership of WFO has declined slightly in recent years. This loss of membership and increased printing costs of *Western Birds*, including the color which we all appreciate, prompt us to ask the Life Members of WFO – the most devoted of our membership – to consider at this time an additional financial contribution to WFO. You could contribute to the General Fund, or to one of the earmarked funds – the Publications Fund (which will support additional color content in the journal and also for future book publications), or the Scholarship Fund (which underwrites attendance at our conferences for selected young birders). Contributions, payable to Western Field Ornithologists, may be sent to Robbie Fischer, WFO Treasurer, 1359 Solano Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044.

Whatever contribution you can make at this time will be greatly appreciated. And whether or not you can contribute financially, we value your roles as ambassadors for WFO and hope that you'll take every opportunity to bring new field ornithologists into the organization. We thank you for your support of WFO and look forward to an ever more exciting and productive organization.

Sincerely,

Jon L. Dunn
Director &
Publications Committee

Kimball L. Garrett
Director &
Publications Committee

Appendix 3.

**Q3 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AS OF 9/30/07
WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS**

Balance in checking and savings 12/31/2006.....	\$71858
Total income 2007	+\$57875
Total expenses 2007.....	- \$46072
Balance in checking and savings 9/30/2007	\$83661

\$28,714 of the current balance is earmarked for the Publication Fund.

2007 Receipts and 2007 Expenses spreadsheets are on file in Brandt's WFO archives and available to the board and to members at large.