

**2008 Meeting of the Board of Directors
Western Field Ornithologists
9 October 2008 – San Mateo, CA**

Submitted by Jean Brandt, recording secretary

The 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Field Ornithologists was called to order at 1:15 P.M. on Thursday, 9 October 2008 by President Dave Krueper. The meeting was held in San Mateo, CA.

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, Jon Feenstra, Kimball Garrett, Bob Gill, Gjon Hazard, Ed Pandolfino, Tom Ryan, Dave Shuford, Debbie Van Dooremolen, and Jay Withgott.

Also present were the following: Phil Unitt, Editor, Dan Gibson, Kurt Leuschner, and Kathy Molina. Mike San Miguel joined the meeting at 4:30.

Review and Approval of 2007 Las Vegas, NV Board Meeting Minutes (Krueper and Brandt)

- M/S/C
- Jean suggested that in the future, all minutes, regardless of location of meeting, should be reviewed consecutively. Gjon checked the bylaws and they are ambiguous about this. The board approved review and approval of minutes recorded in order.

Finance Committee Updates and Treasurer's Report (Fischer)

- Robbie handed out preliminary sheets but they are not final. (See attached reports.)
- Dan Gibson has solicited funds to publish *Birds of the Ketchikan Area, SE Alaska* – to date he has collected over \$1000.
- Robbie reported that the income on this meeting is over 22 K – expenses should be 13/14 K, thus having an approximately 8 K profit.
- Allen Press has an inventory of 409 copies of *Rare Birds of California*. We have sold 600+.
- Dave K – fundraising efforts to life members had a good response; now we need something for the general membership in 2009.
- Cat stressed that we need a specific goal for fundraising.
- Dave K suggested that we initiate an endowment campaign – or set aside a specific fund for color covers.

- Kimball – all 4 covers should be color, inside and outside
- Dave K reminded us that we have decided that we always want color and now we need security.
- Tom remembered that we discussed waiting until we produced the two books before asking for donations from the general membership.
- Dave S – what was our balance 5 yrs ago.
- Robbie – in the 40K range
- Carol – what kind of accounts are our monies in?
- Robbie – Capitol 1 money market
- Debbie – money markets are covered by FDIC so we are protected
- Robbie – we should put out a solicitation letter to the members once a year and not bring this up at every board meeting.
- Dave K – the first one should be powerful – 5 past presidents should sign (electronic signatures possible).
 - Discussion of fundraising, fundraising letters and funding for Western Birds into the future is deferred to the finance committee.
 - Fundraising campaign in 2009 to the General Membership (excluding Lifetime Members)? (No further discussion on this topic).

Nominations Committee Update and Election of Board Member (Hazard, Ryan, Withgott)

- Gjon referred to the emails he sent to everyone. Asks for nominations from floor. No need for discussion so he proposed that the following nominees be accepted.
- Slate accepted unanimously:
 - President (1 opening) (1-year term, 2 terms maximum)
Cat Waters
 - Vice-President (1 opening) (1-year term, 2 terms maximum)
Dan Gibson
 - 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)
- Gjon – We, the board, provide a slate of directors. (slate follows). He moved that this is the slate we propose to the general membership – Carol and Ed seconded.
 - Four candidates for these four positions are:
 - Jay Withgott (for re-election) (Oregon)
 - Tom Ryan (for re-election) (California)
 - Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta (Sonora, Mexico)
 - Dave Quady (California)

- It was noted that Osvel did not get his visa in time to attend the meeting.
- Discussion on nominees.
- Slate approved by board.
- Robbie announced that she enjoyed being involved in annual meetings but that this is the last one. She will remove herself from all planning and will just continue in her position as Treasurer/Membership Secretary – the makeup of the board as a whole gives her concern. For the board members, consideration should be given to the needs of the organization.
- Dave K – this is the responsibility of the nomination committee – to find the right people.
- Cat (incoming president) announced that she wants to discuss committee chairs. Asked Dave K to be nomination committee chair. Also – the bylaws make him chair of finance. Asked Dave S to stay on as publication committee chair. Discussion and approved.

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

- Discussion to increase Phil Unitt’s honoraria from \$2500 to \$3000.
- It was moved, seconded and carried that honoraria go directly to SDNHM (for Phil).
- Jon D suggested the idea of a Joseph Grinnell Award for outstanding contributions of achievements by WFO Members. We need to figure out funding and structure for this and Jon will come up with something by the next conference call – January 15 is his goal.
- Cat does not like plaques – perhaps a Lifetime membership in WFO would be appropriate.
- Kimball – awards given by societies are usually of two kinds: service to society and recognition of achievements.
- Jon D – Bob Gill and he will come up with rough draft.
- Dave K – asked for a flexible draft. Possible posthumous awards too.
- Guidelines should be developed for above (qualifications, etc).

Discussion on Bylaws

- Overlooked deletion of wording in Section VIII of the Bylaws? (Krueper, Waters, Hazard).
- Tabled until a report can be made before voting on a change in the by-laws.

Committee “Roadmap” (i.e., “field guide to responsibilities”) (Waters, Krueper)

- Cat – Dave K and she realized that things happen but we don’t know how they happen. New board members need to be offered the history and methods and field guide to WFO. Perhaps this should be on the website.

- Cat said that committee chairs should present an annual report. Dave K agreed. There should be guidelines for all committees.
- Gjon – said that all committees should have a document of dealings. Essentially a bylaws for each committee. Nuts and bolts are in the existing bylaws.
- Jon D – ABA has a good notebook that they send all new board members which includes an updated flow chart.
- Carol – it is helpful to know the history of decisions made by each committee.
- Cat – Each committee chair is to take the lead and follow through on this. The deadline is April 1, 2009
- Discussion of membership list/membership directory. (Assembled membership voted for a membership directory at the annual meeting of WFO, Saturday, October 11, 2008)
- Jon F reported on creating a computer program for membership that will allow any membership crunching desired; he wants to hear concerns and will demonstrate his program after the meeting today. In regards to membership: it can be uploaded to the website.
- The topic of having a membership directory made available for the officers and Board was introduced to the membership at the annual meeting. It was clearly stated that this membership directory would only be used for WFO communication and that never, under ANY circumstances, would personal information be made available to parties outside of WFO. He asked if the membership would have objections to this, and a voice vote was called. The motion to have a membership directory created and made available for internal use only was passed overwhelmingly. (There was no dissenting vote).

Publications Committee (Shuford)

- See Shuford's update appended at the end of document.
- Dave S announced "good news"- SORA archives have another volume posted. Phil has been working on this (we are two years in advance) and Tim works on this too.
- Jon D – SORA is the proudest thing that WFO has done and asked if the membership is aware of it.
- Phil said that it is on the masthead page in *WB* and is also on the website.
- Dave S said that we should announce when another page is loaded; we have the kinks worked out so it should be an annual event. SORA does not charge.
- CBRC and BSSC books are doing well. Allen Press sends a spreadsheet of all purchases so we have a record. We can target these people for membership.
- Cat – we will have to store the books after September 2009 plus we have to remember to get our digital file from Allen Press. We have to ask for it, they don't do it automatically.

- Dave S said that publication committee will discuss this. He noted that he is off the board and does not know how to deal with his committee.
- Dave K requested that committee chairs come to him for help in getting new members. Cat will be involved too.

***Western Birds* (Unitt)**

- Phil – the important issue for *Western Birds* is that we need to add a few associate editors. He suggested that we give the associate editors some sort of honoraria OR if we don't, then we shouldn't burden them. Five papers per year are manageable. The critical thing for them to do is to address manuscripts promptly as we need to publish quickly. We need to have enough contacts in the field for prospective reviewers (two per paper). The associate editors should have different points of view. Kimball noted that he sits 10 ft away from an associate editor and it is a LOT of work!
- Phil said that before you recruit someone; bring the name to the editorial board before committing. We need to screen for people who have time and commitment.
- Cat – Discussion of sponsorships for *Western Birds*.
- Phil – Discussion of page charge for *Western Birds* and fee for pdf files
- Robbie – thinks these charges are OK. She wants to combine both charges on the form.
- Jon D – When we have special publications the board members should donate.
- Phil is reluctant to put this forth for papers that are in review
- Jon D asked if book reviewers pay page costs. Answer: no.

Website Update (Withgott, Krueper)

- Jay noted that the website is working well.
- Discussion of website logistics. Cat, Dave K and Jay will follow up on suggestions.

Field Trip Committee Updates (Ryan)

- Tom – weekend trips will be shelved for now. We will work on two longer trips.
- Kimball – nothing new on Cuba – the trip is filled.
- Cat – commitment from John Schmitt, who volunteered to do workshop on feather plumage in Kern Co, CA.
- If anyone wants to lead a trip, Tom will work with you. He welcomes suggestions.
- Tom said that he may be living in Venezuela 2 months a year.

- Carol – Field Expeditions – Huge success, tons of data, great support group; she is considering publishing trip data in *Western Birds*.
- Jon F – will lead a field trip to the same place in Baja. Good follow up to expedition.
- Jon D – consider publishing a CD on vocalizations from this trip.
- Kimball – congratulates them for such a success.
- Dave K – concept for more data gathering expeditions (some in USA) should be investigated.

Future Meetings Committee (Waters)

- 2009 meeting – Boise, Idaho (local coordination from Idaho Bird Observatory).
Dates: 11, 12, 13 September
- Cat – Dave K, Cat, and 3 people in Boise will be in charge. Jay Carlisle, Harry Krueger, and Terry Rich – Idaho Bird Observatory.
- 2010 meeting – Palm Springs – Coachella Valley – probably October – we are welcome there.
- 2011 meeting – undecided as yet.
- Discussion of restructuring of annual meeting format:
- Ted’s suggestion to move the membership meeting, the banquet and the keynote address to Sunday for an 11 am – 1:30 “send-off”.
- Robbie’s suggestion not to have all-day field trips scheduled on the same day as the Board meeting (Board members are not available to lead or accompany on field trips).
- Assistance from more Board members for the many necessary annual meeting tasks BEFORE the Board meeting on Thursday. This includes training for registration table, assisting with lunches, registration packet stuffing session before the Board meeting.
- Meeting scheduled for next day to discuss this.

Membership Committee (Garrett)

- Kimball passed around reports. See addenda. Once we have the contacts, he and Jon D will start working on this. He has also been talking with Jon F as to how to get college members.
- Robbie – questions about how many people we retain. This conference has 220 people, and 55 are new members. We currently have about 1100 members. 10% increase over last year. 25 new members through website.

Scholarship Committee

- Cat – re: sponsoring young people at conferences. We have eight this year. They are all active birders and will benefit from coming.

- Jon D – we should do a special fund raising field trip for scholarships.

Revised WFO logo (Waters, Krueper)

- General discussion. Agreed to keep the same logo and Jon F will try to find the original.

5:30 - Adjourned

Appendix / Attachments / Board Updates and Reports

Publications Committee

(1) SORA -- as you know, volume 36 (2005) of Western Birds is now posted to the SORA website; also WFO logo now added to bottom of the SORA homepage. It will soon be time to post the next volume: i.e., volume 37(2006) when all issues of volume 39 (2008) have been published.

(2) BSSC sales -- Allen Press has sold 691 copies, 17 March--4 October. This in addition to about an equal number distributed by CDFG, WFO, and PRBO. Cat has plans for distributing more in southern California [Cat chime in with details if you want]. Several reviews to be published in the near future.

(3) Rare Birds sales -- I haven't been tracking this but presumably Robbie can give an update on sales of this book.

Financial Committee

(Appended 10/27/09)

**Q3 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AS OF 9/30/08
WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS**

Balance in checking and savings 12/31/2007.....	\$76937
Total income 2008	+113690

Total expenses 2008.....- 63554
Balance in checking and savings 9/30/2008\$127073

The Publication Fund has a balance of \$17334, \$1000 for Ketchikan birds.

San Mateo income will be over \$22K with about \$13K expenses, an \$8K profit.

Cuba expenses are expected to be about \$11K.

We have 409 copies of Rare Birds and 1543 copies of BSSC remaining to be sold.

(Spreadsheets on file with Recording Secretary)

WFO Membership and Liaison Committee

Current membership: Kimball Garrett, Jon Dunn, Dan Gibson, Jon Feenstra (suggest adding Paul Lehman)

Committee Goals:

- (1) Determine where (geographically within western North America) we are most wanting for membership and representation in WFO
- (2) Contact and appoint state/provincial liaisons to WFO
- (3) Discuss what WFO can offer to state/provincial organizations and individuals, e.g.
 - Holding an annual meeting in their area
 - Publishing significant records or field research notes/papers
 - Editorial help in developing/refining publications
 - Publishing Bird Records Committee reports
 - Promoting field research/avifaunal surveys in their areas (along the lines of the WFO/SJV trip to the Sierra de la Laguna)
 - “News and Notes”-type of space on WFO web page; web site links
- (4) Increase youth and student membership/involvement

Possible Projects:

- (1) Summary article in *Western Birds*: “State of Field Ornithology in Western North America, including United States, Canada, Hawai’i and Northwestern Mexico” to address:
 - State organizations
 - State journals (peer-reviewed) and other state publications
 - Web site(s)

Breeding Bird Atlas (in planning, field work, writing, published?)
State bird book and important regional books
Bird Records Committees and other initiatives
Liaison to WFO contact information

(2) Annual analysis of membership. Nothing up-to-date prepared for the October 2008 Board meeting, but here are Membership Totals as of ~2006 (U. S. only) to give an idea of our representation. All western states plus other states with 5+ members:

Alaska	19
Arizona	47
California	~606
Colorado	27
D.C.	5
Florida	10
Georgia	6
Hawaii	3
Idaho	10
Louisiana	5
Massachusetts	10
Maryland	11
Michigan	6
Minnesota	5
Montana	3
New Jersey	8
New Mexico	23
Nevada	20
New York	12
Ohio	8
Oregon	33
Pennsylvania	7
Texas	16
Utah	9
Washington	42
Wyoming	2

UNITED STATES

ALASKA

State Ornithological Organization: (none?)
Others: Alaska Bird Observatory
Web Site:
Current President:
WFO Contact/Liaison: Dan Gibson, Bob Gill

ARIZONA

State Ornithological Organization: Arizona Field Ornithologists
Web Site: <http://azfo.org/index.html>
Current President: Troy Corman – aplomado@cox.net
Journal: *Arizona Birds Online*
BRC: Arizona Bird Committee (Gary Rosenberg)
WFO Contact/Liaison: Carol Beardmore, Gary Rosenberg, Mark Stevenson

CALIFORNIA

State Ornithological Organization: (WFO)
Web Site:
Current President:
BRC: California Bird Records Committee (Guy McCaskie, Secretary; Dave Compton, Chair)
WFO Contact/Liaison: many board members, officers, etc.

COLORADO

State Ornithological Organization: Colorado Field Ornithologists
Web Site: www.cfo-link.org
Current President: Bill Schmoker
Journal: *Colorado Birds Quarterly*
BRC: Colorado Bird Records Committee (Larry Semo, Chair)
WFO Contact/Liaison: Ted Floyd, Peter Gent, Doug Faulkner, Nathan Pieplow, Tony Leukering, Bill Schmoker

HAWAII

State Ornithological Organization:
Other: Hawai'i Audubon Society
Web Site:
Current President:
WFO Contact/Liaison: Reggie David? Ideas from Peter Pyle?

IDAHO

State Ornithological Organization:
Other:
Web Site:
Current President:
WFO Contact/Liaison: Chuck Trost (Pocatello), Jay Carlisle

MONTANA

State Ornithological Organization:
Other: Montana Audubon
Web Site: mtaudubon.org
Current President: Steve Hoffman (Exec. Dir.)
WFO Contact/Liaison: Jeff Marks (has moved to Oregon; jeff17_marks@msn.com), Chuck Carlson, Terry McEananey

NEW MEXICO

State Ornithological Organization: New Mexico Ornithological Society

Web Site: www.nmbirds.org

Current President: Roland Shook

Journal: *NMOS Bulletin*, *NMOS Field Notes*

BRC: New Mexico Bird Records Committee (Sandy Williams, Secretary)

WFO Contact/Liaison: Dave Krueper, Alan Craig, Narca Moore-Craig

NEVADA

State Ornithological Organization: Great Basin Bird Observatory

Web Site:

Current President: Elisabeth Ammon (Science Director)

Journal: *Great Basin Birds*

BRC: Nevada Bird Records Committee (Martin Meyers, Secretary)

WFO Contact/Liaison: Elisabeth Ammon, Debbie VanDooremolen, Martin Meyers

OREGON

State Ornithological Organization: Oregon Field Ornithologists

Web Site: www.oregonbirds.org

Current President: Dave Tracy (davect@bendnet.com)

Journal: *Oregon Birds*

BRC: Oregon Bird Records Committee (Harry Nehls, Secretary)

WFO Contact/Liaison: Jay Withgott, Alan Contreras, Shawneen Finnegan

TEXAS

State Ornithological Organization: Texas Ornithological Society

Web Site: www.texasbirds.org

Current President: Ron Weeks (ronweeks@sbcglobal.net)

Journal: *Bulletin T.O.S.*, *Texas Birds Annual*, *T.O.S. News*, *Occas. Publ. T.O.S.*

WFO Contact/Liaison: Mark Lockwood, John Karges, Barry Zimmer

UTAH

State Ornithological Organization: Utah Ornithological Society

Web Site: www.utahbirds.org/uos

Current President: Steve Carr (stevecarr9@msn.com)

Journal: *Utah Birds*

BRC: Utah Ornithological Society Records Committee (Lu Giddings, Chair)

WFO Contact/Liaison: Steve Summers (now in CA), Tim Avery

WASHINGTON

State Ornithological Organization: Washington Ornithological Society

Web Site: www.wos.org

Current President:

Journal: *Washington Birds*

BRC: Washington Bird Records Committee (Kevin Aanerud, Chair)

WFO Contact/Liaison: Steve Mlodinow, Bill Tweit, Terry Wahl

WYOMING

State Ornithological Organization:

Other: Jackson Hole Bird Club, Wyoming Audubon

Web Site:

Current President:

Journal:

BRC: Wyoming State Records Committee

WFO Contact/Liaison: Doug Faulkner, Terry McEneaney

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Provincial Ornithological Organization: British Columbia Field Ornithologists

Web Site: <http://www.bcfo.ca/>

Current President: Kevin Bell

Journal: *BC Birding, British Columbia Birds*

BRC:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Dick Cannings, Wayne Weber

YUKON

Provincial Ornithological Organization:

Other: Yukon Bird Club

Web Site: www.yukonweb.com/community/ycb/

Current President:

Journal: *Yukon Warbler*

BRC:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Cameron Eckert

ALBERTA

Provincial Ornithological Organization:

Other: Federation of Alberta Naturalists

Web Site:

Current President:

Journal: *Nature Alberta*

BRC:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Bruce MacGillivray?

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

State Ornithological Organization:

Web Site:

Current President:

Journal:

BRC:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Dick Erickson, Eduardo Palacios

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

State Ornithological Organization:

Web Site:

Current President:

Journal:

BRC:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Dick Erickson, Eduardo Palacios

SONORA

State Ornithological Organization:

Web Site:

Current President:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Carol Beardmore, Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta

SINALOA

State Ornithological Organization:

Web Site:

Current President:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Carol Beardmore, Xico Vega

CHIHUAHUA

State Ornithological Organization:

Web Site:

Current President:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Carol Beardmore

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

Web Site: www.westernbirdbanding.org

Current President: Mike Boyles (michael_j_boyles@nps.gov)

Journal: *North American Bird Bander*

WFO Contact/Liaison: Charles Collins, Walt Sakai

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

Web Site: www.pacificseabirdgroup.org

Current President: Douglas Bertram (Chair)

Journal: *Marine Ornithology, Pacific Seabirds*

WFO Contact/Liaison: Ron LeValley

WESTERN FOUNDATION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

Web Site: wfvz.org

Current President: Linnea Hall (Director)

Journal:

WFO Contact/Liaison: Linnea Hall

What Is a Field Ornithologist?

The ruminations that follow, written October 2008 by K. Garrett, might be considered a rough draft of a suggested position paper for Western Field Ornithologists that will help the officers and directors better articulate a vision for the organization

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BACKGROUND

Relevant dictionary definitions (Random House, Unabridged) are:

Ornithologist: “[one who practices] the branch of zoology that deals with birds” [in ‘The Ornithologist’s Dictionary’ by Erritzoe et al. (2007), defined as: “a scientist studying birds; also used of an amateur having a serious interest in ornithology; *cf* birder, birdwatcher”]

Zoology: “the science or branch of biology dealing with animals”

Biology: “the science of life or living matter in all its forms and phenomena”

Also, “Zoologist” = “a specialist in zoology,” so by an extension an ornithologist is “a specialist in ornithology” (i.e. a specialist in the branch of zoology that deals with birds)

Science: “a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws”; “systematic knowledge of the physical or material world”; “knowledge, as of facts or principles”; “knowledge gained by systematic study”

Field: “in actual use or in a situation simulating actual use or application; away from a laboratory, workshop or the like”; “in contact with a prime source of basic data”
[Field work: “work done in the field, as research, exploration, surveying, etc.”]

From Erritzoe et al. (2007):

Birder [= Birdwatcher]: “an amateur interested in birds”
Bird-watching: “studying or looking at birds in the field”

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RELEVANCE FOR WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

I think we all have an idea what a “field ornithologist” organization is and is not. From the above definitions, I would say we are **“an organization of and for people – professional and amateur – who study birds in nature.”** We could be a bit more exclusive and give a nod to science by inserting the word “systematically” before “study” in the above phrase but I believe we should recognize that a great deal of empirical (but not systematically-collected) data end up being scientifically useful.

The definitions of “birder” and “bird-watching” above clearly suggest that at least a subset of “birders” and “bird-watchers” are field ornithologists. But since another (perhaps large) subset of “birders” and “birdwatchers” do not “study birds” or practice “science,” birding (bird-watching) and field ornithology are not synonymous.

Although we welcome all people as members, our activities, publications, and statements of mission and purpose should explicitly recognize this and exclude, for example:

- aviculture (and poultry science, bird rehabilitation, etc.)
- sport-birding (= “listing”)
- studies of birds that are solely based on laboratory, experimental and/or theoretical aspects of biology (but note that such aspects of study in conjunction with or as a by-product of field work such as censusing, monitoring, collecting, sound-recording, etc. – i.e. “prime source[es] of basic data – are well within our mission)
- avian paleontology (although this entails “field work” and “ornithology,” I believe that we implicitly exclude strictly paleontological science from our mission)
- bird-related hobbies (bird stamp collecting, bird book collecting, bird art, bird photography, etc.)
- commercial birding[?] (this point needs discussion – tour-guiding, commercial photography, environmental consulting, etc. While recognizing that many members and directors are engaged in commercial aspects of birds and birding, the question is whether this is part of the mission of the organization.)

PROFESSIONAL vs. AMATEUR

Our organization is explicitly intended to appeal to amateurs, and our journal content is explicitly intended to be understandable by interested amateurs.

Amateur is defined (Oxford) as: **“a person who engages in study... or other activity for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons.”** (also, “a dabbler”!).

The definition of “professional” is more complicated: **“undertaken or engaged in as a means of livelihood;” “following an occupation as a means of livelihood or for gain,”** or **“engaged in one of the learned professions.”**

I believe the above definition of “amateur” leaves out an important aspect, which roughly corresponds to the currently popular term “citizen scientist.” I believe that an “amateur ornithologist” is by definition interested in more than just the “pleasure” of the study of birds.

Notwithstanding the truism that “financial benefit” tends to elude ornithological professionals and that the most “financially benefited” field ornithologists have earned their money in fields other than professional ornithology, the key point here is that we make no distinction between those who are employed as ornithologists (and/or have professional standing through degrees, etc.), and those whose interest in ornithology is not “professional” in the sense above.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Simply put, perhaps nowhere. But I do think we should have an organizational understanding of the definition(s) of “field ornithology” to better understand our mission and our audience.

LITERATURE CITED

Erritzoe, J., Kampp, K., Winker, K., and Frith, C. B. 2007. The ornithologist’s dictionary. Lynx Ediciones, Barcelona, Spain.

Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged Edition. 1969. Random House, New York, NY.