

## Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors

### Annual Board Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 11:00-4:00 pm PDT

Minutes prepared by Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*

**Board Members present:** Ed Pandolfino, *Pres.*; David Quady, *Vice Pres.*; Robbie Fischer, *Treas.*; Liga Auzins, *Rec. Sec'y.*; W. David Shuford, *Past Pres.*; Kenneth P. Able, Tom Blackman, Jon Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Daniel D. Gibson, Robert E. Gill, Ed Harper, Kurt Leuschner, Joyce Meyer, Frances Oliver, Dan Singer, Catherine Waters

**Guests:** Phil Unitt, *Editor, Western Birds (WB)*; Ginger Johnson, *Graphics Manager (WB)*; Suzanne Carota, *Treas.-elect*; Steve Rottenborn, *Board nominee*; Susan Kelly, *Board nominee*; Bob Toleno, *Board nominee*; Tim Brittain, *Webmaster*.

### MINUTES

#### 11:05am Meeting called to order, welcome, roll call

Minutes from May 21, 2014 conference call passed unanimously via motion to approve by Joyce and seconded by Ed Harper.

**Next BOD Meeting:** The next meetings will be conference calls on Dec. 3, 2014 from 1pm to 4pm PST and March 18, 2015 from 1pm to 4pm PST.

#### 11:08am FINANCE COMMITTEE and Membership Committee

**Report: Investments:** In June WFO purchased 3 CDs from California First National Bank which is an internet bank. We have \$30,000 in each of 1 yr, 2 yr and 3 yr CDs. We agreed that we would require two signatures within WFO but the bank will act on one signature. We decided at the last meeting that three people would have access to the accounts, the Treasurer, the Vice President, and the Immediate Past President.

**Motion: Dave Q. moves that 1)we adopt the standard corporate resolutions that the California First National Bank has furnished us, and 2)confirm three signatories as the owner/signers: Suzanne Carota, Treasurer; Tom Blackman, the incoming Vice President; and Ed Pandolfino, the incoming Past President as the owner/signers; seconded by Cat and passed unanimously.**

**11:15am Status: New financial software.** The APLOS system is up and running. We made some improvements of the software use, which costs \$25 per month. All the financial data through August 31, 2014 have been entered as has the 2014 budget. For membership data we need to discuss how best to use APLOS to support the various spreadsheets that currently are maintained by the respective users. There is no direct access from APLOS to any of our financial accounts currently but there will be. Regonline can be uploaded. We will be capable of controlling password access to **eWB.**

**ACTION ITEM:** Schedule a meeting of the Finance Committee to come up with recommendations to decide on some of the details regarding the APLOS program.

**11:25am Update: Financial status.** Robbie sent out the third quarter financial statement. We are in excellent financial shape which in large part is attributable to how well the conferences have been attended and budgeted, and also our fund raising trips. People have worked very hard to get WFO on a firm financial footing over the last 13 years. For example, we have six scholarship students and that in part is thanks to Pasadena Audubon society donating an additional \$5,000. to the Pasadena Audubon/WFO Youth Scholarship Fund. We should end the year conservatively at about \$175,000. These numbers don't reflect the conference costs, but they do reflect the New Zealand trip costs.

**11:30am PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:**

**Status of electronic *WB*: tabled**

**11:35am Avifaunal Change Symposium.**

**Report:** There will be 20 papers presented at this symposium. We have 31 papers committed for the printed volume, which gives us the opportunity to put out another significant publication.

**11:38am Sponsors to support Avifaunal Change publication:**

**Report:** The budget for the book is somewhere in the \$30,000 range depending on the number of copies. It will be available digitally as well. We are looking into laser printing as it is far less expensive. It will be a year or more before we publish. As to showing potential donors a sample, we have abstracts and the *Bird Species of Special Concern (BSSC)* that can be shown as samples. Cat sent out a long list of possible sponsors. Perhaps a publishing prospectus would be helpful in seeking donations. We could ask some authors for page expenses. We could announce this to our membership and ask for specific donations.

**ACTION ITEM:** Apprise Cat of contacts you may have for possible sponsors for the publication.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Publications Committee will make specific recommendations. which would include things like size and placement, with some type of samples that can be shown to potential sponsors that the Board can consider on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December

**11:42am Birds of New Mexico (BNM):**

**Status:** Cat volunteers to be our liaison for *BNM* and will contact Sandy Williams to determine the status of this planned book.

**11:45am Western Birds (WB)**

**Report:** We have had more submissions up to now in 2014 than we had in all of 2013. We have more than enough for 45(4) so we are working on 46(1). We are regularly going up to issues that max out the size which the issue can be successfully bound; that is a good sign of success. Thanks were offered to Tim Brittain for coming to meet everybody today and for his great efforts on our behalf. With Louis Bevier as a new Associate Editor, we now have nine Associate Editors.

**11:50am Hawaii Bird Records Committee Proposal (HBRC):**

**Announcement:** The newly established Hawaii Bird Records Committee (HBRC) approached us about becoming a Records Committee within WFO. The WFO bylaws clearly anticipate adding Bird Records Committees from other states. Our bylaws require that candidate committees must submit their rules and membership for approval by WFO's Board of Directors. HBRC has more or less

copied the bylaws of the CBRC and they have been reviewed by Dan Singer and others. The only additional expense would be adding another page on our website to support the HBRC.

**Discussion:** Our bylaws state that there is no particular requirement for the rules that the HBRC set up, simply that we find them satisfactory and that the members of the HBRC be members of WFO. Once a committee is established it can change their rules as time passes, so long as they are not inconsistent with WFO's bylaws .

WFO bylaw Section 8, Paragraph A reads in part that "Each Records Committee shall submit *annually* a publishable report of its findings to the editor of **WB**." The amendment to Section 8, Paragraph A would read "Each RBC shall *regularly* submit a publishable report of its findings to the editor of **WB**." Also we have to provide the proposed Amendment to the Board members at least 15 days prior to adopting such a change.

**Motion by Dan G. for Liga to send out the Amendment to WFO Bylaws Section 8, Paragraph A which reads, "Each Records Committee shall *regularly* submit a publishable report of its findings to the editor of WB ." , seconded by Kurt and passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by Dave Q. to accept HBRC as a committee of WFO, seconded by Kimball and passed unanimously.**

**ACTION ITEM:** Liga will send out notice within 15 days of the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to all Board members to consider for voting on the motion regarding the Amendment to Section 8, Paragraph A of the WFO bylaws.

{Subsequent note: Dave Quady did this, on 23 October 2014.}

**ACTION ITEM:** Ed P. to notify other bird records committees in our area (e.g., Alaska, Arizona, Nevada and Utah) that HBRC has become a standing committee of WFO.

**12:16pm Proposal for annual contribution to Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ)**

The WFVZ is the repository for all of WFO's records including all the records of the CBRC. Until recently several members of the Board and of CBRC were members of WFVZ.

**Motion: Cat moves that WFO become an organizational member of the WFVZ and contribute \$500/year to be reviewed every year in December, seconded by Dan G. and passed with one abstention.**

**12:30pm CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**San Diego Conference 8-12 October 2014:**

**Report:** We broke our record for number of registrants. Petaluma was 256; so far we have over 290. We are sharing 5% of our net profit with San Diego Field Ornithologists. Tom has made a huge contribution to this conference including providing all of our field trip leaders.

**12:32pm Montana Conference 10-14 June 2015**

**Report:** Most of the field trips have been set up. We will have workshops on sparrows, flycatchers and owls and possibly a workshop on current electronic hearing devices for birding. Stephen J. Dinsmore will deliver the keynote presentation, on Mountain Plovers. We will have 14-passenger vans for field trips, but we have to find a source for insurance on them. We are looking for a van

wrangler. Ed P. projects attendance somewhere between 125 and 190. The site is called Billings Hotel and Conference Center. There is shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. There may be a post conference trip. The science sessions are in the planning stages with Bob Gill spearheading that, but a co-chair needs to be identified. The specific information regarding the conference will be online by Feb 2015 with actual registration starting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **12:45pm 2016 Conferences**

**Discussion:** If we follow our standard pattern, 2016 will be in Northern California, perhaps in the Central Valley, e.g. Sacramento, possibly in January. We might also consider Arcata, in Humboldt County.

**ACTION ITEM:** We need to decide the location of our 2016 conference within the next six months.

#### **12:55pm New Conference Committee Chair**

Before the Montana Conference we will need a new Conference Committee Chair as Robbie and Ed P. have retired. It's a job that can be handled by two people. Having a couple of people whose terms are staggered would be a big advantage. It would be ideal to have one of those people identified by the Dec. meeting and have them work with Ed H. and Frances on the Montana Conference. The handoff of this position and others, i.e., scholarships, science sessions, etc., all have information left by the previous chairs and/or committee members to use as guidelines.

#### **12:57pm SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Report:** There will be approximately \$10,000 dollars in the Pasadena Audubon/WFO Youth Scholarship Fund after the San Diego Conference. Much of that was from Pasadena Audubon society's \$5,000 contribution. We selected six scholarship recipients for the San Diego Conference. Currently our scholarship covers two nights, two banquet tickets, registration, lunches and field trips. It's about \$500 per person. Our recommendation is that we cover 4 nights' lodging at future conferences. It makes it easier for the potential candidates to recognize whether it would be possible for them to attend. It would increase the cost of a scholarship to approximately \$1500. No motion needs to be made at this time, but the funding needs to be approved before the conference.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jon and Cat volunteer to approach Sea and Sage Audubon about having field trips for youth.

#### **1:08pm AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Status: Swarth Award:** The Committee has not picked a recipient.

**Status: Service Award:** Two recipients were selected to be honored with the service award at the San Diego meeting.

#### **1:25PM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to go into executive session made by Ken, seconded by Kurt, passed unanimously.**

**Motion to come out of executive session made by Dave Q., seconded by Joyce and passed unanimously.**

**2:25pm Review of Results of Executive Actions:** The results of the election of new Board members are as follows: Susan Kelly, Steve Rottenborn and Raymond VanBuskirk were newly elected, and

continuing Board members Dan Gibson and Frances Oliver were re-elected. All will serve a three-year term with the exception of Raymond whose term will be the remaining two years of Tom's current term.

The slate of officers is as follows: Dave Q. to become President, Tom to become Vice President and Liga to continue as Recording Secretary; all were elected unanimously. Suzanne was previously elected Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Proposed Committee Chairs: Awards: Ken Able; Finance: Ed Pandolfino; Nominations: to be announced; Publications: Dan G. and Cat; Scholarship: Joyce; Field trips: Kurt; Outreach: Frances.

It is not necessary that committee chairs be Board members, nor do they have to be members of WFO if the Board so agrees.

**ACTION ITEM:** The bylaws call for the President to appoint the Committee Chairs subject to approval by the Board at the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**2:33pm California Bird Records Committee (CBRC):**

**Report:** The CBRC's annual meeting was held last January. We have two new Committee members, Brian Daniels and John Garrett. In addition, the Committee now includes members Jon Dunn, Peter Pyle, Jim Tietz, Adam Searcy, Joe Morlan, Steve Rottenborn, and Dan Singer; Guy McCaskie is the secretary. Tom Benson has agreed to work as an assistant to Guy McCaskie. Currently our state list stands at 657 species, including the recent additions of Common Swift and Marsh Sandpiper.

**2:40pm Ad hoc Sub-committee on Advocacy Policy regarding Conservation and Science:**

**Report:** The WFO Board endorses in principle the intent described by the *ad hoc* Committee report. We can provide objectivity and independence that the scientific aspect of our interests demands. We have done advocacy in the past but we did not have a formal policy. The basic question is how effective can we be? Because we are a small organization and are regional and we have limited resources, we have to be very careful in selecting issues to become involved with. We have to focus on bigger issues with a clear relevance for science. What we have to offer is to be an interpreter, analyzer, educator and presenter of scientific information to those who are making decisions at whatever level. The most difficult aspect for us is how to get access into the process. Getting our input into the hands of those people who are relevant to the issue is the key.

**Discussion:** The strength of our organization is in our scientific publications, which other people use, e.g., the **WB** gnatcatcher issue that people used in supporting their stance on a specific conservation issue.

**Motion: Made by Ken that the WFO Board 1) endorse in principle the initiative in bird conservation and science policy that was described in the proposal by our ad hoc committee, 2) and that WFO establish a standing committee on conservation and policy whose function will be to a) explore and evaluate means by which the organization can most effectively engage with conservation and policy issues, and b) maintain an awareness of developing issues with which we might become involved. Seconded by Kurt and passed unanimously.**

Dave Q. will appoint committee members to the new Committee on Conservation and Science. Kimball volunteers to be the Chair for the first year.

### 3:00pm OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Report:** Tim Brittain is currently serving as our webmaster. We have an electronic newsletter that Ed P. has taken on. Cat sends out a newsletter with **WB** twice a year. We also have a Facebook page. At Frances' request Cliff Hawley, the administrator, puts on current pertinent information, e.g., our scholarship winners.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave Q. will seek out a permanent webmaster.

**Note:** Unlimited gift memberships cost \$20.00 and can be given once to any individual by any Board member.

#### **Partnership with Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO):**

**Proposal:** In August Jon spoke to CFO about partnering with WFO. Larry Modesitt, the Secretary of CFO came up with a summary of the points they discussed, after which Jon wrote the proposal containing nine points that was sent to all Board members. We formally agree to enter into a partnership with CFO. The goal is to have outreach with another Western state. We are giving a broader horizon to CFO and they are telling us more about that part of the WFO region. The goal is to strengthen both organizations.

**Motion made by Jon that Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) enters into a formal partnership with Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) pending reciprocal CFO approval, with the goal of strengthening both organizations. Benefits to both organizations could include the 7 points (Points 2,3,5,6,7,8 and 9) in the WFO-CFO Partnership Proposal. Seconded by Dan G. Motion passed with 2 opposed.**

### 3:35pm FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

**Updates:** The dates for the Cuba trip are November 3-16, 2015 with Kimball leading.

Kurt reported that the New Zealand trip is leaving in a month and everything is set. WFO should make several thousand dollars, and Kurt proposed that we split it between the Publications Fund and the Scholarship Fund after the 50% that goes into our general operating funds.

The proposal for a Shorebird Workshop is tabled until the December meeting

A central Sierra trip is being considered for 2016 with help from Lena.

Kurt made a reservation for the Desert Studies Center in Zzyzx, CA for Oct 9-11 2015, for approximately 40 people. This could serve as a mini-retreat conference for Board members and others. The research rate is \$102/person and maybe we could increase that so as to make a bigger contribution from WFO. It includes two nights lodging and all meals.

### 3:40pm Board Members Leaving:

We have two Board members rotating off, Dan Singer and Ken Able. We thank them for their service and to Robbie who after 13 years is relinquishing her position as Treasurer and Membership Secretary but she will continue to serve on the Finance, Scholarship, and Outreach Committees.

3:53pm **Motion made to adjourn by Kurt, seconded by Ken and passed unanimously.**