

## **Western Field Ornithologists' Board Conference Call for 10 December 2009.**

### **Draft Minutes Prepared by Jon L. Dunn**

Board Members Present: Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, Osvel Hinojosa, Dave Krueper, Ed Pandolfino, Dave Quady, Tom Ryan, Debbie VanDooremolen, Gjon Hazzard, Catherine Waters, and Jay Withgot.

Others Present: Robbie Fischer and Philip Unitt

Board members not Present: Elisabeth Ammon, Carol Beardmore, Jon Feenstra, Daniel D. Gibson, Robert Gill, and Dave Shufford.

**1005 Vote to Approve Minutes of September Meeting.** Kimball raises question of whether the new or 2<sup>nd</sup> term Board Members were reappointed as per the minutes or re elected. It was agreed that they were re elected and Elisabeth will revise the minutes to reflect this.

1008 Dave Quady started the discussion of the awards. Gjon pointed out that a service award was given to Alan M. Craig in 1978. It was a statuette of a Sabine's Gull, some 8-9", that was made by Tim Manolis. In a conversation Dave Quady had with Alan Craig, Alan mentioned Laurie Binford or Guy McCaskie who would be well qualified to have the award named after. One spoke up that the award should be named for someone no longer with us (Laurie qualifies), but there was rapid consensus that this wasn't necessary. Jon expressed concern about both Laurie and Guy, in that while they were both very involved with starting up this organization and involved in the early years, there was no one better qualified to have the award named after than Alan M. Craig. There was consensus that the award, whatever it was, would be named the Alan M. Craig award.

1012 Call interrupted do to clanging background noise, reestablished at 1016. Clanging continues, eventually determined to be Dave Krueper's speaker phone. Problem fixed.

Discussion begins on the Joseph Grinnell-Annie Alexander Award for "Advances in Western Field Ornithology." Dave relayed the following comments he had gotten which were: The recipient must be a WFO member; the recipient must not just be an academic, and that publications were not a pre requisite. Dave then effectively rebutted all of these points.

Ed indicated that slanting our award to non professionals distinguish our organization from all of the other professional ornithological organizations (e.g. Cooper, AOU, etc.)

Kimball liked the proposal as outlined and that the award could go to non professionals. He felt much more favorably to the service award and considered it mandatory, indicating that all organizations give such an award. He felt that the Grinnell/Alexander award was more optional and should be awarded only occasionally. Kimball didn't care that much about whom we named the award after.

Cat had reservations about calling it a service award. She liked calling it the Laurie Binford award. She didn't particularly care for the Grinnell-Alexander name for that award, and confusion quickly arose over which Grinnell we were naming the award for (George B. Grinnell associated with starting the Audubon Society or Joseph Grinnell of Grinnell and Miller fame). The intent was the latter, but the confusion was perhaps indicative that naming the award after Grinnell might not be the best choice.

Dave Krueper chimed in... "too many Grinnells"

Kimball said we now have a name for the service award and he was cool on the Grinnell/Alexander award.

Dave Krueper chimed in again "we need a name"

Jon relayed Dan Gibson's view that we didn't need to have a name initially and one could be adopted later.

Gjon indicated that the award should give given for outstanding publications covering "descriptive field ornithology" which would distinguish us from other professional organizations. This was responded to with enthusiasm from the rest.

Jon repeated that we should stick with Alan Craig for the service award.

Jay agreed that we should stay with the Alan Craig for the name of the service award and liked "descriptive field ornithology" as the qualification for the 2<sup>nd</sup> award, but overall he was not sure this 2<sup>nd</sup> award was the best use of our own resources, financial and otherwise. Jay expressed his appreciation for all of the efforts that Dave Quady had undertaken and others also expressed this.

1040 Dave Quady summarized the discussion as follows:

1. Keep 1987 name for the Service Award as the Alan M. Craig award.
2. Solicit nominations from current and past officers and board members.
3. Hold over the nature of the nature of the award(s) until the matter of feasibility and award costs.

Jon inquired whether the award winner would receive a print or a statuette. Kimball indicated that news of the winners of any award would be published in Western Birds. Dave Quady expressed the general sense of the discussion that the ornithological award would not be given annually and he would rewrite that page to reflect the Board consensus on the various points raised.

Service Award - We proceeded on the Service Award and voted unanimously to adopt it.

Ornithological Award – Kimball, Ed, Cat and Dave Krueper supported the general concept. Jay expressed the concern of "what's in the award for WFO?" The Board voted on the language for the ornithological award as a "periodic award that honors a body of work done in descriptive ornithology." It passed unanimously. Dave Quady will continue to work on the wording.

1055 Nominations Committee

Cat (or Dave?) indicated that Gjon and Elisabeth term out in 2010 and Tom Ryan in 2011. We need a new Secretary replacing Jean Brandt. Board members should start thinking about potential Board members, Vice-President, and a new Secretary. Two year terms was praised as it encourages turnover.

#### 1101 Birds of New Mexico

Dave Krueper led the discussion and will ask Sandy Williams to provide an up to date account as to progress. Dave mentioned an idea that Jon had proposed to him earlier about fund raising and challenges within the Board before going out on an appeal letter and asking for more. Dave asked Jon how much should be raised within the Board and Jon opined somewhere between 30% and 50%. Jon asked Dave how much he was willing to pledge and Dave said \$250.00. Later at the end of the call Jon offered to match that \$250.00 and asked the rest of the Board to pledge something as well. It was Jon's suggestion that we can put in the fund raising letter that within the Board we have already raised xx dollars for the Birds of New Mexico.

There was some discussion as to whether fund raising for this project was appropriate and Kimball led the response in stating this is exactly the sort of project we should support and was part of WFO's mission in trying to expand our base beyond California and having a WFO supported project that wasn't associated with California.

#### 1110 Birds of Sonora

Osva gave us an overview of this project which will be published in Spanish early next year (galley proof stage as of December 2009). Osva summarized to the Board what the project was about, which was basically updating Russel and Monson's book (Russell, S.M. and Monson, G. 1998. The Birds of Sonora, University of Arizona Press, Tucson). The authors, including Osva and Dave Krueper, would include introductory letters. Osva indicated that he was currently working on a draft in English and that it would be ready about January of 2010. It would be about 15-18 pages in English. Osva asked whether covering the history of ornithology in Sonora was of interest. Phil responded with a question whether it was well covered in Russell and Monson (1998) and Osva responded that it was not. Phil then said it would be of interest for the WFO publication. That would then lengthen the manuscript.

Kimball wanted to make sure that "new information" (post submission of the Spanish language draft) be included in the English version so that it was up to date as possible.

#### 1115 Gift Memberships

There was discussion as to narrow the offer of gift memberships to being only offered from Board members. Apparently there is a recent issue involving the Coachella Bird Club (CAT – DO YOU WANT SUCH DETAIL HERE?) where Robbie says some 3-4 have "gamed" the system. Robbie did opine though that she worried about "throwing the baby out with the bath water" and didn't want to end what was largely a positive scheme, thus far. She indicated that we had a fairly high (50%+?) renewal rate of the 40 or so gift memberships given, thus far. Jon felt the proposed wording in the agenda under new business could be improved and offered to draft new wording. Cat indicated that the new wording should be sent to Robbie and Dave Krueper for review.

#### 1125 Field Trips (Tom Ryan)

Tom was looking for volunteers to lead and organize trips and said that no was actively pursuing trips. Ecuador, El Triunpho, and Cuba. No one volunteered to organize a trip.

Robbie indicated that one of the reasons revenues had declined for WFO was that we were not having trips. She thought that short weekend trips could more easily be organized. Jon said that Krueper could easily lead a winter Bosque del Apache NWR trip. Jon and Kimball later (after conference call) agreed to do a Southern Sierra trip in late June 2011.

Cat asked Tom to prepare and send out a letter summarizing field trips.

Tom indicated we should start off with weekends.

Dave Krueper indicated that he would again talk to Jon about Thailand.

Cat wondered about organizing a pelagic trip around the Coachella WFO Convention (13-17 October 2009) and Jon Feenstra was volunteered to organize one off southern California.

Osval wondered about a pelagic trip off San Felipe into the Gulf of California in order to gain more understanding of pelagic species abundance and distribution at the northern end of the Gulf. There was widespread enthusiasm for this idea and Osval indicated he would research this possibility.

Tom wondered if an Alamos trip was feasible around the next WFO convention.

Jon thought it should be one pelagic or the other (not both) and it seemed that the San Felipe trip garnered a more enthusiastic response from the Board.

#### 1140 Publications

Phil indicated that the pdf for 40, #4 had just been sent out and a few corrections had been sent to him. He also said that papers for 41 #1 were all lined up, including one on phoebe vocalizations that Don Kroodsma called "ground breaking." Phil needed updates and exact wording for ads on Rare Birds of California and California Bird Species of Special Concern.

#### 1143 Budget

Dave Quady would like the 2008 actuals and 2009 projections and Robbie indicated that she could provide this.

Cat indicated that the Finance Committee would rework the Proposed Budget with cutting in mind.

#### 1145 Adjourn

Debbie made a motion to adjourn, which Dave Quady seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.