

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS COUNCIL MEETING
Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut
2 October 1992**

Present (AFO Councilors and Voting Officers): Edward H. Burt, Jr., Greg Butcher, Lisa C. Wahle (acting secretary), George B. Mock, Erica Dunn, Debra Miller, Nathaniel Wheelright, Joseph M. Wunderle, Martha Steele, Ken Yasukawa

Absent: Jon Atwood, David F. Westneat, Lise A. Hanners, Julie Zickefoose, P. A. Buckley, Alan Poole, Peter Vickery, Peter Cannell

Others Present: Robert Askins, Paul Baicich (AFO and ABA membership meeting organizers, respectively)

Call to Order: 10:17 AM by President Edward H. Burt, Jr. Minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved as mailed to Council.

AFO-ABA Membership Meeting Report—Bob Askins, Paul Baicich

A copy of the meeting report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes. One hundred five registrants were needed to break even; 114 regular members plus 15 students had registered as of Friday morning. The meeting seemed to be a viable hybrid of research papers, field trips and workshops.

Deb Miller reported raffle ticket sales would be held during vendor hours, and a 386 IBM-compatible computer would be auctioned at the Banquet on 4 October. It was recommended that there be a \$300 minimum bid and that neither AFO nor ABA Councils submit bids.

President's Report—Jed Burt

1) The Ornithological Council was incorporated in the District of Columbia. There will be a check-off on the OSNA dues notice for individuals to support the Council. **MOTION:** It was moved, seconded and voted to appropriate \$250 of AFO funds to join the Ornithological Council and to select 2 delegates to serve on the Council.

2) Jed has asked Jay Shetterly, AFO Legal Council, to draft an amendment to the AFO By-Laws to allow for adoption of resolutions. Jay has not yet replied.

3) In response to a letter sent to USFWS concerning simplification of regulations, Director Turner sent Jed a complete file of all laws pertaining to banding and collection of birds for comments. Jed, Nat Wheelright and a representative from AOU will meet with the USFWS director to discuss concerns.

Vice-President's Report—Greg Butcher

The contract with USFWS to publish the Bird Count supplement is in its 5th and final year. Greg is negotiating a new contract and looking for a new editor as Cornell will transfer data management of these counts to USFWS at Patuxent. USFWS has expressed interest in continuing to pay for the supplement.

Response to the library subscription campaign has been positive. Now we should send letters and a sample JFO issue to libraries that presently subscribe to the Auk, Condor, Wilson Bulletin or JWM. Subscriptions are \$45 (for libraries and institutions).

Treasurer's Report—George Mock

A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes. The financial status of AFO is good. Treasurer Mock proposed that a portion of AFO funds be invested in some type of bonds or mutual fund in order to generate more interest than the current money market rate, which is less than 4%. A written statement from Council is required to order to open an account with Fidelity Mutual Funds.

Discussion ensued about investing in environmentally-friendly companies, and whether

the Treasurer should for now just investigate possibilities with a financial advisor. It was pointed out that working with a mutual fund company is like having a financial advisor.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted that Council authorize the Treasurer to open an investment account with Fidelity or a like financial investment company, and invest AFO funds as the Finance Committee approves.

Assistant Treasurer's Report—given by Jed Burttt for Brian Harrington

Due to a complete ban on Japanese export of mist nets, the AFO supply is now completely exhausted. Jed and Brian, working with ICBP and the Ornithological Society of Japan, have written numerous letters to the Japanese Ministry to try to have regulations modified to allow purchase of mist nets for legal purposes. Thus far, they have had little success largely due to language barriers. The last letter sent by Jed and Brian was translated first into Japanese. Meanwhile, there may be nets available from England, though much more expensive.

Editor's Report—Ken Yasukawa

A copy of the Editor's report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes. JFO is in good financial condition and on schedule with the 1st 1993 issue at Allen Press. The number of authors who can pay the \$93 page charge is dwindling; perhaps we could appeal to members for page fee donations. Richard Banks from USFWS inquired if JFO was the appropriate venue for natural history research; Ken assured him it was. Allen Press requested \$125 to put JFO in an Environmental Press Catalog which will reach 1500 potential subscribers. Ken will ask if the target audience is actually different from the present subscriber catalog audience.

Review-editor's Report—given by Jed Burttt for John Smallwood

A copy of the Review-editor's report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes. This year, 162 reviews were published in JFO by 25 reviewers. Regular and occasional reviewers are encouraged to contact John.

OSNA Report—given by Jed Burttt for Fred Lohrer

A copy of the OSNA report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes. AFO memberships in all categories have increased over 1991 by 11%; total members = 1854, subscribers = 437. The next *Flock* will be published in 1993. OSNA Newsletter editor, Richard Banks, has resigned after 16 years. Kevin McGowan of Cornell will assume editorship as of December 1992.

Nominations Committee Report—Debra Miller

A copy of the Nominations Committee report is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes.

MOTION: Acceptance of the following slate of officers and councilors was moved, seconded and approved: Editor—Ken Yasukawa, Secretary—Lisa C. Wahle, Councilors until 1996—Martha Steele, David F. Westneat, Margaret C. Brittingham.

Membership Committee Report—Martha Steele

AFO membership poster and brochures will be displayed during the AFO/ABA meeting. New stationery will be printed reflecting the change of Secretary. A membership appeal letter will be sent to non-renewers and to non-AFO members who participated in the breeding bird census. Allen Press presently has no way to trace the number of subscriptions resulting from catalog or letter appeals.

Bergstrom Awards Committee—Nat Wheelright

The committee is currently accepting applications. AFO will issue an appeal letter to augment monies available for Bergstrom awards.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and approved that, due to the variable interest rate on the Bergstrom account, the Bergstrom award amount be standardized at \$900, the distribution of which will be decided by the Awards Committee.

Future Meetings

The 1993 membership meeting will be held either at Bowdoin College, Colby College, another facility in Maine, or at Cape May. Dormitory space will not be available at Bowdoin for August 1993 nor during the school year. Nat felt hotel facilities in the immediate area are not sufficient. It was generally agreed that it is important to conduct the meeting during the academic year to encourage student participation.

Greg will call the Grand Hotel at Cape May about holding the meeting there during October or November. Nat will investigate other possible sites in Maine, including National Audubon's Hog Island camp.

OLD BUSINESS

Permanent Address. A permanent address for AFO at Manomet Bird Observatory is still being negotiated.

Latin American Members. Council agreed to sponsor an additional 25 Latin American libraries to receive JFO, bringing the total number of sponsorships to 42. Back issues will also be made available, both to benefit those libraries and to avoid further storage fees at Allen Press. Jed has asked Allen Press to have the Council of Biological Editors find out which Latin American libraries pay for journals. Library funding will continue to be carried as part of the AFO general budget.

Partners in Flight—Aves de las Americas. The organization, largely funded by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, met in CO during September. Approximately 500 people attended, many of which were USFWS, USFS and state resource managers interested in considering neotropical migrants in management decisions. Greg is chair of the bird population monitoring group. Joe Wunderle is active in the Caribbean and Ricky Dunn in Canada. Joe felt that Partners has helped educate and involve natural resource managers, and that the program strengthens the conservation infrastructure. This benefits both migrant and endemic bird species.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted to sign a memorandum of understanding with (join) Partners in Flight and have Greg report to Council on progress of the organization.

Committee Restructuring. The Long Range Planning Committee will now assume responsibilities of the Finance Committee. The former Finance Committee will become the Conservation Committee. A complete list of new officers, councilors and committee members accompanies these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding Latin American Researchers. Council discussed sponsoring travel costs for a Latin American researcher to attend the annual AFO meeting or some other meeting from which that person would benefit. Council also discussed funding Latin American research.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and approved to provide \$900 for research to be awarded competitively to researchers from Latin American Countries to conduct research within those countries.

Notice of this grant will go out in the ICBP newsletter.

Participation at Annual Meetings. Concern was raised over low attendance at the annual meeting (40–80 attendants out of > 1800 members). This may be attributed to AFO members being members of other ornithological societies and having to limit the number of meetings to attend. Many people are probably members primarily to receive JFO. The following suggestions were made to encourage attendance at the annual AFO meeting:

- 1) Conduct joint meetings as this year with ABA, which may also result in new memberships.

- 2) Maintain a format of research presentations, workshops and field trips.
- 3) Allow one-day registrations to encourage more (especially local) attendance.

USFWS Banding and Collecting Regs (see also Pres. Report, number 1). A letter of recommendations sent to USFWS in June 1990 and a follow-up letter concerning streamlining banding permit applications have not had any response. Jed will draft a letter requesting a response to those recommendations.

AFO Relationship to ICBP. Some well-intentioned efforts of ICBP have resulted in policies which impede legitimate research, such as the total ban on Japanese mist net sales. Jed has written to them in the past concerning such effects and has received no response. Council suggested that with our next dues donation, we again request a response to these concerns with a warning of possible cancellation unless such response is received.

Resolution to Preserve Old Growth Forest. A resolution was sent to Jed for Council endorsement by a Pacific old growth forest preservation interest group. Members of Council were not familiar with the group or its directors.

MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted to contact the other ornithological societies to jointly sign the resolution to preserve old growth forests if the societies determined that the resolution was a valid scientific document.

Hawaiian conservation initiative. Council declined to endorse a proposal to use monies generated from sales of special license plates for land conservation in Hawaii. Council felt this was a fine idea, but AFO does not become involved in local efforts. Jed will draft a letter explaining this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Society for Caribbean Ornithology will meet in Cuba in July or August, 1993.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa C. Wahle, Secretary

Available from the Secretary by request:

Agenda
AFO/ABA Meeting Report
Treasurer's Report
Editor's Report

Review-editor's Report
OSNA Report
Nominations Committee Report

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