

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS COUNCIL MEETING
Isles of Shoals Marine Laboratory, Appledore Isles, Maine
10 Sep. 1993**

Present: Margaret Brittingham, Jed Burt, Greg Butcher, Lise Hanners, George Mock, Peter Vickery, Nat Wheelwright, Ken Yasukawa, *Dendroica dominica albiflora (ex officio)*.

Absent: Paul Buckley, Peter Cannell, Ricky Dunn, Brian Harrington, Deb Miller, Alan Poole, John Smallwood, Martha Steele, Lisa Wahle, David Westneat, Joe Wunderle, Julie Zickefoose.

Call to Order: 11:05 hours by President Jed Burt

Minutes from 10 Apr. 1993: Accepted with the following changes: Jed has authorized Marion Jenkinson and Mercedes to donate a total of 75 extra sets of JFO to the Latin American Library Program.

Treasurer's Report—George Mock

George noted that the closing figures for 1992 were in the black and that finances for the first 6 mo of 1993 were on target. Page charges for the journal have exceeded budget projections, and printing costs are within budget projections.

George has placed \$40,000.00 (US) of accumulated funds into a Fidelity Balanced Fund. As of 30 June, the investment gained almost 6%. George recommended that an additional \$20,000.00 could be invested without affecting ongoing operations. The council voted to transfer an additional \$20,000.00 into Pax World Fund, and asked George and the Finance Committee to consider further investments.

The board voted unanimously to endorse the following endowment policy:

The treasurer shall maintain capital for all endowed funds (hereafter referred to as "special funds") along with general endowment monies, in a combined endowment fund. The funds shall be separated only in bookkeeping, with each fund being assigned a value according to the proportion of its original capital to the total in the combined fund at the time the new fund was added to endowment.

Whenever additions are made to the capital portion of any special fund, or to general endowment, a new calculation shall be made as to the proportion of the total combined fund that is assigned to each constituent fund. All increases and decreases in value of the combined fund shall be apportioned among the constituent funds according to these proportions, as shall the annual interest from the combined fund.

Capital from endowment and special funds shall not be spent unless directed otherwise by the Council. Up to 3% of the capital values of the funds shall be used to carry out the purposes of the funds as directed by Council, the remainder of the annual interest (if any) shall be returned to the capital of that fund to maintain the capital base of endowment. All the interest from any special fund may be returned to that fund as new capital at the discretion of Council, providing that the Association continues to spend on its programs the amounts required for charitable organizations by the Internal Revenue Service. Such retention of interest would necessitate a new calculation of the proportions of the combined endowment fund assigned to each constituent fund.

Life memberships, patronships and bequests shall automatically be put into the general endowment fund unless specifically directed otherwise by the donor or the Council.

Finally, George indicated that the Association has received a \$300,000.00 bequest from the estate of Charles Blake, a long-time AFO member. The Association will receive approximately \$17,000.00 in annual income from this endowment.

Assistant Treasurer's Report—Brian Harrington (in absentia)

Mist net figures were not available for the first six months of 1993, but Brian has ample funds for two major purchases from Japan. George stated that he expects a positive year for mist net sales in 1993.

President's report—Jed Burtt

The Association now has a permanent address:

Association of Field Ornithologists
Manomet Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 936
Manomet, Massachusetts 02345 USA

Jed has communicated with David Wilcove, Chair of the U.S. Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation and with Christoph Imboden, Director-General of BirdLife International, to see if BirdLife International could facilitate access to Japanese mist nets. Jed expressed disappointment with the response of BirdLife International on this issue.

On 24 April, 1993, Jed attended a meeting of the AOU committee on Ornithology and the Law at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. The purpose of this meeting was to work to improve the federal regulatory climate for bird research. No conclusions emanated from this meeting, but work continues.

Two representatives are needed to represent AFO on the Ornithological Council. Suggestions should be passed on to Greg Butcher, the new president.

Ted Davis will write a history of the Bergstrom Awards and the contributions of Alexander Bergstrom to the Association.

The Finance Committee will investigate the costs and benefits of getting Liability Insurance for officers and council members, and will report to the Council in the spring 1994 Council meeting.

Vice-President's Report—Greg Butcher

As all council members present could attest, Greg's report that all preparations for the annual meeting were in order and accurate. Nat Wheelright, chair of the scientific program reported that 23 papers, nine posters, and one workshop would be presented during the annual meeting. Nat reported that David Nettleship, CWS, planned to give the plenary lecture, titled "Crisis in the world's seabirds: can specialists survive?," and that Art Borrer, UNH, would give an evening lecture on the birds of the Isles of Shoals.

Greg suggested that the Association should not make any long-term contracts with the USFWS regarding the Resident Bird Count Supplement. Because federal agencies have not clarified the status of the National Biological Survey (NBS), he felt, and Council concurred, that this would be a poor time to make long-term commitments. The supplement will appear with the second issue of JFO in 1994, edited by Jim Lowe of Cornell.

There was no report from the Secretary.

Editor's Report—Ken Yasukawa

Ken stated that the journal is meeting its publishing deadlines, and re-iterated that the number of contributors paying page charges had exceeded projections. Everything seems to be running smoothly. Council heartily agreed that Ken was to be congratulated for his excellent work.

OSNA Report—Jed Burtt for Fred Lohrer

Membership in AFO increased in 1993. Having passed the Wilson Ornithological Society in memberships, AFO is now the third largest professional ornithological society in North America.

Nominations Committee—Peter Vickery for Deb Miller

The Nominations Committee suggested the following candidates for 1993–1994:

President, Greg Butcher

Vice-President, Elissa Landre

Secretary, George Gale

Re-nominated, Lise Hanners

New Council Members, Jim Berry and Ken Rosenberg

There was no membership committee report.

Research Awards Committee—Nat Wheelwright

Nat suggested that the amount of the Bergstrom Awards be increased to \$500.00 per award. Council agreed and voted that as many as six awards should be given in a single year. Council also agrees with Nat's suggestion that Latin American awards be increased to \$500.00.

Council discussed the possibility of establishing student travel funds to ensure more students to attend AFO meetings. It was agreed that it made more sense to cover all AFO meetings costs, including banquet, rather than limiting the student travel stipend to a specific dollar amount. It was also agreed that it would be valuable if the Association could award 5–10 student travel grants per year. Amateurs, not necessarily affiliated with any college or university, would also be encouraged to apply. No specific action was taken on this subject.

Future Meetings—Greg Butcher

Greg did not have a particular site to suggest at this point, but thought that the Association should consider branching out, possibly to Georgia and eventually to Colorado. Greg indicated that costs for a fall meeting at Cape May, New Jersey may be prohibitive. More on this later.

Old Business was largely covered in committee reports. It was agreed that the definition of a Patron would allow several (≤ 5) payments.

New Business was largely covered in committee reports. Nat Wheelwright did have many good ideas on how to spend income from the Blake bequest (more on that later). ABSEARCH, a computer abstract service, would like to develop an ornithological index based on OSNA journals. Council agreed that the president should continue negotiations with ABSEARCH, but that such an agreement should not infringe on the ability of other abstracting services to use AFO materials. No action was taken on the request to support listing of Dovekie as an endangered species, to participate in World Birdwatch, or to support a tax on birdseed and other bird-related supplies.

Submitted by P. Vickery, 7 Oct. 1993,

Amended and improved by G. Butcher, 2 Nov. 1993