

of multilayered, old-age forest. Twenty-three nests were found within the RNRW, 19 in natural sites (Pileated Woodpecker [*Dryocopus pileatus*] holes) and four in nest boxes. As found elsewhere, nests were restricted to stands of mature and old multilayered forest. Home ranges of radio-tagged adults averaged 1451 ha in winter ($n = 13$) and 1182 ha in summer ($n = 15$). The owls fed on a wide variety of small mammals, with Red-backed Voles (*Clethrionomys gapperi*) being the most frequent prey of both sexes year-round. In winter, Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) were important prey for females but not for males. Survivorship of radio-tagged adults was below 50%, and productivity and nesting success were low compared with Boreal Owls in Eurasia. Based on Leslie matrix projections, the population appeared to be declining.

Considering the daunting logistics of monitoring an owl population in a remote wilderness, this study must have been very difficult to conduct. The authors recognize that they followed a small sample of owls for a relatively short period of time. Thus, their conclusions on the demographics and status of the population are tentative. This study has documented clearly that Boreal Owls occupy a narrow, patchily distributed life zone in the northern Rockies. Conservation of Boreal Owls in the West will require maintenance of mature and old-growth stands of spruce-fir forest. Additional data on productivity, survivorship, and dispersal are needed to monitor population status. [Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, 222 South 22nd St., Laramie, WY 82070, USA.]—Jeff Marks.

J. Field Ornithol., 65(3):425-432

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS COUNCIL MEETING
Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Natick, Massachusetts
6 March 1994**

Present: Jim Berry, Greg Butcher, Jed Burt, George Gale, Lise Hanners, Brian Harrington, Elissa Landre, Jim Lowe, George Mock, Debra Miller, Ken Rosenberg, Peter Vickery

Absent: Margaret Brittingham, Paul Buckley, Alan Poole, Nathaniel Wheelwright, Joe Wunderle, Martha Steele, David Westneat, Ken Yasukawa, John Smallwood

Call to Order: 9:30 AM by President Greg Butcher

Minutes from 10 Sep. 1993: Accepted

Secretary's Report—George Gale

George stated he would send out a revised list of addresses and phone numbers of all councilors, and a list of committee assignments with a copy of the minutes. He asked councilors to also forward any address changes to him. Also, new stationery and envelopes will be mailed with the minutes.

Treasurer's Report—George Mock

1. Expenses/Budget

George noted that journal operations showed a \$38,719 surplus for 1993. This figure reflects printing charges for only three issues of the Journal. However, even if the fourth issue were charged, and the Charles Blake Trust income excluded, there would remain a substantial surplus of income over expenses for the year. This has been the fourth consecutive year AFO has been in the black. George also noted that Mrs. Bergstrom donated \$1000 to the Bergstrom Fund for the fourteenth consecutive year. The journal balance sheets showed a small surplus due to 27% of the authors being able to pay full page charges. An additional

13% was partially supported by donations to AFO by authors. Payment of page charges continues to be an important source of income for the journal.

There were no significant, unexpected expenses for the year. George has put \$20,000 of AFO's accumulated funds into the Pax World Fund, in addition to the \$40,000 already invested in the Fidelity Balanced Fund. Year-end results are shown on the balance sheet (see attached).

Since 1993 income again exceeded \$100,000, a review report prepared by a professional accountant will be arranged and submitted along with the Annual Report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before 15 May 1994. Our annual return to the IRS will also be filed before 15 May.

The AFO continues to have considerable financial flexibility for expanding its research award and research support activities.

2. *Liability Insurance*

George suggested that AFO should consider having Directors and Officers Liability and General Liability Insurance to protect AFO and its officers from unforeseen disasters.

Listed below are estimates from the Philadelphia Insurance Companies:

A. Publishers liability:

Limit of liability	Annual premium	Total
300,000	1648	1648
500,000		
1,000,000	2500	2500

B. General Liability: (Organizational Liability)

Premium: \$2,797

Limit: \$1,000,000	General Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Products Aggregate
\$1,000,000	Each Occurrence
\$ 125,000	Fire Damage
\$ 5,000	Medical Expense

Includes Volunteers as Additional Insureds

Includes Social Workers Professional Liability

Excludes Personal & Advertising Injury

Excludes Pollution

Excludes Employment Related Practices

C. Criminal Liability:

Premium: \$274

Employee Dishonesty: \$25,000

Loss of Money on & off: \$2,500

Deductible: \$250

A motion was made to bind coverage for full (\$1,000,000) general liability and personal liability for the directors and officers. Final decisions regarding the carrier (bids from other insurers were pending at the time of the meeting) and the exact premium was left to George. Total estimated costs were expected to be about \$5500, about equal to the surplus in the 1994 Budget.

3. *Prospects for Future Investments*

George stated that an additional \$20,000 could be invested without adversely affecting ongoing operations. The council authorized George to develop an investment plan for the \$20,000 and forward his recommendation to the Long Range Planning and Finance Committee. Strategies considered included further investment in the Pax World Fund, Fidelity Balanced Fund, and possibly Junk Bonds.

4. *Other Items*

AFO council unanimously approved an increase in the stipend for the editor from \$1500 per year to \$2000 per year.

The 1994 Budget was approved as revised.

Assistant Treasurer's Report—Brian Harrington

1. Mist Net Sales

MBO is probably the world's largest ethical mist net business, but new regulations on mist nets have put the future availability of nets for ethical users in doubt. Although it appears that Brian will be getting a shipment of nets from Japan in March, getting future supplies is questionable. The problem appears to be that ethical users of mist nets comprised only a small fraction of the market. Now that the illicit market has been blocked, there is little impetus to continue to manufacture netting with small mesh that is used for catching birds and bats, but is illegal for fishing. Furthermore, the machines that manufacture netting of this kind are expensive and difficult to find.

The AFO mist net business faces a dilemma of having to find a new and ethical supplier that can manufacture high quality netting. Spider Net company in Finland manufactures nets that Brian thought were of lower quality (frayed ends, low durability) and higher priced than the Japanese nets. Companies in Thailand and Taiwan also are selling nets, but Brian believes they are probably selling to unethical as well as ethical users.

Ken suggested to take a two-tier strategy to deal with an uncertain future. AFO would have to juggle several possible alternatives for finding suppliers and probably purchase nets with a range of quality and price, and carefully explain these changes to AFO customers. Jed also pointed out that many are getting desperate; lower quality nets are better than no nets at all. Others indicated that the quality of nets might be improved by working with the new suppliers. Greg has contacts in Taiwan who might facilitate this process.

Another possibility is to develop a partnership with AVINET that currently manufactures only 3 nets/day or Elissa suggested that perhaps AFO could 'seed' a small net making business. Brian also has contacted several US fishing net manufacturers, but did not get a positive response. However, he has been contacted by 2 people who expressed interest in working with him in trying to develop mist net and color band business in the United States.

2. Other News

In addition to the mist net and color band business, additional areas which AFO could develop were bird bags, banding pliers, and banding rulers. Thus far banding pliers and banding rulers are being taken care by other small businesses, but developing the bird bag business for AFO may be possible.

3. Finances

Financial figures were not reported, but \$50,000 was likely to be wired to Japan for the next (the last?) shipment of nets.

The council authorized a 5% raise for Jenny, the packer of nets.

President's Report—Greg Butcher

1. Ornithological Council

The Ornithological Council met in December of 1993. They discussed their desire to find funding and hire an executive director to establish a permanent lobby in Washington for professional ornithologists. The Council would represent OSNA, Raptor Research Foundation, Colonial Waterbird Society, etc. Greg expressed concern about the future direction and capability of the Council to be an effective lobby in Washington. Jed expressed concerns that the Council maybe too narrowly focused on collecting, and needed to focus more on larger issues such as the use of data collected by volunteers for the National Biological Survey (NBS). Both expressed concerns about whether the Council would become just another committee in Washington.

2. ABSEARCH

All four groups within OSNA have signed on to allow ABSEARCH to develop and market an ornithological data base. However, there appeared to be some last minute delays with the agreement. The agreement did not prevent other computer data base companies from working with OSNA as long as they did not duplicate the service provided by ABSEARCH.

3. Bird Banding Laboratory (now part of NBS)

There have been several complaints launched against the Office for needlessly revoking permits, requiring lengthy justification or uneven treatment of permit applications.

4. *Breeding Bird Survey*

The fate of the survey also came into question. The legislation that currently passed the house makes no mention of the use of volunteers in collecting data. However, there is concern that language will be added to the Senate version of the bill that would eliminate the use of volunteers for data collection, effectively gutting the survey.

Concerns were expressed about the role different organizations should play in this issue. There was concern expressed by some councilors that heavy contributions from the more political organizations behind this could potentially harm the point that the data are collected in an unbiased manner. Others argued that both societies such as Audubon and professional ornithologists should speak out about the importance of volunteers and their contributions to knowledge about population trends.

Further Discussion:

Greg will write a letter for the organization, but encouraged members of the council to write their own Senators/Congressional Reps. Jed suggested that we also write to our local papers.

- a. Letters should indicate the importance of the National Biological Survey.
- b. Volunteers are and have been a critical aspect of data collection and most naturalists are volunteers.
- c. Volunteers are reliable ordinary citizens who can collect unbiased data and have no hidden agenda. Furthermore many professionals volunteer their time to collect data for these surveys and the distinction between volunteer, professional, and amateur is fuzzy in this case.
- d. Volunteers collect the data; professional scientists and policy analysts analyze the data.
- e. It does not make good economic or budgetary sense to decline highly qualified volunteer assistance. The BBS was cited as a model of volunteerism by the Bush administration.

5. *Resident Bird Count Supplement*

Money for the 1994 supplement was approved from USFWS in the same amount as last year. Cornell and Fish & Wildlife used to split cost, but it is unclear how the future finances will be arranged. Greg is awaiting further word from San Droege of the Office of Migratory Bird Management about future arrangements.

Vice-President's Report—Elissa Landre

1994 Joint Meeting

Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (NYFBC, 700 members; 39 clubs)

23–25 Sep. 1994

Williams Lake Resort, Rosendale, NY

Proposed agenda: (The theme of the meeting is owls; we will also try to get High School students to give papers during the paper sessions). Agenda will be finalized by the end of March.

Friday afternoon: meeting of delegates, NYFBC

Friday evening: workshops

Sally Laughlin, Owls of the Northeast(?)

Hudson Valley Raptor Center (owl program)

Saturday AM—mtg. of delegates, NYFBC; Field trips for AFO?

Saturday 11 AM?—Saturday morning—papers session?

Saturday afternoon—papers session: owls session?

Saturday evening: AFO hosted wine and cheese

banquet: speaker Julio de la Torre (owls)

Sunday afternoon—field trips (box lunches)

Accommodations: Williams Lake resort \$150 for 2 nights, 6 meals double rooms (130 people max.) Campground: Hidden Valley Lake, adjacent to Williams Lake for \$18/site. Campground also has showers, water, and RV hookups.

Registration: \$20 (including T-shirt or patch?)
 Student rate (\$10?)
 Art exhibit
 Book sellers

Future meetings: Potential site for the AFO 1996 meeting could be in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Mexico or elsewhere on the mainland. Potential meetings for 1997 include W. Virginia, southern Georgia or southern Louisiana.

Editor's Report—Ken Yasukawa (in absentia; copied directly from Ken's report)

1. *Schedule*

Three of four 1993 issues and the Resident Bird Counts Supplement were published (more-or-less) on time, but the fourth issue was not mailed until March 1994. Ken stated that the fourth issue was beset with more delays than any issue during his tenure as editor. Allen Press claims not to have received three different sets of corrected page proofs each sent by Priority (2nd day) U.S. mail. He has decided to use UPS second day delivery, which offers package tracking. The first issue of 1994 should be out in mid-April of 1994, and there should be little trouble getting back on schedule.

General concerns were raised about Allen Press: In addition, Greg Butcher, George Mock, Brian Harrington, and Jim Lowe all expressed concerns about Allen Press. Greg suggested that although Allen Press was inexpensive compared with other publishers, quality control maybe a problem. He expressed concerns about Allen Press' computer system update and the potential for the loss of the mailing list. Greg suggested that problems with Allen Press be outlined and action taken to avoid future problems.

2. *Spanish Abstracts*

We continued to receive outstanding service from Dr. Raúl Pérez-Rivera. We also continued to use Dr. Robert G. Black, Professor of Modern Languages at Beloit College, to proofread the Spanish abstracts and page proofs. We also continue to receive occasional complaints about the "Puerto Rican" Spanish in each synopsis, but I have been assured by members of the Beloit Modern Languages Dept. that such complaints would occur regardless of the "brand" of Spanish we use.

3. *Supplement: See Supplement Editor's Report by Jim Lowe* (Ken did say that Jim did an "excellent job").

4. *Printing*

The press runs have increased slightly over previous levels to account for growth in AFO membership. As an indication of AFO's growth, Allen Press asked Ken to return some of his editor's copies of previous issues so they could maintain adequate supplies of back issues.

5. *Expenses*

The increase in the number of pages published per issue from 80 to 100 pages, which was made possible by the previous year's budget surplus, will help in at least two ways. It will reduce the back-log of accepted manuscripts, and this reduction will reduce the "turn-around" time for publication.

6. *Editorial*

Composition of Volume 64 includes 616 pages plus 128 pages for the supplement, which is a large volume for the JFO.

Manuscripts—Ken received 119 manuscripts in 1993 which was consistent with previous years. A total of 41 manuscripts was submitted from countries outside the US. Ken accepted 45% of manuscripts submitted in 1993.

7. *Miscellaneous*

As of 6 March no replacement had been named for recent literature editor John Smallwood. A suitable replacement was needed "yesterday." (Robert Beason, SUNY, Geneseo, was named the new Literature Review Editor subsequent to the council meeting.)

Ken will be organizing the Editor's Workshop at the combined AOU-COS-WOS meeting

in Missoula, MT. This workshop for inexperienced authors is scheduled for the morning of the day before paper sessions begin.

Ken will resign as editor of JFO at the end of 1995 (Volume 66). We need a new editor by 1 July 1995. It was suggested that AFO begin the process of looking for a replacement ASAP to ensure a smooth transition. This would include advertising the position October 1994, to hire in March or April.

Supplement Editor's Report—Jim Lowe

In 1992 the Resident Bird Counts included 38 Winter Bird Population Studies and 132 Breeding Bird Censuses. These numbers represent a decrease of 1 and an increase of 6, respectively, over the 1991 Supplement. Jim stated there were 193 reports for the 1993 Supplement, which will be out shortly. Jim was under budget because he did the data entry himself and will probably do the same next year, if the supplement is run.

Membership Report—Greg Butcher

Membership is holding steady based on this year's partial year report. This is a little below the numbers from last year, but it is still early.

The 1993 membership statistics were:

1700	regular members
212	student members
238	life members
14	exchanges for reviewers
405	subscriptions
59	exchanges with other publications
<u>2628</u>	total subscription rate

Other News

Martha Steele tendered her resignation from the council due to time constraints of being editor of another birding journal. The new Membership chair will be Debra Miller.

Membership brochures need to be revised and should be regularly mailed with correspondence. A membership display board used to target potential members should also be developed.

Greg indicated that there was much room for growth in the number of students and library subscriptions to JFO. Furthermore, the amateur audience seemed to be still a largely untapped source of new members.

Ornithology & the Law Report—N. Wheelwright Report (in absentia)

Bergstrom Award—N. Wheelwright Report (in absentia)

Travel Awards

Student Travel awards were established to assist students traveling to AFO meetings. Submissions will probably consist of an expanded 3 page abstract.

Nominations Committee

The new Nominations Committee consists of Peter Vickery (Chair) and Debra Miller.

Report of Delegate to ICBP (U.S. section)—Peter Cannell (in absentia)

There has not been much progress in terms of conservation initiatives, although they have proposed new structural or administrative changes. ICBP will be renamed, probably to Bird Conservation America. The US section will merge with the Pan-American section and a bank called ICBP Inc. The resulting merger will form a new bird conservation NGO. They are expected to hire an executive and/or development director that will cover the New World. The U.S. section will become a committee in this new organization which will hopefully begin

to develop conservation initiatives. The Pan-American section is supposed to be retained as a committee which would approve grants for research in Latin America. There is a possibility that the Latin American component of the Bergstrom Award could coordinate with the Pan American section. The group will probably remain moribund until they get a director.

Conservation Committee—Lise Hanners (Chair) and Peter Vickery

Discussion was opened to define the role of the Conservation Committee. Several ideas were put forward including:

1. Develop a special publication/symposium—such as grassland birds that would promote bird conservation/conservation biology in name of AFO.
2. Develop similar project in conjunction with Partners in Flight.
3. Plan event at the AFO annual meeting or organize the information in the form of a flyer, poster, or workshop.
4. Develop a facilitated discussion with the membership or a round table forum to discuss conservation issues of concern to the membership.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Symposium for 1995

The council decided that a symposium on grassland birds will be organized for the fall 1995 AFO meeting. The symposium could possibly be a joint venture held at the George Sutton Research Center in Bartlesville, OK (near Tulsa). Other potential hosts could be Fort Collins, CO (near Denver). The symposium would probably occur in conjunction with our annual meeting between Labor day and Thanksgiving. It would probably be a 2 day event. Peter estimated that there would be 40–50 abstracts and perhaps more. It would also involve simultaneous sessions.

Although the details will be ironed out later, it was decided that papers will be published as a special issue of the journal, available to members for a fee and non-members for a somewhat higher fee? The option to purchase the publication could be put on the meeting registration form and/or subscription form. Brian cited the special shorebird issue published by *Ardea* as a potential model. He thought that *Ardea* was able to recover the costs of publication by selling extra copies to non-members. Our symposium would probably be published as a 5th issue with a special editor that would not interfere with the regular flow of papers to JFO. Such publications could become a regular part of JFO as a monograph series and a service that could draw additional members.

The Conservation committee will be taking the leadership role on this symposium and Peter Vickery was appointed chair of the scientific committee for symposium.

Latin American Research Committee

Ken Rosenberg was appointed the new chair.

Greg expressed the need for new directions for the committee.

Examples of possible areas of involvement for AFO

1. Neotropical Ornithological Congress in 1995.
2. Caribbean Society for Ornithology, perhaps try again to have a joint meeting or be involved in some way.
3. Many new ornithological societies are forming throughout Latin America that could provide AFO opportunities to get involved.
4. Enhance the exchange of ideas and equipment such as the Birders Exchange, get additional literature, used computers, etc. to Latin American scientists.
5. Hold meeting in Latin America—try to reduce travel barriers to Latin American scientists. Potential site for the AFO 1996 meeting could be in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Mexico or elsewhere on the mainland.

6. Week long intensive course in Spanish that would focus on statistics and other analysis skills such as research design. Perhaps tie the workshop in with other NGOs or other organizations or universities. People like Charles Duncan (U. Maine, Machias) have the skills and background to conduct such a workshop. He should be contacted for potential ideas.
7. Try to work with people like Oliver Komar (Bergstrom Award winner, Ohio Wesleyan) who is working with the El Salvadorian government and U. El Salvador. Such people could be key to building contacts with Latin American scientists and institutions.

Amateur Research Committee

Scientist-Amateur Network

A variety of methods for the Committee to establish a scientist-amateur network was discussed. The goal of the network was to link amateurs with professionals willing to volunteer their time to assist amateurs in publishing their findings from field research. This might include assistance in research design and analysis in a one on one mentor type program. The network may consist of a coordinator who forwards names and addresses of scientists willing to donate their time to amateurs with questions.

It was also suggested that the committee could organize a workshop during the AFO annual meeting or elsewhere such as an ABA meeting.

Jim Berry also suggested that AFO could help disseminate to volunteers that collect data for BBS, etc., the rationale of data collection protocol and how it was being used and analyzed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Letter from Joe Jehl Regarding New Restrictions on Scientific Research on Marine Mammals*

Marine mammalogists are suffering from greater regulatory oversight in trying to conduct research. Current law forbids activity that affects their behavior. Greg will write a letter of support.

2. *Non-game Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980*

International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (U.S. & Canada) and Mark Miller (Grad student Guelph, Ontario) have been pushing for the funding of this bill that was supposed to funnel money from the federal government to state non-game programs. Law has been reauthorized for up to \$50 million several times but never funded. It has been stalled because it lacks a funding mechanism. This group has proposed an excise tax on binoculars, camping gear, hiking boots, bird seed, etc. But the industries being taxed have been opposed to such taxes and there seems there is little AFO can do at this stage.

Another similar act has also been proposed (Wildlife Diversity Initiative or Partnership for Wildlife Program). Congress appropriated \$1 million for this program. If money can be raised from private donations and matched by state money then the federal government will also provide matching funds. There were 50 non-game research/education products funded last year with \$1 million each from private, state, and federal sources.

Greg was authorized to write letters to endorse these projects, particularly to write in support of a the excise tax (<5%) on outdoor and other gear.

3. *Next Year's Council Meeting*

Jed suggested we could combine the AFO council meeting with Symposia on Birds and Agriculture that will be held at Ohio Wesleyan in March or early April. It will consist of a Friday symposium. Travel may be difficult for the council. A decision will be made this fall.