

**Western Bird Banding Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
October 12, 2007

Attending: Board Members - John Alexander (President), Diana Humple (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Michael Boyles (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Roy Churchwell (Treasurer), Kay Loughman, Ken Burton, CJ Ralph; Association members - Howard Browers (nominated Board member, 1<sup>st</sup> hour), Geoff Geupel (Grant Committee, intermittent attendance), Jim Tietz (NABC Alternate).

Absent: Gary Blevins (Past President), Tina Fabula (Secretary), Walt Sakai (Editor), Tricia Campbell, and the rest of the human race.

Ken served as Secretary in Tina's absence.

John called the meeting to order at 1300, reviewed the agenda, made introductions, and welcomed everyone.

2006 Minutes

Mike distributed the 2006 minutes, still showing tracked changes, for review. These were accepted unanimously. [Secretary's note: Mike emailed a clean version to everyone after the meeting.] There was discussion of where minutes and reports should be stored. **It was decided that the Secretary (Tina) should look into lining up an FTP site.**

Treasurer's Report

Roy distributed copies of the Treasurer's report, which is summarized by him below.

*The budget from Fiscal Year 2006 was very similar to the year before. The main difference was that we had an annual meeting in 2006 and not in 2005. In comparisons of the two years, the total annual difference was \$766.36 greater in 2006 (Table 1). Then in comparing the 2006 budget with actual costs we came out ahead, with \$3,464 over what we budget for the fiscal year (Table 2). The major gains were with the annual meeting income and the auction/raffle and we also did not spend as much as we had budgeted for the NABB. The projected 2006 Fiscal budget was calculated as the average of the 2005 budget vs. actual income and expenses of fiscal 2005. Then Table 3 shows the projected budget for Fiscal Year 2007, which is calculated in the same manner except for NABC travel expenses, which we know are going to be \$1,000. Finally our Net Worth grew over the last year and is \$888 greater than last year (Table 4). To be remembered for next year, the grants budget will be raised to \$2,000 for two grants.*

Budget approval was tabled to allow for discussion of grants until the end of the meeting, when it was approved unanimously pending the following revisions:

- Table 1 headings need to be corrected to show the right fiscal years.

- Table 4 needs to be corrected so that cash and bank accounts equal assets in both years.
- Auction revenue needs to be shown separately, not as part of meeting revenue.
- The interest on the Premium Yield account, where our Life Membership dues are kept, needs to be calculated and shown as available for grants.
- Ken's expenses and petty cash need to be recalculated based on his end-of-year figures.

[Secretary's note: Roy distributed a revised report by email after the meeting.]

### Membership Report

Ken reported that membership was up 14% this year to 242 members. This is most likely due to Ken's survey of non-renewing members and Walt's recruitment efforts. No change in dues was discussed, so they remain as they were.

### 2007 Meeting Report

Diana reported that the 2007 meeting was projected to come in within budget. There were 56 registrants at that point, with walk-ins expected. Rain forced cancellation of Friday's outdoor events.

### Editors' Reports

Kay and Walt submitted separate editor's reports reflecting their tenures. The transition between them has gone well according to Kay.

The number of banders reporting to the **Annual Banding Report** this year was described as "abysmal" and "appalling." The "big" banding stations make or break the report in terms of its reflection of reality for most species. It was agreed that the report has little scientific merit if it doesn't reflect at least the majority of the banding effort in the region. WBBA has been producing this report for over 50 years, so it has a long tradition; IBBA is now doing one as well. It was discussed whether to continue the report. Banding totals are available on request from the BBL but not information linking data to banders. All felt that the BBL should produce an annual report, but it wouldn't have the individual bander information that ours does. We agreed to continue the report for now, but how do we increase bander participation? A questionnaire was suggested to ascertain whether members consider the report worthwhile, how it might be improved, and how participation might be enhanced. It was suggested that the report should go to reporting banders who are not WBBA members, with an invitation to join WBBA; **CJ will discuss this with Walt.** Walt has two hard jobs (Editor and Report Compiler); we should offer to transfer the report responsibility to someone else (such as Howard, who has offered to do it). **John will discuss this with Walt and, if appropriate, Howard.**

Kay has been working to get more back issues on line through **SORA**, and better indexing because it is hard to find specific references, especially those in News, Notes,

and Comments. There was no progress over the last year until very recently; Blair Wolf has now requested scanning estimates for volumes 26-30 and better SGML, but was dealing with Tricia and Walt, who didn't know Kay was involved. EBBA doesn't want anything less than five years old in SORA. All the associations have to agree, but Blair says the world is going digital and two years lag time should be enough. Batch processing is cheaper. What about digitizing pre-NABB WBBA publications? Kay says there might be worthwhile material there, but much of it is "folksy." If the scanning price is reasonable, how do we feel about it? (This question was not answered.) Is it possible to format NABB digitally to preclude scanning? Bob Pantle says all back issues are electronic already, but sample issues from volumes 1-25 sent to Princeton Imaging were unreadable. The situation may be different now. It was moved and approved unanimously to accept an 18-month lag time. **Kay will work with Blair, following up on using the digital files that are used for publication as an alternative to scanning. John offered to field concerns.**

#### NABC

John, Ken, Jim, and CJ, all of whom attended this year's NABC meeting, summarized last year's accomplishments.

The **Evaluation and Certification** committees were separated at this year's meeting. The Evaluation Committee commissioned a database for tracking people applying for and receiving certification, approved evaluation session materials, instituted a new Assistant-level certification specific to extracting and/or banding, and increased the rigor of trainer certification. John will meet with Steve Russell ahead of next year's meeting to compile the rules and regulations from past meeting minutes.

The **Education and Training** committees were re-combined. Ken is chairing this committee, with Bob Frey chairing the Training Subcommittee, which will develop and implement training curricula and materials and catalogue training opportunities.

The **International** Committee discussed whether to expand representation on the Council beyond the US and Canada. Several Latin American groups are interested in representation. The Committee has influenced the development of the Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network.

Trainers who do not respond to their certification renewal notices will be expunged from the roster after a year.

CJ expressed concern that the number of certified banders and trainers is not growing much. Not many certification sessions are offered, but those that are are full.

#### Future Meetings

Future meeting locations and budgets were discussed. It was suggested that meetings outside California tend to have low attendance, but some of our best-attended meetings

(e.g., Spokane Falls and Teller) have been in other states. One idea is to meet in California every other year. Possibilities for 2008/2009 are Idaho (Ken Voget or Idaho Bird Observatory); Humboldt County, CA (Ken, CJ, and others); Ashland, OR (Klamath Bird Observatory); Deer Creek Ranch (Siskiyou Field Station - location?); Tri-Cities, WA (Howard); and Big Sur CA (Ventana Wildlife Sanctuary). Oaxaca has been ruled out. **Mike will communicate with prospective hosts and propose a 2008 location to the Board.**

Following email discussion prior to the meeting, we discussed meeting budgets and acceptable meeting expenses. It was decided that prospective meeting hosts need to discuss potential costs and fee structure with the President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and Treasurer before a meeting site is chosen and the chosen host needs to provide a budget to these officers for approval as far ahead of the meeting as possible. Financial guidelines for hosts may need to be beefed up a bit. While hosting a meeting is a volunteer effort, people may need to be hired to help. Web site programming costs may need to be considered, but these could be quite high without institutional support. Diana indicated that PRBO's programmer might be available for a relatively small fee, using this year's site as a template. Registration fees should be kept as low as possible, under \$100 for the foreseeable future.

#### Grants

Five grant proposals were received this year; no distinction was made between research and monitoring because of the low number. Two \$500 grants were awarded, and it was agreed that the budget could sustain one more, so a third was selected. The winners were Kristen Dybala (Estimating juvenile survival rates using radio telemetry: a pilot study), Jackie Guadioco (Objective quantification of plumage coloration of a Hawaiian honeycreeper [*Hemignathus virens*] along gradients of biogeography: does variation exist between subpopulations on the island of Hawaii?), and Diana Humple (Linking wintering and breeding Western Grebe populations). There was discussion of how to allocate grant money in the future. Three to four \$500 grants? Two \$750 grants? \$1000 to the best applicant and \$500 each to the next two? Education was proposed as a grant category but was not accepted for now. Ultimately it was moved and accepted with one objection to authorize at least two \$1000 grants each year, with one for research and one for monitoring. All grants will include a one-year subscribing membership beginning in 2008.

#### Tasks and Duties

John opted not to highlight assigned tasks that were not accomplished this year but rather invited us to ponder where we want to go as an organization. We should solicit ideas from the membership.

Specific duties of Board members are in the by-laws and should be reviewed by all.

**Meeting minutes need to be archived digitally; this is something the Secretary (Tina) should take on. An additional Secretarial duty will be to compile and summarize all**

**electronic Board correspondence between meetings.** This summary should accompany the Board meeting minutes when they are reviewed and approved at the next meeting. Most of WBBA's written records and archives are missing; they were thought to be at Palomarin. [Secretary's note: They were found at Palomarin following the Board meeting. **Diana and Renée will work with Tina to digitize minutes and set up an FTP site where they will be stored.**]

#### Web Site

Lisa is not responsive or available enough as a Webmaster but is reasonably priced. The idea of replacing her or giving someone else the power to make changes was discussed. Kay volunteered to be our new Webmaster. All rejoiced. **John will contact Lisa to transfer responsibility to Kay.** The photo gallery is still present but getting lots of unwanted spam comments; Kay reset the counter this summer.

#### Board Nominations

Ken, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, offered the 2007-08 slate, as follows.

President: John Alexander, (Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR), continuing  
Immediate Past President: Gary Blevins (Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane, WA), continuing  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Michael Boyles (National Park Service, Boulder City, NV), replacing Diana Humple (resigning)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: C. John (C.J.) Ralph (USFS Redwood Sciences Laboratory and Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory, Arcata, CA), replacing Mike Boyles  
Secretary: Tina Fabula (California Department of Fish and Game, Fort Bragg, CA), continuing  
Treasurer: Gina Barton (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, Milpitas, CA), replacing Roy Churchwell (resigning)  
Editor: Walter Sakai (Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA), continuing  
Membership: Kenneth Burton (McKinleyville, CA), continuing  
At Large: Kay Loughman (Berkeley, CA), continuing; and Howard Browers (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Richland, WA) and Renée Cormier (Palomarin Field Station, Bolinas, CA), replacing Tricia Campbell (resigning) and C. J. Ralph

This slate was approved by the Board and, subsequently, by the membership.

[Secretary's note: Following the meeting, Ken agreed to chair the Nominating Committee again. He invites two more Board members to join him.]

John adjourned the meeting at 1644.

#### Summary of assigned tasks

Everyone: Review your responsibilities in the by-laws.

Tina: Line up an FTP site for archiving WBBA minutes, reports, etc; coordinate with Diana and Renée as necessary.

John: Arrange with Lisa to transfer Webmaster duties to Kay. Discuss transfer of Annual Report responsibility from Walt to Howard with them.

Diana/Renée: Digitize old meeting minutes and reports for archiving.

Mike: Line up a venue for next year's meeting.

Walt: Provide Ken with a summary of your recruitment efforts last year.

CJ: Discuss provision of the Annual Report to reporting banders who are not WBBA members, with invitation to join; coordinate with Ken as necessary.

Kay: Assume Webmaster duties, coordinating with Lisa. Continue to work with Blair to add recent *NABB* volumes to SORA and improve searchability.

- Respectfully submitted by Ken Burton, interim Secretary

## Editor's Report to the WBBA Board, September 2007

### Major Manuscripts - Received

- Airola, D. Using Mist Nets to Capture Western Purple Martins Breeding in Inaccessible Nesting Cavities. Rec'd 11/07/06. **Published in NABB 31:4.**
- Burton, K. Molts, Plumages, and Age Classes in Passerines and Near-Passerines: a Bander's Overview. Rec'd 10/30/05. **Published in NABB 31:4.**
- Churchwell, R Predation of Mist Net Birds and Investigation of a Solution. Rec'd 10/2/06. **Published in NABB 31:3.**
- Collins, C. Band Wear in Elegant Terns. Rec'd 10/31/06. **Published in NABB 32:1.**
- Colwell, R. Female Anna's Hummingbirds Require a Larger Band Size. Rec'd 8/10/06. Accepted for publication after incorporation of revisions specified by reviewers 10/22/06. **Withdrawn** on 10/25/06. Author may re-submit after incorporating an additional year's data.
- Grosselet, M. Winter Site Fidelity of Migratory Songbirds in Oaxaca, Mexico. Rec'd 6/30/06. Accepted for publication after incorporation of revisions specified by reviewers, 8/18/06. Received with only some revisions on 9/27/06. Returned to author for more revisions 9/29/06.

### News, Notes, Comments - Published:

- 31:3 Some Unexpected Primary Covert Molt Limits (Burton and Pyle)
- 31:4 Updates to Four-Letter and Six-Letter Alpha Codes based on Revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2005-2006 (Pyle and DeSante)
- 32:1 Revised figures for Burton's Molt Manuscript  
Hummingbird Research Group, 2007 Conference announcement (Williamson)

### For the WBBA section - Published:

- 31:3 WBBA Annual Report of Birds Banded, 2005. (Sakai)  
Introduction to the WBBA Annual Report. (Sakai/Loughman)  
Report on the 2006 Annual Meeting. (Loughman)
- 31:4 Greeting from WBBA president (Alexander)  
Abstracts of papers presented at the annual meeting. (Loughman)  
Retiring editor (Loughman)  
Annual report errors (Loughman & Sakai)  
Grants available for 2007 [Humble]
- 32:1 WBBA Annual Meeting 2007 announcement  
Outstanding Year for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (Hull)

Welcome to New Members (Burton)

**Anticipated in coming months:**

32:1 First issue for new editor, Walt Sakai

32:xx Representing the Western Bird Banding Association on the NABC. (Alexander)  
Hummingbird Research Group, 2007 Conference Abstracts (Williamson?)  
WBBA Annual Meeting, 2007, Report and Abstracts (Humble?)

**Reviewers:** The following people have acted as referees for papers submitted to me for publication in NABB since August 2006: Cam Finlay, William D. Loughman, Gary Page, Erhard Pletz, Breck Tyler.

**Accomplishments:**

**Issues:** No progress has been made on enhancing access to NABB material already in SORA, though a September 5, 2006 e-mail from Blair Wolf suggests there may be things we can do. Loughman will pursue. No progress has been made on adding back volumes to SORA.