

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Minutes

September 28, 1996

The PSO board meeting was called to order at 1:13 on Saturday, September 28. Present were Bob Ross, Dick Byers, Alan Gregory, Gene Zielinski, Shonah Hunter, Laurie Goodrich, Doug Gross, Dan Brauning, and Margaret and Roger Higbee.

Terms of officers and directors need to be checked. We reviewed the list of officers and directors. The treasurer's report was given by Gene Zielenski. As of September 20, 1996, our balance is \$6,356.48. Doug reported that he will have SAP expenses for printing and postage in the near future. Bob questioned how this year's balance compares with the balance at this time last year.

Alan reported that he has sent PSO brochures to most of the Audubon chapters in PA. Many have also been distributed to state parks and other nature centers.

Bob commented on the State Timber Harvest Plan for PSO. Bob felt that the response from James Grace was lacking. Bob wrote another letter to emphasize particular problems with timber harvesting. Individuals were reminded to continue to comment.

The PSO received a letter from a member who is concerned about Prince Gallitzin State Park. A general discussion of state park management issues ensued. Questions included: Should there be more development in state parks including private development on public land? This could be a benefit by getting more people to the parks for education. Is there a possible need to close certain areas of parks to the public during the nesting season to protect particular species? Alan commented that natural areas need to be set aside to balance recreation. The Bureau of State Parks needs to reevaluate their mission statement. Development in each state park should be on an individual basis. Bob will respond to the member's letter.

Bob was disappointed with the lack of response he received from neighboring state birding organizations. He sent letters to a number of them for information on their programs but received no response.

The Tiadaghton Audubon Society in the Wellsboro/Mansfield has offered to host one of our meetings. Shonah will check with Mansfield University to see whether it is available during the third week of May. A note should be included in our next newsletter requesting birds groups to host our future meetings.

Gene made several comments concerning the bylaw changes. The word "conservation" in the bylaws should possibly read "bird conservation." We need to check with the Haases concerning the use of PA Birds as our office address. We should receive a new copy of the bylaws before the end of October. By February Gene should be working on nonprofit status.

The 1997 PSO meeting will be held at the Mount Alto campus of Penn State on 16-18 May.

Shonah has requested residence halls as close to the cafeteria as possible. Costs are \$32 for a single; \$23 per double. This includes bathroom and bed linen. Breakfast will be \$4; lunch, \$6; and between \$10-30 for the banquet. After much discussion, the theme "Mason-Dixon Birding," was decided upon. Suggestions for programs were made. The Smithsonian research station Front Royal is located nearby; Laurie offered to check with them for a speaker, possibly John Rappole. Gary Groves is doing work with Black-throated Blue Warblers. Laurie will contact David Brinker who works with the Frostburg people studying Saw-whet Owl migration. Bob suggested inviting the Maryland Ornithological Society to our meeting. It was suggested that Ken Gabler be contacted about birding the area. The Saw-whet Owl Research Team at Frostburg is another possibility; Laurie will investigate this idea. Possibly the Gettysburg wildlife manager could give a program. Hawk Mt. is another possibility--maybe a program on kestrels. Claudia Wildes was suggested as the combination banquet speaker/identification program. Dan will talk to her. Scott Robinson may be willing to do a program on warblers and forest fragmentation. Laurie will contact Chan Robbins for advice on banquet speakers. Dan suggested talking to Rick Blom, one of the NGS authors, to do an identification program.

The Earl Poole Award Committee consists of Dan Brauning, Alan Gregory, and Laurie Goodrich.

The newsletter was discussed. Margaret questioned whether the membership list should be included in the newsletter. It was decided to print it every other year.

Doug discussed the SAP. Over 300 1996 field trips have been made. Some of the gaps are being filled in. He is getting ready to send data to the state park people. The state parks will probably print their own checklists while local bird clubs may be willing to sponsor SAP checklists for areas that are not covered by state parks.

Interesting more people in PSO was the next topic for discussion. Dan suggested that PSO grow into research like the Brooks Bird Club does in West Virginia. More research is needed concerning Barn Owls, Chuck-will's-widows, Whip-poor-wills, and other night birds. Backyard birders might be more inclined to join PSO if we had a column in the newsletter targeted at their interests. A blurb about PSO could be run in newspapers around the state on a quarterly basis. Bob offered to check with Rudy Keller about writing a column for the newsletter.

The next meeting will be in January. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary