

PSO Directors Board Meeting

February 22, 1997

The meeting began at 1:04 p.m. Present were Bob Ross, Frank Haas, Alan Gregory, Dick Byers, Gene Zielinski, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Laurie Goodrich, Mark Henry, and Doug Gross. Dan Brauning was not able to attend. The minutes from the September 28, 1996, meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was submitted and discussed.

There was a discussion of the service charge of \$6 per month charged by Mellon Bank for the PSO checking account. Also discussed was the possibility of moving the account to another bank.

Bob received only one response from letters which he sent to bird clubs in adjacent states, the Brooks Bird Club located in Wheeling, WV. It was discussed whether PSO could conduct the same types of studies within Pennsylvania that the Brooks Bird Club does in West Virginia. These include forays which are week-long studies in a county and sorties that are long weekends. Both include studying all the flora and fauna of the area. Bob will present the idea at the annual meeting. It was suggested that we may want to try to plan a sortie for next year.

Annual Meeting

Shonah reported that she has not received an itemized list from Mont Alto. There is also a possible problem with graduation taking place on the same weekend as our meeting. Doug asked if we are having the meetings at the best time of year. After discussing the issue, it was decided that Bob would ask the general membership at the May meeting if there is any interest in alternating between May and June and including a sortie.

The banquet speaker is to be Eirik Blom. PSO will pay for his travel expenses and provide a \$200 honorarium. There may also be some expense associated with the Earl Poole award winner and several of the program presenters. There may have to be an increase in the registration fee to \$16 for members and \$14 for spouses. Shonah will compile a list of motels in the area. Mark mentioned that there is camping in several of the nearby state parks.

No one has yet contacted Ken Gabler. Bob volunteered to contact him. Vans need to be rented by a local person. Deuane Hoffman has volunteered to lead field trips. Laurie and Dan volunteered to put the speaker program together. Dan has already talked with Eirik Blom. He will be speaking on taxonomy for the banquet, and Dan will ask him to do an identification program also.

Possible candidates for the Earl Poole Award were suggested. There was a discussion concerning the possibility of PSO's giving two awards--one for a professional and one for an amateur. Alan made a motion to have two awards, one for professional and one for amateur contributions to bird study. Frank seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mark suggested that the Earl Poole Award Committee should determine what they feel the guidelines for the awards

should be. Frank suggested that the majority of the recipients' work should have been on Pennsylvania birds, and the Poole award should be for an amateur. Shonah suggested that it may be best to wait until next year for the second award. Frank suggested that for outstanding work for PSO, that a person could be given a title or a life membership as recognition. Laurie suggested the possibility of an appreciation award. Alan amended his motion as follows: A second award should be established. The Poole Committee should establish the guidelines for the two awards and report back to the board. Frank agreed to the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The terms for Laurie, Shonah, and Mark end this year. Mark is willing to run again if no one else is interested in being a director. Notices will be placed in the newsletter and in *PA Birds* that nominees or volunteers are needed for directors; the contact person will be Bob.

Any changes in the by-laws probably only have to be voted on by the board. The feeling is that this should not change.

Conococheague Audubon would like to host an annual meeting.

The deadline for annual meeting registration is April 25.

Frank reported that *PA Birds* has 554 subscribers. The flier has helped to increase both the number of subscriptions to the magazine and the number of PSO members. We have lost 86 PSO members. Alan suggested that a news release be written advertising PSO. He volunteered to write the article. Shonah thought that we should send letters to the 86 persons who have dropped their membership in PSO. Laurie offered to draft a letter for this purpose. Rudy questioned whether PSO should be just another local bird club. What are our differences? What is the appeal?

Frank has mailed out 2000 fliers. He would like PSO to reimburse him for half the cost. Shonah made a motion to reimburse Frank for one half the cost which comes to \$350. Doug seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Frank mentioned the possibility of doing another mailing and suggested checking into Audubon Society mailing lists. *PA Birds* is almost ten years old. Frank also reported that an editor for the quarterly bird reports is still needed.

The by-laws were discussed. The following changes were suggested:

- Section 2.10 the word "chairman" should be changed to "president."
- Section 1.1 Hawk Mountain should remain our permanent address.
- Section 2.1 It should read, "bird conservation" rather than just "conservation."
- Section 2.11 The number of members representing a quorum should be 25.
- Section 3.9 The number of board members required for a quorum should be "50 percent."
- Section 3.1 A three-year term for board members was recommended.

This is the last chance for changes to the by-laws. Bob will tell Gene to go with them as they are.

Frank made a motion to reimburse directors for travel to and from board meetings at the rate

of 20 cents per mile. Rudy seconded the motion which passed by a majority vote.

Doug updated us on the Special Areas Project. More than 2500 field trips have been submitted for more than 70 locations.

Mark reported on conservation. At the national level, the Senate Environmental Committee which Chaffee chairs has the Superfund as its first priority. The Clean Water Act will come up for reauthorization probably later this year. In addition, the Endangered Species Act is also up for reauthorization. Another concern is the ridge route being proposed for the new I-99; the ridge route will cut through large sections of unfragmented forests. Letters to Penn DOT and to Senator **Cornman** are needed. Frank made a motion that PSO oppose the ridge route in favor of the valley route. Mark will draft a letter on behalf of PSO for Bob to mail to Penn DOT. Alan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary