

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Board of Directors Meeting

November 7, 1998

The PSO Board of Directors meeting began at 1:07 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, 1998. Directors present were Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Doug Gross, Alan Gregory, Dick Byers, Bob Ross, Barb Haas, Frank Haas, Dan Brauning, Gene Zielinski, Arlene Koch, and John Salvetti, and Roger Higbee.

Gene gave the treasurer's report. He reported an October 2, 1998, balance of \$7,342.36 in the treasury. Gene informed us that we were only billed for a service charge in March. Shonah reported on annual meeting expenses. We lost \$210.85 on the meeting primarily due to the expenses incurred by Jeff Groth and Ken Rosenberg. The subsidized portion of the meeting, which included cost of the Poole award, room expenses, etc., was \$251.73. Our total loss on the meeting was \$462.58.

The PSO membership is still undergoing a gentle rise.

Doug would like to see more members involved in monitoring projects, especially those sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. There are many other projects that compete with our Special Areas Project.

Montour Preserve and PP&L would like PSO to co-sponsor a spring birding festival. It sounds like PSO could benefit just from their using our name. PP&L's naturalist, John Beam, seems willing to do all the work involved. PSO can pick the date of the festival. After discussion, Saturday, April 24, was selected. PP&L would like to invite vendors and sponsor workshops. PSO participation will involve having a booth, leading field trips, and presentations. The closest town to the preserve is Danville which is 10-15 minutes from I-80. PP&L owns 3000 to 5000 acres of land.

Partners in Flight has asked PSO to become a signatory to the project.

Frank reported on progress of plans for the 1999 annual meeting which will be held September 24-26. If 50 persons show up for the meeting, all the meeting rooms and facilities will be available for our use at no charge.

Shonah reported that on Friday evening drinks are more in demand than food. Frank suggested ordering one tray of snacks. A full breakfast will be served at 5:30 at the Holiday Inn so we can leave by 6:30. For those not wanting a full breakfast, there is a McDonald's nearby. The afternoon break will include beverages only. Saturday lunch will be on your own. Choices for the banquet include stuffed chicken breast, white fish fillet, and a vegetarian entree. Frank will find out what the possibilities for the vegetarian entree include. Dessert will be fruit pie. Children's prices will be needed.

Saturday field trip possibilities include Carr's Park, Lake Ontelaunee, Blue Marsh Lake, and the Route 183 Hawk Watch. On Sunday Deuane Hoffman may be willing to lead a trip to the Susquehanna River for Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Middle Creek as well as repeats of Saturday's field trips are other possible locations.

Our meeting rooms will be reserved from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. The identification talk will be given by Louis Bevier on hummingbirds. Those registering will receive a checklist, a map to the locations of all the field trips, and a list of restaurants available. Lodging will be available at the Holiday Inn for \$89 per room with 1-4 persons in the room. In Morgantown the cost is \$60 for a single and \$75 for two double beds. The Holiday Inn will hold 20 rooms for us, but individuals must make their own reservations. Cabins are available at French Creek State Park.

Arlene is looking into the possibility of purchasing 10th anniversary pins which will be given free to each meeting participant. Others not attending the meeting will be able to purchase the pin. We will probably need about 300 pins.

Much discussion centered on programs. The banquet speaker should be a first class speaker. Suggestions included Kenn Kaufmann, Jon Dunn, and Pete Dunne. The afternoon sessions should include a maximum of four programs with the identification program. Doug would like PORC and OTC to each speak for 15 minutes each. Arlene will work on obtaining the banquet speaker.

This year's theme will be the PSO's 10th Anniversary. Afternoon speakers will be obtained by Alan Gregory and Bob Ross. Alan and Frank will work on the Poole Award.

Refunds will include only the refundable portion. This will not include the cost of meals.

Alan reported that all the brochures are gone. The consensus was to revise the brochure and print new ones. Any changes should be sent to Alan.

PA Birds is doing OK with 530-540 subscriptions. This subscription base is approximately the same as last year.

Gene's goal is to maybe have non-profit status by the next annual meeting.

Conservation issues discussed included the Florida Preservation 2000 Program, land acquisition in PA for open spaces, and the 21st Century Environment Commission's report. So far 73 sites have been identified in PA as IBAs. Please review any locations you are familiar with. We were informed that Teaming with Wildlife's proposed tax on binoculars and other wildlife related items is gone. Also see "New Federal Funds Proposed for Wildlife and Land Conservation" to try to keep the focus on non-game species. This memo describes the possible re-allocation of royalties from off-shore oil and gas leases. The Wild Resource Conservation Fund is in trouble as there is only \$23,000 in the fund. Doug commented that since SAP is funded through WRCF, we will have problems if there is no WCRF.

Our relationship with Audubon was discussed. We already have a lot of cooperation. We could help small bird clubs and small Audubons. We could possibly use their mailing lists to solicit new members for PSO.

Doug discussed the SAP project. There are now 3739 trips in the SAP database at 95 locations. DCNR is interested in the SAP data to make checklists. Two to three paragraphs need to be added discussing where to go to look for birds. A lot of volunteer hours are spent doing SAPs in state parks. The governor needs to see how much birders are using state parks. PSO will be paid for the data. State parks are interested in birders and what they think as well as the location of the good birding areas.

Dan will work on the Nominations Committee. He needs a list of directors and their terms.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary