

PSO Board of Directors' Meeting

November 11, 2000

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Doug Gross, Frank Haas, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Katrina Knight, and Eugene Zelinski. Also present was Greg Grove, representing the State College Bird Club, who will host the PSO annual meeting.

The annual meeting was discussed first and planned for May 18, 19, and 20, 2001. Shonah will coordinate the registration and locate a meeting place. She has already contacted several motels concerning their rates with regard to room prices, meeting room possibilities, banquet price, and other meal prices. The problem may be finding a meeting place that is affordable. She has already contacted Day's Inn, Best Western, and the Ramada Inn with the Ramada's being the best of the three. The meeting room at the Ramada would be free if PSO books at least 15 rooms at \$61 per room. Other suggestions were Hampton Inn, Autoport, Comfort Inn at Lamar, and the Holiday Inn at Milesburg; all of which Shonah will check on. Gene offered to contact the Penn Stater and Tofrees. If SCBC has any suggestions they will be forwarded to us.

Field trips were then discussed, and it was decided to have at least three each day (Saturday and Sunday) and possibly four if the registration is large enough. The same trips can be duplicated on Sunday or changed depending on SCBC's choice. It was also suggested that at least one of the trips be fairly stress free and that other trips for Sunday could be farther away in the direction that members travel home. Possible field trip sites mentioned were Bald Eagle, Black Moshannon, Whipple Dam, and Greenwood Valley State Parks; Detweiler Run, Bear Meadows, and Alan Seeger Natural Areas; The Barrens; Lower Trail; Walnut Springs; and Tim O'Connell's study area. Shonah mentioned that each field trip leader should be prepared to preview his/her field trip Friday night so that participants will be better able to choose which trip they would like to go on. All field trips should be back in town by no later than 11:45.

The afternoon paper presentations were then discussed. Tim O'Connell will be the moderator and organizer. Doug and Greg will help Tim with finding speakers. Possible speakers mentioned were Tim O'Connell - Louisiana Waterthrush study, Nick Bolgiano - local SAP data, Jerry McWilliams - ID program, Paul Hess - PORC (15 minutes), Chuck Yohn, and Amanda Rodewald. Also, Margaret Brittingham-Brant will be contacted to determine if she has any other suggestions. Talks should be about 45 minutes in length.

Suggestions for the evening banquet speaker were Chuck Fergus, Vic Fazio, and Scott Weidensaul. Doug said that he would contact Scott and ask him the cost of his honorarium and transportation if he is able to speak.

Katrina needs the information concerning the meeting for the newsletter. Greg will send her the information on the field trips and speakers.

Shonah liked the t-shirts from the Greene County meeting and wondered if the same thing could be done for this meeting. No one offered to pursue this so there was no definite answer.

Frank has a list of things to do for an annual meeting. He will e-mail it to everyone on the board so we can review it and add anything we feel necessary.

Frank made a motion that the minutes from the last meeting be approved as submitted. Gene seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Gene reported that as of October 19, 2000, the PSO had \$10,342.88 in its treasury. He also mentioned that there has not yet been an accounting of the last annual meeting. Frank made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Katrina seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Pennsylvania Birds transition - The meeting at the Haases was attended by Dan Brauning, Katrina Knight, Peter Robinson, Frank and Barb Haas, Rudy Keller, and Keith Bildstein. At the meeting, it was decided that the work should be divided into chief editor, four seasonal editors, a data input technician, a database manager, and someone to mail the magazine. So far the following positions have been filled:

Chief Editor - Katrina Knight
Seasonal Editors - Peter Robinson
 Dan Brauning
 Doug Kibbe
Database Manager - Frank Haas
Mailing - Baird Bird Club - probably
Data Input Technician - volunteers being evaluated by Dan

Each seasonal editor will have to do his/her job just once a year. So far, who will get which season has not yet been decided. A fourth editor should be found soon by advertising by e-mail and arm twisting. The database manager will keep track of the subscribers. The chief editor will have final say over the entire magazine. Whoever does the mailing should be near the printer and the post office at which the mailing permit is located. The data input technician may be paid some small amount. Frank will be transferring all *Pennsylvania Birds* materials such as back issues, checklists, pins, etc. to Katrina who will take care of the sales of these items.

Frank said that the flow of the information for the magazine should be as follows: The county compilers send their data to the data input technician who enters it into the data tables and compiles comments which are sent to the seasonal editor who reviews and edits the data tables and writes the summary of the season who then sends it to the chief editor who reviews all the above plus any articles to be used who then gets it to the printer.

The method for accounting was discussed, and all funds will probably go into the PSO checking account but there will be two check books, one for the PSO treasurer and one for the chief editor of *Pennsylvania Birds* to pay any bills related to the magazine.

Because all equipment now used in the publication of *Pennsylvania Birds* is the Haases' personal property, some equipment will have to be purchased. After some discussion, Frank made a motion that the following equipment be purchased for the chief editor but the cost should not exceed \$2,000:

Laser Printer - less than \$1,000

Slide-Photo Scanner - ~ \$200

Photo Printer - ~ \$250

Shonah seconded the motion and it was approved.

Depending on who is chosen for the data input technician, an additional scanner and OCR software may have to be purchased if that person does not already have them. This should cost approximately \$300.

Frank recommends that *Pennsylvania Birds* and PSO membership be combined so that the dues would be \$25 to \$30 which should cover all expenses. He feels that the transition is progressing very well.

Katrina does not wish to continue as newsletter editor and chief editor of *Pennsylvania Birds*. A discussion followed as to whether the newsletter should be combined with the magazine. It was finally decided to have a separate newsletter that will possibly be published between issues of the magazine. Margaret volunteered to take the newsletter editor's job back.

Frank showed everyone a copy of the Media Guide which he obtained from Wisconsin. This is a booklet that lists people by region who are knowledgeable about birds within the state. Frank will begin editing the pamphlet to make appropriate changes in it to apply to Pennsylvania. Once completed, PSO will send copies of it to all media in Pennsylvania so that when a question arises, someone with knowledge about birds can be contacted.

Gene is still working on non-profit status for PSO. The board reviewed several questions he had on the application and advised him how he should respond to them. Several board members will gather additional information for him from other non-profit organizations to help with the process. Gene hopes to have this completed by Christmas.

Doug brought a proposal from Dan Brauning that PSO may want to offer a reward for the apprehension and conviction of a person suspected of killing certain species of birds. Frank suggested that PSO should find out who to contact for the payment of the reward which would make it a combined effort with other organizations. The board agreed that Dan should get more information about paying the reward before they could make a proper motion. Until a motion is made and approved to cover this situation in general, if a case arises that needs action, board members will be polled by e-mail or telephone to vote if a reward is appropriate and if so how much the reward should be.

Doug recently attended a conference regarding the Pennsylvania Bird Initiative. This will involve partnerships with organizations for the conservation of bird species. This will concern all species within the state.

SAP - Doug informed us that 4,452 trips have been entered into the database from 110 different locations. Doug also said that the state parks want all the SAP data that they can get. There may be a problem with all the SAP data getting to Doug. Shonah mentioned an incident where the data is only getting to the state park superintendent. Doug has also submitted a grant proposal for SAP for 2001. SAP data is also being used for nominating IBAs. The data will be used as an inventory but not for monitoring purposes.

It was agreed by all board members present that a synopsis of the Board of Directors Meeting should be included in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary