

# PSO Board of Directors' Meeting

## Lock Haven, PA

November 17, 2001

The meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology board of directors was called to order by president Doug Gross at 1:06 p.m. Persons present were directors Katrina Knight, Alan Gregory, Carmen Santasania, Greg Grove, Shonah Hunter, Doug Gross, Mary Jane Seipler, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, and Deuane Hoffman. Also present were Dan Brauning and Carolyn Blatchley.

Doug welcomed everyone and expressed his thanks that they were able to attend the meeting.

Alan made a motion that the minutes not be read but accepted as received by e-mail. Carmen seconded the motion and it passed.

Treasurer Gene Zielinski was not present but sent his report. As of November 6, 2001, the society had \$19,259.01 in its treasury.

Alan asked about a separate account for the scholarship fund. It was decided that this should be a line item in the budget instead of a separate account.

Carmen asked if the society had a fund designated for rewards for the conviction of anyone shooting an eagle. There was much discussion on this subject, and the final result was a motion made by Alan that a line item be placed in the budget for a reward of \$500.00 for each incident in March and September, of this year, that have already occurred and that the PSO cosponsor a line item in the Audubon Society of Pennsylvania's budget for similar rewards for similar incidents. The moneys to fund the rewards are to come from members and friends of the two organizations. Carmen seconded the motion, which passed.

Margaret informed the board that the next issue of the newsletter is ready to be published. Shonah asked if the issues of the newsletter and *PA Birds* coincide along with membership. The answer was no to both. A discussion ensued about the current method of membership and *PA Birds* renewals and when renewals occur. It was determined that PSO membership was for a period of a year from the time that dues were received and that *PA Birds* is always renewed in May. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board that part of an organization, such as PSO, is its journal, which *PA Birds* now is. Because of this interconnection, the board felt that the journal and membership in PSO should be combined to reflect this. Alan made a motion that *PA Birds* and membership in PSO be combined and that there no longer be separate membership or separate subscriptions to *PA Birds*. Anyone who joins during the last quarter of the year will receive membership in PSO for that quarter and receive the newsletter but will not receive the journal until the following year. The new structure is to take effect in 2002. Katrina seconded the motion, and it passed. Membership runs from May 25 to May 24 of the following year. Present membership prices will prevail; individual membership, \$28.50; family

membership, \$32.50; and a sustaining membership, \$42.50.

### *Pennsylvania Birds*

Doug commented that he thinks that the transition of *PA Birds* from the Haases to PSO has gone as smoothly as can be expected for as major a change as this has been. Dan, who is chairman of the transition committee, said that he also feels the same way. After the first issue has been completed, there are several areas that still need some attention. One of these areas is that the board of directors needs to have more oversight of the journal. To correct this, an editorial advisory board will be formed. Alan and Dan volunteered to be on it and it was suggested that Frank Haas and Paul Hess be asked to join the advisory board also. The consensus of everyone present was that the journal should not be changed for at least one year. Frank and Barb Haas have produced an excellent magazine over the years, and at the present time PSO should try to emulate it. In addition, job descriptions need to be better defined. Katrina mentioned that she would like to have a budget for the journal. Dan also brought up the fact that Wendy Jo Shemanski has not been compensated for the time she has spent entering the data from the county compilers and that the second issue is progressing much better than the first. Alan moved that an honorarium of \$1000 be offered to Wendy Jo for the year 2001 for data entry. Deuane seconded the motion which passed.

### SAP

Doug related that there are now 5400 trips in the database from 119 locations and that data from 2000 is still being entered. The first checklist has been complete using SAP data. This is the Yellow Creek State Park checklist which used a month by month format. For other SAPs that don't have enough data, a quarterly format may be used.

### Website

Deuane reported his and Frank's progress of the construction of the PSO website. Frank is building the site and will be the webmaster. Bob Brown is providing the server for the site at cost. The cost is \$14.95/month. Deuane made a motion to pay Bob Brown \$14.95/month for the server space and \$70.00 every other year to register the name pabird.org. Katrina seconded the motion, and it passed. The following is a list of potential topics and information that may be placed on the website:

- The purpose of PSO
- Officers and e-mail addresses
- How to join
- Membership form
- List of birding organizations and links
- Presence-absence checklist by county
- Exact information on birding locations
- All issues of *PA Birds* on line with searchable index
- A link to PORC once it is up and running
- Current copy of newsletter
- Information on the annual meeting
- Recent rare bird links
- Media guide

- Links to online birding resources - national and worldwide
- Table of contents of current issue of *PA Birds*
- Conservation Corner
- Weather link
- A list of all volunteer projects in Pennsylvania and who to contact

#### 2002 Annual Meeting

The 2002 annual meeting will be in the Pocono area. PEEC will be a potential field trip site but not the location for the meeting. Another potential field trip area is the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area. Shonah will contact East Stroudsburg University first to determine if the conference center there is available and suitable. A possible problem is that alcohol is not allowed on campus. Shonah will do the local organization of the meeting. Greg will be responsible for on-site registration with Mary Jane as backup. Programs will be organized by Doug and possibly Terry Masters. Deuane will organize the field trips. John Serrao was mentioned as a possible banquet speaker. Doug said that he would contact him. For the ID program Rick Wiltraut was mentioned. Deuane volunteered to contact him and to inquire at PEEC to see if they might be able to recommend someone for a warbler ID program. The possibility of having vendors come to the meeting was discussed. Everyone felt that there was enough positive feedback to try it again for this meeting. It was suggested that Chris Turn or Terry Masters may be able to help in this area. Greg volunteered to serve as the liaison.

PSO will sponsor a young birder at this meeting as per previously established guidelines. This information will be in the newsletter.

Alan will take care of the Poole award and the young birder. The deadline for nominations for the young birder is to be March 1, 2002.

Katrina will not serve as president next year because of her involvement with *PA Birds*. A nominating committee is needed to provide a slate of candidates for officers and board members.

Next meeting will be held on March 2 or 9, 2002.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary