

New Mexico Ornithological Society

NMOS Board Meeting

22 October 2011

(APPROVED 11 February 2012)

The NMOS Board met on 22 October 2011, at 1:05 pm at the Bosque del Apache NWR Headquarters, San Antonio, NM. Attending were: Jerry Oldenettel, Jonathan Batkin, Janet Bair, Martha Desmond, Dave Krueper, Janet Ruth, Ashli Gorbet, Sandy Williams, Chuck Hayes and Pat Mehlhop.

Minutes from 8 April 2011 accepted as presented with one minor spelling correction.

Treasurer's report: (1) PayPal has been operating since March, receiving membership renewals, Bird Finding Guide orders, and one donation. (2) In addition to the NMOS general fund checking account, we have now established a savings account into which we will deposit funds for the Research Trust Fund. Transfers into this savings account will leave approximately \$5000 in the checking account for operating costs for the year. (3) Membership dues payments are much lower than average; we need to work on increasing the membership and reminding members when memberships expire. (4) It is currently the case that both the Treasurer and the Secretary can sign NMOS checks; in the case of emergency, the secretary should have some checks.

ACTION ITEM: Jerry and Ashli will coordinate a transfer of checks for emergency purposes.

Publications and Mailings:

Bulletin: The NMOS Bulletin Volume 39, numbers 2 and 3 went out this week. Number 3 has abstracts from the 49th annual meeting. Janet Bair hopes to do another issue in January. There was a discussion on how to interpret the bylaws; the bylaws currently state that four annual publications or newsletters would be produced per year. It was agreed that newsletters could potentially be employed to communicate NMOS news to the membership in lieu of an official Bulletin if there is not sufficient content to publish an issue of the Bulletin. Janet B. has no new manuscripts for the next issue. There was discussion about potential papers for future issues. Possibilities discussed included: an extended article on field expeditions, contacting individuals who have received grant monies and not yet published papers to the society, requiring grant recipients to provide an update on the project the year after they receive monies, and several specific articles.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Dave will pursue information to include in an article on Field Expeditions. (2) Janet B. will send out a reminder for potential future manuscripts.

Field Notes: All four issues from 2010 have been done, the first two have been mailed and the next two will be mailed in a few weeks. Sandy's goal is to stay current with where ABA's *North American Birds* is in their printing.

We have purchased envelopes for future mailings and will also look into the pricing of the self-adhesive envelopes at another company to determine if the extra cost would be worthwhile.

UNM Mailing Department: The department financial account(s) system still offers some challenges. Requests for financial account information have not been successful. Mailing operations however, are running effortlessly, smoothly, and at very little cost to NMOS. Janet B. gave Tonya from the UNM mailing center a Black-chinned Hummingbird tee shirt as thanks for her efforts with mailing publications.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Chuck will inquire into account at UNM to determine financial standing. (2) Dave delegated the task of periodically calling to determine account status to the editors (Sandy and Janet B).

Post Office: Every July, Jerry pays the annual permit for bulk mailing rates for a nonprofit. It was suggested that we use receipt of this bill as a reminder to check the status of the Post Office account for postage. We should be prepared to put money in the mailing account for the following year's mailings plus the money for the permit. We may be in arrears for the annual permit payment (last payment was in June 2010). Sandy paid money to the NMOS Post Office account in October 2011.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Sandy will take the newest mailing to the mailing center. (2) Sandy will inquire if our permit is in arrears at the post office, if so he will ask for an invoice for accounting.

The NMOS PO Box annual fee was paid in March.

Membership: There are currently two versions of the NMOS member list with different functions: Jerry's, with financial history, and Ashli's with mailing list information. Currently, old members (who haven't renewed) are retained on the membership list for three years. There was a discussion on how to deal with this and how to encourage people to pay dues. The suggestion was made to clarify the bylaws to indicate that membership is based on the calendar year and to give a grace period at the beginning of the calendar year (for example, indicate that membership renewal payments will be due by some chosen date) to ensure all publications will be received. We will continue to put reminders regarding membership renewals in the bulletin as well as sending an annual e-mail to the membership. Additionally, a presidential e-mail encouraging renewal may be sent out.

DECISION: Allow current members in arrears for more than one year, to renew membership by the first quarter of 2013. After that, if they do not pay up, they will be purged from the member list. Thereafter membership will be on an annual basis. During this time we will be communicating the need to renew membership through e-mail and bulletin notices.

Recruitment of New Members: There were discussions about how to recruit new NMOS members. We can all think of people who are not members but should be. Ideas suggested: a bigger push for student membership at universities, asking the NM Audubon for the right to send out a

single email to their member list, bring out-of-state birders into the state and charge them trip fees that include a member fee, NMOS members sponsor student memberships for a year, get someone at the state or federal agency level to endorse membership and reimburse employees who want to join, target local ornithological/Audubon groups to contribute to our scholarship fund since they receive gratis copies of our mailings, contact these groups to have short blurbs on NMOS inserted into newsletters.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) All members of the board will review the most recent member list and identify those individuals they know who are missing and should be members. These suggestions should be sent to Dave. (2) Dave will target these individuals for membership by e-mail.

Thaw Charitable Trust Fund: We have met the challenge grant for 2011 and have received a \$7500 check from Thaw for the grant.

DECISION: Life membership this year (2011) has been going toward the endowment. All future life memberships will continue to go toward the research grant endowment.

Fund Raising:

Cuba Tour: Dave presented two potential itineraries. Ten participants is the minimum and 14 is the maximum. We discussed how much to charge each participant over costs to raise money for NMOS.

DECISION: Accept the itinerary that seeks the most endemic species.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will continue with planning with Gary Markowski (trip coordinator) and get a price quote for the trip with a November 2012 departure.

The NMOS fund raising trip to El Triunfo, Mexico was slated for spring 2013. This may be a bit soon for those who want to do both trips.

DECISION: Wait until we do the Cuba tour and assess its success before we plan the Mexico trip.

FUTURE DISCUSSION: There may be interest for NMOS fund raising "local" U.S. birding trip(s). South Texas/Lower Rio Grande Valley, Magee Marsh, Ohio, High Island, Texas and others were suggested.

Field Expeditions: Matt and Cole Wolf will coordinate the first NMOS Field Expedition to the Guadalupe Mountains in summer 2012. Tentative dates are June 15-17. This will be a simple expedition involving camping onsite with side trips to look for Black-crested Titmouse, Black-capped Vireo, and night birds among others. This first expedition will be experimental and we will go from there.

DAZ Artwork: We now have all of the Dale Zimmerman prints, signed and numbered by Dale. We have sold three sets. We discussed how to get the announcement out beyond the NMOS membership. Suggestions: the OSNA newsletter, local/regional list-serves.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will include information on Dale Zimmerman print availability in his member e-mail (to be sent out before the end of the year). Notification of print sales will be disseminated to other outlets following this initial NMOS member notification.

Annual Meeting: Dave has signed the contract with the hotel. The 50th annual meeting will be held March 31, 2012 at the Best Western on Rio Grande (same venue as the 48th annual meeting). The announcement for the meeting is on the website. Because this is the 50th annual meeting, we would like to do something to make this meeting special. One possibility is giving a perspective of past, present and future of NMOS.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Janet R. will post a “save the date” to the various listservs. (2) Janet will send out the call for abstracts and research grant applications soon. Submission deadlines will be February 20. (3) Janet R. will work with Jerry to get annual meeting registration working on Paypal.

Tee Shirt Artwork: Narca Moore-Craig has agreed to donate Scott’s Oriole artwork for the 2012 tee shirt design. Janet R and Narca discussed the limited number of print colors we can use and the possibility of printing on a brighter color tee shirt this year. Roland Shook will again be taking the lead for tee shirt printing.

DECISION: We will have the meeting date and “50th anniversary” appear somewhere on the tee.

Keynote Speaker: There was discussion about an appropriate keynote speaker for the 50th meeting. Roland has asked Dale Zimmerman if he is interested in giving a presentation for the keynote address and discussed a potential topic for this address. It was agreed that we needed to have a keynote address that was appropriate for the 50th anniversary annual meeting.

ACTION ITEM: All board members should be thinking about potential speakers and topics.

Florence M. Bailey Award: Roland is still willing to be responsible for getting plaques made up for future recipients, although there are no recipients nominated at this time.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will contact John Hubbard and make the presentation of the award since John had not attended the annual meeting.

Merchandise: Ashli has been keeping an updated inventory of merchandise. We are down to a few hundred of the 2006 NMOS checklists.

ACTION ITEM: Dave and Bill Howe will work on getting updated checklists printed.

Website: We are up to date on minutes being posted to the website. Janet R. will work with Ashli to convert approved long-form minutes to format appropriate for posting on the website.

Photo Gallery: Janet R. has updated most of the photo gallery. She has also updated the taxonomic order to the latest AOU taxonomy. The images are now served on our website instead of linked from a Flickr site.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Janet R: will address several website content issues.(2) Janet R. will check with Christopher Rustay on his progress with Database information entry.

NMOS Bird Finding Guide (BFG): We discussed various ideas about what the new Bird Finding Guide should look like – format, maps, relative focus on rarities, New Mexico specialties, etc. Other example guides were mentioned that might be used as models. Localities and/or counties will be written up by individuals with specific knowledge on that geographic area. The editor will bring the effort together and give a consistent voice. Board members present who are interested in writing portions include Jonathan, Sandy, Janet R., Dave, and possibly Jerry.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will talk to John Parmeter to inquire about his interest in serving as the editor for an update to the current edition, and will communicate the updated format we have in mind.

NMOS Board Roles & Responsibilities: Dave sent out a draft document outlining roles and responsibilities for board positions and committees.

ACTION ITEM: Send changes and suggestions back to Dave.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the board will be sometime in February 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm