

New Mexico Ornithological Society

NMOS Board Meeting Minutes

23 February 2013

(APPROVED 26 April 2013)

The NMOS Board met on at 1:00 p.m. at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Lannan Room. Attending were: Dave Krueper, Janet Ruth, Chuck Hayes, Jonathan Batkin, Ashli Gorbet, Janet Bair, Martha Desmond, Sandy Williams, Matt Baumann, Roland Shook, Bill Howe, Pat Mehlhop.

The minutes from the 15 June 2012 Board Meeting Minutes were approved with clarifying amendments. There was some discussion about pursuing membership renewal with a suggestion that we consider identifying a membership committee chair.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Jerry O, Dave distributed the financial statement for the end of 2012, to be included in the next *NMOS Bulletin*. It was noted that endowment funds need to be listed separately in the treasurer's report for reporting purposes and that reports are sometime difficult to understand by the general public.

ACTION ITEM: Jerry will indicate the funds in the endowment account as a separate line on the Treasurer's Report.

ACTION ITEM: The treasurer's report will be written so that it will be easier for membership to read and understand.

New Mexico Bird Finding Guide (NMBFG) Update:

County Write-ups: Bill Howe and Sandy Williams, as co-editors, provided an update on the current status of county write-ups for the NMBFG. They have received draft write-ups for 27 of the 33 counties; write-ups for 12 counties have been reviewed. After a writeup is reviewed, it is returned to author(s) with comments for revision. The editors work with authors to blend writing styles and provide consistency. There was discussion about the need for deadlines for authors whose drafts have not been submitted and those who need to provide revisions following editorial review. There is a need to ensure that a schedule is maintained so content is not outdated by the time the guide is published.

Dedication/Tribute: The possibility of dedicating the NMBFG to someone(s) was discussed. One suggestion was Dale and Marian Zimmerman, another was Mary Alice Root.

DECISION: Mary Alice will be honored in the *NMOS Bulletin* and the NMBFG will be dedicated to the Zimmermans.

ACTION ITEM: Roland will ask Dale to provide an photo of Dale and Marian for inclusion in the dedication.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will draft a short dedication for the new edition.

Introduction: There was discussion about an introductory chapter to the NMBFG. It should provide an overview to the guide and could be adapted from the current edition. The introduction should have habitat overviews with representative species that can be found in each. A representative B&W photo for each habitat type will be included.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will draft an introduction for the guide and determine what habitat photos could be used.

Regional Introductions: These are at the beginning of each regional section and are approximately single-page write-ups indicating habitat types and species to be expected.

ACTION ITEM: Sandy will ask John Parmeter if he is willing to update the current regional introductions.

Index: There were discussions about the index. Someone should be identified to do this, and it will need to occur once the layout is created. A maximum number of entries in the index for a particular species should be decided upon to eliminate too many occurrences (page numbers) of common species in the index (e.g., Eastern Meadowlark). The page number referencing the species write-up could be put in bold or italics to set it apart from other pages in the guide.

FUTURE DISCUSSION: This topic will be revisited once the layout is near complete. This may be something the NMBFG Production Committee should be responsible for.

Illustrations: It was suggested that only Dale Zimmerman's illustrations be used for this version of the guide as a tribute to him and his contributions to NMOS. Sandy indicated that we still have the rights to use all of the images we have included in past editions, plus some others. Sandy has originals but many of the illustrations have already been scanned in.

DECISION: Dale's illustrations will be used exclusively in the new edition of the NMBFG.

FUTURE DISCUSSION: Work with Dale to decide on illustrations to be included.

Maps: The NMBFG Production Committee currently includes Dave, Janet R., and Jonathan. It was suggested that the production committee should tackle issues such as mapping. Pat Mehlhop was asked if she would be willing to be on the committee to provide guidance for mapping; Pat accepted.

ACTION ITEM: Pat will discuss with Natural Heritage New Mexico the potential for mapping for the guide.

ACTION ITEM: Dave will pursue talking with other potential contractors.

ACTION ITEM: The NMBFG Production Committee will discuss and make decisions regarding the mapping issue; deadline of April 1 for mapping decisions.

NMOS Bulletin and Field Notes Updates: Volume 40, Numbers 3 and 4 of the *NMOS Bulletin*, and the new edition of *Field Notes*, combined into one mailing, will be in mailboxes in the coming week. Included in the *NMOS Bulletin* are several notifications on Field Trips, Field Expeditions, etc. The next Bulletin should come out sometime in April. There was a question asked as to whether we have author guidelines on the website for manuscript submissions. There was also a discussion about the need to get copies of our publications to the Library of Congress (LOC).

ACTION ITEM: Janet B., with reference to other ornithological societies, will put together author guidelines and requirements for the NMOS website.

ACTION ITEM: Sandy will determine which editions the LOC has already received and what they need. For now, we will mail the LOC's issues separately.

51st Annual Meeting in Silver City – 27 April 2013: Roland provided summary about meeting planning. The NMOS Board meeting will be held the afternoon of 26 April. The president of Western New Mexico University (WNMU) has offered the use of his conference room. The Annual Meeting and Science Session will be held at the Global Resource Center (GRC) auditorium at WNMU. Abstracts for the Science Session and NMOS Research Grants are due March 15, however this date may be extended to April 1. Larry Malone has agreed to lead a field trip to Cherry Creek Campground on Sunday, 28 April. Roland offered to make available an article he authored about local birding that was published in the American Birding Association's (ABA's) *Winging It* ten years ago. There was discussion regarding copyright issues.

ACTION ITEM: Roland will confirm the conference room for the Board Meeting.

FUTURE DISCUSSION: Means of displaying posters.

ACTION ITEM: Martha will draft call for abstracts language for the website and emails.

ACTION ITEM: Ashli will talk to Jeff Gordon (ABA President) regarding the use of Roland's article on our website, with full credit to ABA.

Food: Roland provided a report on the options for catering for dinner and breaks and the availability of the WNMU dining hall/cafeteria for lunch.

ACTION ITEM: Roland will pursue catering options, including vegan choices, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Roland will determine if we can bring in snacks for afternoon break or if Sodexo will need to cater the afternoon snack.

Evening Presentations: Keynote address will be presented by Dale Zimmerman on Saturday evening following the banquet. It was suggested that we consider presenting a Friday evening program featuring Noel or Helen Snyder. Dave will speak beforehand about NMOS; Roland will introduce Dale. Friday and Saturday presentations will be free and open to the community. We will have a sales and membership/donation table present to encourage support for the society.

T-shirts and sales merchandise: There was a discussion about whether NMOS should allow the featured artist to sell artwork at the annual meeting? What about other artists or organizations? One suggestion was to exclude items that would compete with what NMOS is selling. There is a need for an official NMOS policy. There will also be a silent auction; anyone is welcome to donate items for sale to support printing costs for the NMBFG.

ACTION ITEM: Draft a policy that will address sales at NMOS Meetings.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ON POLICY: Ideas for future policy - NMOS should not allow the commercial sales of any merchandise for profit by any company or entity onsite. For commercial artists who donate artwork, we will recognize their contribution and point to her website for future sales. Those present seemed to be in favor of a policy to this effect, but no formal vote was held.

Pledge to Fledge: Ashli discussed the Pledge to Fledge initiative and her hopes to lead an event in association with the NMOS meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Roland agreed to work with Ashli to provide guidance/contacts for organizing a Pledge to Fledge beginning bird walk for kids/adults.

South Valley Bird Festival endorsement: Robert Munro is seeking NMOS Endorsement of the South Valley Bird Guide which will be distributed at the South Valley Bird Festival. Dave passed the draft of the guide around for board members to review.

DECISION: NMOS will endorse the South Valley Bird Guide.

Fundraising Field Trips Report:

Cuba November 2012: Dave reports the trip went well. \$4200 was generated.

Ohio May 2013: Two people are currently signed up and Ashli is waiting to hear from several others. The maximum number of participants is 8 to 10, minimum will be 5 participants.

Chiapas March 2014: Dave is planning this trip. Cost will \$250/person/day at minimum, but trip price is yet to be determined. Dates are 24-31 March 2014. There is a possibility to add on a pre-trip from March 20-24.

Field Expeditions: There is interest and potential to run another “pelagic” trip sometime in the future. At this time, there are no Field Expeditions formally planned for this year.

Mary Alice Root: A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, 4 May 2013 at NM Museum of Natural History and Science (NM MNH&S) in Albuquerque. It was suggested that the Diatryma T-shirt could be reprinted in honor of Mary Alice Root. Several means of printing and selling the T-shirts were discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Ashli will determine where the screens for the Diatryma T-shirt are, who owns the original art, and if that artwork could be used by the Natural History Museum.

Additional or Unfinished Business: These topics will be discussed at the next board meeting:

- PayPal update and discussion
- Website
- Important Bird Area (IBA) evaluation team
- Designate a Membership Chair
- Marketing Dale Zimmerman Prints

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20 p.m.