

New Mexico Ornithological Society

NMOS Board Meeting Minutes

20 November 2010

(APPROVED 26 February 2011)

The NMOS Board met on 20 November 2010, at 1:05pm at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. Attending were: Dave Krueper, Janet Ruth, Matt Baumann, Chuck Hayes, Janet Bair, Jonathan Batkin, Ashli Gorbet, Sandy Williams

Minutes from the 21 August 2010 Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report: The balance in our account is \$7700 (through Nov 15).

NMOS Field Notes: The next issue (Autumn 2009, issue 4), should be ready when the next NMOS Bulletin is ready.

NMOS Bulletin: The most recent mailing went well. Costs were: \$188 to print the bulletin, \$31 to mail it. There are only a few addresses that still need correcting. Returned items will be investigated. There are currently no technical articles slated for the next Bulletin issue; there was some discussion of potential articles, which would have to be received by 10 December 2010.

There was discussion about what constituted suitable content for the NMOS Bulletin and the desire to publish articles with scientific merit. We discussed the possibility of hosting a "birder's forum" or "member's forum" on the NMOS website for articles that do not meet the criteria for a scientific paper in the Bulletin.

DECISIONS: (1) The idea of a forum was rejected due to concerns about the association of NMOS (a scientific society) with articles that do not meet the requirements for scientific rigor. It was noted that there might be other more appropriate places to host such a forum. (2) The NMOS Bulletin will provide a formal review with comments/suggestions to the author(s) for all articles rejected for publication.

There was a discussion about the current complimentary (gratis) mailings of the NMOS publications to Audubon societies, libraries and other organizations.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Board members should come to the next board meeting with suggestions for which institutions should continue to receive complimentary mailings and which should be dropped. (2) An NMOS T-shirt will be presented as thanks for the efforts of T. Rintala in mailing NMOS publications.

Thaw Charitable Trust Fund (TCT): NMOS is working to endow the NMOS research grants. The TCT Fund has offered a \$7500 challenge grant with NMOS matching funds. A proposal must be signed and received by TCT by 30 December 2010. Discussions focused on fundraising options for NMOS to match the TCT grant including soliciting donations, encouraging life membership, guided field trips, approaching other foundations, etc. This will be a subject for discussion at the next board meeting.

DECISION: The board voted to approve the pursuit of the TCT challenge grant.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Acquire a letter from the state Attorney General stating NMOS is in good standing as a non-profit, along with an NMOS IRS letter. (2) Submit a proposal to TCT with necessary paperwork by the deadline.

Annual Meeting: The 2011 annual meeting will be held at Ramada Palms Hotel, Las Cruces. Work is proceeding on negotiations for booking and with the caterer. The Annual Meeting Announcement has been posted on various list-serves. Call for papers/abstracts will be posted soon, as well as Research Grants. There was some discussion about past problems with getting people to register early. It was noted that an artist is currently working on a drawing of a Mexican Duck for this year's T-shirt. There was also some discussion about the idea of presenting a course on taking field notes and/or field sketching at an annual meeting.

DECISIONS: (1) A Science Session Chair and back up were identified to receive abstracts and organize the session. (2) There will be an incentive for early registration by adding \$5 to registration costs after a certain date. (3) Responsibilities for handling registration were assigned.

Annual Meeting 2012: Location and dates for 2012 were discussed. There was some suggestions for potential species for the 2012 meeting T-shirt art – Curve-billed Thrasher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Scott's Oriole. This decision will be made at the next board meeting.

DECISIONS: (1) The Best Western Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque was chosen for the venue in 2012. (2) March 31 and April 14 are dates that will be pursued for scheduling.

NMOS Merchandise: A spreadsheet has been created indicating status of current merchandise (hats, T-shirts, caps, etc.). There was also discussion about splitting up the task of contacting and working with retailers who carry NM Bird Finding Guides. Books are sold to retailers for \$12.00 wholesale, with a recommendation for \$20.00 as retail price. Further discussion is required on identifying and making contact with all appropriate retailers.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) Maintain/update the NMOS merchandise spreadsheet. (2) Acquire an accurate count of NM Bird Finding Guides from Aiken Publishing.

Field Checklist: A tentative timeframe of January/February 2011 was given for the next printing of the field checklist. There was some discussion about what color paper should be used. Final decisions on number and color will be made at the next board meeting.

DECISION: We will print fewer checklists (exact number to be determined) but will also have a downloadable PDF version available on the website.

NM Bird Finding Guide (BFG): Work is under way to update information about new locations, public roads etc. for the BFG. Future discussion will determine whether updates will be printed for insertion into the BFG or whether people will be referred to the website for updates. There was also discussion about the future publication of an updated BFG. There is some concern that the current issue focuses too much on the Albuquerque area and is biased toward birding for rarities. Some felt that there was a need for more information about places to go throughout the state and not just for rarities. It was acknowledged that this effort should coincide with/compliment the new Birds of New Mexico book. This will require much further discussion at future meetings.

Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant: There was discussion about the request from Ryan's family that any grant associated with his name should not involve the collection of birds. We currently fund up to two grants every year and they are currently both called Ryan Beaulieu Research Grants. Future discussion will be required of a suggestion that we increase the grant dollar amount which is currently at \$1000 per grant.

DECISION: The Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant will fund research that does not include specimen collection and will have a specific disclaimer about collecting. The second grant will be called the NMOS Research Grant and can fund research involving collection of birds (or projects that do not). We will require a statement in the application indicating whether or not the project involves collecting of birds.

ACTION ITEM: The language on the NMOS website and in the call for research grant proposals will be revised to meet the requirements of this decision.

F. M. Bailey Award: Jim Travis' award has been mailed. A photograph will be acquired from his daughter for website/publication. A nomination has been received for another awardee. As soon as some final revisions have been made in the nomination, the Nomination Committee will evaluate it and make a decision.

NMOS Website: We are in the process of scanning several past NMOS special publications for eventual posting on the website; several have already been made available. Work continues on the New Mexico birds photo gallery with an emphasis on posting the photos directly on the website to avoid linkage problems with other sites. As often as possible these photos are of birds taken in New Mexico and/or are photos taken by NMOS members.

DECISION: We will link the recent Audubon article (Band of Brothers) to the Ryan Grant page.

Miscellaneous Business: There was a discussion about the need to recognize the contributions of past NMOS officers. We would also like to recognize new members and note the loss of NMOS members. There was also a discussion about ways to bolster NMOS membership among youth. This will be discussed further at future meetings. There was also some discussion about the locations of future board meetings and what would be most convenient for the most board members.

DECISION: The last NMOS Bulletin issue of each year will include a section noting the loss of members and the addition of new members.

ACTION ITEMS: (1) A note will be prepared for the next NMOS Bulletin to note the deaths of Bill Huey, Gary Parker, and Barbara McKnight. (2) An NMOS Facebook page will be created to keep members up to date with NMOS news.

Meeting adjourned 1630.