

**The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology
Board Meeting
November 5, 1994**

The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology met on Saturday, November 5, 1994 in the State College Borough Building. In attendance were Frank and Barb Haas, Robert Ross, Eugene Zielinski, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Douglas Gross, Shonah Hunter, and Robert Martin, Jr. The meeting began at about 1:15 PM.

Record Keeping, Communications, etc.

FH summarized the minutes of the previous meeting and distributed a list of names and addresses of PSO board members. He asked for any additions or corrections.

EZ distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report, which outlined income and expenses from 1-1-94 to 10-14-94. The balance as of 10-14-94 is \$5738.10. There were some questions about the \$3.00 monthly service charge, and EZ said he would look into this.

FH announced that he and Barb had taken responsibility for the PSO membership list (for which EZ is eternally grateful.) FH also said he would like to have at least two board meetings per year, scheduled well in advance. The next meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, February 25, 1994, in State College.

Newsletter

MH wanted to see four issues of the newsletter put out at regular intervals during the year. So far, there have only been two issues for 1994, and she would like to issue one more for the year, probably in December. The board also thought it would be a good idea to stagger newsletter releases with those of **PA Birds**. DG wondered whether the newsletter could be streamlined with fewer pages or fewer issues, since it seemed to be such an effort to produce. Those present thought this was somewhat impractical at the moment; there are enough members of PSO who do not subscribe to **PA Birds** to warrant the production of a comprehensive newsletter. EZ wondered if the distinction between the newsletter and **PA Birds** should be clarified, preferably at a future meeting. FH talked about how other societies handled this; often the newsletter would deal with matters of a political or urgent nature, while the journal concerned itself with more scientific subjects.

FH suggested that a financial report be prepared for each board meeting; the treasurer agreed with this. FH mentioned a suggestion by a member to publish a membership directory in a future newsletter. The board decided to do this, with the following precautions: members will have the option not to have their names or addresses published; members will have the option of having their names, but not addresses published; and PSO will not sell the mailing list.

Awards

Since the name (Todd) originally selected for the award is already being used for another award, the board was asked to decide on a new name. After a short discussion, DG made a motion to rename the award after Earl Poole. The motion was seconded by EZ and passed by unanimous voice vote. Potential members for the award nominations committee were discussed.

1995 Annual Meeting

The 1995 annual meeting will be held on May 19, 20, and 21, at the Penn State Hazleton Campus. The board looked at a handout, provided by Monica Gregory, which listed meals, lodging, and costs for the meeting. FH noted that no alcoholic beverages will be permitted on the site. Alan Gregory is working on arrangements for field trips; thus the major concern of the board was the selection of a theme, programs, and speakers for the meeting. Peter Stangel, coordinator for the Partners in Flight Program, will be the banquet speaker. FH offered to give a presentation on Hawk Identification, and suggested that the first speaker be DG, who would talk about the SAP. (Doug has usually been the final speaker.) Other topics considered included birds in relation to mine reclamation efforts, and old growth forests in the state. DG offered to help coordinate programs.

A number of other meeting-related items were considered. Someone with photography experience could attend the meeting and take informal pictures as well as a more formal group photo; this could be a PSO member or a hired professional. The Earl Poole Award would be presented at the meeting, and the board thought it essential that the recipient be in attendance. DG said he could plan Sunday field trips for attendees on their way home, which met with the board's approval. Other costs,

such as speakers fees, insurance, and vans for field trips, were discussed, and SH said she would determine an appropriate charge for the meeting.

During the above discussion, FH and BH noted that the PA chapter of the Nature Conservancy had an opportunity to purchase Two Mile Run, a natural area in the Poconos, for \$200,000, if they can raise the money by February, 1995. After some discussion over whether it was appropriate for PSO to contribute money to another organization, RR made a motion to donate \$500 to the PA Chapter of the Nature Conservancy for the acquisition of the Two Mile Run Area. This motion was seconded by SH and passed by a vote of 9 for - 0 against. Several of those present cautioned against making these contributions a habit, and FH said some type of policy concerning donations will have to be formulated in the future. EZ will write the check, and FH will write a letter and mail the check to the Conservancy.

Revisions to By-Laws

FH said he would like to rewrite part of the PSO by-laws to include the immediate past-president and newsletter editor on the board. He would also like to alter the by-laws, if required, to enable incorporation and attainment of non-profit status. Once these changes have been made, they will have to be voted on by the board. This should happen at the next board meeting.

FH asked for (demanded???) more progress on incorporation and non-profit status for PSO. EZ said that since he no longer has to worry about maintaining a membership list, he would have more time to work on this. He will get an attorney either through his place of work or through Conrad Schmidt. He said he will have to work fairly closely with the president on non-profit status, particularly to answer some questions on policy posed by the non-profit status application.

SAP Report

DG distributed sheets listing all of the SAP locations and sponsors. He said that data collection for the SAP was going along very well -- so well, in fact, that he has submitted a grant proposal to the WRCF to cover costs of data entry and data processing. The grant is through Ecology III, Doug's place of work, and is in the amount of \$15,000. The money will be used to pay a data-entry person, and Doug will get some money for analyzing the data. Ecology III will have no claims to the raw or processed data.

DG wondered whether the SAP should also be sponsored by the National Audubon Society, since so many Audubon chapters are taking part in it. The board decided that PSO should be the sole sponsor, mainly for reasons of efficiency. DG also said he would need to be reimbursed for money he has spent on forms, postage, etc. for the SAP. The board saw no problem with this, but wanted to know how much had been contributed to the SAP fund. EZ said he would have this information by the next meeting. The board also gave EZ permission to reimburse DG, once he figures out his expenses.

Other potential PSO projects were discussed. DG talked about the feasibility of a night bird survey. He also outlined a growing controversy over shooting fish-eating birds at fish hatcheries. Several hatcheries have applied for permits, which have been approved by the state but denied by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Doug thought that PSO should take a position against shooting. In addition, PSO may want to initiate a project which would compile information on colonies of fish-eating birds in the state. No decision could be made on this, however.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM. (The score was PSU 35 Indiana 14.)

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene Zielinski
Treasurer, PSO