

OCTOBER 11, 2008

Minutes of the AOS Board Meeting

By JOAN SIEGWALD, *Secretary*



THE AOS EXECUTIVE BOARD MET SATURDAY, October 11, 2008, on Dauphin Island, Alabama. President Linda Reynolds called the meeting to order and welcomed Mary Frances Stayton to the Board and thanked her for taking over the position of treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Frances Stayton reported an AOS checking account balance of \$23,119 with fall meeting expenses still to be paid.

Minutes: The spring meeting minutes were approved.

Vice President's Report: Eric Soehren reported that the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail has been taken over by Alabama State Lands and is being revised. Eric and John Porter drove the trail to review the current sites and see where there were problems (property has been developed, birding is not good there anymore, property is private and therefore has access problems, etc.). They also asked local birders for input. Thirteen sites have been selected for removal from the trail, and signs for those sites have been taken down. State Lands has developed a tentative list of new sites to replace the ones that have been removed; the additions highlight public sites like Forever Wild tracts, new and developing nature centers, and preserves. After a draft for the new trail has been finalized, additional comments will be sought.

Conservation Report: Greg Harber reported that he, on behalf of AOS, endorsed a letter circulated by the Bird Conservation Alliance calling for reauthorization of the North American Migratory Bird Conservation Act and an increase in funding. In addition, Greg submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in opposition to the Department of the Interior's proposed change that would weaken the way the Endangered Species Act is enforced. Essentially the proposed changes would have allowed federal agencies taking actions that might harm endangered or threatened species to determine for themselves the potential effects of

their actions, rather than USFWS biologists determining those effects as they are required by law. He encouraged the Minerals Management Service to keep the ban on the Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program in place. He wrote Governor Bob Riley opposing the LNG (liquefied natural gas) open loop terminal being proposed for the Gulf of Mexico south of Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan; the proposal was withdrawn when it was apparent that Governor Riley was going to deny it.

Bird Records Committee Report: Eric Soehren reported that the committee voted recently on 17 records; 15 were accepted and the remaining two are undergoing a second review. The Black Swift sighting was accepted as a first state record.

DIBS Report: Greg Harber said that DIBS is still pursuing the Steiner block properties and has made some progress there. He also reported on the status of Pelican Island. Now that Pelican Island is attached to Dauphin Island, many more people are using it; this increases the threat to the island's birds, especially during nesting season. One of the ten heirs associated with Pelican Island recently contacted John Porter, and DIBS is currently negotiating with the heirs about the possibility of obtaining permission to manage the island on an interim basis in order to protect the birds. DIBS's goals for Pelican Island are to put protective steps in place right now and ultimately to gain title to the island.

Old Business

Membership CD: After a discussion about options for a membership directory, the Board decided against a membership CD and decided instead to send a PDF membership list to all members with an e-mail address. Bob Reed will also print out paper copies of the membership list for distribution at meetings.

AOS Website: Eric Soehren summarized previous discussions about the AOS website; it is the Board's consensus that the AOS website is antiquated and difficult to navigate, and that it should be rebuilt. Since constructing a new website would be a huge project for member volunteers, Eric recommended that AOS hire someone to build a new website; he proposed that, before we approach anyone about doing this, we form a website committee consisting of people who are knowledgeable about website issues and can help us identify what we want in a website. The Board voted to approve Eric's proposal to form a website committee.

Alabama Birdlife: Tom Siegwald reported that he is in the process of scanning the 1973-1995 *Alabama Birdlife* issues so they can be posted on the website.

New Business

Late Fee: Linda asked the Board to revisit the issue of the meeting registration late fee since we are now meeting in a restaurant where meeting attendees can order off the menu and catering is no longer an issue. Several people commented that the late fee sends a negative message and discourages new members. The Board voted to drop the late fee.

Field Cards: John Porter proposed that the next edition of the AOS field card be distributed free of charge and put on the AOS website. The Board voted to approve John's proposal.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

2008 AOS Fall Meeting Compilation List Dauphin Island, Alabama, October 10–12

NOTEWORTHY BIRDS OF THE weekend included Great Black-backed Gull, Bewick's Wren, and Western Tanager.

Wood Duck
Mallard
Mottled Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Northern Gannet
Brown Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Magnificent Frigatebird
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
White Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Clapper Rail
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Black-bellied Plover
Snowy Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer
American Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
Spotted Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Willet
Lesser Yellowlegs
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin
Short-billed Dowitcher
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Least Tern
Gull-billed Tern
Caspian Tern
Forster's Tern
Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern
Black Skimmer
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Horned Owl
Chuck-will's-widow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Trail's Flycatcher species
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Western Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
Fish Crow
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Wood Thrush
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler

Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Palm Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Western Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Baltimore Oriole
House Finch
House Sparrow

All reported sightings will be accepted and published in *The Yellowhammer*. However, the meeting compilation list in *The Yellowhammer* is not an official record. Species that are **boldfaced**, or listed in the Hypothetical section of the AOS Field Card, must be supported by complete written details and submitted to, and accepted by, the Records Committee to become an official AOS record. *Italicized species* usually need written details but these may be brief. Out of season and locally rare birds should also be documented. Refer to the front page of the AOS Field Card for additional details.