



UOS General Membership Meeting Notes
Saturday, September 11, 2004
Southern Utah University
3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Merrill Webb. **Attending:** Marsha McLean, Tuula Rose, Milton Moody, Robin Tuck, Jim Parrish, Jack Rensel, Steve Carr, Merrill Webb, Keith Evans, Dennis Shirley, John Spence, Dave Allen, Steve Hedges, Bob Bradley, Aaron Smith, Arnold Smith, Tom Williams, Kate Grandison, Helen Boswell, Betsy Beneke. (20)

1. Board members were introduced
2. Merrill thanked everyone who helped with organization and hosting of the symposium

Merrill invited comments from the membership, and they are listed here:

Field trips were well organized and had great leaders. They were also a nice way to meet the local birders and get to know them and good birding areas.

The bird quiz was a good idea, enjoyed by many.

There was a good mix of science and general birding information. (mentioned by several)

15 minutes isn't long enough for presentations. 20 minutes would be better, or let speakers choose.

Mix up lengths of presentations; this would let speakers choose how long they want to talk.

Have the fall conference in different areas of the state – move it around each year. Other possible sites include: Logan, Moab, Dixie, Price, San Pete. (mentioned by several members) Logan would be good – get the Yellow-eyed Junco woman (Kim Sullivan). Other speakers: Mike Conover, Tom Cate – Boise. Peregrines? Someone on condors? Noel Snyder?

Hosted by a University is a great idea – it allows us to tie in to the students. Fall, not Spring!

Classes or workshops are good. Have one on using GPS. Keith Evans mentioned that Basin & Range meeting have workshops during their conferences, with great success.

Bob Bradley relayed that UOS does not want to compete with local bird clubs. That isn't what we do.

No Salt Lake Audubon members were present

No novice birders attended (Irene Tebbs)

By having student presentations, we're bringing in a younger element. We need to encourage this.

Materials that go out should specifically invite certain groups and people

Don't schedule the symposium when other events are going on elsewhere

Schedule earlier – put out a call for papers earlier – keep everyone informed of agenda via updates

Comments continued...

Would like to see Logan folks more involved (Bridgerland Audubon)

Ask affiliate clubs to take part in the conference and help host it, or sponsor it. Maybe take charge of the “social” part of the agenda. We need to engage other bird clubs to become involved. (several members mentioned this)

It would have been great if Red Cliffs Audubon would have taken more of a role in this conference.

Each club/group could give a presentation on the activities they are involved in at the conference. Let them highlight their group.

Do some “hands-on” kind of workshops. This might get more people to attend.

Dennis Shirley wants birders to understand the mission of UOS.

Do more and better advertising for the conference and UOS activities. Contact local media and have them do articles prior to the conference. Let the public know what’s going on in their community. Invite them to socials, speakers, etc.

Next year get a high profile speaker – someone with potential to draw a crowd.

Introduce hosts, professors, local Audubon members, etc. at start of conference.

Kate Grandison mentioned timing of the conference is critical. Make sure whoever is hosting is comfortable with date of event and that it doesn’t interfere with other school activities. However, it should also be a good time for birding in the host area.

Each year the conference gets better!

Keith mentioned the difficulty we have in getting papers and articles submitted for the Journal. He asked if speakers/students would let us publish their work. University professors should be contacted. It would enhance our Journal.

Could/Should we publish Mark Stackhouse’s new good I.D. paper? Someone should contact him.

Robin Tuck on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project:

Noted that the BBA project needs to have a review committee and wondered if the UOS would take on that role. This is a joint project between UOS and DWR and would require a memorandum of understanding. Robin will also continue to look for ways of funding the BBA project. This will be discussed at a future UOS board meeting when DWR can be represented. Robin also encouraged participation in the atlas project by birders from across the state.

The next UOS board meeting will be in October – date to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Betsy Beneke
UOS Secretary