

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF THE FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

Friday, April 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Spring 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Ornithological Society (*FOS*) was held Friday, April 23, 2010, at the Marriot Spring Hill Suites, 5115 Indian River Blvd, Vero Beach, Florida. President Jackson did not arrive until 2:40, so Vice President Sachs called the meeting to order at 2:20 PM after determining that a quorum was present. The following people attended the meeting or a portion of the meeting:

Jerry Jackson, President	Andy Kratter, Records Committee
Elena Sachs, Vice President	Secretary
Jim Cox, Secretary	Brian Ahern
Peter Merritt, Treasurer	Elizabeth Hailman
Jack Hailman, Past President	Erik Haney
Dave Goodwin, Director	Katy NeSmith
Adam Kent, Director	Gail Parsons
Paul Miller, Director	Gloria Steinman
Ann Paul, Director	Rick West
Tom Palmer, Newsletter Editor	Caroline Stahala
David Stock, Finance Committee	
Wes Biggs, Robertson Research Award	

AGENDA

The agenda and meeting packet were mailed electronically to board members prior to the meeting. Secretary Cox said that Katie Sieving, Chair of the Cruickshank Research Award Committee, could not attend the meeting but was available via phone at 15:00 to discuss the recommendations of her committee. This opportunity, coupled with the late arrival of President Jackson, led to a re-ordering of the topics discussed at this meeting; however, for consistency and clarity, these minutes follow the order of previous minutes.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Fall Board meeting held at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL, on October 2, 2009, were distributed with the meeting packet. Treasurer Merritt moved that the minutes be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Jackson submitted a written report at the meeting. President Jackson thanked the many hard working people who make the Florida Ornithological Society such a great

organization of professional and amateur bird enthusiasts. The society has negotiated tough financial times thanks to the diligence of Treasurer Merritt and the Finance Committee. Vice Presidents Sachs and Hodgson organized great meetings over the past 3 years, and Secretary Cox kept membership and Board members informed with timely notes and minutes. The *Florida Field Naturalist* is now published on schedule thanks to the efforts of Editor Robinson and Tom Webber, and the newsletter and web page have seen marked improvements in terms of color photographs and improved content thanks to the work of Steve Bankert and Tom Palmer. President Jackson also thanked Records Committee Secretary Kratter for his timely reports and stellar work and noted this committee ranks among the best in the country.

President Jackson had met with Bill Pranty and Ann Paul to discuss the Important Bird Area manuscript. Pranty has made substantial headway towards finalizing the manuscript, and President Jackson has signed a renewal contract with Audubon of Florida and provided Pranty with \$1200 for his efforts revising the manuscript. The manuscript would also include introductory tributes to Glen Woolfenden and Rich Paul.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Sachs reported that approximately 65 members had registered for the meeting and planning for field trips and other events had gone smoothly. Dates for the Fall 2010 meeting in Tallahassee were set for October 8-10, and a block of rooms at a Days Inn had been reserved at a cost of \$49.95 per night. Tall Timbers Research Station offered to host the Saturday paper session and banquet. Anticipated costs would be kept to a minimum, and Tall Timbers Research Station offered to provide bunk housing for students making presentations at the Saturday paper session, which would follow the student competition format used in Gainesville.

Several Board members presented ideas regarding new formats for upcoming FOS meetings. Previous meetings included citizen science projects and exotic trips. Future meetings might include information for developing bird watchers (e.g., a review of new field guides and equipment) or include pelagic trips. Thinking outside-the-box is to be encouraged.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Cox compiled and distributed committee reports for the meeting and drafted minutes for the Fall 2009 meeting. Approved minutes for other meetings had been sent to the Webmaster for posting of the FOS web page. Cox also updated the contact information of FOS Board members and provided a revised copy to Board members. Cox then noted that

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Merritt provided a written report. FOS account and fund balances were as follows on December 31, 2009:

Account	Balance
Fidelity Account	\$125,631.88
PayPal Account	\$24.15
Total Assets	\$125,656.03

FOS fund balances as of December 31, 2009:

Fund	Balance
General Operating Fund	\$27,148.94
Special Publications Fund	\$26,017.96
Grants and Awards Fund (Cruickshank)	\$35,452.86
Grants and Awards Fund (Robertson)	\$10,219.53
Endowment Fund	\$19,058.08
Friends of FFN	\$1,187.18
Life Membership Fund	\$5,517.96
Deferred Items (2010 Dues)	\$1,053.52
Total Assets	\$125,656.03

The FOS manages its assets in a brokerage account with Fidelity Investments. The Society also has a PayPal account, which is used to accept payment for membership dues and other payments. Funds received in the PayPal account are periodically transferred to the Fidelity account (which consists of 12 mutual funds). One of the mutual funds, the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund, functions as a money market fund and checking account. All money received by FOS in 2009 was deposited in the Fidelity Core Account and was then transferred into the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund. All payments by FOS in 2009 were withdrawn from the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund. On December 31, 2009, the Fidelity cash account had a balance of \$17,761.21 (corrected for \$500.00 in checks not cleared) with a 7-day yield of 0.09%. All financial activities in 2009 are summarized below.

The non-cash portion of FOS assets is contained in 11 mutual funds. The funds are selected based on recommendations in periodic portfolio reviews provided by Fidelity. The portfolio was rebalanced on March 26, 2010. The FOS has specified that the target asset allocation for the account be defined as "Growth." The Fidelity portfolio review report indicates that the growth asset mix has experienced an average annual return of about 8.73%, with a range of -52.93% to 109.54% from 1926 to 2008. The asset value of the non-cash portion of the Fidelity account increased from \$87,216.52 on December 31, 2008 to \$107,870.67 on December 31, 2009.

As of April 1, 2010 the Fidelity account had a balance of \$134,222.21. This balance included \$21,293.69 in the Fidelity Cash Reserves fund with a 7-day yield of 0.02%, and \$112,928.52 in non-cash mutual funds.

The FOS fund balances shown above provide a separate accounting of assets allocated to funds designated for General Operations, Special Publications, Grants and Awards,

Endowment, Friends of FFN, and Life Membership. A separate accounting is also maintained for the Cruickshank and Robertson portions of the Grants and Awards fund. At the end of each year, the annual interest received from interest-bearing accounts plus the change in asset value in brokerage accounts are added together and distributed proportionately among the funds using a standard protocol.

Price-Campbell Foundation Grant

The Price-Campbell Foundation Grant of \$15,000 was awarded to FOS several years ago to enhance FOS presence on the Internet. As of December 31, 2008, \$14,874.88 had been spent out of the original grant, leaving a balance of \$125.12. In 2009, a total of \$122.75 was charged to the grant for web hosting charges. The remaining balance of the Price-Campbell Foundation Grant is \$2.37. The balance of this grant will be applied to web hosting charges in 2010.

Membership

FOS membership as of April 1, 2010 is summarized in the right-hand column:

Membership Type	4/16/07	10/3/07	4/2/08	9/5/08	4/2/09	9/1/09	4/1/10
Individual	226	260	216	243	210	232	210
Individual Life	0	0	4	4	6	7	8
Family	61	75	62	65	45	49	38
Family Life	0	0	4	4	4	4	5
Contributing	27	32	22	24	20	21	19
Student	5	8	7	8	5	6	5
Institutional	33	39	32	33	32	34	31
Exchange*	17	16	16	16	16	16	16
Honorary*	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
Gift*	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	372	433	364	398	339	370	334

* Non-paying

The first membership renewal request was sent on December 18, 2009. The second membership renewal request was sent on February 12, 2010. Seventeen new members joined FOS in 2010. Updated membership information will be provided at the FOS board meeting on April 23, 2010.

Action Items

1. The Treasurer maintains a balance of the accumulated income and principal for several of the funds as specified in the FOS by-laws. Currently, the Robertson portion of the Grants and Awards Fund has a negative accumulated income balance equal to -1,545.47. The by-laws indicate that the Board of Directors may authorize transfer of a portion of the Operating Fund or a portion of the accumulated interest of the Endowment Fund to

any of the Society's other funds. The Board of Directors should consider transferring additional funds to the Robertson portion of the Grants and Awards Fund prior to the disbursement of additional awards from this fund. The Treasurer recommended this item be taken up during discussion of the Robertson Award (see below).

2. There have been questions at recent meetings about FOS obtaining PDF files for the Florida Field Naturalist from 2006 to 2009. The publisher, E. O. Painter, indicated there were approximately 560 pages published in Volumes 34-37. They can convert all of the pages, as individual articles, for a flat rate of \$1,100.00. They also indicated that if we want to purchase PDF files on an ongoing basis each time the journal is published, the cost would be \$2.40 per page. This charge could be added onto our quarterly bill each time the journal is published. The Board of Directors should consider purchasing the PDF files for 2006 to 2009 and having the files made automatically each time the journal is published. President Jackson noted the great benefits PDF formats provide in terms of conducting on-line searches and recommended trying to negotiate a lower price for the PDF articles. Treasurer Merritt said he would try to get the PDF versions for Volumes 34-37 at a reduced rate of \$2.00 per page. If the rate was approved, he moved the Board pay for the conversion. The motion was seconded by Director Paul and passed unanimously.

3. For the last two issues of the Florida Field Naturalist the Treasurer has received about 200 copies of the journal after it has been published. This represents the amount above what is mailed out to members by the printer. We are billed on a base rate for publishing 575 copies of the journal, and we receive a credit if we request fewer copies to be printed. Currently FOS has a standing request for the printer to only print 500 copies. FOS received a credit of \$54 for on the last invoice for reducing the print run by 75 copies. For a press run of 400 copies, a reduction of \$126 would apply off the base cost. President Jackson noted the tremendous back-log of copies being stored in his garage and agreed a reduced press run would be advised. Treasurer Merritt moved that the Board reduce the press runs to 400 copies. The motion was seconded by Director Kent and passed unanimously.

**FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT - 2009**

Account balances as of December 31, 2009:

Account	Balance
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Total Assets	\$125,656.03

Fund balances as of December 31, 2009:

Fund	Balance
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Deferred Items (2010 Dues)	\$1,053.52
Total Assets	\$125,656.03

2009 Income and Expenses:

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Annual Membership Dues	\$9,807.39	FFN Printing	\$7,365.85
Life Membership Dues	\$1,200.00	Newsletter Printing	\$131.61
Interest/Asset Appreciation	\$20,767.23	Postage and Shipping	\$853.60
Page Charges	\$1,600.95	Operating Expenses	\$646.77
Meeting Income	\$6,608.00	Meeting Expenses	\$5,419.89
Special Publication Sales	\$20.50	Records Committee	\$1,412.07
Gifts General Fund	\$1,130.00	Web Hosting	\$122.75
Gifts Cruickshank Fund	\$165.00	Sales Tax (for previous year)	\$46.03
Gifts Robertson Fund	\$75.00	Cruickshank Award	\$1,405.00
Gifts Endowment Fund	\$60.00	Robertson Award	\$1,000.00
Gifts Friends of FFN	\$445.00	Education Award	\$500.00
Total	\$41,879.07	Student Awards	\$140.00
		Total	\$19,043.57

Change in Total Assets:

Totals	Balance
Total Assets December 31, 2008	\$102,820.53
Total Income 2009	\$41,879.07
Total Expenses 2009	-\$19,043.57
Total Assets December 31, 2009	\$125,656.03

Peter G. Merritt, Treasurer, 8558 SE Sharon Street, Hobe Sound, FL 33455

EDITORS' REPORTS

a. Florida Field Naturalist

Editor Robinson submitted a written report. Publication of FFN was running very smoothly thanks to Tom Webber's efforts. Vol. 38(1) was the fifth consecutive issue to appear on time, and Robinson and Webber have preliminary proofs for Vol. 38(2) (May 2010) that will be returned to the printer in a few days. There are 17 articles, notes, and reviews in queue for future issues in addition to the Field Observations section.

b. Newsletter

Editor Palmer submitted a written report. The winter issue was published but there were no submissions for the upcoming spring issue. Palmer was hoping an article on the recent "State of the Birds" report (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) might be put together or some more information on the Florida Shorebird Alliance. Once again, Editor Palmer asked for contributions for other members to help broaden the scope and information provided in the newsletter. Secretary Cox recommended Palmer set up a network of regional coordinators to help locate and submit articles.

c. Special Publications

President Jackson reported a new Special Publications editor was needed. Jim Rodgers had been contacted about the position and originally agreed to serve but then had to resign without reviewing any manuscripts. President Jackson asked for recommendations from the Board. Bill Pranty reported progress made toward publishing the *Important Bird Areas of Florida* as a Special Publication. Pranty set a deadline of 1 July 2010 to complete all work and agreed to perform a maximum of 50 hours of work at a charge to FOS of \$30 per hour. Pranty has edited the manuscript (reducing the manuscript to 212 pp) and has updated IBA accounts that have changed since 2002 (e.g., public acquisition of Babcock Ranch in Charlotte and Lee counties).

Pranty has exceeded the 50 hours thought to be required to finish the manuscript and is now volunteering his time to complete the manuscript. Work remaining is limited to updating a few accounts and to complete 3 introductory sections that are due within a month. After representatives from Florida Audubon have reviewed the manuscript, Pranty will contact E.O. Painter Printing Company and University Press of Florida for updated quotes on printing the book. Once these quotes are received, Pranty will pass the quotes along to the FOS President and Board for review and approval and work toward wrapping up publication of the IBA manuscript.

d. Web Site

Steve Bankert submitted a written report. He continues to update the site as needed and has begun to implement user accounts that allow Board members to post information (such as meeting info). He planned to finalize implementation of an on-line membership

form and on-line registration for meetings. He posted answers to the skin quiz presented at the fall meeting and hopes to launch a Google maplet that enables E-Bird sightings to be displayed. His goals for the coming months were (1) implement user accounts; (2) update the hard copy version of the state bird list; (3) post changes and updates as they are submitted; (4) implement the on-line membership and open-line meeting registration form. The on-going discussion about the North American Migration Count (NAMC) and relationship to E-Bird also had not yet been resolved. One issue is that some E-Bird postings might appear as migration counts yet not be formally associated with the NAMC. Director Kent said he used E-Bird regularly and believed this approach might work very well. Editor Bankert also asked Directors and Committee Chairs to review material on the web site for accuracy.

President Jackson thanked Editor Bankert for his work on the site and was very pleased with the functionality it provided. Director Goodwin said the site looked strange when accessed by Internet browsers and asked Editor Bankert to look into this issue. Director Goodwin also recommended uploading old photographs on the web site to help convey the history of the organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Archives Committee

No report submitted; no issues known.

b. Bylaws Committee

No action needed.

c. Conservation Committee

No report submitted. President Jackson exchanged e-mails with Chair Engstrom prior to the meeting. Chair Engstrom had hoped to schedule a meeting of this Committee to discuss the change in classification of the Peregrine Falcon in Florida. The Committee had not been able to meet and had not provided comments on this issue.

d. Editorial Advisory Board.

No report submitted; no issues known.

e. Field Observations Committee

Chair Bill Pranty submitted a written report. Through the Summer 2009 report that was published in the March 2010 issue of *Florida Field Naturalist* (Volume 38, Number 1) the FOS Field Observations Committee (FOC) has published 78 consecutive seasonal bird reports. The Fall 2009 report is in press and the Winter 2009–2010 report is in preparation. Gail Menk recently retired from the FOC after 13.5 years of service,

compiling reports from the Eastern Panhandle region. Chair Pranty asked the Board to thank Gail formally for his long service to the society. John Murphy of Alligator Point is the new compiler for the region.

Members of the Field Observations Committee and their duration of service are **Brian Ahern** (2006–present), **Bruce H. Anderson** (2000–present), **Andy Bankert** (2008–present), **John H. Boyd III** (2000–present), **Bob and Lucy Duncan** (2001–present), **Charlie Ewell** (2000–present), **Bev Hansen** (2000–present), **John Murphy** (2009–present), **Peggy Powell** (1989–present), **Bill Pranty** (1990–present), and **David Simpson** (2009–present).

f. Finance Committee

Murray Gardler and David Stock (Chair) provided a written report based on data received April 13, 2010 from the Treasurer. All funds showed a profit, which led to a 10.5% increase in the value of the organization’s portfolio. The Committee also noted that the Treasurer keeps \$15,000 to \$20,000 in money market account but typically needs only \$15,000 for annual operations. The Committee recommended that funds in excess of \$15,000 be placed in another account capable of generating a greater interest rate than a money market account.

The Price-Campbell Foundation Grant funds will be exhausted this year, so the Committee recommended a line item be placed in the General Operating Budget in the future for Web Hosting Services. Treasurer Merritt said this could be listed as part of normal operating expenses along with other fees or broken out separately depending on the wishes of the Board. The Committee also noted the continued decline in membership, which sustains the operating budget of FOS (declined from 322 to 316). Losses this past year were not as great as in previous years, but the continuing trend is a concern. A number of ideas were discussed, but, as noted by Treasurer Merritt, responsibility ultimately lies with the Membership Committee. The Finance Committee recommended a close examination of the situation and implementation of serious actions to address the problem.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations of Treasurer Merritt to transfer \$1,545.47 from the Operating Fund to the Robertson Award Fund to make up for the deficit now listed on the books. In addition, the Committee recommended securing PDF files for articles appearing in FFN at a rate of \$2.00 per page if possible. The Committee also recommended that a smaller print run be made for FFN to save money and trees.

The Finance Committee also noted the heavy work load of the Treasurer. The Committee recommends reducing this part of the job by finding someone to assist with membership activities. Treasurer Merritt suggested the Chair of the Membership Committee might eventually take on this responsibility, but he was capable of handling the workload for the foreseeable future. The Finance Committee also thanked the Treasurer for the superb job he was done.

g1. Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Research Award Subcommittee

Chair Katie Sieving provided a written report. The pool of applicants for the 2010 Cruickshank Research Award included a diverse mix of undergraduates, M.Sc., Ph.D., and one faculty member. Chair Sieving did not participate in the review of proposals because some of her students were in the mix of applicants. Instead, Michael Avery served as a third reviewer for the proposals along with standing Committee Members Todd Engstrom and Karl Miller. Chair Sieving also posted the proposals on-line for Board members to review prior to the meeting.

The 3 top-ranked applicants, amount requested, and project titles were:

Mr. Evan Adams; \$2,265; impacts of non-breeding mercury exposure on migration physiology and breeding ground preparation.

Ms. Nancy Chen; \$2,500; genome-wide SNP discovery for field-oriented genomic studies of the Florida Scrub-jay.

Mr. Derrick Thrasher; \$500; assessment of critical habitat for eastern Painted Buntings in northeast Florida.

The initial scores the Committee gave to the proposals submitted by Adams and Chen resulted in a very close ranking of these proposals, but the Committee ranked the proposal from Adams higher overall because the proposal had greater potential to inform conservation on an important issue (mercury contamination and migration). Based on the estimated funding available, the Committee also recommended funding for the proposal submitted by Thrasher, an undergraduate student, if there were not sufficient funds to support the larger requests being made by Adams and Chen.

Treasurer Merritt noted that \$2000 had been allocated to the Award in the approved budget but that a surplus was projected to occur for this year. He recommended funding the top proposal (Adams) for the full amount. The motion was seconded by Director Goodwin. Past President Hailman asked why this proposal, to which Treasurer Merritt replied that his motion was based on the recommendations of the Committee. Director Kent suggested providing support also for Thrasher because his request was relatively small and his proposal ranked highly. Treasurer Merritt allowed his motion to be amended to recommend funding Adams for \$2,000 and Thrasher for \$500. The amended motion was seconded by Director Goodwin and approved unanimously.

g2. Helen G. and Allan D. Cruickshank Education Award Subcommittee

No action.

g3. William B. and Mary J. Robertson Award Subcommittee

Wes Biggs provided a written report at the meeting. A proposal had been submitted for consideration Ms. Caroline Stahala, Florida State University, to study the rare Bahama Parrot. Ms. Stahala requested \$3,050 to support a project with a total budget of \$34,250. Chair Biggs noted the proposal fell well within the geographical area established for this grant and believed the work had high research and conservation merits. The Bahama Parrot is a marquee species The Committee recommended funding the project for \$2,000.

Treasurer Merritt noted a surplus was projected for the 2010 budget but the Robertson Fund had a deficit that needed to be offset with funds from another account. To support a new project, the Board would need to cover the deficit as well as the amount awarded the project. Director Kent moved that \$5,000 be transferred from the Operating Fund to the Robertson Award fund. The motion was seconded by Dave Goodwin and passed unanimously. Past President Hailman moved that FOS provide \$2,000 to support the work proposed by Ms. Stahala. Dave Goodwin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

h. Membership Committee

No report submitted. A discussion on the continued decline in membership include the following points:

- Need to tap compilers of Christmas Counts as potential members;
- Need to increase profile on the Internet by checking other bird-oriented web sites and recommending additional content;
- Need to show Florida birders that FOS is where you learn about birds, not just which birds occur in the State;
- Need to monitor list-serves and ask those who post to become members of FOS;
- Need to develop new meeting formats to encourage active birders to participate;
- Need to look into exchanging information with Audubon of Florida;
- Need to develop a Powerpoint presentation on what FOS does.

i. Nominating Committee

Chair Cox and Director Goodwin had located several candidates interested in serving on the FOS Board of Directors. The Committee was extremely pleased to announce that Treasurer Merritt had agreed to serve a final two-year term. The remaining positions that need to be filled included replacements for out-going President Jerry Jackson and out-going Directors Karl Miller and Ann Paul.

The Committee recommended Adam Kent be nominated for President. Kent is a Director on the Board and a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He works with the Wildlife Legacy Program in Northeast Florida and received his M.Sc. in natural resource conservation in 1995 from the University of Florida. Prior to starting his position with the Legacy Program, Adam worked as the Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Coordinator for FWC. He is an avid birder and also serves as a Board member of Alachua Audubon. He also made bird lists for wildlife

management areas, worked on the West and Panhandle section of the Great Florida Birding Trail, and written *Bird Detective*, a children's bird identification guide.

The Committee recommended nominating Marianne Korosy and Jon Greenlaw as Directors. Marianne is the outreach coordinator for the Florida Audubon Society Shorebird Habitat Project. She is completing her Ph.D. in Conservation Biology at the University of Central Florida where her research focused on Florida Grasshopper Sparrow and other species associated with the Dry Prairies of Kissimmee Prairies State Preserve. She serves on the Board of Clearwater Audubon and is well known for her organization of scores of "sparrow drives" throughout the grasslands of Florida. Jon is a professor of Biology (retired) at Long Island University and now lives in Cape Coral. He has published many books and papers on the Emberizidae, including the BNA account for Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1994). He collaborates with staff at Archbold Biological Station and also serves on the FOS Records Committee (including service as Secretary prior to Andy Kratter).

j. Records Committee

Chair Andy Kratter submitted a written report. The Records Committee of the Florida Ornithological Society has not met since the fall 2009 meeting of the FOS because of scheduling conflicts and a rather low rate of new submissions. Curiously, 2009 saw the most submissions by far of any calendar year since the Committee was established in 1982, but the rate has fallen off since the fall of 2009. Since our last meeting, we have had 31 new submissions. We are in the midst of a round of email voting on 17 of these submissions (generally submissions that are not controversial or require much discussion). The 14 other submissions require more in-depth analyses which we will discuss at our next meeting. In addition, we have five unresolved submissions from our last meeting. I am trying to track down submissions for several other review list species that have been seen in the past six months but not submitted to the FOSRC.

k. Ad hoc Committees

Karl Miller provided an update on the Paper Session Committee that assists with planning and coordination of paper sessions at FOS meetings. A central goal of the is to increase student participation at FOS meetings. To that end, a student paper competition was successfully launched at the October 2009 meeting. Approximately \$320 in donations was raised for student prizes. All student presenters received a one-year subscription to the Florida Field Naturalist. In addition, a first-place award of \$80 went to Judit Ungvari-Martin ("Urban Northern Mockingbirds quickly learn to identify individual humans"), a second-place award of \$40 went to Christine Stracey ("The roles of food and nest predation in shaping urban bird communities: the Northern Mockingbird, an urban adapter"), and a third-place award of \$20 went to Raya Pruner ("Habitat selection, reproductive performance, and the effects of anthropogenic disturbance of the Cuban Snowy Plover"). In all, 8 students and 4 non-student presenters gave presentations at the paper session. The committee plans to make the student paper competition a regular event, slated to occur during each fall meeting. Membership in the

Paper Session Committee consists of Directors Miller (Chair), Cox, and Kent; Vice President Sachs; and the Local Planning Committee at each FOS meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Breeding Bird Atlas

Rick West provided a conceptual plan for a second breeding bird atlas project for Florida. The plan outlined the importance of the project and organizational structure needed to complete the field work. Rick's plan stressed the role that the Florida Ornithological Society should play in the project, and he also stressed that he was willing to lead much of the effort and most of the groundwork had already been laid by the previous effort. Some key additional resources needed from FOS include web site administration, feed back from members of FOS in the newsletter and other outlets, and a strong endorsement and continued support by FOS Board and membership.

Vice President Sachs said the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would not likely take the project on, so FOS and other organizations will need to take a lead on the effort. David Stock offered to organize a planning meeting before the next Board of Directors meeting this fall and outline the role that FOS could play in the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Cox
FOS Secretary

