

Minutes taken at 2016 Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016
New Bern, NC, USA

8:34 Call to Order E. Nol

Welcome by E. Nol, Council Introductions

Moment of Silence and Obituaries by Susan
Jeremy Hatch, Hugh Boyd, Luc Hoffman

Motion to approve agenda Zambrano/Green unanimous

Motion to approve 2015 Minutes Green/Baird unanimous
Thanks to C. Green for 9 years of Secretary Service

Secretary Report, P. Szczys
Electronic voting, New Councilor elections reported

Motion to accept the sec report Green

Amendments required:

***Add to the report announcement of the creation of the diversity

***Add to the report October 5th website motion + October 22 Iceland motion + 4600 for heron symposium. Patty will amend the report and then have council vote electronically

***Add phone vote to have meeting with IOC

Motion withdrawn by Green

Discussion of electronic voting-

Motion to disseminate public results of all voting distributed to all of council of Zambrano/Craig unanimous.

Discussion of electronic council ballots: happy with higher response than previous years- reasons? Earlier ballot?

40th Anniversary Meeting Report, S. Schweitzer

Sara started planning in 2015. We have access to entire convention center for the week. Wednesday fundraiser event was announced on local NPR station (wine and design) we take 25% of profit. Registration opens at 3:00. Welcome reception begins at 7, on veranda weather permitting. 5 hours of 1970s music! Wednesday begins with Plenary and Erica's Welcome, Sara and Clay will make introductions of plenary speakers. MBTA Centennial celebration: Wednesday evening with drink tickets. Ballroom C will house the silent auction all week we will make some adjustments to the ending time for auction. Kayaking on Wednesday evening as well. Thursday morning, 7am breakfast, Stephanie (editor) will meet with students to discuss publishing. Walk to Tryon Palace History Center for evening poster session 5:30-7:30 catered and open bar. Posters can go up about 3:30. We should encourage posters to go up early especially for judging. Registrants will get a unique bird band and door prizes will be given at various venues. Special thanks to Sara and her team organizing this excellent event.

S. Elbin- Johanna Burger has organized a photo presentation plus also some games (baby pics of past presidents)

Discussion of Raffle ticket price for Stephanie Jones's Waterbirds t-shirt quilt. \$5 or 3x \$10.

Scientific Program, C. Green. Numbers are still dynamic 102 oral presentations 69 posters plus 4 plenaries: Felicia Sanders, Walker Golder, Jim Kushlan, Bryan Watts, Kevin McCracken; Kevin McCracken is the inaugural Kushlan Chair in Waterbird Biology and Conservation at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. Many symposia and workshops. Herons of the World Symposium brought people from 19 countries to the meeting. ADD specifics here. AMBC meeting is a little bit separate for the poster session. Something like 70 student presentations this year.

Future Meetings, C. Weseloh. 2017 is in Iceland; 2018 joint with IOC in Vancouver, still looking for 2019 New Orleans/Louisiana potential perhaps even Cuba. Asian meetings have been problematic due to distance and cost. Gopi Sundar wants to help to organize this type of opportunity. He believes there is great interest. Discussion of meeting with other societies, weakness is the size of the meeting that results. We can always do 3 concurrent sessions on our own, adding another society increases this by 2-3. IUCN specialist groups Storks, ibis, spoonbills, etc. may be a very good possibility. 2019 needs to be east of Mississippi to maintain NA membership. **ACTION ITEM** explore Asia for 2020

Editor's Report, S. Jones. Special Issues AMOY will be out in early 2017. Number of submission is way down, but that doesn't include the special issues. SI takes energy away from the journal, but keeps page numbers up. Can we move to 5 issues / year? Rejection rate is increasing, but overall quality of papers appears higher. Rejection rates for Spanish-speaking countries is high, not a language issue, but rather a content issue. Discussion of special issues. Page charges come from regular issues, but not from SI. Both types generate BioOne income. Special Sections are in the works but following Loons, there are no other SI in the pipeline. Some groups have money for SI page charges. Chris and Steph will explore these options.

Editorial board and review should investigate rejection rates by gender country etc. Impact factor is low and may influence submission for some people. Though not abnormal for a highly specialized journal. **ACTION ITEMS: Gopi Sundar diversity issues**

Publications Report, B. Palestis. Cengage-Gale licensing is moving forward. Some discussion of who is chair of the Publications Committee. Brian will chair/co-chair and we will solicit new members at the business meeting. Jim Fraser will serve. Should Publications and Editorial Board have a relationship? Do we even need a Pubs committee? At some point hiring a new editor. Jim Fraser: Open source publication may drive up the impact factor and then feedback to increased submission rate. Could scan meetings and publications and solicit authors/students to consider Waterbirds for the publication. In what form should we send our newest issues to Cengage-Gale? Right now it will be paper copies, they prefer a PDF. We need to preserve our relationship with BioOne. **A number of ACTION ITEMS possible here.**

OSNA Report, B. Palestis. Sean Murphy is our official rep and happened to also serve as President of OSNA. Brian helped out in OSNA discussion because of this conflict of interest. OSNA left Schneider Group we stayed so now we have a strange situation because other societies went with MemberSuite we are sticking with Schneider Group so what is OSNA? Erica spoke with

Bonnie at NAOC. How can we stay in OSNA for group mailings? Apparently we can stay for free for a while to be part of the mass mailings. No longer have common membership form with other societies. OSNA doesn't really know if they will remain OSNA since this split and since OE functions in many of the same ways. AOS is large enough to pay someone to do the work that Schneider Group used to do, we are not. Is OSNA an incorporated entity? Chris- important for us to maintain connections with the other societies. Will we provide another rep after Sean completes his term at the end of the year? OE serves many of the functions that the OSNA so it is likely to dissolve over the next year.

2018 IOC, P. Baird. Met with Bob Elner (IOC convener). Report submitted this morning. International Bird Week in Vancouver that week. Involving the First Nations people. Conservation in the Middle East, with representatives from many countries. We should be the go-to place for PR related to the Waterbird portion. Opening ceremonies by same group as Vancouver Olympics. Society focused activities are in the works, paper session, symposia, student activities, business meeting etc. Rooms are gratis for an extra day of just Waterbirds stuff. We need to think through the silent auction. What are the deadlines for making these decisions? Competition for general session may be really high, so we may want to have our own sessions the day before. Some concern that this set up may self-segregate and not draw in new members, but may also be very good for student participant. Aug 20 is the opening for IOC, so we could have our sessions on Aug 20. Appears there will be high rejection rates. IOC voted that there would be no static posters rather more like lightening talks. Council meeting would be August 19. Pat will lead the organizing Waterbirds activities throughout the week. Pat can get rooms if people would like to convene informal roundtables. Formal workshops within IOC have a deadline for request, Pat will get that deadline. Send a request to all members as soon as we know the deadline. Symposia (pat submitted) already accepted: **Wetland Foodwebs - The Importance of Long-Chained Fatty Acids For Shorebirds and Seabirds.**

Membership, B. Palestis 585 members, flat for a few years down just a bit from before that. 75% are US but 36 nations are represented. Renewal reminders and welcome emails to new members. Well-received. Letters include link to renewal form. Life member is an option and is separate from emeritus membership. Emeritus seems to be working well, includes electronic access only and retirement is required. 18 emeritus members currently.

Treasurer's Report, C. Custer. We are in excellent financial shape- revenue greater than expenses. All previous reports are posted on the website. Revenue is quite close to last year at this time, expenses are slightly up. Likely to finish the year similar to last year. Membership is plateauing. BioOne and JStor is important income. Cengage-Gale provides about \$600 to Wilson each year, we look forward to a new income stream. ~20K per year comes from page charges. Page charges require lots of follow-up to get the payments made. GoFundMe campaign was not widely successful, but we did collect ~\$1300 for the Heron Symposium this way. Membership rates have not increased in about 15 years so this needs to be discussed at some point. Electronic memberships are cheaper so this accounts for some of this. Journal is our greatest expense. Painter Publishing encouraged us to go digital and helps us to save money. Moving from 3-4 issues got us a better periodical rate. Publisher is very helpful in this regard. Other expenses are mainly smallish maintenance. Expenses now include the special projects funds. Chris will track that alongside the other expenses. Details of special projects are outlined in the report. In total about \$9000 were spent on special projects. About 30% of operating surplus goes to this fund before depositing into the endowment. Meeting proceeds have normally been

added to the endowment. We are in a good spot so Chris suggests discussion of using this revenue stream to support travel for the next meeting. This would require council action. Schneider group costs will be up to \$6000 for the transition from OSNA to our own database. We will not pay OSNA during the 4th quarter since we are already out on our own. Profit and Loss report is very consistent year-to-year. Student travel awards are 2500 this year. Chris outlined all details found her report. Net income is likely to be ~20k at the end of the fiscal year. **Kathy suggests that we consider a specific policy special issue page charges. Publications committee needs to discuss this ACTION ITEM.** Brian: Why does cost to print and post vary so much? Chris explains that the format of papers, tables and figures, changes the cost drastically. Chris double-checks the bills with high variance. Discussion of Bio-One revenue trying to explain a linear increase in revenue. Summary of Society, Kushlan, and Nisbet endowments come later in the agenda, but the outlook is good. Kushlan gave a few large deposits early, hence flat, Nisbet makes annual contribution, hence growth.

MOTION to accept Treasurers Report. J. Fraser/C. Green unanimous

Bylaws Report, J. Spindelov. How do we handle a tied election? This does not need to be handled by this committee at this time. Jeff deals with questions. **Bylaws maybe need to be update on the website, they don't appear to be the most recent. ACTION ITEM. Secretary should bring a hard copy of the bylaws to each meeting. ** remember to do this**** 2013 appears to be the last vote of change to bylaws according to Jeff. This was likely minor changes to the previous large changes to them following the strategic plan. Clay, Jeff, and Patty will get this together.

Archives Report, J. Anderson. Electronically documenting all history. Archiving all electronic messages (!). May be searchable in the future. Council, please participate in the video archive project. The Archive will be stored at CoA for now, but goal is to get it on the website for long-term access. John is covering a lot of this work at CoA with work-study students. Panel of Past-Presidents will be a good opportunity at lunchtime on Friday for recording. Dropbox is available for photo contributions.

Recognition Awards, J. Anderson. Less active over several years, so we are making a renewed effort and both awards will be awarded during this meeting. **ACTION ITEM Mike Erwin is stepping down in December. Gopi and Sara K are ending terms and John is ending in 2017. We need to find new members. Sara K could chair Patty will join if needed.**

Student Activities Report, J. Lamb. Report includes details of last year's winners. Photos haven't been submitted, we need timely photo publishing. 2015 Student Mentor Luncheon was a great success we have 35 students signed up for this year so we need some additional mentors. 24 travel awards funded mean award \$100. 54 student presentations. Events: Student-editor breakfast, roommate matching successful, AV support for sessions gets them involved, diversity lunch. Discussions for continuing the momentum of student activities- we are off to a great start. Bowling, button game, past-presidents passport etc. to get students integrated. Liz Craig is a new member of the committee. Strategies for getting students onto committees.

Conservation Report, S. Elbin. Selected a paper in Waterbirds that illustrated conservation ethic- our first award. Jonathan has been in discussion with Ellen Paul re: political action, but not much in the area of Waterbirds came up this year. Working with Student Activities for creating a paper presentation award for outstanding contribution to conservation. This will be developed for

2018. Clarification needed for what the awards are, monetary or books like other awards.
ACTION ITEM: Need to make a headline on the website of the Conservation manuscript award.

LUNCH BREAK

1:49 rejoin

Grants Committee Report, D. Moore. Kushlan award to a Tanzanian scientist ibis schizosome relationships and application to human health \$7000. 2nd award reddish egret population viability \$600. Two awards remain within 3% of 5 yr. running average. Nisbet award UC Santa Barbara western gull foraging behavior \$1100. Indian biodiversity society survey of gulls and terns to fill information gap \$950. Consolidating grant and financial reports for the endowment donors. Logistics are being ironed out for this round. Goal is to pull together for the year-end report. Partial report is required for Kushlan, December 1st at the latest. Will do for both endowments. 33 Kushlan and 8 Nisbet submissions. Review requirements are becoming more challenging. There is a grant service that was an intermediary for some of the applications this year. This made for a lot of extra confusion. **Dave will circulate the name of this service and we will update the website to reflect that we are not associated with this service. Only submissions directly to Dave Moore as indicated will be reviewed, or similar language will be developed.**
ACTION ITEM. Cover page part of application will be updated so that excel can harvest data automatically. Awards will be announced at the business meeting. "Instrumentl" is the grant service.

Outreach and communications, N. Tsipoura & P. Szczys. Website overhaul and investment in social media. @waterbirdsociety Icelandic Brochure in the works. GoFund Me campaign raised about \$1000. Should be now converted to other ventures such as student travel to Iceland. Needs to be a personal story, discussion about strategies to maximize donation but retain flexibility. Patty is resigning so we need to find volunteers to work predominantly on the web. Amanda Moore may be an excellent candidate.

2017 Meeting Proposal- Sigriou Hronn Gunnarsdottir. 8-12 August 2017. Accommodations will be arranged for a variety of budgets. University of Iceland. Pre-tour and 2 post-tours are arranged. Council meeting 8 August. 1.5-2-hr mid week tours. Boat tour Thurs 10 August. Saturday 12 August, 3 options for full day field trips. Registration Site is set up for the event already. icelandtravel.artegus.com registration site and for booking tours etc.

OC Report, S. Elbin. Ellen Paul provided a detailed report. She also is very keen to facilitate ornithologists through the permitting process. American Bird Conservancy used to be our go-to for conservation issues. Susan gets ABC and Audubon alerts and brings them to committee.
ACTION ITEM: Susan suggests that someone (young professional) could take over her position if needed. Small Grants program is available through OC.

Diversity Report, L. Craig and J. Lamb. Very first report of the diversity committee formed earlier this year. Committee formed in response to the HB2 issue with our NC meeting place. Susan and Liz are co-chairs with 10 additional members. Special fund to support travel to NC and the statement made to the membership seems to have influenced willingness to travel and meet in NC even under HB2. Stickers are colored logos to represent diversity. Stickers will be given at registration. Panel discussion related to diversity on Thursday at lunchtime. Discussion of broadening the focus to ethnic and other diversities. Discussion of what this committee may do

in the future and how to be proactive rather than reactive. Can we do community outreach at our meeting site. This committee should work with the Nominating and Student Activity Committees to make headway.

Nominating Report, K. Parsons. Slate of five council candidates- balloting was very successful this year. Proposal to amend the bylaws to designate a student representative. General agreement so discussion ensued regarding logistics of implementing. Committee will discuss and bring a motion to council. Kathy and Susan are co-chairs of this committee going forward.

Finance Report, C. Custer. Professional investment company, Parsec, takes care of this for us 0.6% of value is the fee. The allocations are made to ensure long-term stability. 2015 was not the best year in the stock market, but the funds are doing well. Committee is carefully managing the take for awards from endowment earnings. **ACTION ITEM: This committee really needs additional members.** Jennifer Stucker is stepping aside as chair at the end of the year but will stay on as a member. She recommends that Ricardo Zambrano take over as chair after several years of membership on the committee. Financial procedures policy from ~2011 is posted on the website. New members are Jim Fraser and Nellie Tsipoura.

Motion to appoint Ricardo as Chair of the Finance Committee effective Jan 1, 2017. Szczys/Elbin unanimous

Special Projects Report, C. Custer. Updated projects list is included in full reports. To add a new project, justification is needed for how it will impact membership, journal, meeting, or general society. If the request is made each year it no longer really is a “special project” and should be accounted for on the operating budget. Discussion of student travel funding. Cannot just waive the registration for students due to local budget for meetings. Discussion of how to increase funding and to leverage this for best use to meet society goals of diversity and membership. General support for increasing funding, discussion of logistics.

Motion to allocate annual meeting profits to student travel rather than being invested in the endowment. Jones/Brzorad unanimous.

Motion to allocate proceeds from quilt raffle be allocated to student travel awards. Szczys/Baird unanimous

2017 Budget Proposal, C. Custer. Detailed proposal attached Table 2. ~\$99k income ~\$76.6K expenses, projects another year in the black. minimum available for special projects is between 4 and 5k perhaps up to 10K.

Motion to approve 2017 budget proposal. Brzorad/Zambrano unanimous

Motion to approve Committee Reports exclusive of Secretary’s report Craig/Brzorad unanimous

New Business. Stephanie Jones. 40th anniversary celebration in the journal? Any suggestions? 40 years of species trends? Guest editorial future of waterbird research.

Motion: to provide electronic membership to international researchers who could not come to this meeting because of expense, this includes about 12 individuals. Weseloh/Jones unanimous

ACTION ITEM: Explore the opportunity to use webinar technology for international researchers in the future.

ACTION ITEM: S. Elbin. Past Presidents cannot currently vote in council, can we change this and do we want to?

Motion: to Adjourn Liz/Brzorad unanimous. 4:51pm

2017 Secretary's Report—41st Annual Meeting Waterbird Society

Annual mailing.

On March 20, 2017, Schneider Group sent electronic ballots to the membership proposing a bylaw amendment to add a student-specific council seat. Votes were due by May 19, 2017. A one-week reminder for members to vote was sent.

On May 31, 2017, Schneider Group sent electronic ballots (for three councilor positions and our new student councilor seat) to the membership and votes were due by August 1, 2017. A one-week reminder for members to vote was sent.

We welcome: Dan Caitlin, Sean Murphy, Kate Sheehan to the Council 2018-20 and Kate Shlepr as our inaugural student councilor 2018-2019; Dave Moore president-elect 2018-2020
[add before Council Meeting after balloting closes on 8/1]

Council Votes.

This was another busy year on the council! There were ten (10) motions put forth since the last Executive Council meeting in New Bern, North Carolina, USA. The following motions were held electronically where councilors emailed their vote to both Erica Nol and Patricia Szczys.

Motion 1. to accept the 2016 Secretary Report as amended.

Date: 28 Sept 2016

Motion by S. Elbin, Seconded by J. Fraser

Motion Passed 14 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 2 no response

Motion 2. to award a \$1500 honorarium for the Kai-Curry Lindahl award.

Date: 3 October 2016

Motion by S. Elbin, Seconded by S. Bowhuis

Motion Passed 13 yeas, 1 nays, 0 abstain, 2 no response

Motion 3. to add a student seat to Council and authorize the Secretary to prepare a ballot for the vote of the membership to make the appropriate bylaws change.

Date: 7 November 2016

Motion by K. Parsons, Seconded by E. Nol

Motion Passed 15 yeas, 1 nays, 0 abstain, 0 no response

Motion 4. that the Waterbird Society write a letter encouraging the USFWS to re-hire the position of Waterbird Coordinator that was vacated by Jennifer Wheeler.

Date: 21 November 2016

Motion by P. Baird, Seconded by R. Zambrano

Motion Passed 16 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 0 no response

Motion 5. that the Waterbird Society formally withdraw from OSNA effective Jan 1, 2017.

Date: 13 December 2016

Motion by C. Custer, Seconded by S. Elbin

Motion Passed 16 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 0 no response

Motion 6. to accept the additional verbiage (suggested by Chris Custer) to the bylaws to enable additional types of Councilors. ^^paused for motion to amend below

Date: 2 February 2017

Motion by S. Elbin, Seconded by C. Green

Motion Passed ___ yeas, ___ nays, ___ abstain, ___ no response

Motion 7. to amend the motion on the floor by removing the proposed bylaw changes and inserting the following italicized text: ***

Date: 15 February 2017

Motion by K. Parsons, Seconded by C. Green
Motion Passed 11 yeas, 1 nays, 1 abstain, 3 no response

Motion 8. to accept the additional verbiage (suggested by Chris Custer) to the bylaws to enable additional types of Councilors. Elbin/Green (2Feb) as amended by K. Parson's motion (15Feb) and supported by council vote (6Mar).

Date: 7 March 2017

Motion by S. Elbin, Seconded by C. Green
Motion Passed 10 yeas, 1 nays, 0 abstain, 5 no response

Motion 9. to approve the description of a new Waterbird Society Research Award submitted by the Grants Committee.

Date: 3 April 2017

Motion by J. Fraser, Seconded by P. Szczys
Motion Passed 13 yeas, 1 nays, 0 abstain, 2 no response

Motion 10. to approve the recommendation of the Conservation Committee, to award the 2017 Publication Award for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation to Kristen Ellis et al. for "Factors Influencing Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) Nest Survival at Great Salt Lake, Utah"

Date: 6 April 2017

Motion by S, Elbin, Seconded by P. Szczys
Motion Passed 12 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain, 4 no response

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Szczys, Secretary
July 31, 2017

^^^General notes:

1. we wanted this bylaw change to also allow for other types of Councilors without further bylaw changes. Other types of Councilors were not a part of the narrowly focused discussion on student representative, but this bylaw change will provide for possible inclusion of other types of Councilors in the future.

2. we have two options going forward (1) once Council has approved of the verbiage, it can be put to the required vote of the general membership via an electronic ballot. That vote would need to begin no later than March 1 and would cost ~\$500. That vote would close on May 1 so that a student could appear on the ballot for our normal election of officers and councilors for 2018. That cost would be ~\$500 as well. The (2nd) option is to combine the bylaws vote with our normal officer and councilor election ballot that will be sent to the general membership on ~June 1. Option #2 would mean that there would not be a student official on council until 2019, but would save the organization \$500 in election costs.

When you provide your comments on OE please address (1) comments on the specific verbiage for the bylaw change, as well as (2) whether you favor 2 electronic ballots or just one.

Suggested verbiage inserted in

Article 2. Governance

Section 2a. inserted as second to the last sentence

Other categories of councilors, e.g. Student, Honorary, Geographical, etc. may be added or removed by a 2/3rd vote of Council. Term length, eligibility, other requirements, voting or non-voting, etc. will be determined when needed by an ad hoc committee.

****To address the points below, I move to amend the motion on the floor by removing the proposed bylaws change and inserting the following italicized text:*

2a. *The Society is governed by an Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of all officers of the Society, the two most recent past Presidents who remain in good standing, nine councilors elected for three year terms with one third elected each year, a student councilor elected for a two-year term, and Editor of the Journal, who is a Council member ex-officio with full voting rights. All Council members must maintain their membership in good standing.*

Points for discussion:

1. **As written, the proposed bylaws change, to be voted on by membership, does not provide the best chance for adding a voting student councilor to Council.** Council voted to add this seat with membership approval of a bylaws change that would provide for a permanent expansion of the Council by one member. All members of Council as identified in our bylaws have voting privileges and specified terms of service. The proposed bylaws change is not written to **accomplish** what we support (given membership approval of the bylaws change), but rather to provide language that would **allow** addition of a student seat and also possibly other unspecified expansions. Whether the student seat is a voting seat or not will be determined by an ad-hoc committee. Therefore, even if the bylaws change was adopted by the membership, a voting student seat might not be added if the ad-hoc committee didn't recommend it. In addition, because the proposed bylaws change is attempting to anticipate other possible expansions of the Council, it may appear to the membership to be unfocused and unjustified, and thereby jeopardize a positive vote by the membership.
2. **It is not clear how we would implement the new bylaw if the change was adopted.** It is not clear if the ad-hoc committee would have final say on voting and other important aspects and/or if the Council would be required to vote again to add a student seat with voting privileges once we receive the ad-hoc committee recommendations. The Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of adding a student seat. It is not clear why we would propose a bylaws change that would require us to vote on this again.
3. **There has been no discussion or justification in adopting a bylaws change that provides for the expansion of the Council beyond the approved student seat.** Because a well-functioning Council is of critical importance to the Society, it is premature to make a bylaws change that allows for unlimited expansion of our governing body. The student seat if approved by the membership would bring the Council to 17 members. Due to the current size of the Council and our full-day agenda at annual meetings, enlarging the Council further without justification threatens efficient functioning.

Editor's Mid-year 2017 Summary for *Waterbirds*

Stephanie L. Jones

30 July 2017

My role as editor is now in its fifth year, with Sandy MacPherson continuing as the associate editor and E. O. Painter Printing Company continuing as the publisher. Here, I provide data summaries on submission origin, acceptance rate, and page counts in the tables at the end of this report.

Volume 40 (2017) Summary: *Waterbirds* issues 40(1) (March 2017) and 40(2) (June 2017) were both published on schedule. Issue 40(3) September 2017 is at the printer and contains seven Articles and four Notes.

Mid-year and annual submission rates are summarized below. We are still receiving submissions from a broad international base (35 countries this period). Unfortunately, the number of submissions is still low, both for the 2016 total and the 2017 mid-year. Perhaps, this is a function of the number of pages devoted to recent special issues (see below).

Number of Submissions		
Year	Mid-year	Total
2009	75	136
2010	69	117
2011	59	109
2012	70	113
2013	52	110
2014	73	126
2015	67	97
2016	41	102
2017	52	
Mean (SD)	62 (12)	113 (13)

BioOne and Painter are making each issue electronically accessible. The frontispieces (color plates and figures in the beginning) are now all on BioOne. *Ibis* also posts our Table of Contents on Facebook, along with selected articles.

Special Issues: The American Oystercatcher Special Issue was published in February 2017, totaling 12 Articles in 126 pages. I am presently working on special sections in the regular issue concerning cormorants and herons.

Finally, I again would like to express my gratitude to the Editorial Board for their willingness to assist me during my term as editor; thank you all. As always, I invite your suggestions and critiques regarding the quality and direction of *Waterbirds*.

SUMMARY OF VOLUME CONTENTS

Year (volume)	2009 (32)	2010 (33)	2011 (34)	2012 (35)	2013 (36)	2014 (37)	2015 (38)	2016 (39)	2017 (40) Mid- Year
Regular (# pages)	592	555	461	563	507	464	434	430	194
Special (# pages)		40		74		147		288	126
# Articles	55	45	44	42	33	32	29	24	13
# Notes	14	19	18	15	21	19	25	24	10

**Submission Summary, by decision and region
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

Action	No.	%
Submitted	112	
Rejected	45	40
Accepted	62	55
In process	5	5
Resubmit from earlier years	3	
Published (thus far)	30	

Region	No.	%
North America	43	38
United States	41	
Canada	2	
Europe	20	18
Africa	2	2
Asia	14	12
Latin America	25	22
Mexico	4	
New Zealand	3	3
Middle East	5	5

Submission summary, by country and taxa

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Country	Number	Rejected (%)	Taxon	No.
Argentina	10	10	Anatidae	17
Belgium	1	0	Spheniscidae	2
Brazil	5	60	Podicipedidae	1
Canada	2	50	Ciconiidae	4
Chile	1	100	Ardeidae	9
China	4	75	Diomedidae	1
Costa Rica	1	100	Pelecanidae	2
Denmark	1	0	Anhimidae	1
Ecuador	1	0	Heliornithidae	1
Finland	1	100	Phaethontidae	1
France	2	0	Procellariidae	3
Germany	1	0	Threskiornithidae	4
Hungary	1	0	Alcidae	1
Iceland	1	0	Larinae	3
India	5	60	Sterninae	13
Iran	2	0		
Italy	1	0	Passeriformes	2
Malaysia	1	100	Assemblage	14
Mexico	4	75	Review paper	1
Morocco	1	0	No. species	66
Nepal	1	100		
New Zealand	3	33		
Peru	1	100		
Poland	4	50		
Portugal	2	50		
Puerto Rico	1	0		
South Africa	2	100		
South Korea	2	50		
Spain	2	50		
Tibet	1	100		
Tunisia	1	100		
UAE	2	50		
UK	2	0		
USA	41	37		
Venezuela	1	0		
Total	112			
No. countries	35			

Future Meetings Committee – Annual Report -- 2017

Members:

Committee Chair: Chip Weseloh, chip.weseloh@canada.ca

Members: Susan Elbin and Jeff Spendelow

2017 Committee Activity

The main activity of this committee is to find prospects for hosting future annual meetings of the Society. In planning future meetings, we take into account the following:

- location of previous meetings.
- length of time since we last met in the eastern U.S or Canada (the core area of our membership) Note In discussing where to have our meetings, Council suggested, a few years ago, that we meet outside our core area no more than once or twice in 3-4, 4-5 years. We are aware that for every two year period when we do not meet in our core area, we miss an entire cycle of MSc students for potential membership.
- field trip opportunities for the local area. .
- presence of a Waterbird Society member who could act as Local Committee Chair. For example, since Weseloh assumed the chair of this committee (2006), we have tried to arrange meetings in Louisiana and repeatedly in Florida but have been unable to find anyone willing to act as the Local Chair.

2017 Annual Meeting

For this year's meeting, we approached two members from Iceland who had attended at least one previous meeting. One of them replied that he was keen to have our meeting in Iceland and contacted the Icelandic Tourism office to take on the planning of the meeting; that is how our Society started working with Sigga. This is the first time we are aware of having used a tourism agency (and not a WbS member) to do the major part of our planning. It will be interesting to see how this meeting goes compared to previous, member-chaired Local Committee meetings. We welcome feedback on this from the Council.

2018 Annual Meeting

Council voted to hold the 2018 Annual Meeting in conjunction with IOC meeting in Vancouver. (Note: our 2012 Annual Meeting was also in Vancouver and concurrent with the NAOC.) Council member Pat Baird is the organizing contact for the Waterbird Society portion of the meeting, and she will present a report on meeting progress.

2019 Annual Meeting

We are working with Bill Bowerman, current Dept. Chair of Environmental Sciences and Technology at the University of Maryland, to find a venue for us to meet on Maryland's Eastern Shore. There is a U of MD campus on the Eastern Shore at Princess Anne, MD; that campus also houses a Culinary School and a conference centre. Bill has set up a 5 person Local Committee, and his Dean is keen to have UMD host the meeting.

There are at least two conference centres on the Eastern Shore (the other one is at Salisbury, MD) and at least two National Wildlife Refuges. Bill is very keen to host the meeting and says "We'll do it!" His proposal will be submitted in the next couple of months. We will need to vote on it by email. If accepted, Bill says he could make a presentation about the 2019 meeting during the Waterbird Society Council meeting in Vancouver (2018).

Beyond 2019

We are soliciting suggestions for future meetings. Clay Green has offered to reach out to colleagues in Louisiana again (for 2020?) and we do have an offer from Montana to host a meeting there (in 2021?) As a result of the last year's World Heron Symposium, we received inquiries about possibly meeting in Costa Rica and Africa, but there have been no responses beyond our initial replies of encouragement.

Timing of the Annual Meeting

Looking at our history of when our meetings have been held, nearly 50% of past meetings have been held in October and 70% have been held in October or the first two weeks of November. In respect for our Canadian members, we have avoided having meetings during the week-end that includes the 2nd Monday of October; that is the Canadian Thanksgiving. ☺ Given the field season for waterbirds, the above timing makes the most sense. We will urge Bill to plan on a mid-late October date for 2019.

For your information, listed below are the locations of our annual meetings since 2009.

YEAR	LOCATION
2009	Cape May, NJ
2010	Grand Isle, NE (Spring)
2011	Annapolis, MD
2012	Vancouver, Canada
2013	Wilhelmshaven. Germany
2014	LaPaz, Mexico
2015	Bar Harbor, ME
2016	New Bern, NC
2017	Reykjavik, Iceland
2018	Vancouver, Canada
2019	??Eastern Shore, MD

Request to Council

- Present feedback to the Future Meetings Committee Chair about the 2017 meeting specifically about using a tourism agency
- Suggest future meeting locations and local committee commitments for 2020 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Weseloh,

Chair

Conservation Committee of the Waterbird Society

2017 Annual Report

Co-Chairs:

Jonathan Cohen (jcohen14@esf.edu)

Charles Clarkson (cec2p@virginia.edu)

Members:

Jeff Spendelow (jspendelow@usgs.gov)

Susan Elbin (selbin@nycaudubon.org)

Nellie Tsipoura (nellie.tsipoura@njudubon.org)

Ricardo Zambrano (ricardo.zambrano@myfwc.com)

Brad Andres (Brad_Andres@fws.gov)

Katharine Parsons (katharinecparsons@gmail.com)

Alison Kocek (arkocek@syr.edu)

Kate Sheehan (kate.l.sheehan@gmail.com)

Stephanie Jones (editor.waterbirds@gmail.com)

Caroline Poli (cpoli@ufl.edu)

Katie Schroeder (Schroederk15@students.ecu.edu)

Paige Byerly (pabyerly@gmail.com)

2016-2017 Committee Activities:

We welcomed three new student members, Caroline Poli, Katie Schroeder, and Paige Byerly. The committee selected the recipient of the second "Publication Award for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation." The award is intended to recognize papers in *Waterbirds* that further our Society's mission to promote conservation based on sound science.

The award went to:

Ellis K.S., J.F. Cavitt, and R.T. Larsen. 2015. Factors influencing Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) nest survival at Great Salt Lake, Utah. *Waterbirds* 38:58-67.

Stephanie Jones raised concerns regarding the rollback of nontoxic shot regulations on National Wildlife Refuges. Ellen Paul suggested forming a working group to put together a position statement on nontoxic shot. Jonathan Cohen began discussing the issue with an expert at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in April.

2017-2018 Proposed Activities

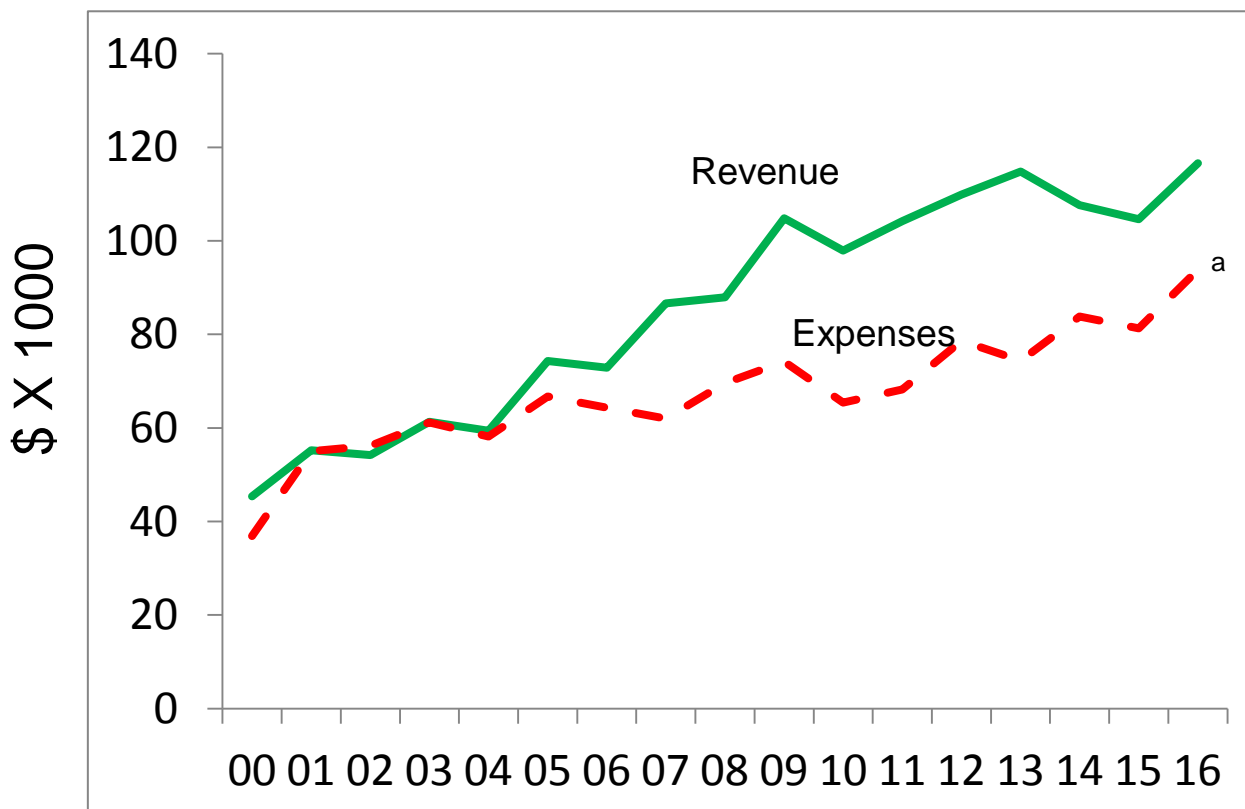
We will work with the Student Activities committee to establish guidelines and criteria for a new student paper award for outstanding contribution to conservation, a priority from last year that we did not act on. We will follow up with experts on toxic and nontoxic shot to provide guidance documents or a position statement on the use of nontoxic shot for hunting and its potential effects on waterbirds.

Waterbird Society - Treasurer's Report – 2017 (July 11)

Prepared by: Christine M. Custer

Overview – Our Society is in great financial shape. Our expenses and revenues are both approximately stable, and we are maintaining a positive gap between the two (Fig. 1) with the revenue line exceeding the expense line since ~2005. Based on revenue and expenses to date (July 11) and a comparison to the same expenditures and revenue at this same time last year (Appendix A), we will finish the year similar to previous years, i.e. in excellent financial shape with a decent surplus. All annual financial reports are available at www.waterbirds.org with the last 5 years available in the Appendix B of this report.

Figure 1. Summary of all revenues and expenses

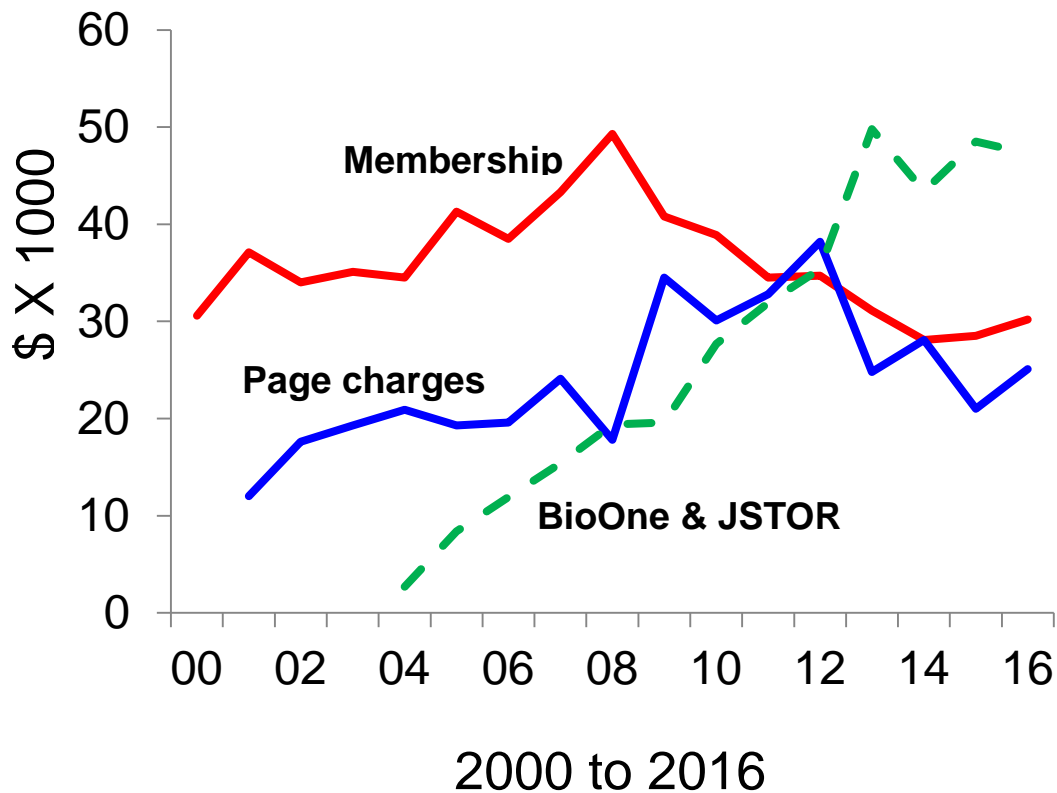


2000 to 2016

^a does not include \$9.4K of special projects

Revenue – Our three main sources of revenue have now stabilized with our electronic revenue sources (BioOne & JSTOR) being the largest (Fig. 2) of the three. Whereas membership dues and page charge revenues were traditionally the most important revenue sources in the early years of our society, our electronic revenue sources now surpasses those two starting in 2013, providing us with a tripartite revenue stream. That is a healthy situation, i.e. to be more diversified in our revenue streams. Our trajectory for membership revenue seems to have bottomed out and our electronic membership revenue has topped out). Membership revenue (red line) increased slowly through 2008 and has declined fairly consistently since then, but appears to have stabilized. This decline is because we have not increased our dues for nearly 10 years and there has been a shift away from membership with print subscriptions to electronic only. Electronic memberships cost members less, hence less revenue is generated. Subscription revenue (libraries) has also declined slowly as well, but both membership categories are more than offset by BioOne and JSTOR revenue (green line). It is likely that many libraries, as well as individuals, are opting for electronic subscription packages, such as BioOne and JSTOR, rather than continuing to purchase a paper subscription for the journal. It would appear that our BioOne and JSTOR revenue have reached a plateau and we will fluctuate around ~\$47K per year.

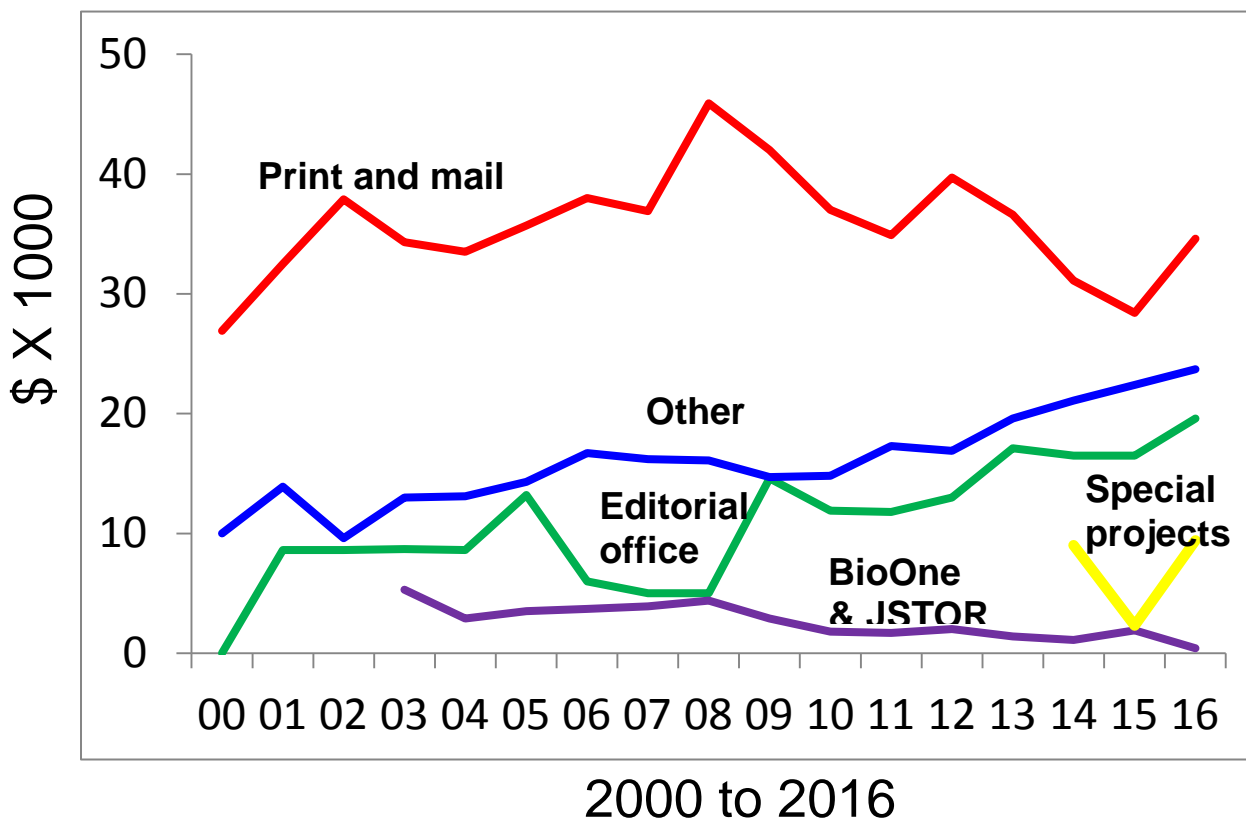
Figure 2. Main revenue sources



We recently voted to engage with Cengage which is a subscription based service, similar to BioOne, but which has a different client base. We do not anticipate that the two client bases will overlap or compete, so they should be additive in terms of providing revenue. We have not received any revenue from Cengage as yet, but may well begin receiving revenue next year. Page charge revenues, because they are voluntary, are more variable, but are averaging >\$20K year.

Expenses – Our largest expense is still to print and mail our journal (Fig. 3) followed by editorial office costs. Our costs to print and mail the journal now costs the same as it did in 2000 because we are printing and mailing fewer paper copies and because our printer, E.O. Painter Printing Co., raises costs only modestly, if at all. Furthermore, our current policy is that new members, that we acquire via the meeting registration process, will be ‘electronic only’ members so that smooth’s out the ‘Print and Mail’ expenditures line and keeps that expenditure more predictable year to year. Additionally, we moved to digital printing in 2015, which is less expensive than typesetting the journal, and this offset a proposed cost increase that was pending. Digital printing now allows us to offer the option of color plates at a more reasonable cost (\$450 per plate); more authors are opting for this feature which they pay for. Another important reason that our publication costs have remained essentially flat since about 2002 is because more than ¾’s of students and a growing number of regular members are now electronic-only members.

Figure 3. Main expense sources



Our 'other expenses' for general operating costs, and includes web page hosting, dues to the Schneider Group for membership services, liability and Directors and Officers insurance, etc., have started to creep up, but are still very reasonable. Our BioOne and JSTOR costs have actually decreased because some of those costs to convert files to the appropriate electronic format are now being born by the respective companies. Finally, we have added a new expense category in 2014, shown by the yellow line which are Special Projects. We spend ~\$9000 in 2014 to pay for computer programming for meeting registrations and abstract submission, scientist travel to our meeting in La Paz, Mexico, and to begin the process to convert our paper archive to digital format. In 2015, we spent \$2000 to bring in a special plenary speaker from the Netherlands to the Bar Harbor, ME meeting and a small amount to tweak the meeting programming. In 2016 we paid for a major re-development of our web page (\$4680), as well as, travel stipends for 3 South American scientists to travel to the First International Heron Symposium being held here in New Bern. Our special projects total for 2016 was \$9373.00

For Special Projects, our policy is to identify projects that enhance the Society and then set that money aside from our Operating surplus for dispensation the following year rather than it being transferred into the general endowment and then removed later on in the year. Further, Council decided to spend up to ~30% of the projected Operating surplus in any given year (for 2016 = ~\$10K per year) with the rest of the surplus going to the general endowment. If a Special Project becomes a re-occurring expense then it makes sense to move it to the Operating budget. Over the past several years, one of our reoccurring special projects has been to increase travel funds for student travel, but also to fund scientists from developing countries to attend our annual scientific meeting (Project #4). We are now using \$3000/year from past meeting profits to augment the revenue from the silent auction and it is no longer considered a special project.

The transition to stay with the Schneider Group to handle our membership-related activities went seamlessly. The Schneider Group provides all of the services that we have received in the past, such as, responding to telephone and fax questions, handling the renewal process with libraries and other subscribers, contacts and data sharing with BioOne, maintaining the membership databases (both current and historic), sending out email blasts to members, and providing the web-based new member and renewal web page.

Specific details for our operating costs so far in 2017 are in Table 1, but to highlight a few details. We front end load most of our revenue, except for page charge revenue; we have received \$102.7K to date. Regular memberships bring in \$20.2K while student memberships and library subscriptions bring in \$3.1K and \$3.7K. *Waterbirds* volume 40(2) has just been printed, so we have only begun to receive page charge payments for that issue. The credit card fees are for page charges that are charged on a credit card, plus the monthly fees charged by the credit card companies. The Dues category covers payment to OE (bill not yet received), Ornithological Council (\$3K), and the rest to the Schneider Group.

Table 1. Operating and Balance sheets for 2017, Year-to-Date. Investment values on the Balance sheet are values as of Jan 2017.

Waterbird Society		
Profit & Loss		
January 1 through July 11, 2017		
<hr/>		
Jan 1 - Jul 11, 17		
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Awards-donations	9,831.94	Transferred from their endowments
BioOne	47,611.00	
Interest Income	173.16	
JSTOR	4,087.94	
Membership Dues		
credit card fees	-923.38	
donations	495.00	
Emeritus	585.00	
Family Dues	230.00	
Life Dues	1,000.00	
OSNA miscel.	602.00	
over/short	-74.00	
Regular Dues	19,979.50	
Student Dues	3,129.50	
Subscriptions	3,690.00	
Total Membership Dues	<u>28,713.62</u>	
Miscellaneous Income	12.87	Amazon Smile
Page Charges		
39(4)	5,940.28	
40(1)	4,299.00	
40(2)	200.00	
40(3)	1,810.00	
Total Page Charges	<u>12,249.28</u>	
Total Income	<u>102,679.81</u>	
Expense		
Allen Press	791.89	storage, claims, fulfillment
Credit Card fees	1,535.85	
Dues	8,248.12	Schneider Group, OC,
Insurance	2,137.00	
Journal Editor Expenses		
Editorial Assistance	2,790.00	
Journal Editor Expenses - Ot...	6,750.00	40(1) & 40(2)
Total Journal Editor Expenses	<u>9,540.00</u>	
Mailing Ballots/Meeting Notices	500.00	Bylaws vote
Miscellaneous Expense	50.00	wire fees
Officer Expenses		
Treasurer	34.50	
Total Officer Expenses	<u>34.50</u>	
Printing & Postage		
39(4)	8,666.00	
40(1)	9,236.76	
40(2)	6,974.40	
Total Printing & Postage	<u>24,877.16</u>	
Professional Fees	397.20	
Total Expense	<u>48,111.72</u>	
Net Ordinary Income	<u>54,568.09</u>	
Net Income	<u><u>54,568.09</u></u>	

Waterbird Society
Balance Sheet
 As of July 11, 2017

	Jul 11, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cash in Checking	10,054.51
Meeting_checking	1,646.08
Money Market	133,461.52
Parsec	
Kushlan - cash	1,475.80
Kushlan Amer. EuroPacific	7,740.86
Kushlan Amer. EuroPacific-CL	28,518.75
Kushlan AQR Futures	9,033.82
Kushlan Columbia Dividend	64,916.79
Kushlan Fidelity contra	56,781.98
Kushlan IsahresCore S&P Sma...	8,251.20
Kushlan Janus enterprise	8,037.46
Kushlan Metro. West Bond	23,602.70
Kushlan Metro. West High-Yield	6,979.20
Kushlan Oppenheim. Devel. Ma...	10,976.11
Kushlan Oppenheim. Int. Bond	4,504.31
Kushlan Perkins Mid Cap	16,405.94
Kushlan Templeton Global Bond	10,001.59
Kushlan Thorn. Ltd term income	21,476.59
Kushlan Vanguard Inflation	10,257.17
Nisbet - cash	456.62
Nisbet AmCap Fund	13,109.92
Nisbet Amer. EuroPacific	7,644.53
Nisbet Amer. EuroPacific-CL	9,099.54
Nisbet AQR Futures	3,240.55
Nisbet Columbia Dividend	30,417.14
Nisbet Janus Enterprise	5,540.08
Nisbet Matt. Pacific Tiger	3,005.24
Nisbet Metro.W. HighYldBond-...	2,782.49
Nisbet Metro.West Highyield Bon	7,473.69
Nisbet Perkins Mid Cap	5,410.83
Nisbet Pimco Real Return	4,904.84
Nisbet Templeton Global Bond	5,131.52
Nisbet Thron.Ltd term income	7,682.22
Society - cash	2,470.99
Society AmCap fund	44,500.35
Society Amer. EuroPacific-CL	88,844.98
Society AQR Futures	22,189.45
Society Columbia Dividend	138,477.57
Society Fidelity Contra	79,229.58
Society Ishares S&P Small Cap	10,314.00
Society Janus Enterprise	16,477.97
Society Matt. Pacific Tiger	15,286.67
Society Metro. west Bond	52,762.87
Society Metro.West HighYield Bo	12,606.74
Society Perkins Mid Cap	19,897.75
Society PIMSO Real Return	5,806.87
Society Templeton Global	9,579.01
Society Templeton Global Advi...	22,069.32
Society Vanguard InflationProof	17,676.21
Society Vanguard Short Term Inv	41,862.61
Society WisdomTree Midcap	25,954.50
Society WisdomTree TR Emerg...	4,693.20
Total Parsec	1,025,560.12
Total Checking/Savings	1,170,722.23
Total Current Assets	1,170,722.23
TOTAL ASSETS	1,170,722.23

Waterbird Society
Balance Sheet
As of July 11, 2017

	Jul 11, 17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Holding - meeting proceeds	9,587.94
Holding - New Bern	10,676.77
Holding IOC - 2018	-9,000.00
Holding WoodStork	9,497.21
Prepaid donations auction proceeds	3,606.00
Total Prepaid donations	3,606.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	24,367.92
Total Current Liabilities	24,367.92
Total Liabilities	24,367.92
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	0.02
Retained Earnings	1,091,786.20
Net Income	54,568.09
Total Equity	1,146,354.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,170,722.23

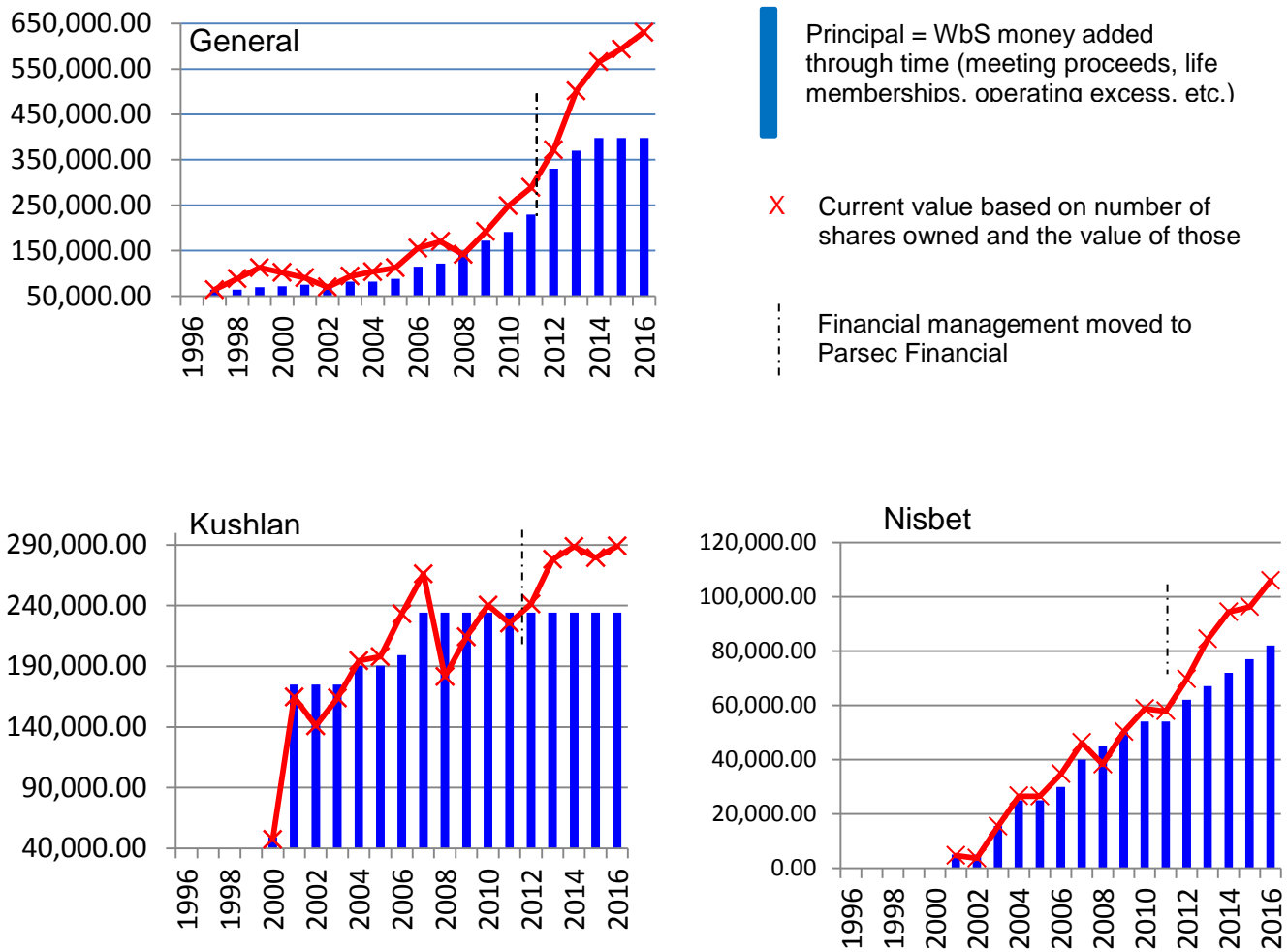
Not reflected in Table 1, as yet, are still two quarterly payment due to the Schneider group (~\$4330 total) and one more issue of the journal to be produced (~\$7000). Gail has obligated \$4950 for student travel with some additional funds held back to pay for the potential cost of a 'ticket' for students to attend the farewell gathering and silent auction. The Kushlan and Nisbet awards (\$9800) for this year still remain to be paid, but have been included in the revenue side already. Editorial Office costs shown will double to cover the costs for the remaining two issues for the year, and there will be additional Professional fees for our IRS 990 preparation. We also have a \$500 cost for our officer and councilor election, \$800 to Allen Press for back issue storage and claims, and ~\$1200 in credit card and other fees (wire transfers etc.). Once those costs are in, I anticipate ending the year with \$10,000 - \$15,000 in the black. Using the 30% rule, we will have ~\$3 - 4.5K for Special Projects for 2018.

I've put our current list of Special Projects and their status in Appendix C. This is a living document and we can add ideas either during this meeting or anytime during the year. We have made good progress addressing the needs identified in our special projects list.

One item that we should do this year is to recycle excess issues of *Waterbirds* being stored at Allen Press. We do this every 3 – 5 years and it's that time again. Our inventory at Allen Press is in Appendix D. I suggest that we reduce volumes 34 – 37 down to 75 copies each at a cost of \$0.15 per copy (= \$125). We'll recoup that cost within a year in reduced costs to warehouse our back issues (\$0.0375 per copy per quarter). We won't recycle any special issues as the call for them is unpredictable.

Finally, a general summary of the three investment accounts is in Fig. 4. The stock market has been doing well for the past several years. Ricardo Zambrano, Chair of the F&I Committee will be providing more detail.

Figure 4. General summary of 3 endowment accounts.



The 2018 budget is in Table 2. It is very similar to the 2016 & 17 budgets especially because our BioOne revenue source seems to have plateaued and many of our expenses are projected to be similar to last year as well. We also have increased publication costs relative to 2016 because Council approved color plates in each journal issue and a raise for our Editor. The projected amount available for Special Projects based on the 30% rule is ~\$3000 - \$5000 available. Special Project's funding does not have to be decided now, but can be allocated over the course of the coming year and new ideas added as needed.

Table 2 – Preliminary draft budget for 2018.

Waterbird Society
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 January through December 2018

	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Auction/Raffle Proceeds	0.00	To be determined
Awards-donations	0.00	To be determined
BioOne	45,000.00	
Interest Income	350.00	
JSTOR	4,000.00	
Membership Dues	30,250.00	
Page Charges	<u>23,000.00</u>	
Total Income	102,600.00	
Expense		
Allen Press	1,400.00	
Awards	0.00	To be determined
BioOne-expenses	400.00	
Credit Card fees	4,000.00	
Dues	12,000.00	Schneider Group \$8660, OC \$3000
Insurance	2,137.00	
Journal Editor Expenses	20,000.00	
Mailing Ballots/Meeting Notices	500.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	200.00	
Officer Expenses	500.00	
Printing & Postage	34,000.00	
Professional Fees	2,400.00	
Special Projects	<u>0.00</u>	To be determined
Total Expense	77,537.00	
Net Ordinary Income	25,063.00	
Net Income	<u>25,063.00</u>	

Bylaws Committee of the Waterbird Society

2017 Annual Report

Membership:

Jeff Spendelow, Co-Chair: JSpendelow@usgs.gov

Chris Custer, Co-Chair: CCuster@usgs.gov

Dave Moore: Dave.Moore@ec.gc.ca

This committee welcomes new members—those interested in serving should contact the chair.

2017 Committee Activities:

Bylaws were amended this year to add a student representative to Council. The student representative is a full voting member of Council and is elected for a 2-year term.

2017 Proposed Work of the Committee:

Given the recent revision to the bylaws, and our satisfaction that they contain the correct mix of general statements and specifics so that the WbS can operate soundly (but maintain flexibility to address issues that might arise), no major activities by this committee are anticipated for the remainder of the year.

Requests for Council Action:

The Committee has no issues that require discussion or voting at the upcoming Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Custer, Co-Chair

11 July 2017

Publications Committee of the Waterbird Society

2017 Annual Report

Membership:

Brian Palestis, chair (bpalesti@wagner.edu)

David Essian (dessian2015@fau.edu)

Jim Fraser (fraser@vt.edu)

Clay Green (claygreen@txstate.edu)

Erica Nol (enol@trentu.ca)

Gopi Sundar (gopi@savingcranes.org)

2016-2017 Committee Activities:

The Publications Committee added a student member for the first time, David Essian.

At the 2016 Council Meeting the Publications Committee was charged with making a recommendation on whether page charges should be requested for articles in special issues. The Committee discussed this topic and recommends that we stay with current practice and do not begin asking for page charges with special issues.

The Committee discussed Tweets that were critical of the journal and how to respond in the future.

The Committee, with the editor and treasurer, discussed a request to reprint a *Waterbirds* article in a book. We agreed to allow the article to appear in the book, with the condition that the following statement was added to the first page:

Published by the Waterbird Society: Poe, A. J., M. I. Goldstein, B. A. Brown and B. A. Andres. 2009. Black Oystercatchers and Campsites in Western Prince William Sound, Alaska. *Waterbirds* 32: 423–429.

In addition to BioOne, new issues of *Waterbirds* are now available through Gale/Cengage Learning databases. An agreement was signed just before the Council meeting in New Bern, and Schneider Group now sends Gale/Cengage paper copies of the journal as for a print-only subscription.

Brian Palestis continues to serve as link between Editor and BioOne for highlighting feature articles from *Waterbirds* on the BioOne website.

According to the statistics posted on BioOne, *Waterbirds* has an impact factor of 0.68 and ranks 19th of 24 indexed ornithological journals. On Google Scholar, *Waterbirds* ranks 12th among ornithology journals with an h5-index of 13. Both indices are based on the number of times articles published in *Waterbirds* are cited.

The possibility of an “online only” societal journal that would focus on publishing survey data, status updates and scientific papers of a similar nature was discussed again at the Council Meeting in New Bern. Unless someone with a strong interest spearheads this idea, it is unlikely to occur. In addition to editorial policy and responsibilities, background work would be required to assess the feasibility of an online journal (including potential costs, limitations, software/web hosting requirements, etc).

The current three-year terms of the editor (Stephanie Jones) and associate editor (Sandra MacPherson) run through 2018. Either their terms need to be renewed or extended or a search for a new editorial team will need to begin soon.

Product Code	Product Short Name	Quantity on Shelves	Warehouse ID
COWA001000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 1	20	WAA
COWA002000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 2	5	WAA
COWA004000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 4	45	WAA
COWA005000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 5	38	WAA
COWA006000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 6	38	WAA
COWA007000	Colonial Waterbirds Vol 7	50	WAA
COWA008001	Waterbirds 8(1) 1985	21	WAA
COWA008002	Waterbirds 8(2) 1985	67	WAA
COWA009001	Waterbirds 9(1) 1986	50	WAA
COWA009002	Waterbirds 9(2) 1986	29	WAA
COWA010001	Waterbirds 10(1) 1987	29	WAA
COWA010002	Waterbirds 10(2) 1987	79	WAA
COWA011001	Waterbirds 11(1) 1988	23	WAA
COWA011002	Waterbirds 11(2) 1988	26	WMA
COWA012001	Waterbirds 12(1) 1989	26	WMA
COWA012002	Waterbirds 12(2) 1989	27	WMA
COWA013001	Waterbirds 13(1) 1990	9	WMA
COWA013002	Waterbirds 13(2) 1990	22	WMA
COWA014001	Waterbirds 14(1) 1991	26	WMA
COWA014002	Waterbirds 14(2) 1991	16	WMA
COWA015001	Waterbirds 15(1) 1992	25	WMA
COWA015002	Waterbirds 15(2) 1992	26	WMA
COWA016002	Waterbirds 16(2) 1993	9	WMA
COWA017001	Waterbirds 17(1) 1994	14	WMA
COWA017002	Waterbirds 17(2) 1994	17	WMA
COWA018001	Waterbirds 18(1) 1995	15	WMA
COWA018002	Waterbirds 18(2) 1995	7	MAIN
COWA018SPE	Volume 18 Special Issue 1995	12	WAA
COWA019001	Waterbirds 19(1) 1996	16	WMA
COWA019002	Waterbirds 19(2) 1996	27	WMA
COWA019SPE	Volume 19 Special Issue 1996	25	WMA
COWA020001	Waterbirds 20(1) Apr 1997	26	WMA
COWA020002	Waterbirds 20(2) Aug 1997	27	WAA
COWA020003	Waterbirds 20(3) Dec 1997	26	WMA
COWA021001	Waterbirds 21(1) Apr 1998	22	WAA

COWA021002	Waterbirds 21(2) Aug 1998	23	WLA
COWA021003	Waterbirds 21(3) Dec 1998	23	WMA
COWA022001	Waterbirds 22(1) Apr 1999	23	WAA
COWA022002	Waterbirds 22(2) Aug 1999	23	WMA
COWA022003	Waterbirds 22(3) Dec 1999	23	WMA
COWA023003	Waterbirds 23(3) Dec 2000	36	WAA
COWA024001	Waterbirds 24(1) Apr 2001	22	WAA
COWA024002	Waterbirds 24(2) Aug 2001	22	WAA
COWA024003	Waterbirds 24(3) Dec 2001	22	WAA
COWA025001	Waterbirds 25(1) Mar 2001	23	WMA
COWA025002	Waterbirds 25(2) June 2002	23	WAA
COWA025003	Waterbirds 25(3) Sept 2002	23	WMA
COWA025004	Waterbirds 25(4) Dec 2002	23	WMA
COWA026001	Waterbirds 26(1) Mar 2003	23	WAA
COWA026002	Waterbirds 26(2) June 2003	23	WMA
COWA026003	Waterbirds 26(3) Sept 2003	23	WAA
COWA026004	Waterbirds 26(4) Dec 2003	23	WMA
COWA027001	Waterbirds 27(1) Mar 2004	10	WMA
COWA027002	Waterbirds 27(2) June 2004	23	WAA
COWA027003	Waterbirds 27(3) Sept 2004	23	WMA
COWA027004	Waterbirds 27(4) Dec 2004	23	WAA
COWA028001	Waterbirds 28(1) Mar 2005	23	WMA
COWA028002	Waterbirds 28(2) June 2005	23	WMA
COWA028003	Waterbirds 28(3) Sept 2005	23	WMA
COWA028004	Waterbirds 28(4) Dec 2005	23	WMA
COWA029001	Waterbirds 29(1) Mar 2006	29	WMA
COWA029002	Waterbirds 29(2) June 2006	29	WMA
COWA029003	Waterbirds 29(3) Sept 2006	29	WMA
COWA029004	Waterbirds 29(4) Dec 2006	29	WAA
COWA030001	Waterbirds 30(1) Mar 2007	29	WAA
COWA030001S	Waterbirds of the Chesapeake B	183	WAA
COWA030002	Waterbirds 30(2) June 2007	29	WAA
COWA030003	Waterbirds 30(3) Sept 2007	29	WAA
COWA030004	Waterbirds 30(4) Dec 2007	29	WAA
COWA031001	Waterbirds 31(1) Mar 2008	29	WMA
COWA031002	Waterbirds 31(2) June 2008	29	WLA

COWA031003	Waterbirds 31(3) Sept 2008	29	WMA
COWA031004	Waterbirds 31(4) Dec 2008	29	WAA
COWA032001	Waterbirds 32(1) Mar 2009	29	WMA
COWA032002	Waterbirds 32(2) June 2009	29	WAA
COWA032003	Waterbirds 32(3) Sept 2009	29	WAA
COWA032004	Waterbirds 32(4) Dec 2009	29	WMA
COWA033001	Waterbirds 33(1) March 2010	99	WAA
COWA033001S	Waterbirds 33(1) Birds Rice Field	68	WAA
COWA033002	Waterbirds 33(2) June 2010	99	WAA
COWA033003	Waterbirds 33(3) Sept 2010	99	WAA
COWA033004	Waterbirds 33(4) December 2010	43	WMA
COWA034001	Waterbirds 34(1) March 2011	98	WAA
COWA034002	Waterbirds 34(2) June 2011	98	WMA
COWA034003	Waterbirds 34(3) September 2011	98	WAA
COWA034004	Waterbirds 34(4) December 2011	60	WAA
COWA035001	Waterbirds 35(1) March 2012	99	WAA
COWA035001S	Waterbirds 35(1) Special Pub Ma	78	WMA
COWA035002	Waterbirds 35(2) June 2012	99	WAA
COWA035003	Waterbirds 35(3) September 2012	96	WAA
COWA035004	Waterbirds 35(4) December 2012	117	WMA
COWA036001	Waterbirds 36(1) March 2013	170	WAA
COWA036002	Waterbirds 36(2) June 2013	138	WAA
COWA036003	Waterbirds 36(3) September 2013	154	WMA
COWA036004	Waterbirds 36(4) December 2013	169	WAA
COWA037001	Waterbirds 37(1) March 2014	112	WMA
COWA037002	Waterbirds 37(2) June 2014	150	WMA
COWA037003	Waterbirds 37(3) Sept 2014	145	WMA
COWA037004	Waterbirds 37(4) December 2014	136	WAA
COWA038001	Waterbirds 38(1) March 2015	145	WMA
COWA038002	Waterbirds 38(2) June 2015	106	WMA
COWA038003	Waterbirds 38(3) Sept 2015	45	WMA
COWA038004	Waterbirds 38(4) December 2015	42	WMA
COWA039001	Waterbirds 39(1) March 2016	104	Wma
COWA039001S	Waterbirds 39(1) Special Pub Ap	80	WMA
COWA039002	Waterbirds 39(2) June 2016	87	WMA
COWA039003	Waterbirds 39(3) Sept 2016	93	WMA

COWA039004	Waterbirds 39(4) December 2016	79	WMA
COWA040001	Waterbirds 40(1) March 2017	88	WMA
COWA040002	Waterbirds 40(2) June 2017	96	WMA
COWA251SPE	Waterbirds Volume 25 Special Pt	18	WMA
COWA252SPE	Waterbirds Volume 25 Special Pt	41	WAA
COWA281SPE	Waterbirds Volume 28 Special Pt	90	WMA
COWA311SPE	Waterbirds Volume 31 Special Pt	117	WLA
COWA312SPE	Waterbirds Volume 31 Special Pt	211	WMA
COWA401SPE	Waterbirds Volume 40 Special Pt	124	WMA
	Sum:	6150	

Membership Committee of the Waterbird Society

2017 Annual Report

Membership:

Brian Palestis, chair (bpalesti@wagner.edu)	Pat Baird (pab7@sfu.ca)
Larry Bryan (lbryan@srel.uga.edu)	Liz Craig (ecraig@nycaudubon.org)
Susan Elbin (selbin@nycaudubon.org)	Tommy King (Tommy.King@aphis.usda.gov)
Dave Moore (Dave.Moore@ec.gc.ca)	Michelle Petersen (mpeter45@fau.edu)
Nellie Tsipoura (nellie.tsipoura@njudubon.org)	Ricardo Zambrano (Ricardo.Zambrano@myfwc.com)

2016-2017 Committee Activities:

Sent out a welcome letter to new members in January.

Sent out emails to 207 lapsed members, those who were members in 2016 but not in spring 2017. This number is higher than normal (mean = 184 from 2014-2016), perhaps because of some confusion with the transition away from OSNA renewals.

The emails to lapsed members serve two purposes: 1) To remind those who may simply have forgotten to renew. 2) To get helpful feedback on why individuals don't renew. Typical responses to the letters were answers like: I forgot to renew/plan on renewing soon, or decided not to renew because of money and/or no longer working with waterbirds. Two individuals specifically mentioned the inconvenience of having to renew separately from the OSNA societies. Within about a month of sending out the emails, 27 of those on the lapsed member list had now renewed. The letters also helped us catch a few errors in the database (missing or incorrect email addresses).

Data on membership trends were collected from the OSNA/Schneider Group database and compared to previous years. The number of members increased slightly in 2017, compared to 2016 and 2015 (see below for details).

Provided information on membership status and contact information to members of the Nominations Committee and the Future Meetings Committee and to Ellen Paul, for access to Ornithology Exchange.

The chair of the Membership Committee served as acting representative to OSNA until the move away from OSNA became official, because Waterbird Society representative Sean Murphy was in the awkward position of serving as OSNA president during this transition. The chair also

worked with Treasurer Chris Custer, Schneider Group, and the webpage committee during the shift to the new process for joining the society and renewing memberships.

Society Membership Numbers and Trends

Total members: 581 as of 6 July 2017. This compares with 569 in both 2015 and 2016 at the same time of year. (Note: by 22 August 2016 the number of members had increased to 585. The numbers through early July are used here to allow a better comparison with previous years.)

The number of members had been declining for several years, but now appears to have stabilized.

Although we have members from 45 nations (up from 36 in 2016), 73% of our members are from the United States. After a temporary increase with the 2014 meeting in Germany, numbers in Europe have declined below where they were in 2013. In 2017 we gained members in Asia and South America, but lost members in Canada.

Table 1. Membership in different countries/regions:

United States	426	(similar to 2016, up from 2014 and 2015)
Canada	45	(down from 53 in 2016)
Spain	8	(down from 12 in 2016)
Germany	7	(similar to previous years, except 2014 meeting)
Netherlands	7	(similar to previous years)
Other Continental Europe	12	(down from 29 in 2013, 39 in 2014)
U.K. + Ireland	9	(similar to previous years)
Iceland	3	(was 2 in 2016)
Mexico + Central America	7	(similar to previous years)
South America	11	(up from 5 in 2016)
Japan	11	(similar to previous years)
India	7	(up from 1 in 2016)
Other East and South Asia	11	(up from 6 in 2016)
Australia + New Zealand	6	(similar to previous years)
Africa	4	(similar to previous years)

All others

4

The number of Regular members has declined in recent years, although Regular membership is still by far the largest membership category (Table 2). The number of student members increased noticeably in 2017. Since being introduced in 2014, the emeritus category has grown to 20 members.

Table 2. The various membership categories are summarized, comparing across recent years.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2017 as % of total</u>
Emeritus	8	15	18	20	3%
Family (+Fam 2 nd mem.)	11	15	14	12	2%
Life	71	71	70	70	12%
Regular	428	399	397	388	67%
Student	80	69	70	91	16%
Total	598	569	569	581	

Excluding second family members, who do not get a separate journal subscription, 56% of members receive the journal electronically only. 2017 is the first year that this number has been above 50%. The increase is not simply due to an increased number of students, as 61% of Regular members are “electronic only”.

A large number of individuals join for one year and do not renew: 39% of the lapsed members were members for only the 2016 membership year. It is likely that many are simply those who joined to attend a specific annual meeting (either joining at the 2015 meeting or prior to the 2016 meeting).

Not surprisingly, turnover is highest among student members. Students comprised 12% of the membership in 2016, but 19% of lapsed members. Just over half (52%) of our current student members are new members.

Item for Discussion:

Should we decrease the number of print mailings that Schneider Group sends out for membership renewals? They “usually do three print mailings and of course, multiple emails. The mailing company is discounting the last mailing and it only goes to those who have not renewed.” Total cost for the 3 mailings this year was \$918.

July 9, 2017

Student Activities Committee, Waterbird Society

Membership: Gail Fraser (gsfraser@yorku.ca), Juliet Lamb (jslamb@g.clemson.edu), Linda Wires (wires001@umn.edu)

2016-2017 Committee Activities

New Bern, NC Meeting

Student presentations

Twelve judges evaluated 35 student oral paper presentations and 23 posters.

Best paper: Katherine (Kate) Shlepr GPS tag attachment is likely to affect hatching but not chick rearing in Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), awarded \$250

Best Poster: Sophia Orzechowski – Quantifying the impacts of Burmese pythons on wading bird reproduction, awarded \$250

Paper award: Betsy Evans- Dietary flexibility of wood storks in response to human-induced rapid environmental change in South Florida, awarded a clip board and \$

Poster award: Michael (Mikey) Cornish Using a commercially-available UAS to count nesting gulls on Great Duck Island Maine, awarded a clip board and \$

This information was posted on the WBS website, though without photos.

<https://waterbirds.org/awards/student-presentation-awards/>

Student Activities

Juliet Lamb worked with the local organizing committee to arrange a mentoring event (Mentor Panel and Discussion Session during a lunch). A total of fourteen senior society member acted as mentors, and twenty-three students participated. Students received biographies of participating mentors ahead of time, and chose their preferred mentors based on research and career interests. The local organizing committee chose an area of the lunch space that was designated for the event, and students and mentors had preference in the buffet line on the day of the lunch.

Reykjavik, Iceland Meeting-- 2017

Student Travel Awards

We solicited applications for student travel awards for the upcoming 2017 meeting in Iceland and received 17 applications (9 MSc; 8 PhD). All but two of the students (both MSc) who applied reside in North America. The amount allocated by Council for the Student Travel Awards was \$6606. However, in consultation, we have set aside \$1530 to support student attendance to the banquet. All 17 applicants

received a travel award (range \$250-325, average \$267.5 for MSc students; and \$325; total \$4950), but one student (PhD) declined the offer. The average award was higher due to the costs associated with the meeting location. Award amount allocated was on the basis of: distance travelling and degree student is working towards. Usually the quality of the application is consistently high, so it is difficult to use that as a way to separate out applicants.

Student presentations

There are 35 student presentations for the upcoming meeting. Based on feedback after the previous meeting, we ensured that guidelines and judging criteria for the Best Student Paper awards were posted on the website for reference in advance of the meeting.

Student activities

A student-mentor lunch is planned for the Reykjavik meeting. This will be the third consecutive year for this event, and students and mentors who participated in the Bar Harbor and New Bern events have contributed positive and constructive feedback. Coordinating with the local committee to reserve tables for the event has not been possible, so the format will be slightly different, with students and mentors pairing up once they arrive at the lunch rather than being assigned to groups ahead of time. We hope that this will reduce the number of no-show participants and make it easier to incorporate last-minute additions.

16 July 2017

2017 Grant Committee Report

Committee: Rena Borkhataria, John Brzorad, Tom Custer, Dave Moore (Chair)

The deadline for 2017 proposals was 15 July, so the Committee has not had an opportunity to review and rank proposals, and award grants. This information will be provided with an updated report at the Council meeting in Reykjavík.

In 2017, there were six proposals for the Nisbet Award and 15 for the Kushlan Award. There were 55% fewer applications for the Kushlan award this year compared to 2016, but the numbers are in line with previous years (Fig. 1). Four additional applications were not considered, as they fell outside of the scope of both awards. As in previous years, applications were broadly international (Fig. 2) and represented a diversity of research questions (Fig. 3) and waterbird species (Table 1).

For interest, we've included some information on the profile of applicants, which has differed between the two awards over the past three years (2015-17). The gender ratio is at parity for the Kushlan award (50% female; similar among years), while the Nisbet award consistently has a higher proportion of female applicants (76% female; Fig. 4). Overall, in terms of career stage, there is a mix of students and professionals (e.g. PhDs, professors, researchers from governments and ENGOs) applying for both awards. Kushlan award applicants are more frequently professionals (63% vs. 37% students), while a higher proportion of students (57%) apply for the Nisbet award (Fig. 5). This demographic information may be useful in terms of developing an advertising strategy for the awards, or for outreach or membership recruitment. One startling figure (2015-17 pooled; n=82 applicants who provided information) is that 86.4% of applicants have never been members of the Waterbird Society and 3.7% of applicants are lapsed members (i.e. 90.1% are not current members). So, there is a large pool of researchers who share an interest in the Society's focus and mandate, but for one reason or another, do not become members.

The Committee will meet during the week of 24 July, 2016 (TBD) via conference call to discuss the applications. Before the meeting, each committee member will independently rank the applications according to the rubric posted on the Society's web page (<https://waterbirds.org/research-grants/proposals/>). Applications ranked in the top three for each award will be discussed and assessed further during the conference call.

Topics to be addressed at the Council meeting in Reykjavík:

- Announcement of winners for the 2017 Kushlan and Nisbet grants, and ratification by Council
- Review of and addressing comments on the draft terms of reference for the proposed research fund to support basic research, monitoring (status/abundance and distribution) and conservation studies of waterbirds (no taxonomic restrictions), analogous to and complimenting the Nisbet and Kushlan Awards. Creation of this award was passed (in principle?) by Council, but

there was not enough lead time to implement it for this year's competition. There seems to still be some questions regarding the goal of the award and wording in the TOR.

- Discussion of changing the deadline for grant applications (15 July) earlier in the year, so that funding would be in place for recipients before they begin field work on their projects (which is sometimes contingent on getting funding). Also, it would relieve some of the stress of having to submit (for applicants) and assess (for committee members) applications in the middle of the field season.

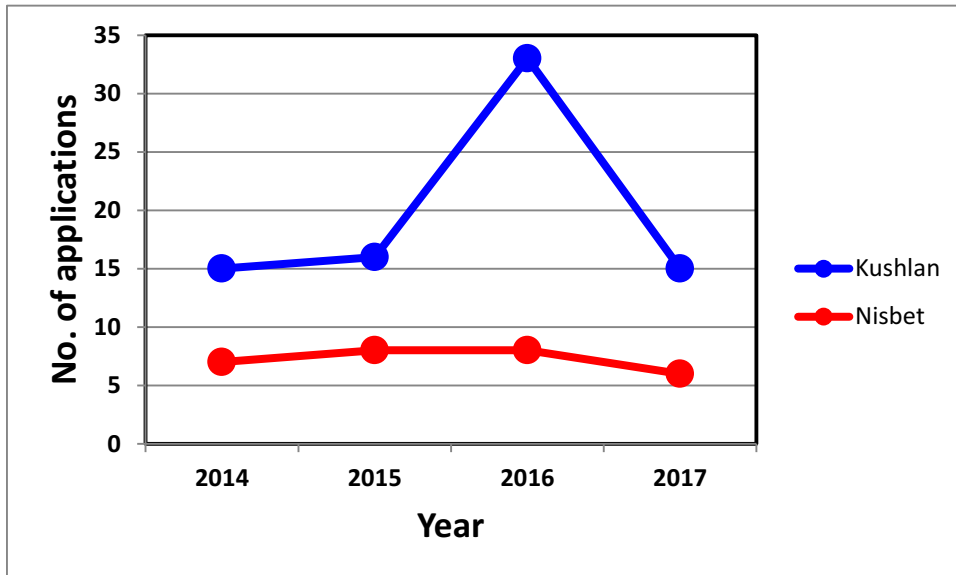


Fig. 1. The number of applications for Kushlan and Nisbet grants, 2014-2017.

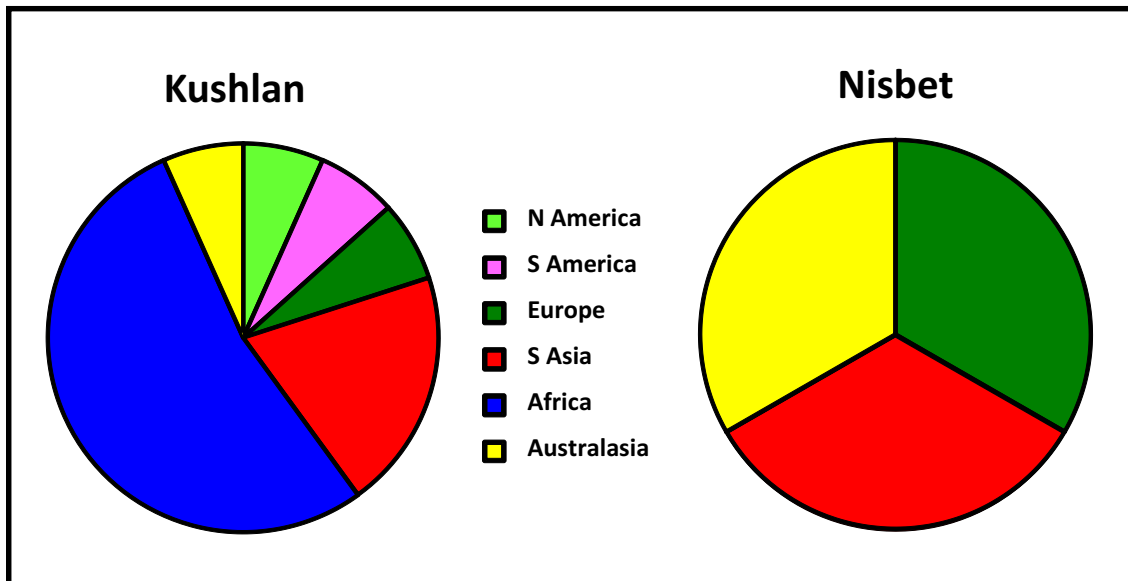


Fig. 2. Region of institutional affiliation for 2017 Kushlan and Nisbet grant applicants.

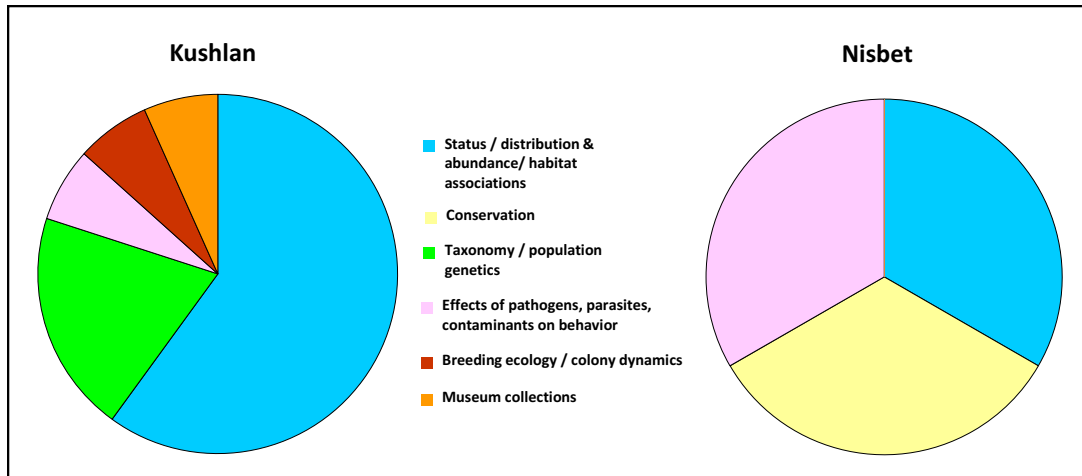


Fig. 3. 2017 applications by area of research.

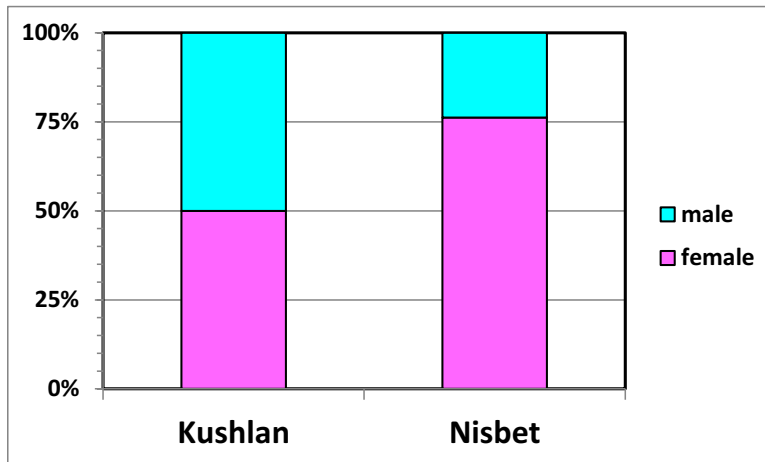


Fig. 4. Applicant profile: gender (cumulative, 2015-17; Kushlan, n=72 ; Nisbet, n=21)

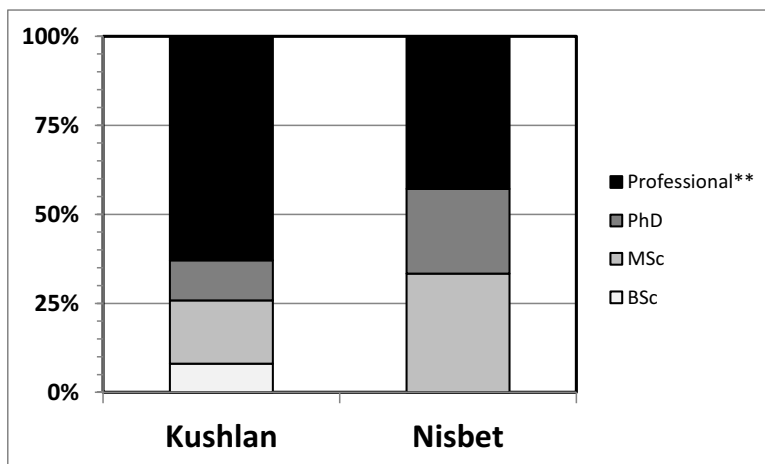


Fig. 5. Applicant profile: career stage (cumulative, 2015-17; Kushlan, n=62; Nisbet, n=21). **Includes PDFs, professors, government and ENGO researchers.

Table 1. Study species breakdown for 2017 applications by Award.

Focal Species	Kushlan	Nisbet
Asian Woolly Neck, (<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>)	1	
Black Heron (<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>)	1	
Bourne's (Purple) Heron (<i>Ardea purpurea bournei</i>)		1
Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	1	
Royal Spoonbill (<i>Platalea regia</i>)	1	
White Bellied Heron (<i>Ardea insignis</i>)	1	
Yellow-billed Stork (<i>Mycteria ibis</i>)	1	
multiple wader species	5	
all waterbirds	3	
	15	
Black-bellied Tern (<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>)		1
Bridled Tern (<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>)		1
Common Noddy (<i>Anous stolidus</i>); Sooty Tern (<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>)		1
European Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>), Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>L. fuscus graellsii</i>) and Great Black-backed Gull (<i>L. marinus</i>)		1
Silver Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>)		1
multi-species		1
		6

2017 Grant recipients

Kushlan (\$7642)			
PI	Country	Topic	Amount
Drs. Simone Santoro & Alejandro Centeno	Spain	Population genetic structure and connectivity of Glossy ibis	\$5,250
Nisbet (\$2190)			
PI	Country	Topic	Amount
Dr. Kimberly Maute	Australia	Impact of bacterial pathogens on the breeding success of silver gulls	\$1,000
Andrew Tongue	U.K.	Gulls as Bioindicators of Flame Retardant Emissions from Landfill	\$1,000

Timing of grant applications

Currently 15 July; winners must be announced by early Oct:

- in the middle of the field season for many in the northern hemisphere!
 - Competing demands on applicants and committee members
 - Funding is not in place for current year's work (if project is field-based)
 - affects impact of grant, esp. for short-term projects
 - critical if project is dependent on WbS funding
- rationale for this date unknown (so winners can be announced at AGM???)

Propose: switching application deadline

Options* (yellow=current; blue=most equitable internationally):

Proposal deadline	Announcement deadline	Time when funding is in place, relative to start of field season (months)		Time when applications are due, relative to start academic year (months)	
		n. hemisphere	s. hemisphere	n. hemisphere	s. hemisphere
Dec	Feb	-3	-9	+3	-3
Feb	Apr	-1	-7	+5	+1
Mar	May	0	-6	+6	0
June	Aug	+3	-3	+9	+3
Sept	Nov	-6	0	0	+6

* Current announcement date allows 3 months to assess proposals – this is overkill! Propose shortening to 2 months

Outreach and Communications Committee of the Waterbird Society

2017 Annual Report

Membership:

Nellie Tsipoura, NJ Audubon (Nellie.tsipoura@njudubon.org) and Amanda Moore, Texas State University San Marcos, TX (aamoore80@gmail.com), co-chairs; Alison Kocek, Pat Baird, Kate Ruskin, Stephanie Jones

2015-2016 Committee Activities:

This committee welcomed Amanda Moore as co-chair of the committee, as Patty Szczys stepped down to take on the role of Secretary for the Society.

The Waterbirds presence on social media is growing, including the FB page, (<https://www.facebook.com/Waterbird-Society-169197973427746/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/>), and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/the_waterbird_society/), which hasn't really been active since there's an issue with obtaining content.

Editor Stephanie Jones continues to be active on the journal FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/WaterbirdsJournal/>)

We have 313 FB followers (vs 170 last July) and 810 Twitter followers (Twitter does not show you last year's info). Unfortunately FB & Twitter do not count posts/tweets for you.

Both Nellie and Amanda, with occasional input from Patty made updates to the web site as needed. Generally, we are able to make adjustments and additions quickly. The newly designed website went live in 2016 and while it has been an excellent portal of information, there have been several quirks and glitches that we have dealt with effectively with help from Maine hosting.

Chris Custer continued to work with the programmers at Maine Hosting Solutions to improve functionality and ease-of-use for administering abstract submission and registration for our annual meetings.

We worked with Sigríður Hrönn Gunnarsdóttir and Iceland Travel to set up the 2017 meeting web page by linking and integrating the website that their company set up. The process was mostly smooth and society members were able to process information and go through the registration process smoothly, even though much of the website navigation and content was handled externally.

2016-2017 Proposed Work of the Committee:

The new webpage offers state-of-the art versatility for maintaining a cutting edge web presence. This committee will continue to maintain updated information to the site and on social media.

We request input from the Council and Chairs to update and expand the content of our various webpages. We had started to develop training materials on WordPress use and will continue this process so that any Chair or Council member who is interested can take on independent responsibility.

Requests for Council Action:

media. Specifically, we need to draw attention to the success of annual meetings shortly after-including student awards, important council decisions, and the social events highlighting the local host. This should happen on the site and across social media.

We owe the huge increase in social media activity to the students who have become involved in the committee. We need to continue to develop students to participate in communications and outreach for the society.

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL
Annual Report
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017



The Ornithological Council is pleased to provide this annual report covering activities from 1 July 2016 through 30 June 2017. The Board of Directors and the Executive Director express sincere gratitude to our member societies for their continuing support.

Please contact your society representatives (listed below) or Executive Director Ellen Paul [e-mail: ellen.paul@verizon.net; phone 301/986-8568] for more information on any matter of interest to you. We welcome input from society officers and board members and individual society members at any time and are particularly interested in hearing about issues or problems of concern to you that we may not be addressing.

The Ornithological Council seeks to:

- *Ensure that the best ornithological science is incorporated into legislative, regulatory, and management decisions that affect birds;*
- *Enhance the ability of ornithologists to pursue professional activities; and*
- *Promote the influence of ornithology in public affairs.*

Our work focuses on animal welfare issues, permits, research funding, and other policies that affect ornithologists and ornithological societies. Activities representative of OC's work over the past fiscal year follow.

Animal Welfare

The OC continues to make significant progress in assuring that implementation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and related policies are more attuned to conditions encountered in wildlife research. These efforts aim both to facilitate improved animal welfare and improve the oversight of ornithological research. Our efforts this past year included the following:

- *Training and outreach for the ornithological community:* In August 2016, the OC organized a special workshop at the North American Ornithological Conference. Speakers included the top policy makers in federal agencies that make and implement animal welfare policy, including USDA's Animal Care (AC) program and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Officials from the National Science Foundation (NSF) animal welfare oversight office also participated as did a representative of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The objective of this workshop was to help ornithologists understand the animal welfare policies in the U.S. and Canada and to use this information to improve their own research protocols. This was a unique opportunity in that workshops of this type – sponsored by

universities, government agencies, and others – typically carry registration fees of several hundred dollars; it was offered at the NAOC at no cost to participants.

- *Upcoming workshop on IACUC oversight of wildlife research protocols* - The OC is participating in the planning of a workshop focused on oversight of wildlife research to be held in collaboration with the Scientists' Center for Animal Welfare, scheduled for late October 2017. It is anticipated that at least 70 institutions will send representatives. Topics that the OC will address include an overview of ornithological research, capture methods, determination of sample size and population impact, compliance requirements, invasive procedures and euthanasia in field research.

- The OC has compiled an annotated list of resources for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) reviewing wildlife research protocols. The list will be published by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare. Included are the *Model Wildlife Protocol* prepared jointly by the OC and the American Society of Mammalogists and *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research*. After publication, a shorter version of this list will be distributed by the OC to every college and university in the U.S.

- OC Executive Director Ellen Paul was invited by OLAW to present a webinar on the permit requirements for ornithological research. Approximately 241 institutions logged on to the 30 March 2017 webinar, which is now [archived online](#). The presentation explained the various federal and state permits needed for research in the U.S. and how permit requirements and procedures affect IACUC protocol review in terms of timing and substance. Overall, the presentation emphasized the fact that these permits assure that the issue of population impact is adequately addressed by agency biologists who have the knowledge and expertise to make such determinations and that the issuance of the permit should suffice for protocol review as to population impacts. The webinar also helped to remind IACUCs that the OC is a resource for them when they are reviewing protocols involving ornithological research.

- *Euthanasia and IACUC Protocol review* - In 2013, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) published revised Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. The federal grant-making agencies require use of an AVMA-approved method of euthanasia as a condition of compliance with the AWA. Despite a submission from the OC of observational data to support the continued classification of what has until now been called thoracic compression (TC) as at least “conditionally acceptable,” the AVMA chose to re-classify it as unacceptable. The AVMA refused to reconsider this classification without a study that measured brain activity that generated data to support the contention that TC is at least as humane as other euthanasia methods considered by the AVMA as acceptable or acceptable with conditions. With financial support from the AOS, the OC arranged to have such a study conducted by Joanne Paul-Murphy, DVM Dipl. American College of Veterinary Medicine and Dipl. American College of Animal Welfare. With the assistance of ornithologist Andy Engilis (Curator, Museum of Fish and Wildlife Biology, UC Davis), Dr. Paul-Murphy compared the rapidity (time to death) of TC with another method that the AVMA considers to be acceptable. The outcome supported the contention of ornithologists (as asserted in a fact sheet prepared by the OC) that the method actually entails cardiac compression rather than compression of the thorax and that it is extremely rapid. *Status*: The study is scheduled to be published in August 2017 in the American

Journal of Veterinary Research, an AVMA publication. Once the paper has been published, the OC will press the AVMA to change the classification of what will now be called rapid cardiac compression. A letter to the AVMA has been drafted and is under review by several avian veterinarians. In the meantime, the OC Fact Sheet has been used successfully by many ornithologists to convince their institutions to allow the use of cardiac compression. A second paper detailing the correct manner to conduct this technique and explaining the physiological process will be submitted to another journal.

○ *USDA Animal Care program guidance on the term “field study”* – The OC learned that AC has developed a guidance or policy document defining the term “field study” which is a critical issue for wildlife researchers because field studies are exempt from protocol review. (Note – technically, research involving birds is also exempt, depending on the specific source of federal funding; in practice, universities review protocols involving ornithological research). Upon investigation, OC learned that the guidance was prepared by a veterinarian with no apparent experience or expertise in wildlife research. It is now in the internal review process. The OC has requested that AC seek input from the stakeholder community before issuing this guidance.

Status: As of July 2017, AC has refused to seek such input. As of July 2017, agency guidance and policy development is on hold, largely because jobs involved in the oversight of agency policy have not been filled. However, the OC is prepared to request the involvement of agency leadership so as to assure that the guidance is informed by the experience and expertise of those whose research will be affected by the guidance.

○ *Euthanasia and the USDA Animal Care program* – The AWA regulations, implemented by USDA AC, do not require compliance with the AVMA euthanasia guidelines. However, a non-regulatory document intended for use by USDA inspectors *de facto* imposes those standards, which is essentially back-door regulation. By letter to the administrators of the AC program, the OC protested this situation and asked that the language be removed or that the document be revised to include the standards of all outside organizations with demonstrated expertise. *Status:* To date, AC has not responded. However, with the imminent publication of the study on rapid cardiac compression, to be followed by a request to the AVMA to change the classification of the method, the OC is not pressing the AC program to change the inspection guide at this time.

○ *Euthanasia and the USFWS* - The AWA regulations require that research protocols include plans to render medical care (i.e., in the case of injuries sustained during the course of the research) or to euthanize animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved. However, doing so in the United States would be illegal unless the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) or Endangered Species Act (ESA) permit expressly allows these activities. The OC has asked the USFWS to include a standard permit condition pertaining to euthanasia of injured birds, explaining the reasons for the request and offering proposed language. *Status:* The USFWS felt it best to await the change in the AVMA guidelines, as this particular method is likely to be used in the field setting. As soon as the AVMA guidelines are changed, the OC will press the USFWS for this addition to standard permit conditions.

○ *USDA regulation of birds* – As the result of a lawsuit in 2000, the USDA reversed its long-standing exclusion of rats, mice, and birds from AWA implementation. In 2004, AC published

an advance notice of public rule-making, asking the public “to help determine how we should regulate the care and use of those animals.” No further action has been taken since then. *Status:* The AC program had intended to hire a new staffer to draft the proposed regulation. However, since the change in administration, this new hire is unlikely to happen. Based on communication from AC leadership to the OC, it appears that no effort has been made to move forward with this regulation. Given the anti-regulatory stance of the new administration, it seems unlikely that it will be pursued for the next three years. However, OC will continue to monitor the situation. Meanwhile, the OC has been working with several research institutions that wanted to register with the AC so as to be eligible for federal funding. Because they work only with birds, the AC would not accept their registration. The USDA maintained that because it has no regulations, it can’t inspect bird facilities and that therefore, they will not register such facilities at this time. However, other federal law, including grant-making rules, requires compliance with the AWA, which also entails the establishment of an IACUC, review of research protocols, and annual reporting to the USDA. After the OC executive director met with USDA General Counsel and the AC administrators and provided them with copies of the federal grant-making requirements, AC has revised its stance and is accepting registrations from research institutions that work only with birds.

- *Major change in oversight of ornithological research* - In 2012, the OC was delighted to announce that under the leadership of ornithologist John Wingfield (then NSF assistant director for biology), the NSF had given official recognition to the OC publication *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research* as the appropriate animal welfare standard for ornithological research. In August 2015, NSF entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with OLAW, calling for OLAW to administer NSF’s animal welfare program. Despite strenuous efforts by the OC, NSF in February 2017 revised its Grant Proposal Guide to remove recognition of the taxonomic guidelines except as permissible supplemental references.

- *Assisting individual ornithologists* - The OC assisted individual ornithologists in devising effective strategies for responding to challenges encountered in obtaining approval of research protocols. We also respond to questions from IACUC members. For instance, in 2017, OC was asked by an IACUC for information about the use of mice as baits in raptor traps, as to both protocol review and annual reporting. On occasion, we are asked to address questions of occupational health and safety. These issues arise because at most institutions, they must be addressed in animal welfare protocols. In addition, the USFWS consulted the OC as that agency is preparing to establish an IACUC and sought input into its plans.

- *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research* – with the development of a new website, OC will resume its practice of posting new significant literature about impacts of research methods. It is hoped that the new website will be completed and in use by the end of 2017.

Permits

- *Luncheon roundtable with USDA import staff*- The OC organized a roundtable luncheon at the NAOC to bring together the USDA National Import Export Services (NIES) team and ornithologists who import avian research material that must be permitted by NIES. Over the years, NIES has provided excellent service to the ornithological community and has been

extremely responsive to our concerns, so this was an opportunity to thank them. More importantly, it gave the ornithologists a chance to ask questions, make suggestions, and make the personal connections that are so important in resolving problems.

- *Permit guide updates* - Revisions to the several OC permit guides (for import/export to/from the U.S., for each of the 50 states, and for Canada) are ongoing; ever-changing regulations and procedures (some described below) are a significant challenge to their completion, but OC hopes to have all revisions completed by the end of 2017. Completion of the revisions was put on hold by the implementation of the new ACE entry system and the (successful) efforts by the OC to convince the federal agencies to change their implementation methods for wildlife.

- *Inconsistent and/or problematic implementation of MBTA permit regulations* - The ongoing effort to address continuing problems with the manner in which MBTA import permits are issued is beginning to produce results. As a result of OC's discussions with the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM), the agency permit staff had planned to develop a "national standard operating procedure" (NSOP) to be implemented in all regions. *Status:* The agency was to have completed the NSOP by November 2015 and held a meeting with OC Executive Director Ellen Paul at that time, but the NSOP had not yet been completed then or at the time of this report. The agency is very short-staffed, having lost numerous senior staffers to retirement. OC had put this effort on hold because the agency had been focusing all its energy on the development of two new major MBTA regulations. Now that those regulatory efforts are in long-term suspension, the OC will resume its efforts to press for resolution of the import permit problem.

- *Drones* - Interest in the use of these devices to monitor wildlife is intense and a growing number of researchers are already using them to study birds. However, it is not known if the Dept. of the Interior (DOI) will take the position that such use violates the Airborne Hunting Act. OC contacted the DOI Office of the Solicitor and learned that no decision has been made. OC is preparing a letter summarizing the peer-reviewed literature on the use of drones to help persuade DOI that the use of drones does not violate this law. The letter will be reviewed by experts before it is sent to DOI.

- *Import of CITES species* - The CITES parties periodically suspend trade from countries for various reasons. In the past, based on written guidance from the USFWS Division of Law Enforcement (LE), OC has advised ornithologists that imports shipped under Certificates of Scientific Exchange (COSE) rather than permits could continue even if trade had been suspended. To verify that this policy was still in effect, OC asked the CITES Division of Management Authority (DMA) for a precise explanation of the circumstances under which scientific research materials from suspended countries may continue to be imported under COSE. The DMA asked the LE to issue a clarification. Issued in December 2016, that clarification did not in fact answer the questions so the OC pursued the matter with DMA. *Status:* OC executive director met with representatives of the DMA and LE in June 2017 and learned that the USFWS has determined that a suspension of trade prohibits all trade, whether on a permit or a COSE. It is not known when this decision will be formalized and made public.

- *OC's 2014 petition for suspension or revocation of the CITES "validation" requirement* – The USFWS was planning to respond to this petition in its 2016 update to the CITES

regulations. However, the agency has been instructed by the administration to refrain from pursuing this regulatory update. Presumably, USFWS will eventually be allowed to proceed because these updates are necessary to incorporate changes made at the CITES meetings. Meanwhile, OC is considering re-filing the petition in the hope that it will be addressed in some other manner.

- *OC's 2014 petition for changes to the general import/export regulations* –USFWS has been considering this petition as the agency prepares a revision to these regulations. To the best of our knowledge, this regulatory update is still in progress and is likely to move forward eventually as it not only increases fees but also incorporates procedures related to the ACE declaration system.
- *Clarification of the need for Wild Bird Conservation Act permits* - In March 2016, the OC learned that USFWS had determined some years earlier that Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) permits were needed to import scientific specimens and samples of species protected under that law, notwithstanding the clear USFWS regulatory exemption: “Exotic bird means any live or dead member of the Class Aves that is not indigenous to the 50 States or the District of Columbia, including any egg or offspring thereof, **but does not include** domestic poultry, dead sport-hunted birds, **dead museum specimens, dead scientific specimens, products manufactured from such birds...**” USFWS had never informed the scientific community of this change in policy, which apparently stemmed from the agency’s lack of criteria to decide if an import comprised a museum or scientific specimen. In effect, the determination was shifted to the law enforcement inspector at the point of import and made on a case-by-case basis. That process is problematic because if the inspector decides at the time of import that a WBCA permit is needed, the researcher will not be allowed to import the material. The OC informed the ornithological community of the situation, advised everyone to consider obtaining WBCA permits, and pressed the USFWS for a rapid resolution of the problem. *Status:* In June 2017, OC learned that the USFWS continues to work on revising the regulation to address this problem. Because no regulatory proposals are likely to be made for many months or even years, the OC asked USFWS for guidance to the ports that will avert problems. We suggested eight different criteria and processes that would produce certainty for the importers and the port inspectors.
- *USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) regulations* – Since 2009, BBL has attempted to revise the bird banding regulations to incorporate recommendations made in 2008 by the Federal Advisory Committee appointed to review BBL’s policies and operations. In April 2015, OC learned that DOI had decided that these regulations are subject to the environmental impact assessment required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BBL was said to be in the very early stages of preparing that assessment. It now appears that no regulatory revisions will be forthcoming because the BBL will first need to complete a consultation with the Division of Endangered Species (DES) regarding “incidental take” that might occur during permitted banding activities. That consultation process is likely to take several years and given the high probability of major legislative changes to the ESA over the next two years, all consultations may be on hold. The OC will continue to monitor and participate in the process as opportunities arise, and will consult with partner organizations and individuals with expertise as to specific issues as needed. Meanwhile, there are several long-standing banding permit practices that should be elevated to formal regulation, including the use of transmitters and geotags, the taking

of blood and feathers, and the continuation of permitted activities pending permit renewal. The OC has asked the BBL to consider moving forward with the regulatory provisions that may not require NEPA analysis. We will also continue to communicate directly with the BBL as various concerns arise and work with them to devise solutions.

○ *California scientific collecting permit regulations* - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is revising its regulations for scientific collecting permits (state permitting agencies use the term “scientific collecting” to mean “scientific research”). In 2015, OC submitted extensive comments when the CDFW called for input prior to drafting the revision. Our response urged the CDFW to implement a provision in the existing regulations that would exempt holders of federal banding permits from the requirement for state permits. In addition, the OC urged the CDFW to extend this practice to all permits for ornithological research on species protected under the MBTA, except for state-listed endangered species. We also proposed a mechanism to facilitate this practice while accommodating the state’s legitimate concerns about protecting wildlife and use of state lands. *Status:* In March 2017, the CDFW published the proposed regulation. Unfortunately, it did not incorporate most of OC’s suggestions. No reasons or explanations were given. OC notified members of the ornithological community in California and sought their input. We then submitted extensive comments, some reiterating our earlier suggestions, and all focused on reducing burden on researchers that far outweigh any potential impact on wild birds. The final rule will likely be published later this year as the agency intends for it to go into effect on 1 January 2018.

○ *State permits* - The OC will pursue an effort to persuade all 50 states to consider exempting holders of federal MBTA permits from state permit requirements. The state wildlife agencies are operating under extremely difficult budget constraints (some more than others) and this change would free up resources without reducing protection for MBTA species.

○ *Incidental take of ESA species by researchers* – Ornithologists may study endangered species under “recovery” permits. However, they may unintentionally capture or even harm endangered species when studying other species under MBTA permits. The BBL has long recognized this problem and is working with the USFWS Division of Endangered Species (DES) to devise a solution. The OC is also concerned about this problem and has contacted both the BBL and the DES to explore possible solutions.

○ *General assistance with permits and related procedures* - The OC helped nearly 100 ornithologists to obtain MBTA, ESA, and CITES permits, as well as permits issued by APHIS, and to navigate the complex import and export processes. Ornithologists also notify the OC about problems they have encountered and the OC works with the agencies to identify the source of the problem and devise ways to correct the problem. *Status:* We continue to receive at least one and often several requests for assistance with permits each week. Recent examples include: advising an ornithologist who needs a master banding permit but who has not had enough experience to qualify; assisting another ornithologist who planned to work with a non-native (not protected under the MBTA) species and planned to release any MBTA species caught in the nets; incidental catch of ESA species while working under an MBTA or banding permit; salvage under MBTA permits, and expediting renewal of an ESA import permit.

Other policies that affect research and scientific societies (including funding)

- Termination of NSF doctoral dissertation grants - In June 2017, the NSF announced termination of the Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants (DDIG) program, citing burden on the staff as the reason for termination. The OC sent a letter of protest to NSF officials and suggested alternative ways to administer the program that would reduce that burden. However, it may also be that NSF anticipates funding cuts as a result of the federal FY2018 appropriations process. If the FY2018 appropriation to NSF does not entail a funding cut, OC will seek to meet with NSF officials to urge that the program be resumed.
- In recent months, the AOS has requested OC's input as to several policy matters, including federal appropriations for Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the termination of the NSF DDIG grant program (detailed above) and pending legislation such as the Federal Bird-safe Building Act and the ESA. The OC has responded to these requests by providing information and insight and, when asked to do so, has drafted letters for the AOS. In addition, the OC has alerted the AOS about other pending policy matters that may be of interest to the AOS, providing background and offering to assist the AOS in addressing them. The Waterbird Society and the Raptor Research Foundation have also sought advice from the OC about potential society policy activity as to regulation of lead in ammunition, the ESA, and other matters.
- In 2015, the USFWS announced plans to issue a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) that would propose methods to regulate the take of bird species protected under the MBTA incident to otherwise lawful activities, such as energy production or telecommunications infrastructure. In July 2015, the OC submitted comments after consultation with the member society conservation committees. Consistent with the OC mission, the comments focused on issues such as the need for appropriate monitoring, research into mitigation measures, and predictive research to determine which areas are most likely to be of concern. The comments also addressed the capacity of the USFWS, already stretched very thin, to handle this substantial new workload. *Status:* The PEIS has not yet been issued. It is rumored that the new Administration has decided against proceeding with this rulemaking. Nonetheless, if and when the PEIS and proposed rules are published for comment, the OC will file comments and welcomes the participation of its member societies in drafting those comments. Meanwhile, OC has in the past year tracked the status of the PEIS and has informed member societies that the regulation was not moving forward.
- *Significant progress made in ameliorating impacts of new import/export procedure –* Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has developed and is implementing a new, automated customs declaration system called ACE or Automated Commercial Environment. Notwithstanding the name, it also applies to non-commercial imports. The OC has been heavily involved both in working with the CBP and its “partner government agencies” such as the USFWS and APHIS, as well as FedEx and customs brokers, to reduce the very substantial burden that this new requirement imposes on importers. In addition to direct, informal discussions with the agencies, the OC executive director has been seated on a federal advisory committee that addresses wildlife imports. Initially, the OC facilitated hand-carried imports by identifying a capable customs broker who was willing to work with the OC to learn about ornithological imports. We then facilitated the transactions between the importers and this broker

and assisted the importers in making the necessary arrangements with their universities. By March 2017, the OC had succeeded in persuading both the USFWS and APHIS to continue to allow hand-carried imports with in-person, paper declarations at the ports, which eliminated the need for the ACE process entirely. The ACE process is extremely complicated and some CBP port agents mistakenly believe that it is required for hand-carried imports. Therefore, we continue to work with CBP to address this problem; we have asked for guidance to the port inspectors and are also investigating applying for a “binding ruling” that is a pre-determination by CBP that ACE entry is not required. If we succeed in obtaining that ruling, we would share it with importers who would carry it with them when importing. For shipped imports, we continue to work with FedEx and the federal agencies to assure that these imports are cleared and inspected as required by the agencies.

Other services to the ornithological community

- As the OC Small Grants Program reached the 5-year mark, the OC Board decided that it would be appropriate to suspend the program for this coming year in order to re-evaluate and refine our management of the program. The Board directed the committee and the executive director to identify ways to make the process more efficient and – more importantly – to redesign our review process to assure that the best and most important proposals are funded. We would also like to try again to identify other sources of funding so as to increase the available funding. The OC could undertake this effort without a suspension, but is reluctant to impose an additional time commitment on our volunteer reviewers, who are already devoting a significant amount of time to the program. In addition, the Board is concerned that the executive director’s time and energy will need to be focused this coming year on identifying additional funding sources to sustain our operating budget as the OC faces a potential cut in funding from one of its member societies.
- Upon request, OC offers lectures for faculty and students on permits, animal welfare issues, the role of science in bird conservation, and other topics of interest. We are planning a series of webinars to expand the reach of this effort if we are able to obtain sufficient funding in addition to identifying additional funding sources to sustain our operating budget.
- The OC informs ornithologists about policy changes that affect the way they do their research. Via Ornithology Exchange and direct e-mail as well as use of the NEOORN and AVECOLS list serves, OC posted updates on various issues of concern. This year, the OC initiated a legislative alert database on [Ornithology Exchange](#).

Providing scientific information about birds

OC provides scientific information about birds to government agencies, business entities, landowners, the press, and others. No opportunities arose during this fiscal year. However, the OC continues to be available to its member societies to help craft statements or address policy issues of concern to the societies. For instance, in the past year, the Waterbird Society consulted with the OC on two issues pertaining to waterbird conservation and management. The Raptor Research Foundation consulted with the OC about the status of regulation of lead-based ammunition and the potential for development of a raptor-specific best practices guide.

OC management and news

Dan Klem, who represents the Wilson Ornithological Society on the OC Board of Directors, has been re-elected chair. Gwen Brewer, who represents the Neotropical Ornithological Society, has been re-elected vice chair. BIRDNET, the OC website, will be leaving its long-time home on the server of the National Museum of Natural History. A new website is under construction, to be completed by the end of 2017 or soon afterwards.

ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL
 ROSTER OF DIRECTORS
(Current as of 30 June 2017)

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Wilson Ornithological Society	
Bob Curry Professor, Department of Biology Villanova University Phone: (610) 519-6455 email: robert.curry@villanova.edu	Dan Klem (Chair) Sarkis Acopian Professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology Muhlenberg College Phone: (484) 664-3259 email: klem@muhlenberg.edu

Nominating Committee of the Waterbird Society: 2017 Annual Report

Membership:

Co-Chairs Kathy Parsons (katharineparsons@gmail.com) and Susan Elbin (selbin@nycaudubon.org)
Dave Shealer, Jennifer Arnold, Chip Weseloh, Steve Oswald, Jeff Spendelow and Ricardo Zambrano. This committee welcomes new members; those interested in serving should contact the Co-Chairs.

2016-2017 Committee Activities:

In fall 2016, the Nominating Committee and other WBS leaders (Student Activities Committee Chair, WBS Treasurer) participated in discussions weighing the pros and cons of adding a student seat to the WBS Executive Council. A summary of these discussions was posted on Ornithological Exchange in October. Our objective was to provide the Council with substantive information to assist in considering this possible change which, if adopted, would require a positive vote by Council and a positive vote by the membership to modify the bylaws. Both positive votes followed by early May 2017, requiring the Nominating Committee to recruit candidates for the Student Councilor seat.

In addition, we produced a draft Nominating Committee Handbook which outlines the responsibilities of the Committee, our philosophy and objectives. Once finalized, we hope to use the handbook each year to assemble a ballot of qualified candidates and to clearly communicate the expectations of each position. This tool will help the Nominating Committee accomplish our tasks in a transparent and professional manner that will ensure a positive experience for each candidate, and that will build effective leadership capacity on the WBS Executive Council.

We began email discussions in early 2017 to develop a slate of candidates for the annual election. Candidates for two officer and four Councilor positions were needed. In our discussions, we attempted to assemble a diverse slate of candidates for Council consistent with the principles and qualifications identified in our handbook.

Candidates for 2017 Election:

For President-Elect: Dave Moore, Ted Simons; for Treasurer: Chris Custer; for Councilor: Dan Catlin, Terry Master, Sean Murphy, Kate Sheehan; for Student Councilor: Maureen Durkin, Caroline Poli, Kate Shlepr

The biographical sketches for all candidates were posted and instructions to vote electronically was emailed to members on 31 May 2017.

Election Results:

The voting for the 2017 election will close on 30 July; the results will be known for our Council meeting at Reykjavik. Election results will be appended to this report following the tabulation of the voting or included in the 2017 annual reports.

Draft Jul 2017

Requests for Council Action:

We request that members of Council review and revise the “job descriptions” in the draft Nominating Committee Handbook.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Parsons and Susan Elbin

**Waterbird Society Finance and Investment
Committee Performance Report
January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

This report summarizes the performance of the Waterbird Society investment portfolio – consisting of **Nisbet** and **Kushlan** Endowments as well as the general **Waterbird Society** Endowment for the period January 1, 2016- June 30, 2017.

Committee membership:

Ricardo Zambrano, Chair
Chris Custer, Treasurer
Jim Frasier
Nellie Tsipoura

General Considerations and Investment Performance.

The investment philosophy for the Waterbird Society, follows the strategy established several years ago. The investment philosophy consists of two principles:

- 1) Follow one diversified, long-term program that will carry you through all market conditions because one cannot predict what the market is going to do. Those who come out ahead over the long haul are those who follow a long-term methodology and do not switch among philosophies.
- 2) A mix of 60-70% diversified stock and 30-40% bond funds has been shown to produce the highest average returns over many years.

The three endowments, Nisbet, Kushlan and Waterbird Society, are invested in similar mixes of securities (stock-based) mutual funds (~70%) and bond-based mutual funds (~30%) since the goals for all three are similar. The endowments are invested through **Fidelity Investments**, however, the fund diversification and allocations are managed by **Parsec Financial**, an investment management and financial planning firm. This has been the case since the summer of 2009 after the Waterbird Society Council voted to have a professional investment management firm manage our endowments.

The total market value for all three endowments as of June 30, 2017 was: **\$1,102,405.09**. The annualized return for all three endowments was **6.19%** (Figure 1). The cumulative return for all three endowments was **15.59%** (Figure 2). The rates of returns for all three endowments were generally higher than the market indexes (Figure 3). The majority of the assets are invested in domestic stocks followed by bonds, foreign stocks, and cash (Figure 4). Balance histories for all three endowments and broken down by endowment are found in Appendix A. Ticker symbols and fund names for each endowment are found in Appendix B.

Transaction costs, fees, and charges by Fidelity Investments in the calendar year of 2016 totaled **\$6195.00** for a total account value of **\$1,025,560.12**. This works out to **0.6%** of the portfolio for all 3 endowments combined. The **annual fee** charged by Parsec for management of these funds is **0.6 % per year**. Monthly and annual financial statements by Fidelity Investments are provided to the chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, and the Treasurer. Quarterly performance statements by Parsec Financial are provided to the chair of the Finance and

Investment Committee, and the Treasurer. These reports up to now have not been distributed to the rest of the Committee but will be forwarded from now on. The quarterly and monthly reports from Fidelity and Parsec, respectively can also be distributed to the Waterbirds president and president elect if they so choose.

Annualized Returns – How much the investment grew or declined on average – each year of a multi-year period

Account	Market Value	YTD	1-year *	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Since Inception Date
Wisbet	\$111,839.89	7.75%	11.39%	--	--	--	6.06%	1/31/2015
Cushlan	\$306,811.46	8.93%	12.53%	--	--	--	6.24%	1/31/2015
Waterbird	\$683,753.74	8.41%	11.96%	--	--	--	6.19%	1/31/2015
All Accounts	\$1,102,405.09	8.49%	12.07%	--	--	--	6.19%	1/31/2015

July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017

Figure 1. Annualized returns and market value for all three endowments as of June 30, 2017.

Cumulative Returns – How much the investments grew or declined in total – over a multi-year period

Account	Market Value	YTD	1-year*	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception	Since Inception Date
Wisbet	\$111,839.89	7.75%	11.39%	--	--	--	15.24%	1/31/2015
Cushlan	\$306,811.46	8.93%	12.53%	--	--	--	15.72%	1/31/2015
Waterbird	\$683,753.74	8.41%	11.96%	--	--	--	15.58%	1/31/2015
All Accounts	\$1,102,405.09	8.49%	12.07%	--	--	--	15.59%	1/31/2015

July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017

Figure 2. Cumulative returns and market value for all three endowments as of June 30, 2017.

Compare Your Returns to the Market ***

	YTD †	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
S&P 500® Index ?	+9.34%	+17.90%	+9.61%	+14.63%	+7.18%
Bloomberg Barclays US 3-Mo. Treas. Bellwether Ind. ?	+0.31%	+0.50%	+0.25%	+0.19%	+0.62%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index ?	+2.27%	-0.31%	+2.48%	+2.21%	+4.48%
Dow Jones Industrial Average ?	+9.35%	+22.12%	+11.01%	+13.45%	+7.57%
Nasdaq Composite Total Return Index ?	+14.71%	+28.30%	+13.02%	+17.36%	+10.15%

Figure 3. Benchmark indexes as of June 30, 2017 for comparison purposes. (Source: Fidelity Investments)

Percentage(%) Dollar(\$)	Long	Short	Net
■ Domestic Stock	51%	0%	51%
■ Foreign Stock	18%	0%	18%
■ Bonds	23%	0%	23%
■ Short Term	7%	0%	7%
■ Unknown	N/A	N/A	0%
■ Other	1%	(1%)	1%

Figure 4. Asset allocations for all three endowments (Source: Fidelity Investments).

Conclusions

Developed markets ended 2016 relatively flat but European stocks have since increased. Emerging (international) market stocks are up close to 30% versus 2015 due to higher commodity prices and recovering global economics. Europe's economy saw services and manufacturing expand as well as stock prices, while China's 4th quarter GDP was healthy growing by 6.8% year-over-year.

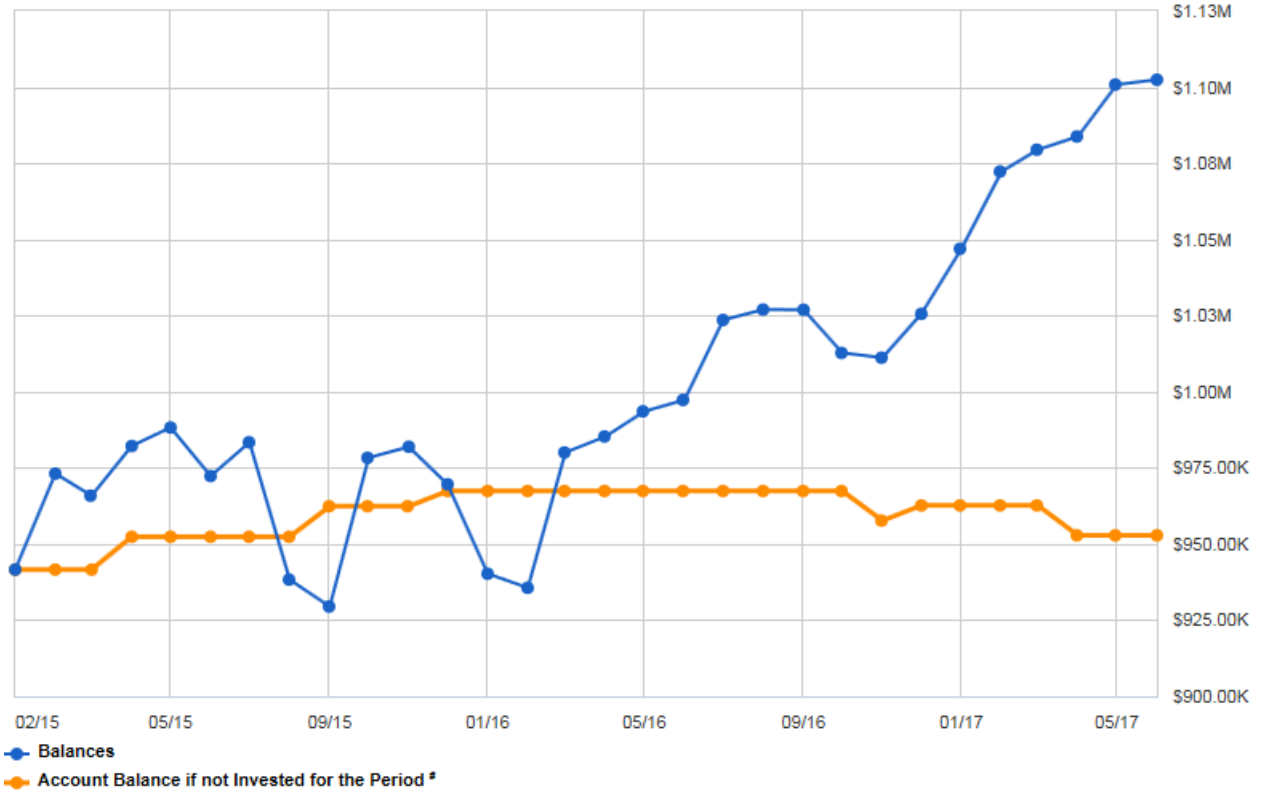
There were strong gains in 2016, stocks continued to climb higher through February buoyed by optimism over the newly-elected Republican leadership. Despite lackluster corporate earnings growth and two Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate hikes last year the S&P 500 Index delivered a 25% total return for 2016. Most of the gains came late in 2016 and early 2017 following the U.S. election results. New fiscal stimulus and tax cuts from the new administration and Republican-led Congress are likely to spur corporate spending and in-turn buoy depressed corporate earnings growth. Record-low interest rates, a measured pace of future Fed interest rate hikes, and a strong U.S. economy should provide opportunities in coming years (Source: Parsec Quarterly News, March 3, 2017).

Prepared July 24, 2017

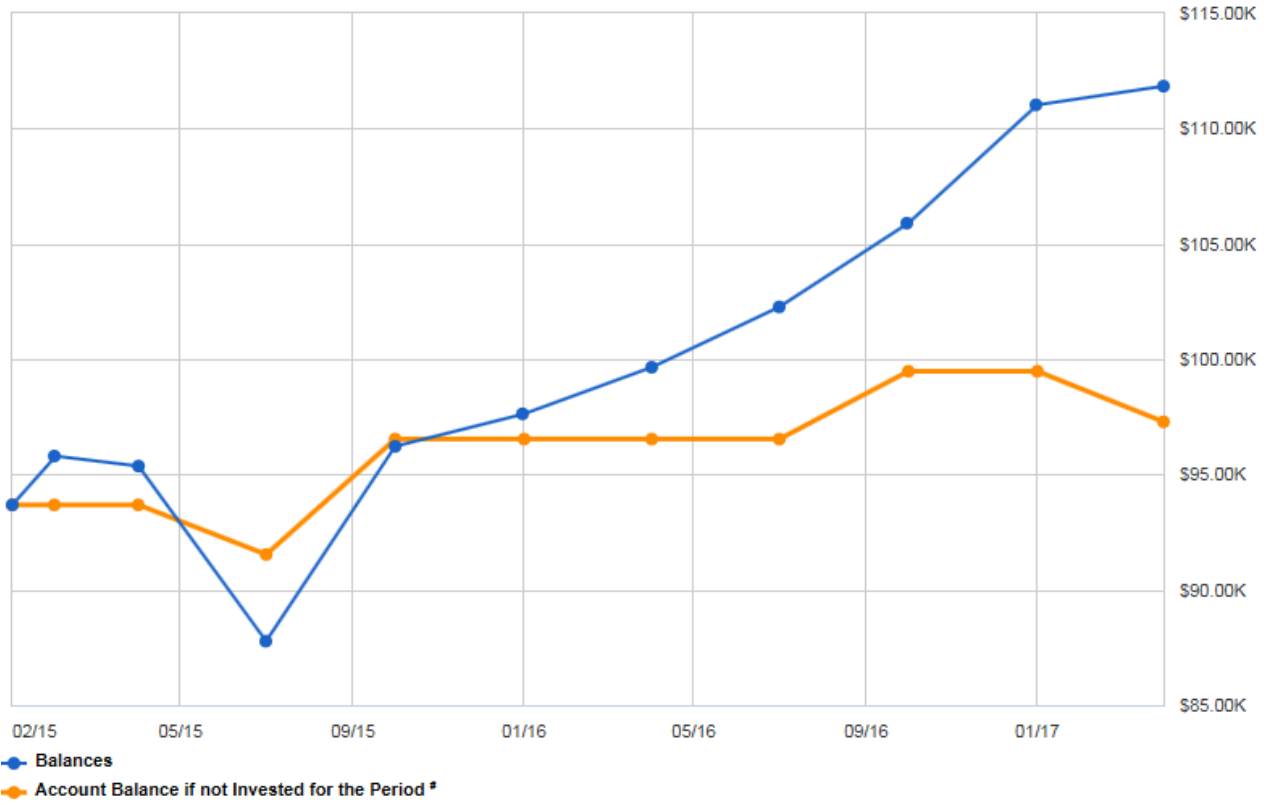
Prepared by Ricardo Zambrano
Ricardo.Zambrano@MyFWC.com

APPENDIX A

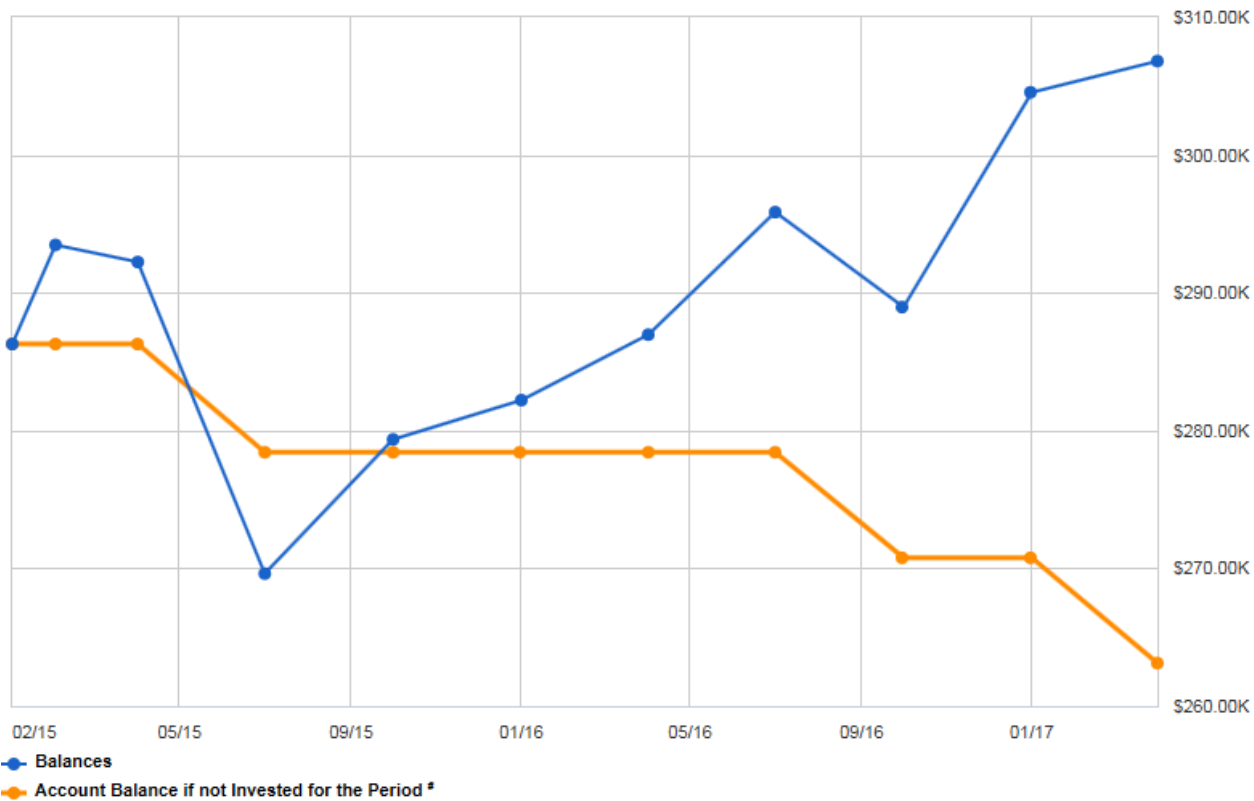
**Balance history for all endowments and broken down per endowment for the period
January 31, 2015 – June 30, 2017.**



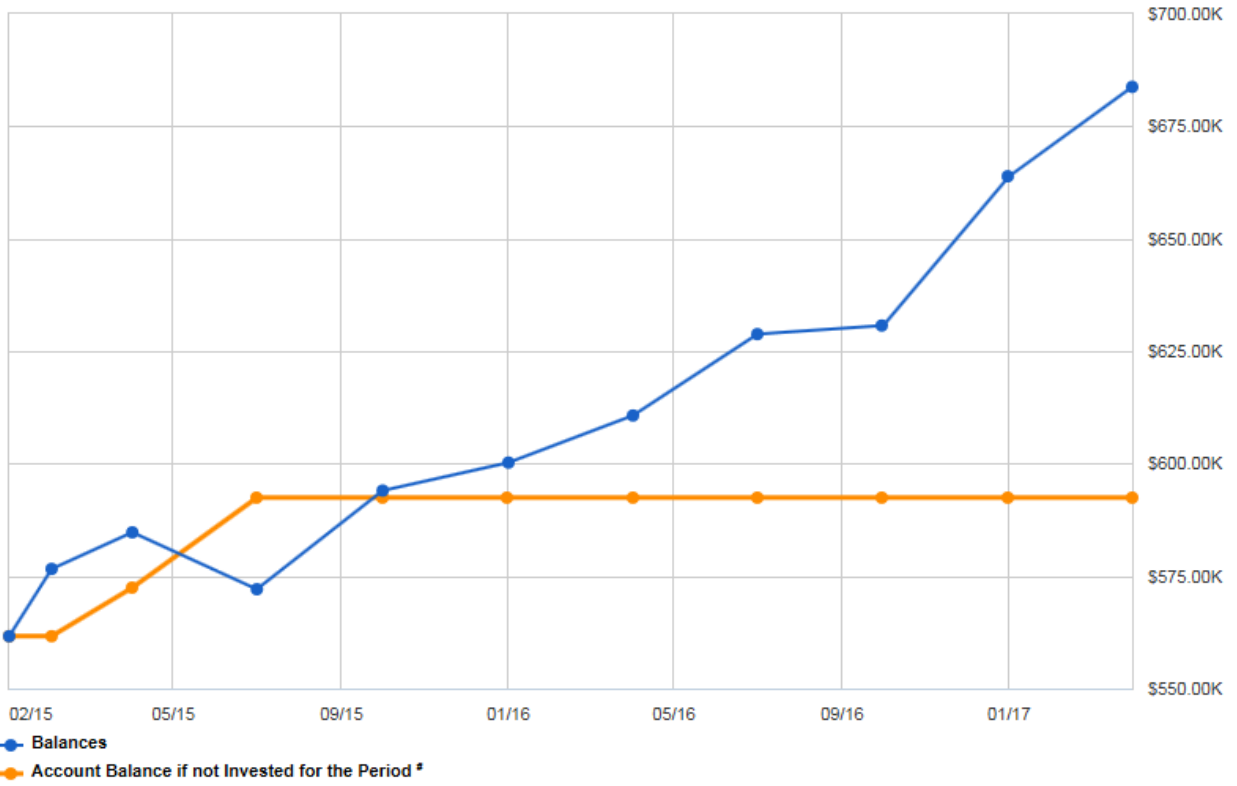
ALL ENDOWMENTS COMBINED



NISBET ENDOWMENT



KUSHLAND ENDOWMENT.



WATERBIRD GENERAL ENDOWMENT

APPENDIX B

Ticker Symbol and Fund Name per Endowment

NISBET

Symbol	Description
AEGFX	AMERICAN EUROPACIFIC GROWTH CLASS F1
AEPFX	AMERICAN EUROPACIFIC GROWTH FUND CL F2
AQMNX	AQR MANAGED FUTURES FUND CL N
BFIFX	AMERICAN FUNDS INFLT LINKED BOND CL F1
FCASH	CASH
IUSG	ISHARES CORE S&P US GROWTH ETF
JAENX	JANUS HENDERSON ENTERPRISE T
JMCVX	JANUS HENDERSON MID CAP VALUE T
MAPTX	MATTHEWS PACIFIC TIGER FUND
MWTRX	METROPOLITAN WEST TOT RETURN BOND CL M
OOSAX	OPPENHEIMER SENIOR FLOATING RATE CL A
THIFX	THORNBURG LTD TERM INCOME CLASS A
TPINX	TEMPLETON GLOBAL BOND CLASS A
VYM	VANGUARD WHITEHALL FDS HIGH DIVIDEND YIELD ETF SHS

KUSHLAN

Symbol	Description
AEGFX	AMERICAN EUROPACIFIC GROWTH CLASS F1
AEPFX	AMERICAN EUROPACIFIC GROWTH FUND CL F2
AQMIX	AQR MANAGED FUTURES FUND CL I
FCASH	CASH
FCNTX	FIDELITY CONTRAFUND
IJR	ISHARES CORE S&P SMALL-CAP ETF
JAENX	JANUS HENDERSON ENTERPRISE T
JMCVX	JANUS HENDERSON MID CAP VALUE T
MWTIX	METROPOLITAN WEST TOTAL RETURN CLASS I
ODMAX	OPPENHEIMER DEV MARKETS CLASS A
OIBYX	OPPENHEIMER INTL BOND FD CL Y
OOSAX	OPPENHEIMER SENIOR FLOATING RATE CL A
TPINX	TEMPLETON GLOBAL BOND CLASS A
VFSUX	VANGUARD SHORT TERM INVMT GRADE ADMIRAL
VIPSX	VANGUARD INFLATION PROTECTED SECS INV
VYM	VANGUARD WHITEHALL FDS HIGH DIVIDEND YIELD ETF SHS

WATERBIRD GENERAL

Symbol	Description
AEPFX	AMERICAN EUROPACIFIC GROWTH FUND CL F2
AQMIX	AQR MANAGED FUTURES FUND CL I
BFIFX	AMERICAN FUNDS INFLT LINKED BOND CL F1
DGS	WISDOMTREE TR EMERGING MKTS
DON	WISDOMTREE TR US MIDCAP DIVID

FCASH	CASH
FCNTX	FIDELITY CONTRAFUND
IJR	ISHARES CORE S&P SMALL-CAP ETF
IUSG	ISHARES CORE S&P US GROWTH ETF
JAENX	JANUS HENDERSON ENTERPRISE T
JMCVX	JANUS HENDERSON MID CAP VALUE T
MAPTX	MATTHEWS PACIFIC TIGER FUND
MWTIX	METROPOLITAN WEST TOTAL RETURN CLASS I
OOSAX	OPPENHEIMER SENIOR FLOATING RATE CL A
TGBAX	TEMPLETON GLOBAL BOND ADVISOR CLASS
TPINX	TEMPLETON GLOBAL BOND CLASS A
VFSUX	VANGUARD SHORT TERM INVMT GRADE ADMIRAL
VIPSX	VANGUARD INFLATION PROTECTED SECS INV
VYM	VANGUARD WHITEHALL FDS HIGH DIVIDEND YIELD ETF SHS