

Research Awards Committee of the Waterbird Society

2012 Annual Report

Membership:

John Brzorad, Chair (John.Brzorad@lr.edu)

Tom Custer

Dave Moore

Rena Borkhataria

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

2011-2012 Committee Activities:

The committee reviewed applications and had a conference call on 30 July 2012 to decide on the winners for the Kushlan and Nisbet awards.

According to Don McCrimmon \$9,000 is available to fund the Kushlan Award and \$2,000 is available to fund the Nisbet Award.

Twenty applications from 10 nations were received:

N. America: 10

Africa: 5

S. America: 3

Asia: 2

It was decided by the group that the Kushlan Award go to Rogers K. Makau for the study entitled: "Waterbird Diversity Abundance and Threats in Mwea Rice Irrigation Scheme" in the amount of \$6935.

It was also decided by the group that the Nisbet Award go to Kyle Elliot for the study entitled: "Senescence in Seabirds: A Sleepy Secret?" in the amount of \$1000.

The group also agreed that posting the rubric used for evaluating the proposals would be a good idea.

The group also discussed the formation of another fund to support applicants from developing countries that involve questions of 1) species diversity, 2) population size 3) geographic locations

2012-2013 Proposed Work of the Committee:

The group will be 1) reviewing the proposed rubrics 2) sending the chair comments to be sent to this year's applicants. These comments are due to the chair by Aug 13th.

Requests for Council Action:

Once the group is in agreement, the Kushlan and Nisbet rubric will be sent to Council for scrutiny and discussion. It should be put up to vote (I think) that 1) a rubric be posted on our website so that applicants can see the way their applications will be evaluated 2) that the proposed rubric for the Kushlan and Nisbet awards be adopted by the society.

It is also hoped that Council discuss the formation of a new category of funding to support applicants from developing countries that involve questions of 1) species diversity, and/or 2) population size, and/or 3) geographic locations. Applicants would choose the fund to which they are applying.

It is important the Ian Nisbet and Jim Kushlan be consulted prior to the Council meeting to be sure that the creation of this category would in no way diminish perceptions of their respective funds.

2013 Actions Approved by Council:

- Finalize rubric for Nisbet/Kushlan awards
- make recommendation on new award
- track past recipients (pubs, results, etc)