**ANNEX J TO**

**RAFOS/SEC/17**

**DATED 24 NOV 17**

**FRANK WALKER AWARD - 2017**

In the recent past the Frank Walker Award has become something of a lifetime achievement award rather than, as originally conceived, the recognition of an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society during the past year. The Committee, in trying to restore the Award to its original purpose, considered who had made an outstanding contribution during the 2016/17 period.

Scott Drinkel – conceived, initiated and presided over the photographic extravaganza that was Watch the Birdy, generating interest through a dedicated Facebook page in photographing as many British birds as possible. The response was significant from members of the Society, friends and in some cases members of the public. Not satisfied to rest on those particular laurels he went on this year to conceive, initiate and (yes, you’ve guessed it) preside over the Big Base Birdwatch project. This endeavour was similar to the RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch but expanded to technical and airfield sites of RAF bases. The project attracted interest from a large number of bases and a broad church of birders with all levels of ability took part with the results being logged under the RAFOS name in the BTO BirdTrack system. The Society’s aims have been enhanced as a result and a useful contribution to the BTO’s citizen science has been achieved as well. For these two outstanding and self-generated initiatives the Committee had no hesitation in agreeing that Scott Drinkel deserved public recognition through the presentation of the Society’s premier award.

**FRANK WALKER AWARD – NOMINATIONS FOR 2018**

The Committee felt it was worth reminding members that, although the recipient of the Frank Walker Award is decided by the Committee, we are always open to nominations from the membership at large. The easiest way for a general member to nominate an individual is by e-mail to any Committee member before the end of September so that the nomination may be considered at the October committee meeting for award at the AGM. Any nomination should contain a brief rationale pointing out the particular attributes of the candidate that the Committee should consider.