



MOS Records Committee

Annual Meeting Minutes

22 March 1986

The annual meeting of the MOS Records Committee was held 22 March 1986 in Laurel, MD (hosted by member Hal Wierenga). The following people were present: committee members Rick Blom, Roger Clapp, Hank Kaestner, Bob Ringler, Hal Wierenga, and Claudia Wilds; committee secretary Erika Wilson; member Chan Robbins was absent, but his proxy votes were to hand.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Five people were nominated for membership on the committee. A 2-year term is available due to the resignation of H. T. Armistead. A ballot with a brief summary of each candidate's background was distributed; a discussion by the committee of the candidates was followed by a written ballot. The secretary tallied the votes. Elected to the committee were: Wayne Klockner (for 2-year term); Hal Wierenga (for 4-year term); and Claudia Wilds (for 4-year term).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary summarized the activities of the committee since its September, 1985, meeting. These included two packages of records circulated, two articles in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* (defining criteria for review of records and listing status of records under review), a budget request of \$100 for the 1986-87 year to the MOS Budget Committee, providing information to MOS President White on accepted records for inclusion in a new field list, and a report to the MOS state board on the activities of the MOSRC.

CHANGE IN STATUS: Piping Plover has been listed as an Endangered Species by the US F&WS; therefore the committee will review records of "Piping Plover outside of coastal Worcester Co. and the Chesapeake Bay shore". A notice to this effect will appear in the next issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*.

ARTICLES ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: several aspects of the committee's work need to be brought to the MOS membership at large. After some discussion, the following articles and authors were agreed upon:

1. General introduction to the committee, its purpose, goals, and procedures--drafted by Rick Blom.
2. How to take adequate field notes for submitting a record to the committee--drafted by Claudia Wilds.
3. Discussion of committee decisions on submitted records--drafted by Erika Wilson. All of these articles will be reviewed by the committee before being published.

PROCEDURES: A variety of procedural decisions were made.

1. Members can request from the secretary a copy of any decided record, especially unanimous decisions which aren't being recirculated.
2. Records are open to anyone who asks to see them as they are part of the historical record of Maryland's avifauna. Blom will state this in article #1 above, as the published committee policy is that records are confidential.
3. The term *new evidence* is defined as either observer notes not available during a previous consideration of the record, or as new information about the identification of a species, such as published ID articles.
4. The committee confirmed its rule that it takes **two** committee members to recirculate a decided record. The secretary may recirculate a decided record on the basis of new evidence, as defined above.
5. The committee will review Christmas Bird Count records, received via the CBC Regional Editor.
6. Members are urged to write comments on each record for the edification of the other members, and for the secretary's use when writing to observers of decided records.
7. The committee confirmed its decision to not have a Hypothetical List of species for Maryland.

ARCHIVES: A repository will be needed to store committee proceedings. Clapp stated that the Smithsonian would be interested in all of the MOS records, including those of the Records Committee. The secretary will pursue this matter.

RECORDS: Several records warranted additional discussion.

1. Fork-tailed Flycatcher (83-05): the second circulation vote was 6-1-1. A lively discussion of this record's validity was followed by a vote of 6-0, with one abstention. This record is therefore accepted, and will be reported as such in the next issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*.
2. Western Wood-Pewee: all decisions will be held in abeyance until the outside opinions of Van Remsen and Phillip Angle can be obtained on the validity of Maryland specimens at the Smithsonian. This MOSRC request will be via Roger Clapp at the Smithsonian.
3. Whooper Swan (85-18): outside opinions will be sought on bill markings in this and related species.

OFFICIAL MARYLAND CHECKLIST: members will consider at the 1987 annual meeting publishing an official checklist of Maryland's birds. Such a list will take into account the decisions made by the committee since the 1977 publication of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*.

The next annual meeting will be Saturday, 28 March 1987.

Erika Wilson
MOSRC Secretary