



## MOS Records Committee

### Annual Meeting Minutes

26 March 1988

The annual meeting of the MOS Records Committee was held 26 March 1988 in Laurel, MD (hosted by member Hal Wierenga). The following people were present: committee members Rick Blom, Hank Kaestner, Harvey Mudd, Bob Ringler, Chan Robbins, Hal Wierenga, Claudia Wilds, and secretary Erika Wilson. Wayne Klockner was out of the country, but his vote for new members was to hand.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. The secretary reported that five packages were sent out since the last annual meeting, with 37 new records being taken up and 19 records being re-circulated. More packages could have been started, but the delays in passing on packages by a few members would have meant too many pending records to keep track of. Members' obligations to keep the packages moving was discussed, and Hal Wierenga in particular promised to keep up during the coming year. To date the MOSRC has taken up 127 records, with 100 decisions being made (43% accepted), with 27 records still pending. All records from Packages 1-8 and Packages 10-12 have been decided (see below for 86-17 from Package 9).
2. A questionnaire sent by Don Roberson (Secretary., California Bird Records Committee) in preparation for an American Birding Association (ABA) workshop on records committees at this summer's ABA Convention was discussed. The secretary read the questions and her answers, making changes as necessary to reflect the consensus of the committee.

#### RECORDS:

1. Lark Sparrow (86-10): after a short discussion of previous rounds' comments, the record was voted upon. The written vote was 8-0, therefore this record is accepted, and will be reported as such.
2. Eared Grebe (86-14): additional notes from Walter Kraus were discussed; it was decided that they did not materially add to this record, being for different dates and lacking any precise descriptive details. The consensus was that the second round vote (4-4) should stand, the above information not warranting a third circulation. Therefore this record is not accepted, and will be reported as such.
3. Sabine's Gull (86-16): additional information concerning the circumstances of this observation was provided by Harvey Mudd. Ambiguity in the *Maryland Birdlife* article and concern over the record being from a single observer were discussed at length. The written vote was 3-4, therefore this record is not accepted, and will be reported as such.

4. Sabine's Gull (86-17): additional information, in the form of field notes from Rich Rowlett, have been received. This record will be circulated for the third time in the next upcoming package.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

1. How to list different observation dates and individual number(s) was discussed. In the case of Clay-colored Sparrow (87-12) the secretary was directed to list two separate dates. A second bird seen by the O'Briens, et al., will be circulated as a separate record in an upcoming package. In general, committee members are asked to comment on whether they think separate records should be combined, if the dates, locations, and plumage descriptions seem to indicate the same individual(s).

2. Changes in the MOSRC's Criteria for Review were considered. The following changes were approved:

a) Brown Pelican was moved from category 5B to 5C;

b) Wilson's Plover was moved from category 5B to 3;

c) Sandwich Tern was moved from category 5B to 5C;

d) Loggerhead Shrike was added to category 5F, with a restricted range; and

e) category 4 was broadened to include other identifiable subspecies not known to occur regularly in Maryland.

A complete, revised listing of the Criteria for Review will be published as soon as possible in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*.

3. Record format was discussed. Hank Kaestner asked that the scientific name, as well as the common name, be included in reports. The various items which should be covered in a report need to be put before the birding community again; the secretary will publish the desired format in an upcoming issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*.

4. Claudia Wilds suggested that Chan Robbins write an article for *The Maryland Yellowthroat* about the MOSRC, including how it functions, its role in assessing the validity of official state records, and the desirability of the MOS membership supporting and accepting its decisions. This was seen as particularly important because Chan will not be a member of the committee for 1988-89.

**ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Five people were nominated for membership on the committee. Wayne Klockner was eligible for a 4-year term, having served only a 2-year term, but he withdrew his name from consideration when he accepted a position in New York state. Bob Ringler resigned from the committee due to other MOS commitments. 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: Bob Augustine (3-year term); Roger Clapp (4-year term); and Dave Czaplak (4-year term).

The next annual meeting will be Saturday, 25 March 1989.

Erika Wilson  
MOSRC Secretary