



MOS Records Committee

Annual Meeting Minutes

25 March 1989

The MOS Records Committee's annual meeting was held 25 March 1989 in Laurel, MD (hosted by member Hal Wierenga). The following were present: committee members Bob Augustine, Rick Blom, Roger Clapp, Dave Czaplak, Hank Kaestner, Harvey Mudd, Hal Wierenga, Claudia Wilds, and secretary Erika Wilson.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Three packages were started since the last annual meeting, containing 20 new records. Two packages circulating last March have also been tallied. To date MOSRC has taken up 147 records, on which 124 decisions have been made (49% accepted), with 23 records pending. Decisions have been reached on all records in Packages 1-13.
2. Members' adherence to the two-week limit has been generally good during the past year. The length of members' comments has increased, which has enriched the committee's discussions, and has helped the secretary in composing letters to the observers about the committee's decisions. Reports in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* have lagged behind MOSRC activities, for which no obvious remedy is seen. The secretary has requested an increase in the MOSRC annual budget to \$125 in light of increased activity and costs. The secretary is now receiving records directly from observers, as well as from Bob Ringler.
3. Erika Wilson will be living outside the area from August 1989 through May 1990. Rick Blom has agreed to assume secretarial duties from August 1989 through March 1990 (including the annual meeting), because he will not be a committee member during that period.

PROCEDURES:

1. The committee follows AOU Check-list taxonomy. Its responsibility in 87-21 (Caribbean Coot) is to assess the validity of the identification.
2. Some records cannot be assigned to species on the basis of the submitted materials, but the genera can be determined; such records will be listed as accepted to genera. For example, 87-19 (Magnificent Frigatebird) could be accepted as *Fregata* sp.
3. MOSRC categories were redefined: Category A--Accepted; Category B--Identification correct, but origin of bird questionable; Category C--Identification correct, but origin of bird exotic; Category D--Not Accepted.

4. The committee agreed to discontinue the practice of voting on final circulation records at the annual meeting. Such records will be discussed at the annual meeting, then recirculated to the sitting membership for a final vote. [Incoming committee members will not review final circulation records discussed before their election to the committee.] This new rule applies to the five 3rd circulation records held for this meeting; they will have their 3rd and final circulation as Package #21 to the above listed members.

5. Harvey Mudd suggested changes in committee circulation procedures designed to give members a chance to consider 2nd circulation comments before casting final votes on records not accepted or rejected unanimously in previous circulations. The revised wording increases the total possible circulations to four, and decreases the number of accept votes needed to keep a record circulating after the 2nd circulation. These new rules will apply to Package #20 (currently in circulation) and from Package #22 onward. Revised circulation procedures are attached to these minutes.

6. The secretary should acknowledge receipt of submitted records. The secretary will also check for completeness of objective data, requesting such information at the same time as acknowledging receipt of the record. Objective data concerns the *conditions* of observation only, and specifically excludes plumage and behavioral descriptions.

6. The committee discussed the merits of a form for documenting sightings. It was agreed to distribute a MOSRC documentation guide by inserting it twice a year into *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, and by making it available to members at chapter meetings.

7. Committee members have two weeks to send comments to the secretary before submission of a final draft to MOS for printing.

8. A nonbusiness meeting for the purpose of studying skins was discussed. Roger Clapp agreed to host a Saturday meeting at the USMNH. The annual date will be the Saturday after the Presidents' holiday in February.

RECORDS:

1. Five records were discussed amongst the members; these will be recirculated immediately as Package #21.

2. Franklin's Gull (88-07): tabled until further material is gathered. Rick Blom agreed to write an article detailing the early records for publication in *Maryland Birdlife*.

3. Ross' Goose (85-11): several articles about this species are expected to appear shortly; the committee decided to postpone recirculation (requested by Bob Ringler) until new information is available later this year.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Four people were nominated for the two positions available on the committee. A ballot with a brief summary of each candidate's background was distributed; a general discussion of the candidates was followed by a written ballot. The secretary tallied the votes: Elected to the committee were Paul O'Brien (4-yr term), and Chan Robbins (4-yr term).

The next MOSRC meeting will be at the USMNH to study skins on Saturday, February 24, 1990; the next annual meeting will be Saturday, March 31, 1990.

Erika Wilson
MOSRC Secretary