



MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

Annual Meeting Minutes

21 March 1992

The MD/DC Records Committee's annual meeting was held 21 March 1992 in Rockville, MD (hosted by member Paul O'Brien). The following were present: committee members Rick Blom, Roger Clapp, Dave Czaplak, Hank Kaestner, Willem Maane, Paul O'Brien, Bob Ringler, Chan Robbins, Claudia Wilds (Chair), and secretary Erika Wilson.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. Since the last annual meeting six packages, with forty-three new records, have been sent out. Seven packages have been tabulated, with final decisions reached on forty records. The committee's acceptance rate has increased to 57% on 190 decisions, with the recent rate running even higher, due to better documentation by observers.

2. Various printouts of the MDDCRC databases were circulated and discussed. Members can request current printouts anytime from the secretary.

3. The committee's budget for the coming year will be \$240, a 20% increase over last year.

4. Several outside correspondence items were reported. Dave Czaplak took the complimentary copy of DataHawk software to look over; the secretary provided information for the MD and DC lists involved.

5. Several miscellaneous photos/records were sorted out.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. Claudia Wilds reported on a European/American records committees meeting held in October 1991 at Texel, the Netherlands. American representatives were: Jon Dunn, Kenn Kaufman, Paul Lehman, Don Roberson, and Claudia Wilds. Topics ranged over criteria for review; single observer sightings of new species for a country/state; and the extensive Eurasian wild bird trade.

2. The Yellow-legged Gull records will be circulated as a separate package next time because the file has become so large. Claudia summarized the correspondence she has conducted with European gull people; copies will accompany the records. A bibliography of relevant articles was distributed; translations of non-English articles will also accompany the records.

POLICY ISSUES:

1. Voting on personal sightings: after much discussion it was agreed that for the coming year the committee would try a new voting procedure in regard to members' documentation. If one or two members submit documentation for a record, they will not vote on that record. If three or more members submit documentation for a record, then all members will continue to vote on that record. Acceptance will require 8-0 or 7-1 if

eight members vote; likewise 7-0 or 6-1 will be required if seven members vote. This rule applies to submitted documentation only, not to members' observation of a particular bird.

2. Single observer sight records: the older European committees require a photo or specimen when a single observer sighting involves a new country/state record. After much discussion, it was agreed that no change would be made in committee procedures at present.

3. Photo records with minimal documentation: it was agreed that photo documentation with at least a date, location, and photographer can be circulated. The secretary will provide a cover sheet with the available information. [About six such records are in the files and will be circulated.]

4. Criteria for review: no changes (but see below). Chair and secretary to set new boundaries when the "twelve accepted records" threshold is reached, to be circulated to members for comment. In the meantime, the criteria should be reprinted in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* as soon as possible. Bob Ringler will send documentation to the secretary of four new breeders in Maryland (Brown Pelican, N. Shoveler, Black-necked Stilt, and Pine Siskin).

5. Committee decisions report(s): the desirability of reporting committee decisions in a fuller manner than the current listing in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* was discussed. Dave Czaplak and Bob Ringler will prepare a series of reports for *Maryland Birdlife*, starting with the older records. The secretary will provide a database printout in record no. order, as well as any other materials needed for these reports.

FOURTH CIRCULATION RECORDS: Three waterfowl records (88-21, 88-22, and 88-23) were reviewed. After some discussion, it was decided to stop reviewing Eurasian Wigeon records. By unanimous votes 88-21 and 88-22 were accepted; record 88-23 will be recirculated to the current committee shortly for its fourth and final vote.

UNSETTLED RECORDS:

1. Franklin's Gull (88-07) was tabled at the 1989 meeting. It was resolved to recirculate this record, with votes to be on the basis of the most completely described bird. There are also several other Franklin's Gull records with minimal documentation, which will now be circulated (see above).

2. Rufous Hummingbird (90-14) is causing concern, with Dave Czaplak requesting the feathers from the Carnegie Museum. After some discussion it was decided that Claudia would talk to Kenneth Parkes, requesting a Xerox copy of feathers and some measurements; 90-14 will be recirculated when this material reaches the secretary.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Four candidates were nominated for the three openings. Robert Hilton, Bruce Peterjohn, and Harvey Mudd were elected to three-year terms. Claudia Wilds was re-elected to chair the committee; Erika Wilson continues as secretary.

The next MDDCRC meeting will be at the NMNH to study skins on Saturday, 20 February 1993; the next annual meeting will be Saturday, 27 March 1993.

Erika Wilson
MDDCRC Secretary