



Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee

1995 Annual Meeting

March 25, 1995

Minutes

The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) 1995 Annual Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Bruce Peterjohn at 9:15 am. Present were Harvey Mudd, Robert Hilton, Gail Mackiernan, Mark Hoffman, David Holmes, Bob Dixon and Phil Davis (Secretary). Not able to attend were Robert Norton and Michael O'Brien.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Workload: The Secretary reported on the committee's workload since last year's annual meeting:

	Past Yr	Previous Yr
# packages started since last annual meeting:	6	3
# records circulated:	77	27
# new records circulated:	55	12
# packages tabulated:	3	3
# final decisions:	20	21

Database Status: The Secretary provided summary statistics on the committee's database as of March 24, 1995. There are 478 total records in the database.

MD:

- 159 accepted
- 48 circulating
- 2 deleted
- 1 accepted: genus only
- 3 ID OK/?? origin
- 100 not accepted
- 142 pending
- 5 recirculating

DC:

- 11 accepted
- 7 pending

There are currently 142 records awaiting review. However, when the committee's new review criteria are finalized many of these will not require any action and will be move to a "no review" category.

"QA Review": Marshall Iliff reviewed the database and files to perform a "quality audit". Some discrepancies were noted and resolved. Also, observer data was added for older records and references to Maryland Birdlife and American Birds were added.

Budget: The committee budget for MOS FY 94 was submitted as \$250.

Outside correspondence: Outside correspondence during the previous year included:

- Checklist requests from "listing" software vendors (MD and DC)
- MOS Publications correspondence (with the new "Yellow Book" authors)
- West Virginia request for information regarding establishing a records committee
- A request for information by the authors of "Hard to Find Birds"

Action Items not completed from the 1994 Annual Meeting:

- DC checklist status; fix DC checklist annotation (ANS article re C&B 77)
- Ask Bryon Swift re any DC records archives.
- Get copy of the Oregon Audubon Society ID article index for files.
- Get copy of "Birds of the Chesapeake Blight" (from Ron Naveen?)

Future projects:

- Index of ID articles
- Further automation of letters, reports, and observers
- Dissect ballots from first few packages
- Fix "multi-county" records

Meeting minutes:

- The Committee's Annual Meeting highlights were reported in the May 94 Yellowthroat.
- Highlights of this Annual Meeting will also be reported in the Maryland Yellowthroat or Maryland Birdlife.

NEW BUSINESS:

Start and end date for records. This issue was discussed. It was decided that the committee's files will continue to reflect record start and end dates that are substantiated by direct record information in the committee's files.

Documentation campaign: Documentation is needed for the following known rarities sightings -

- Germantown Hoary Redpoll - photos - D. Czaplak
- Hart-Miller Island Hoary Redpoll additional details (D. Holmes) - photos - M. Hoffman
- Gyrfalcon - photos - M. Hoffman
- Le Conte's Sparrow - photos - D. Czaplak
- Berlin Painted Bunting details/photos - check with Mary Humphrey (Wicomico Co) -H. Mudd and M. O'Brien can write from memory if needed.
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck -- Gail MacKiernan will follow up

- Black-bellied Whistling Duck - Patty Craig (St Mary's Co)
- Barrow's Goldeneye - check with Hal Wierenga
- Trumpeter Swan (Mont/Ho Co) - photos - check with Dave Czaplak, Mark Hoffman, Robert Hilton
- Bridled Tern (1992 OC Pelagic) - ???
- Jug Bay Clapper Rail (Martin & Perry)
- Lark Bunting at Assateague
- Barrow's Goldeneyes (AACO, Kent Is, OC ???)
- Pine Grosbeaks in Garrett Co (ask Kevin Dodge - his in-laws?)
- White-winged Crossbills in PGCO last year (ask Dave Brinker?)
- White-winged Tern in OC
- Archilochus Hummingbird in Cecil County (Gary Griffin)
- Common Murre (March 95 pelagic)
- Thick-billed Murre (March 95 pelagic)
- Selasphorous hummingbird (Salisbury - Dec 94 - M. Hoffman photos)
- Spotted Towhee (Triadelphia CBC - Norm Saunders, compiler)
- Northern Shrike (Triadelphia CBC - Norm Saunders, compiler)
- Sandhill Crane (Baltimore Co, Nov 94 - M. Hoffman photos)
- Write to Jane Church re McGillvray's Warbler - any additional detail ??
- Razorbill (oiled bird - David Holmes)

Coordination with the new "Yellow Book": Follow-up on unsubmitted State records is needed:

- South Polar Skua - Bob Ringler has a Rowlett photo.
- Thayer's Gull - Bob Ringler has photos from Howard County landfill.
- Tufted Duck - Ask Hal Weirenga about this 1976 (?) banding record.

Three sightings were also identified that are not on the new Yellow Book list:

- Ruff (Lock Raven, 1981 May Count - Bob Dixon)
- Ruff (East Baltimore County - David Holmes)
- Fulvous Whistling Ducks (Blackwater NWR - Nov 89)

Others species mentioned were never documented or are known to have been in error: Kirtland's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-billed Magpie.

The National Museum of National History also needs to be checked for Maryland skins for: Western Willet, Bicknell's Thrush and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Dowitchers.

CHAIR's REPORT:

Thayer's Gull issue. The AOU checklist committee has still not decided to lump Thayer's Gull with Iceland Gull at this time - although they may do it next year. The committee decided to hold off on reviewing Thayer's Gull reports for another year to see what action the AOU takes. (Thayer's and Iceland Gulls are not separable at this time and the committee therefore does not think it makes sense to review reports of Thayer's Gulls.)

OLD BUSINESS:

Revised review criteria: The latest draft of the revised committee review criteria was discussed. Revisions to these criteria were proposed and discussed. When this document is finalized it will be submitted to the Maryland Yellowthroat for publication. When the review criteria is finalized, the database will be cleaned of non-reviewable records (actually, they will be move to a "non-reviewable" category). These records will be retained for the archives and letters will be sent to the observers.

Genus only status. The committee ballot form will be modified to add this option.

MOS By-Laws: The MOS Board of Directors passed a change to the MOS By Laws and Operations Manual to reflect the actual operational procedures of the Committee. New committee members will actually be recommended to the President of the MOS who will then appoint the new members. New members are required to be members in good standing of the MOS.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fourth Circulation Records: No records reached a fourth circulation this year.

Reopening of records: A new procedure was adopted to open new records -- any committee member can request that a record be reopened. The Secretary will then submit the request and the record to file to the entire committee for members to vote "yes" or "no" as to whether the record should be reopened. Agreement of a majority of the committee members is required to reopen a report.

Record 85-15, Gray Kingbird was reopened. (A majority of the committee members voted for this at the February "Skins Workshop" and skins of Gray Kingbirds and Giant Kingbird (Cuban) were inspected. The committee will treat this as a first record, circulating all existing previous votes and comments with the record.

Confidence Scale Experiment: At the last Annual Meeting, the committee authorized Harvey Mudd to develop a set of measurement techniques to present to the committee at the 1995 Annual Meeting. Resulting metrics would be used as an experiment, in parallel with the committee's existing procedures. Harvey did propose a system which was adopted for use for one year. Definition of this system is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

Identification Issues: Slides were reviewed on the following identification problems:

- Ross's x Snow Geese hybrids
- Archilochus hummingbirds

Revised Yellow Book/Records Committee Issues: The MOS Board of Directors directed the Publications Committee to not publish records in the new Yellow Book that were not accepted by the records committee. There are three categories of records in contention:

a) Records accepted by the MD/DCRC not agreed with by the Yellow Book authors. There are none of these at this moment.

b) Reports not accepted by the MD/DCRC - but not in agreement with the Yellow Book authors. The authors will provide a list of these records to the committee. The only one identified to date is 85-15, the Gray Kingbird. Indications are that there are at least four others. The authors will provide the committee with the reasons for requesting the re-opening of these records and the committee will then decide whether to re-open the records or let the decisions stand.

c) Records not yet reviewed by the committee. The committee will try to resolve all pending first state records prior to publication of the new Yellow Book. For species already on the state list, the committee agreed to accelerate its review of old and new records and found the authors treatment of these records to be acceptable within the Yellow Book. A final agreement concerning the treatment of these records remains to be negotiated between the committee and the Yellow Book authors.

The following species are not included on the Maryland state list by Stewart and Robbins, but were accepted by the committee based on current information without need for additional review:

- Northern Fulmar
- Sooty Shearwater
- Manx Shearwater
- Audubon's Shearwater
- Razorbill
- Rock Dove
- House Finch

Marshall Iloff has provided unreviewed records from old issues of Maryland Birdlife. Some of these require some research to obtain photographs or additional information. Harvey Mudd volunteered to research these records.

The Yellow Book authors have indicated they are waiting for publication of the Seventh Edition of the AOU Checklist before finalizing the new Yellow Book. The records committee will try to review as many old records as possible before the Yellow Book is published.

The committee reaffirmed its role as not dealing with hybrid species. Exotic species will be reviewed, within reasonable judgement.

The committee also affirmed it will not deal with nesting records. Observers will be encouraged to submit details to Maryland Birdlife for publication.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OFFICERS:

Membership: Nominations and elections were held in conformance with the revised procedures adopted at last year's annual meeting. The Chair will contact the nominated candidates to determine if they will serve. [New committee members are Mary Gustafson, Ottavio Janni, and Willem Maane.]

Chair: Bruce Peterjohn was elected to serve as the Chair for the next year. Since his voting term has expired, he will serve as a non-voting Chair.

OTHER ISSUES:

Appreciation: The committee extended a round of thanks to retiring committee members, Robert Hilton and Harvey Mudd.

NEXT MEETING DATES: The committee decided to swap the order of the Skins Workshop and the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held in February and the Workshop will be held in March.

Annual Meeting: The 1996 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 24, 1996.

Skins Workshop: The 1996 Skins Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 23, 1996.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Davis
MD/DC Records Committee Secretary

cc: MOS President
MOS Secretary
MOS Publications Committee