



Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee
 2008 Annual Meeting
 Saturday, March 8, 2008

Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order at 10:15 am at the home of Phil Davis in Davidsonville, MD. Members present included Paul O'Brien (Chair), Phil Davis (Secretary), Stan Arnold, Tyler Bell, Paul DeAnna, John Hubbell, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Ellen Lawler, Leo Weigant, and Marcia Watson. MOS President, Marcia Balestri, also attended.

1. Secretary's Report. The Secretary presented the following report:

1.1 State Lists Changes and Status. Figure 1.1-1 shows the current number of species on the Official Lists of the Birds of Maryland and DC with annual additions.

State	As of Annual Meeting:	2005	2006	2007
MD	List Total	424	429	432
	Species/Groups Added	(none)	Neotropic Cormorant Northern Lapwing Calliope Hummingbird Cave Swallow Townsend's Warbler	Inca Dove Anna's Hummingbird Tropical Kingbird
	Subspecies or Forms Added	(none)	(none)	"European" Whimbrel
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)
	Exotic Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)
DC	List Total	325	326	328
	Species/Groups Added	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Dusky Flycatcher (Rufous Hummingbird upgraded from <i>Selasphorus</i> , sp.)	Cackling Goose Bullock's Oriole
	Subspecies/Forms Added	(none)	(none)	(none)
	? Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)
	Exotics Added	(none)	(none)	(none)

Figure 1.1-1. Current Status and Additions to the Official State Lists for Maryland and DC.

1.2 Review Package Status Report.

1.2.1 Package Statistics. Figure 1.2.1-1 presents a statistical summary by calendar year of completed review packages. The table shows the yearly total and average number of reports circulated, the total and average number of new reports, and the total and average number of decisions reached. Decisions include the categories: "Accepted," "Accepted-Group," "Accepted-Form," "Not Accepted," "ID OK/Questionable Origin," and "ID OK/Exotic Origin."

Year	Pkgs	Weeks	#Items	#New	#Decisions	Dec%	Avg#Items	Avg#New	Avg#Decs
1985	3	72.0	40	40	13	33%	13	13	4
1986	7	21.0	61	35	35	57%	9	5	5
1987	6	17.6	59	27	43	73%	10	5	7
1988	4	15.0	33	25	20	61%	8	6	5
1989	4	26.6	35	20	17	49%	9	5	4
1990	3	35.1	30	15	12	40%	10	5	4
1991	7	18.9	65	35	36	55%	9	5	5
1992	9	18.3	75	43	39	52%	8	5	4
1993	4	13.3	41	22	27	66%	10	6	7

1994	4	25.6	39	20	28	72%	10	5	7
1995	4	25.8	63	50	33	52%	16	13	8
1996	4	25.2	51	37	33	65%	13	9	8
1997	5	21.1	68	47	49	72%	14	9	10
1998	7	19.3	107	84	81	76%	15	12	12
1999	6	17.8	84	61	50	60%	14	10	8
2000	3	15.2	27	15	20	74%	9	5	7
2001	3	25.8	44	30	27	61%	15	10	9
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	8	37.6	79	69	45	57%	10	9	6
2004	7	45.9	90	63	52	58%	17	10	14
2005	5	26.3	95	63	70	74%	19	13	14
2006	7	22.6	110	66	85	77%	16	9	12
2007	9	21.9	124	80	78	63%	14	9	9
2008	2	16.6	36	23	15	42%	18	12	8
Total	121	25.4	1456	970	908	62%	12	8	8

Figure 1.2.1-1. Package Statistics Summary

1.2.2 Packages in Circulation. Figure 1.2.2-1 summarizes the contents of the packages that are currently in circulation at the time of this Annual Meeting.

Year Started	Pkg	Start Date	# Items	# New
2008	116	01/23/2008	17	10
	117	03/08/2008	17	7
		Totals (2)	34	17
		Averages	17	9
	Grand Totals		34	17
	Grand Averages		17	9

Figure 1.2.2-1. Status of Packages Currently in Circulation

1.2.3 Acceptance Rate. From last year to this year, the committee's cumulative acceptance rate remained at 80 percent. This rate, shown in **Figure 1.2.3-1**, is determined by dividing the total number of accepted decisions (which includes "Accepted", "Accepted-Group", "Accepted-Form", "ID OK/?? Origin", and "ID OK/Exotic Origin") by the total number of decisions--which includes "Not Accepted" decisions).

Decision/Status	Cumulative Data			
	AM 2005 #Decisions	AM 2006 # Decisions	AM 2007 # Decisions	AM 2008 # Decisions
Accepted	499	521	610	665
Accepted-Group	13	19	25	28
Accepted-Form	10	11	13	15
ID OK/?? Origin	8	8	8	9
ID OK/Exotic Origin	2	2	2	2
Not Accepted	150	152	165	180
Cumulative Decisions Grand Total	682	723	823	899
Cumulative Acceptance Rate:	78%	79%	80%	80%

Figure 1.2.3-1. MD/DCRC Acceptance Rate Report

1.2.4 Member Package Review Performance. The Secretary compiles and analyzes the length of time each member retains each review package. A handout was provided that summarizes the average turnaround time of all MD/DCRC members. Individual members were also provided with specifics of their package-by-package performance.

1.3 Database Contents Status Report.

1.3.1 Database Contents. Figure 1.3.1-1 presents a glossary of the status/decision categories currently used in the MD/DCRC database. Figure 1.3.1-2 summarizes the current contents of the MD/DCRC database by status/decision category and indicates the changes (“deltas”) since last year. Between last year’s and this year’s Annual Meeting approximately 62 “historical” reports were added to the database, largely from the data uncovered by the Secretary from historical journal research, with inputs from Bob Ringler, primarily on species of questionable and exotic origin. The completion of this phase of canvassing old records to bring the committee’s historical database up-to-date is mostly complete except for a few known tasks, described further below.

Decision	Decision / Status Description
S&R	Records from the committee's baseline document: Stewart and Robbins, 1958. <i>The Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia</i> . North American Avifauna Number 62
DCRC	Records from the defunct DC Records Committee baseline: Czaplak and Hayes. 1985. Six species of birds new to the District of Columbia, <i>Atlantic Naturalist</i> 35:19-22.
Accepted	Reports accepted by the committee.
Accepted-Group	Reports accepted only as to a species complex or genus--where all other species of this group are reviewable at the observed location.
Accepted-Form	Reports accepted as an unusual subspecies or form.
ID OK/?? Origin	Reports accepted for the species/group reported; however, a majority of the committee questioned whether the bird was a "natural" vagrant or a "wild" bird.
ID OK/Exotic Origin	Reports accepted for the species/group reported; however, a majority of the committee felt the bird was of exotic (i.e., captive) origin.
Not Accepted	Reports not accepted by the committee.
Circulating	Reports currently in circulation and under review by the committee.
Recirculate	Reports where no committee decision was reached during the latest circulation. The report will be circulated again.
Ready	Reports ready for circulation. All relevant documentation, or a sufficient number of reports, has been submitted.
Reviewable	Reports of a species/location that meets the committee's Review List criteria. Additional observer data is believed to be outstanding.
USNM	Reports of specimens in the US Museum of Natural History that have not otherwise been published. Specimens are yet to be verified and reviewed by the committee.
Unreviewable	Reports with insufficient descriptive identification details to permit a review by the committee; typical for many older published sight records.
Non-Review Species	Reports submitted for a species that does not fall within the committee's Review List criteria.
Non-Review Range	Reports submitted for a species at a location that does not fall within the committee's Review List criteria.
Reopened	Reports reopened for consideration by the committee. Reopened reports are "excluded" from the committee's database and replaced by the reopened report.
Research	Apparently unpublished reports – investigation in process to determine if documentation exists.
Withdrawn	Reports withdrawn by the original observer(s).
Retracted	Published reports – subsequently retracted by the observer(s).

Figure 1.3.1-1. MD/DCRC Database Status/Decision Definitions

State	Category / Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Delta
MD	Stewart & Robbins	9	9	100	85	83	81	82	81	87	87	90	3
	Accepted	258	332	362	377	381	380	424	464	486	560	609	49
	Accepted-Group	2	2	9	9	10	10	10	11	15	21	24	3
	Accepted-Form	-	1	3	3	3	6	7	10	11	13	15	2
	ID OK/?? Origin	5	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	9	1
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	0
	Not Accepted	119	124	127	132	133	132	140	147	149	161	174	13
	Circulating	45	28	9	15	49	78	29	13	84	57	33	-24
	Recirculate	22	21	27	25	23	18	49	54	34	25	38	13
	Ready	102	49	64	61	69	78	77	112	82	126	163	37
	Reviewable	35	45	36	35	42	44	66	249	520	679	694	15
	Unreviewable	221	224	238	246	248	255	257	287	291	307	306	-1
	USNM	-	-	6	26	21	14	14	11	10	9	0	-9
	Hold	11	11	16	15	15	15	15	-	-	-	-	0
	Report	0	3	5	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	0
	Reopened	-	-	5	5	6	7	4	8	8	8	8	0
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	361	46	41	-	13	13
	Non-Review Species	109	112	119	136	139	140	139	357	164	174	176	2
	Withdrawn	4	5	7	7	8	9	9	11	11	13	10	-3
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	MD Totals	942	970	1135	1179	1233	1275	1693	1871	2003	2289	2365	76
DC	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	25	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	12	2
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	10	10	10	0
	Accepted	14	16	19	20	20	20	25	35	45	50	56	6
	Accepted-Group	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	0
	Not Accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	6	2
	Circulating	1	4	1	2	7	13	4	5	6	2	5	3
	Recirculate	1	2	4	4	5	2	9	3	4	4	3	-1
	Ready	6	2	3	7	14	21	15	19	8	11	10	-1
	Reviewable	1	7	9	5	6	4	10	45	62	71	80	9
	Unreviewable	8	13	17	16	28	30	27	37	33	33	34	1
	USNM	-	-	4	26	27	15	14	31	32	32	-	-32
	Report	0	10	10	2	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	0
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Non-Review Species	3	3	3	6	7	7	11	26	20	20	30	10
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	0
	DC Totals	34	57	95	98	126	125	206	228	240	261	260	-1
??	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	USNM	-	-	-	2	3	5	7	3	3	3	-	-3
	Reviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
	Unreviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	8	4
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	-	-4
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	0
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	0
	?? Totals	0	0	0	2	3	7	17	7	7	11	21	10
DE	Total						1	1	1	1	1	0	
VA	Total						1	4	6	6	7	7	0
NY	Total						1	1	5	1	1	0	
	Grand Totals	976	1029	1234	1283	1369	1409	1922	2126	2270	2559	2655	96

Figure 1.3.1-2. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 03/06/2008 and Changes from Previous Annual Meetings. The questionable jurisdiction data records typically deal with historical records, mostly from the Potomac River, which cannot be determined to be MD, DC, or VA. [DE, VA, and NY data entries will be deleted in future tabulations.]

1.3.2 Reports Received Per Year. Figure 1.3.2-1 indicates the number of reports the MD/DCRC receives each year. The table separates “current” reports (defined as initial documentation received within six months after the first sighting date) and “historical” reports (documentation received more than six months after the first sighting date). The committee’s emphasis in locating and obtaining old published historical reports during the period from 1995 through 2007 can be easily seen from the numbers of historical reports received during this period. From 1994 through 2007, the number of “current” (i.e., contemporary) reports received per year has averaged approximately 48.

Year	Reports Received	Historical Reports	"Current" Reports
1966	1	1	0
1979	2	0	2
1980	1	0	1
1982	1	0	1
1983	1	0	1
1984	3	0	3
1985	4	0	4
1986	2	0	2
1988	2	2	0
1989	2	0	2
1990	3	0	3
1991	25	0	25
1992	13	1	12
1993	26	2	24
1994	58	11	47
1995	186	141	45
1996	103	56	47
1997	264	221	43
1998	44	14	30
1999	201	156	45
2000	54	5	49
2001	81	39	42
2002	42	12	30
2003	458	411	47
2004	193	121	72
2005	147	87	60
2006	272	189	83
2007	138	62	76
2008	11	0	11
Totals	2338	1531	807
Average (since 1994)		n/a	48

Figure 1.3.2-1. MD/DCRC Reports Received per Year

1.3.3 ID Articles and Index. The committee now has 693 identification and reference articles in its files. This information is summarized in Figure 1.3.3-1. During the next year, the Secretary plans to inventory, sort, and better organize these files.

Annual Meeting	Number of ID and Reference Articles Indexed	# Taxa
2006	445	n/a
2007	574	81
2008	639	93

Figure 1.3.3-1. MD/DCRC Identification and Reference Article Index Status

1.4 Communications Report

1.4.1 Acknowledgements. Since last year’s Annual Meeting, 144 acknowledgements were mailed to observers (127 were sent during the prior year). This information is shown in Figure 1.4.1-1.

1.4.2 Decision Reports. Since last year’s Annual Meeting, 72 decision notices were sent to observers for Packages 105 and 107 - 115. This information is also shown in Figure 1.4.1-1.

Annual Meeting	# Acknowledgements	# Decisions	# Decision Observers Notices
2006	124	84	211
2007	127	100	239
2008	144	72	181

Table 1.4.1-1. Number of Acknowledgements and Decision Notices Mailed

1.4.3 External Communications Status Report. Figure 1.4.3-1 presents a summary of significant communications with people or organizations outside of the committee's routine MD and DC sighting report communications.

Mon	Year	Contact	St	Topic
Feb	2007	Wormington, Alan	ON	Parus major questions
Feb	2007	Wilson, Augus	NY	Parus major questions
Feb	2007	Cheshire, Neil	AUS	RNBWS at-sea records of Barnacle Geese
Feb	2007	Hengeveld, Jim	IN	Parus major questions
Feb	2007	Lloyd, John	WA	Brown-headed Nuthatch breeding range research questions
Feb	2007	Craves, Julie	MI	Parus major questions
Feb	2007	Lockwood, Mark	TX	Common Eider questions
Feb	2007	Pulcinella, Nick	PA	Parus major questions
Mar	2007	Bratcher, Drew	DC	Fact checking for article on Jonathan Alderfer
Mar	2007	Larson, Laurie	NJ	Records Committee Gazetteer
Mar	2007	Petrucha, Michael	MI	Research on Kirtland's Warbler migration records
Mar	2007	Buckley, PA	RI	Southern Lapwing status
Mar	2007	Mlodinow, Steve	WA	Southern Lapwing status
Apr	2007	Graves, Gary	DC	Swainson's Warbler in Maryland
May	2007	Kerlinger, Paul	NJ	Birder's World Kirtland's Warbler records error
Jul	2007	Browning, Ralph	OR	Redpoll hybrid questions
Aug	2007	Murillo, Antonio	MD	BBL data records
Sep	2007	Banks, Dick	DC	Yellow-legged Gull questions
Sep	2007	McCaskie, Guy	CA	CBRC archival white paper
Oct	2007	Siegfried, Clifford	NY	NY State Museum specimen of DC Yellow Rail
Nov	2007	Meridith Stacy	MI	Background bird songs for an early 1800s Washington, DC Tom Hanks movie
Dec	2007	Graves, Gary	DC	Blue-phase Ross's Geese
Dec	2007	Szantry, Mark	CT	Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow questions
Dec	2007	Fritz, Paul	AK	Hoary Redpoll status
Dec	2007	Mlodinow, Steve	WA	Cackling Goose research
Feb	2008	Contreras, Alan	OR	Digitization of North American Birds
Feb	2008	Stevenson, Mark	AZ	Digitization of North American Birds

Figure 1.4.3-1. Summary of the Past Year's External Communications

1.4.4 Email Traffic. Figure 1.4.4-1 summarizes the secretary's MD/DCRC-related email message communications over the past years, reflecting an increase in relevant email, listserver messages, digital documentation communications, and efforts to track down historical documentation.

Calendar Year	# MD/DCRC Email Messages Sent
1997	64
1998	66
1999	307
2000	128
2001	287
2002	570
2003	731
2004	610
2005	1212
2006	1472
2007	1647

Figure 1.4.4-1. Number of MD/DCRC Secretary Email Messages Sent by Calendar Year

1.5 Storage Status Report. A summary of the amount of MD/DCRC storage (both hardcopy/paper and electronic) is shown in Figure 1.5-1. The committee's files currently fill the equivalent of approximately 43 document boxes. Additional committee reference material is not boxed, but is on bookshelves. These

items include a library of *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds/Field Notes/North American Birds*. Other non-boxed reference material includes baseline publications such as Stewart and Robbins (1958), the *Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas*, and historical publications such as Kirkwood (1895), and Coues and Prentiss (1863 and 1883). The committee's electronic data files currently consume over 6.37GBs of data storage. Currently, all electronic data is periodically duplicated and stored both on-site (in the Secretary's home in a fire-retardant safe) and off-site, typically with the Chair. The Secretary plans to look into web-based external storage for next year.

Media	Contents	Amount of Storage
Paper/Hardcopy	Reports/records/packages files	28 document boxes
	Video/audio tapes	1 document box
	Identification/reference files	4 document boxes
	Correspondence/miscellaneous files	10 document boxes
	Supplies	3 document boxes
	Maryland Birdlife journals	2 feet of shelf space
	American Birds journals	2 feet of shelf space
	Historical references (S&R, AOU, etc.)	1.5 feet of shelf space
Electronic	Documents and databases, etc.	4.05 GB
	Electronic sighting documentation	3.59 GB

Figure 1.5-1. MD/DCRC Storage Status

1.6 MD/DCRC Resource Summary. The Secretary has summarized, in **Figure 1.6-1**, the office and information technology resources that are required to operate and support the committee.

Type	Resources
Communications	Postage, internet, email
Reproduction	Copier, film duplication
Office Supplies	File folders, file jackets, storage boxes, envelopes (letter size and flat), inkjet mailing labels, inkjet CD labels, inkjet file labels, photo marking pens, highlighters, ink pens, staplers
Consumables	Printer/copier paper, staples, copier/printer toner cartridge, copier/printer drum, ink jet ink cartridges, ink jet print heads, blank CDs, blank DVDs
Hardware	Computer, b&w laser printer, color inkjet printer, flatbed scanner, film scanner, CD/DVD burner, external backup disks, video capture interface, duplex copier
Software	Operating system (MS Windows XP), office suite (MS Office 2003, WordPerfect Suite), browsers (Netscape and IE), database (Paradox), report writer (R&R), file manager (Power Desk), email client (Eudora), PDF application (Adobe Acrobat), Image library program (Adobe Album), Photo processing (Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Photodraw), Screen capture (ScreenPrint), CD/DVD burner (Roxio CD Creator), CD/DVD Labeling (Click & Design), Media players (Windows Media Player, WinDVD), Conversion utility (Conversions Plus), Video editor (Pinnacle Studio), Scanning software (HP Director), OCR programs (Readiris Pro, OmniPage Professional)

Figure 1.6-1. MD/DCRC Office and Information Technology Resources

1.7 MOS MD/DCRC Web Site Updates. The Secretary has continued to update and publish MD/DCRC data products to the committee's web pages on the MOS web site. The latest major update to the MD/DCRC data products was on 28 Oct 2007. Thanks to Taylor McLean, the MOS Webmaster for maintaining these pages. The Secretary occasionally reminds the local birding community via e-mail messages on the local birding listserver (MD Osprey) that the web site information is available for reference. After this year's meeting, the web site will be updated with new Review Lists, Official Lists, Database Contents and other related documents. The link to the committee's web pages is:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

1.8 Projects Status Report.

1.8.1 Completed Projects

AOU Check-List 48th Supplement Update. The MD/DCRC database was modified to conform to the latest AOU Checklist supplements, through Supplement 48. This year's project is **closed**; however, AOU Checklist supplements are now issued annually, in July, and updates will be required annually.

Outstanding Published References and Citations. The Secretary has completed the canvass and analysis of historical citations. Virtually all outstanding citations, including CBC citations, have now been captured, copied, and filed with each MD/DCRC report. **Closed.**

Species Review Status Change History. The Secretary has compiled the chronology of the historical changes to the review lists— to capture, for example, when Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) was dropped from the review list; or when the review range of Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) was redefined, etc. This information was becoming lost and needed to be captured for posterity. This project is now complete except that annual updates will be required to capture each year's changes. A related action item, below, is to convert this data from a spreadsheet to a data table that can be integrated with other MD/DCRC automated functions. **Closed.**

Quantitative Status System. A few years ago, the committee vetted a "quick look" species status system that presented a numerical "at a glance" view of the status of reviewable species using a system of total numbers of reports/records and numbers in certain decision/status categories, similar to a California system. The report format was prepared but was placed on hold until the historical database research was completed, since the quantitative summary data would be incorrect for many species until all of the historical reports/records were captured and the database was fully populated. Now that the historical canvass is virtually complete, this report was again presented to the committee for its use and suggestions. (See Review List changes section.) **Closed.**

1.8.2 Projects In-Progress. The following database projects are still in work:

Species Review Status Change History - Database. As discussed above, the MD/DCRC species review status history spreadsheet information will be converted from an esoteric spreadsheet into a format more conducive to publication and ongoing updates. **Open.**

Historical Records Research. A number of related initiatives are still underway to capture all historical "reviewable" reports. Overall, this project is approximately 95 percent complete and should be completely finished by next year's Annual Meeting. Continuing initiatives include:

- **Museum Collection Specimens.** Even though the USNM (Smithsonian) Division of Birds specimen cases and manual catalog have been scoured, there are still a few historical specimen leads to be tracked down. A final summary of missing/outstanding reviewable specimen leads will be prepared and provided to the staff at the USNM for closure. Also, other North American museum datasets have been obtained and these still need to be analyzed regarding possible reviewable species for MD and DC. A few reviewable specimens have already been located at other museums and will be tracked down and photographs and/or measurements requested. The Secretary will continue this pursuit. **Open.**
- **Unsubmitted Reports and Outstanding Documentation Status.** Bob Ringler has 17-years of the *Maryland Birdlife* "The Season" sightings in his database. The Secretary and Bob already work closely on locating documentation for "Reviewable" reports. Bob also has many years of CBC rare bird reports in his files in case we are looking for any missing write-ups. At some point this year, the Secretary will coordinate with Bob on all of the outstanding "unreviewable" and "reviewable" reports. After all historical analysis and research is complete, the committee may publish a request for information in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* for sightings for which no documentation was located. **Open.**
- **Special Cases.** The Secretary still needs to straighten out some dates and specimens for DC Storm-Petrels (Leach's and Band-rumped). Also, the E.A. Vaughn WMA Le Conte's Sparrow reports and records still need to be sorted out. **Open.**

- **Bird Banding Laboratory Data.** Another historical canvass project involves mining the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) database for band numbers and banding reports of reviewable species. The Secretary analyzed the BBL MD and DC “Summary Datasets” for reviewable species and identified 246 summary records for potentially reviewable MD banded birds and three summary records for DC. Some of these banded birds have already been captured in the MD/DCRC database, but others have not. Next, a series of visits will be scheduled to visit the BBL and locate the specific data records associated with each of the summary records. Unrecorded band numbers for current MD/DCRC data records will be captured and entered into the database. Any reviewable banded birds that are not currently in the MD/DCRC database will be captured and details will be pursued (after checks are made for possible errors). This project is being coordinated with Kathy Klimkiewicz and Antonio Murillo of the BBL. **Open.**

Observer Reports. With our database capabilities, the MD/DCRC can, “with the push of a button,” generate a complete detailed report of records and reports for any given observer. The Secretary plans to offer such reports to observers with large numbers of database entries as a means to help detect and correct any errors and to stimulate the submission of outstanding documentation. Individual reports were generated and provided to each of the current committee members. **Open.**

County Reports. The Secretary has previously provided county-specific database reports to support the efforts of counties with active county listing committees, specifically Howard and Harford. With the current database capabilities, a goal is to identify a single point of contact from each county who can review and comment on the local records. Candidate points-of-contact were discussed. **Open.**

Revised Database Categories. The Secretary is expanding the current database categories to include “Unpublished” for public reports (e.g., from listservers and web pages) that were not published or submitted to the committee. Also, the Secretary is entertaining splitting out from the current “Non-Review Species” category several new categories that more accurately describe some historical reports, including: “Non-Reviewable Location” for species that are reviewable in certain locations but not from where the report occurred. **Open.**

Chronology of Species Added to the Official Lists. An earlier suggestion was to add the year of sighting to the MD/DCRC “chronology” reports in addition to the year each species was added to the official list. The Secretary has now implemented this function. A residual action is to integrate the data to add the first observation dates for records that were added to the official lists via other than MD/DCRC accepted records, such as Stewart & Robbins accepted baseline sight records. An addition dimension of this task is to locate and create a data record for the “first record” for each species, even for historical species. The Secretary will pursue this task. Samples of this newly formatted report were shown to the members at the meeting. **Open.**

Gazetteer. Based on a suggestion from Laurie Larson, the NJ Records Committee Secretary, the Secretary prepared an automated Gazetteer to present an organized view of all of the locations included in MD/DCRC reports and records. A copy of this report was provided to the members at the meeting for review. The Secretary will ask future recruited county “points of contact” to help validate this data. **Report generation—Closed; Data validation—Open.**

2. Subcommittee/Project Reports

Outreach Subcommittee Activities. A few years ago, the MD/DCRC Outreach Subcommittee was decommissioned after compiling and presenting a slide presentation on Maryland records to many of the MOS local chapters. However, the following continuing outreach-related topics were discussed at the meeting:

- **Maryland’s Next Species.** The Secretary developed a presentation that focuses on “Maryland’s Next Species,” based on *The Maryland Yellowthroat* survey of 2001 and the attending article published by

Marshall Iloff in 2002. The current version was available at the meeting for the members to review. This presentation has been presented to four MOS local chapters and has received good feedback.

- **Updated “Next Species” Poll.** Some members suggested that we redo this survey; however, no member has volunteered to produce/edit the final report that would come from this.

MD/DCRC Decision Reports. Formal publications of our committee decisions in Maryland Birdlife has been the MD/DCRC Achilles heel! Specifics on the previous and planned MD/DCRC decision reports follows:

Decision Report #	Packages	# Decisions	Status
Published			
1	001-051, AM86, AM87, AM88, AM92	299	Published; Peterjohn & Davis, 1996
2	052-062	101	Published; Hoffman & Davis, 1998
Total Published:		400	
Pending			
3	063-077; AM99, AM00	158	Pending; M O'Brien à Iloff; hold
4	078-088; 089-094	123	Pending (Suter)
5	089	1 (Kelp Gull)	Pending (P O'Brien & Davis)
6	095-115	217	Pending
Total to be Published:		499	

Rare Birds of Maryland Publication. In lieu of continuing to try and catch up with the MD/DCRC decision reports, the Secretary has proposed to publish all MD/DCRC decisions to-date as a single monograph to catch up with the decision publication process; similar to the recently published *The Rare Birds of California*. This proposal was discussed at the meeting. The consensus was that this project should be pursued. Next, the MOS Board of Directors will be approach with the concept.

Digitization of Maryland and DC Avifauna Historical Documents. In conjunction with and in preparation for the Rare Birds of Maryland and DC project, above, the Secretary proposes a project to digitize and make web-accessible all of the key historical documents and checklists that deal with the avifauna of MD and DC. A number of these key documents are already on-line. The concept is of a web portal that provides links to either MOS or non-MOS sites where these documents are stored as PDF files. A preliminary list of these documents is shown in the table, below.

Year	Authors	Publication	Pages	On-Line
1816	Warden	Birds seen in the District of Columbia	2	Y
1862	Coues & Prentice	List of Bird Ascertained to Inhabitat the District of Columbia	122	
1876	Jouy	Birds of the District of Columbia	2	
1877	Jouy	Catalogue of the Birds of the District of Columbia	7	
1883	Coues & Prentice	Avifauna Columbiana, second edition	133	
1895	Kirkwood	A List of the Birds of Maryland	142	
1898	Maynard	Birds of Washington and Vicinity: Where to Find and How to Know Them	204	
1902	Maynard	Birds of Washington and Vicinity: revised edition	210	Y
1918	McAtee	A Sketch of the Natural History of the District of Columbia	142	Y
1921	Cooke	Birds of the Washington Region	22	
1929	Cooke	Birds of the Washington, D.C. Region	80	
1947	Hampe & Kolb	A Preliminary List of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia	80	
1958	Stewart & Robbins	Birds of Maryland the District of Columbia	401	
1985	Czaplak & Hayes	Six species of birds new to the District of Columbia	4	
Total Pages:			1551	

Index of MD and DC Rarities Publications. A feature of the MD/DCRC comprehensive database is that many new data products can be easily generated. Since all references associated with MD and DC rarities are already captured in our database, the Secretary can generate and post to the committee web pages a bibliography of all rarity-related publications, by either author or date. Links to existing web documents can also be included. The committee can take this project a step further by scanning and

capturing any non-online documents as PDF files on our web pages. Draft prototypes of two bibliographies formats were provided to the members at the meeting.

Digitization of *The Audubon Naturalist Journal Series*. The MOS-produced digitized *Maryland Birdlife* archive CD was a very helpful and heavily used tool for MD/DCRC historical research by the Secretary. The Secretary will approach the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) to see if there are any plans to digitize its earlier journal, *The Audubon Naturalist*, which included a seasonal report and notes on rare and unusual birds.

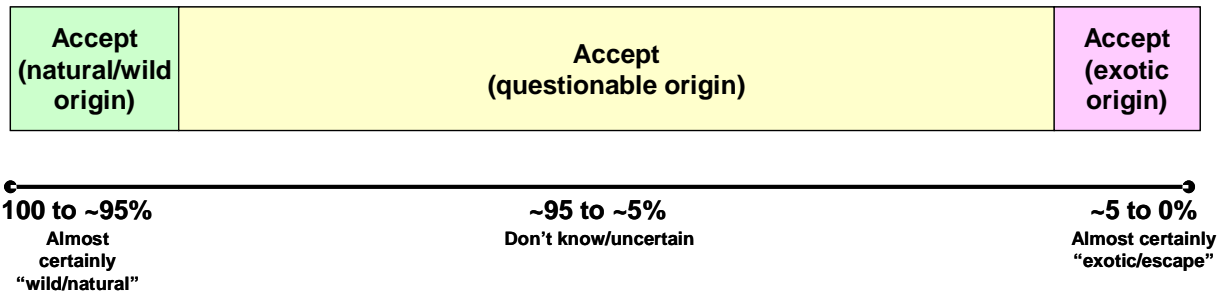
3. Committee Procedures and Processes:

3.1 Policy Issues:

Postage Reimbursement for Committee Members. During the past year, the MD/DCRC and the MOS Executive Board implemented a policy to reimburse members for the cost of postage for shipping packages. Members should submit their expenses to the MOS Treasurer in April.

Origin Votes: Wild, Questionable, and Exotic. This agenda item is due to the recent Gaithersburg Black-bellied Whistling Duck report and the issue of the short hallux. The Secretary drafted and suggested the following notational diagram to aid discussion; however, some members feel the decision is more a binary choice. After discussion, the decision was to leave the wording in our procedures document, as is.

MD/DCRC Notational Origin Confidence Scale
(numbers other than 100% and 0% are notational, subjective, and approximate)



Scale of confidence regarding "natural/wild" origin

Confidence Codes. During the previous year, Marcia Watson proposed a C6 confidence code that deals with the issue of taxonomic uncertainty of the sighting in question. This proposal was discussed but no action was taken.

Photo documentation policy. As most field photographers migrate toward digital images, records committees now must deal with digital imagery policies and guidance. George Jett and Tyler Bell drafted a photography policy for the MD/DCRC, after last year's meeting; however, the Secretary did not get to comment on this and re-distribute the policy to the members for this year's meeting. This policy issue will be tabled until next year's meeting.

Official Lists Non-Reviewable Documentation Status Changes. The MD/DCRC Official Lists for MD and DC include an indication of the type of documentation that is available for each species; for example, specimen, photograph or video, audio recording, or written report. Occasionally a different level of documentation becomes available for species that are not or are no longer on the Review List. The committee decided that these updates to the Official Lists will be considered as editorial changes and can be implemented by the Secretary. The two cases before the committee are:

- **MD/2005-146 Mute Swan, Scotland, MD.** Pat Rose photographed a specimen that is on display at the Marshland Nature Center at Point Lookout, MD. Specimen documentation will be noted in the Official List of the Birds of Maryland for this species.
- **DC/2008-002 Pine Siskin, DC.** Gary Allport forwarded photographs that his wife, Emma Brigham took of a Pine Siskin at their feeders in DC. Photographic documentation will be noted in the Official List of the Birds of DC for this species.

Questions to Observers. The committee discussed the situation where additional information may be available from an observer. The committee’s policy is to not ask leading questions and typically any questions are limited to more factual issues just as optics used, other observers, etc. Any requests for observer queries during the course of a review should be channeled to the Secretary, and any answers would be added to the next review round in order to ensure that the same information is provided to all voting members.

First State Records Standards. The case of first state records was discussed. Some members felt that higher standards should be involved; however, other members felt that the review standards should remain constant for all reviews.

3.2 Review List Changes:

3.2.1 MD List Changes. The following discussion and changes related to the MD Review List. Changes will effective with the web publication date of the updated Review Lists.

- **Definition 4B.** At last year’s meeting, the committee clarified this definition. With the committee’s consent, obtained via email after last year’s meeting, the word “tidal” was dropped prior to publication. The published phrase now reads, “Species seen in locations other than over the ocean, coastal Worcester County, in major Chesapeake Bay tributaries, or along the Potomac River south of Prince George’s County.”
- **Definition 4A.** There has been some discussion over changing this definition and/or dealing with the species in this category, if seen from shore; e.g., Leach’s Storm-Petrel or Atlantic Puffin. Or, alternatively, adding a condition to Category 4E to include “Any species significantly outside its normal range or habitat, such as a pelagic species found on shore or inland.” Another suggestion was to add a category or redefine the pelagic zone to start at some distance from shore (e.g., 3, 10, or 25 miles). This issue was discussed but the consensus was to leave the definition as is.

MD Species for Review List Removal Discussions. Since our database is now mostly up-to-date, the MD/DCRC “Quantitative Species Systems” that was developed a number of years ago, is now relevant to an analysis of the species under consideration for removal. The numbers in the table, below, are from this report. Committee decisions/actions are noted in bold.

Taxon	Maryland			District of Columbia			Committee Action
	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	
Anhinga	15	6	40	1	0	1	Fairly even distribution of reports and records since the early 1990s; only one DC record. Remove from Maryland review list; retain on the DC review list.
Wood Stork	18	1	22	1	0	1	No reports or records since the late 1990s; no modern record for DC. Retain on both lists.
Yellow Rail	17	1	29	5	0	7	Very sparse and spread-out distribution of reports and records, typically not more than one per year; no modern DC records. Retain on both lists.

California Gull	11	4	28	2	0	5	Very few reports since the late 1990s, changes in habitat—closure of landfills—seems to have reduced occurrences. Retain on both lists.
Sooty Tern	19	1	35	2	0	3	Patten of displacement following hurricanes is well-established; however, only one accepted record for DC. Move to Category 4B on MD list, retain in Category 2 on DC list.
Cave Swallow	19	5	37	0	0	0	Fall appearances since 2002 are well documented, no DC records. Remove from MD list.
Harris's Sparrow	16	1	29	0	0	0	Averages about once every two years in MD over the past 20 years; no DC records. Retain on the MD list.
Painted Bunting	22	0	31	0	0	0	Averaging 3-4 reports and records per year for MD over the past 10 years; no records for DC. Remove from MD list.
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	4	0	34	0	0	0	Reports have been averaging about 2 per year since 2000, with more reports in the 1990s; committee reviews are backlogged, but most reports include images; no records for DC. Remove from MD list.

Other Taxa Discussed Regarding Possible Review List Changes:

- **Trumpeter Swan.** Although this taxon is on the Official List of Maryland Birds as an extirpated species, it has occurred in region in recent years probably as a result of reintroduction programs in the Northeast and upper Midwest. Other complications include possible escapes of hybrid “Trumpling Swans” from regional lakes and the Smithsonian research facility at Arlie, VA. The committee decided that it does want to accept documentation of putative Trumpeter Swans, so the action is to **add this species to MD review list**. Since the species is not considered to be extirpated from DC and since there are no DC records, it would not be added to the DC Review List, but rather would be reviewed as a new species for DC, if observed there.
- **Common Raven.** The committee decision of last year to remove this species from the MD review list was review; however, the decision was to leave the decision as is; **no change**.

3.2.2 DC List Changes. No additional specific changes were proposed the DC Review List.

4. Decision Issues.

4.1 Fourth Round Discussions. Five reports qualified for fourth round discussions before the final fourth-round vote. Logistically, these reports will be processed in an Annual Meeting special follow-up package, Package 118.

- **MD/1999-049 Whimbrel (Pkg 108).** This report was placed on the agenda for discussion; however, the Secretary made an error in the tabulation and this report should have been Not Accepted after Round #3. Confusion stemmed from the fact that the report addressed three flocks of Whimbrel in the Western Maryland area; however, flock #3 was not well-described and flock #2 was in WV, not in MD. Administratively, the final results for this item will be recorded as a fourth round vote of 6-3-0, resulting in a Not Accept.
- **MD/2000-007 Bridled Tern. (Pkg 115).** This report was discussed by the members. The key issue was the reported mantle color, as observed in a driving gale. Since all of the voting members were present, the final vote was 2-0-7; Accept Group [Sooty Tern/Bridled Tern].

- **MD/2004-002 Sooty Tern. (Pkg 115).** This report was discussed by the members. Factors discussed included the underwing colors, distance and observation conditions. The final result was 7-2-0; Not Accept.
- **DC/2004-006 Selasphorus species. (Pkg 113).** This report was discussed. The final result was 0-0-9; Accept-Group [Broad-tailed/Rufous/Allen's].
- **MD/2003-137 Mountain Bluebird (Pkg 107).** This report was discussed. The primary issue had to do with the timing of report. The final vote was 8-1-0; Accept.

Record reopenings. The members did not petition to reopen any previous records.

Records Splits. No administrative report splits were made during the year following members' recommendations from the ballot/comment forms. No new split recommendations were suggested at the meeting.

5. Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns. General discussions of recirculating and pending reports.

a. Species current queued for recirculations:

State	Rec#	Species	Co	Start	Location	Decision	Observer
DC	2003-050	Greater White-fronted Goose		10/21/1983	DC Village	Recirculate	Czaplak_DS
MD	2001-039	"Western" White-fronted Goose	HWRD	11/13/2000	Columbia	Recirculate	Jett_GM
DC	2004-201	"Western" White-fronted Goose		12/26/2004	Anacostia River	Recirculate	Pisano_P
MD	2004-045	Cackling Goose	HWRD	03/01/2004	Centennial Park	Recirculate	Schwarz_K
MD	2006-002	"Common" Teal	QUAN	04/08/2005	Wye Island	Recirculate	Poet_D
MD	2000-017	Chukar	CECL	03/24/2000	Port Deposit	Recirculate	Patton_H
MD	1997-333	American White Pelican	SMST	07/11/1980	Cedar Island WMA	Recirculate	Maldeis_RW
MD	2004-152	Anhinga	QUAN	04/12/1998	Chino Farms	Recirculate	Gruber_J
MD	2004-017	Anhinga	CLVT	04/16/2004	Saint Leonard	Recirculate	Bell_T
MD	2005-057	Anhinga	QUAN	09/17/2004	Chino Farms	Recirculate	Gruber_J
MD	2005-036	Anhinga	ANAR	04/20/2005	Edgewater	Recirculate	Bell_T
MD	2005-066	Anhinga	BALT	05/09/2005	Loch Raven Reservoir	Recirculate	Graff_K
MD	2006-141	Reddish Egret	DORC	09/16/2006	Crocheron	Recirculate	Cole_WD
MD	2000-033	Ruff	BALT	07/26/1997	Papermill Flats	Recirculate	Simon_SW
MD	2007-046	Little Gull	MONT	03/24/2007	Violette's Lock	Recirculate	Czaplak_DS
MD	2003-124	Arctic Tern	CLVT	09/19/2003	North Beach	Recirculate	Hafner_M
MD	2006-040	Eurasian Collared-Dove	WORC	04/19/2006	South Point	Recirculate	Hoffman_ML
MD	2006-278	Eurasian Collared-Dove	FRDK	05/20/2006	Frederick	Recirculate	Varljen_DC
MD	2007-061	Eurasian Collared-Dove	HARF	04/22/2007	River Hills	Recirculate	Stasz_JL
MD	2007-069	Eurasian Collared-Dove	WASH	05/28/2007	Pecktorville	Recirculate	Johnson_TB
MD	2007-094	Eurasian Collared-Dove	DORC	08/19/2007	Blackwater NWR	Recirculate	West_WL
MD	2000-020	Western Wood-Pewee	PGEO	10/05/1992	Laurel	Recirculate	Robbins_CS
DC	1997-499	Le Conte's Sparrow		04/21/1997	Hains Point	Recirculate	Dobbins_B
MD	2002-026	"Gambel's" Sparrow	PGEO	11/08/1944	Patuxent Research Refuge	Recirculate	Stewart_RE
MD	2000-061	"Gambel's" Sparrow	WORC	11/11/2000	E.A. Vaughn WMA	Recirculate	Iliff_MJ
MD	2001-081	"Gambel's" Sparrow	MONT	11/12/2001	Black Hill Regional Park	Recirculate	Czaplak_DS
MD	1995-024	"Oregon" Junco	BALT	01/17/1971	Cockeysville	Recirculate	Pope_F
MD	1994-006	"Oregon" Junco	BALT	03/28/1980	Baltimore City	Recirculate	Gedes_SH
MD	2007-053	Painted Bunting	ANAR	04/12/2007	Friendship	Recirculate	Stasz_JL
MD	2006-115	Western Meadowlark	FRDK	01/26/1992	Adamstown	Recirculate	O'Brien_M
MD	2006-116	Western Meadowlark	ALGY	06/10/2006	Oldtown	Recirculate	Ellison_WG

Yellow-Legged Gull reports. Some of the earlier (1990s) MD and DC reports of Yellow-legged Gull were not reviewed by the MD/DCRC and need to be addressed since our database is currently inaccurate for this taxon. The Secretary has added the outstanding reports to the database and will solicit documentation from observers.

b. Species not currently on the MD/DC Checklists but on the AOU Main Checklist:

Lesser White-fronted Goose [MD/2006-154]. There is a published report of a 1976 sighting in Queen Anne's County of a bird found with migratory Canada Geese. Descriptions are brief, but very clear.

6. Skins Meeting. The 2008 Skins Workshop was held at the US National Museum of History (Smithsonian Institution) on March 1, 2008. Separate minutes will be prepared and distributed.

7. Old Business:

Questionable and Exotic Origin/Introduced Species Review Policy. The committee does not currently have a policy to govern the submission and review of documentation of species that are presumed to be of questionable origin (e.g., Monk Parakeet) or exotic origin (e.g., Black Swans) and introduced species (e.g., African Collared-Doves). The Secretary drafted a very preliminary draft policy for comment and discussion based on the AOU Checklist and the ABA Checklist. This draft was published in an appendix to last year's Annual Meeting minutes. The intent was to refine this policy over the past year and present it at this year's Annual Meeting. However, other priorities intervened and nothing was accomplished on this during the past year. **This topic will be deferred and targeted for next year's Annual Meeting.**

8. New Business / Open Discussion:

Skins Workshop Species Accounts. Members who are preparing species accounts from last week's Skins Workshop should provide drafts to the Secretary by April 8, 2008.

MD/DCRC Field Birder Support Award. The Secretary proposed that the MD/DCRC initiate an occasional award to recognize field birders that have supported the committee over the years with documentation (written and photographs) of review species. With our database, we can easily tally which birders have submitted the most reports over the years. The MOS Awards Chairman, John Malcom, can produce award certificates or plaques, consistent with the award budget. This vision includes awards written up in the Yellowthroat by the MD/DCRC with a summary of key records and a biography of the person. The award could also recognize those that are no longer active in the state. The award would not have to be presented every year and could even be awarded posthumously, if necessary. The committee concurred with this proposal. The Chair and Secretary will coordinate this proposal further with the MOS Board of Directors.

9. Elections:

New members. Members completing their voting terms are George Jett, John Hubbell, and Ray Kiddy. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. The new members elected were: Mike Bowen (Montgomery County), Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel County), and Fred Shaffer (Anne Arundel County).

Secretary. Phil Davis was re-elected as the Secretary.

Chair. Paul O'Brien was re-elected as the Chair.

10. Next Year's Meetings Dates:

Annual Meeting: Saturday, March 14, 2009. This date, the second Saturday in March, should not conflict the MOS Board Meeting schedule. If a Lewes, DE pelagic should be scheduled for this date, we will revisit the meeting date.

Skins Workshop: A tentative date is Saturday, February 7, 2009; however, the actual date will be subject to the availability of our USNM sponsor, Roger Clapp, and will be established later.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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