

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**



**Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee  
2011 Annual Meeting  
Saturday, March 5, 2011**

**Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report**

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order on 5 March 2011 at 10:15 am at the home of the Secretary, Phil Davis, in Davidsonville, MD. Members present, included Phil Davis (Secretary, Anne Arundel County), Tyler Bell (St. Mary's), Mike Bowen (Montgomery), Gwen Brewer (Charles), Walter Ellison (Kent), Ron Gutberlet (Wicomico), Joe Hanfman (Howard), Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel), Mikey Lutmerding (Prince George's), and Fred Shaffer, (Anne Arundel). Absent was Paul O'Brien (Chair, Montgomery).



***The 2010-2011 term Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee.***

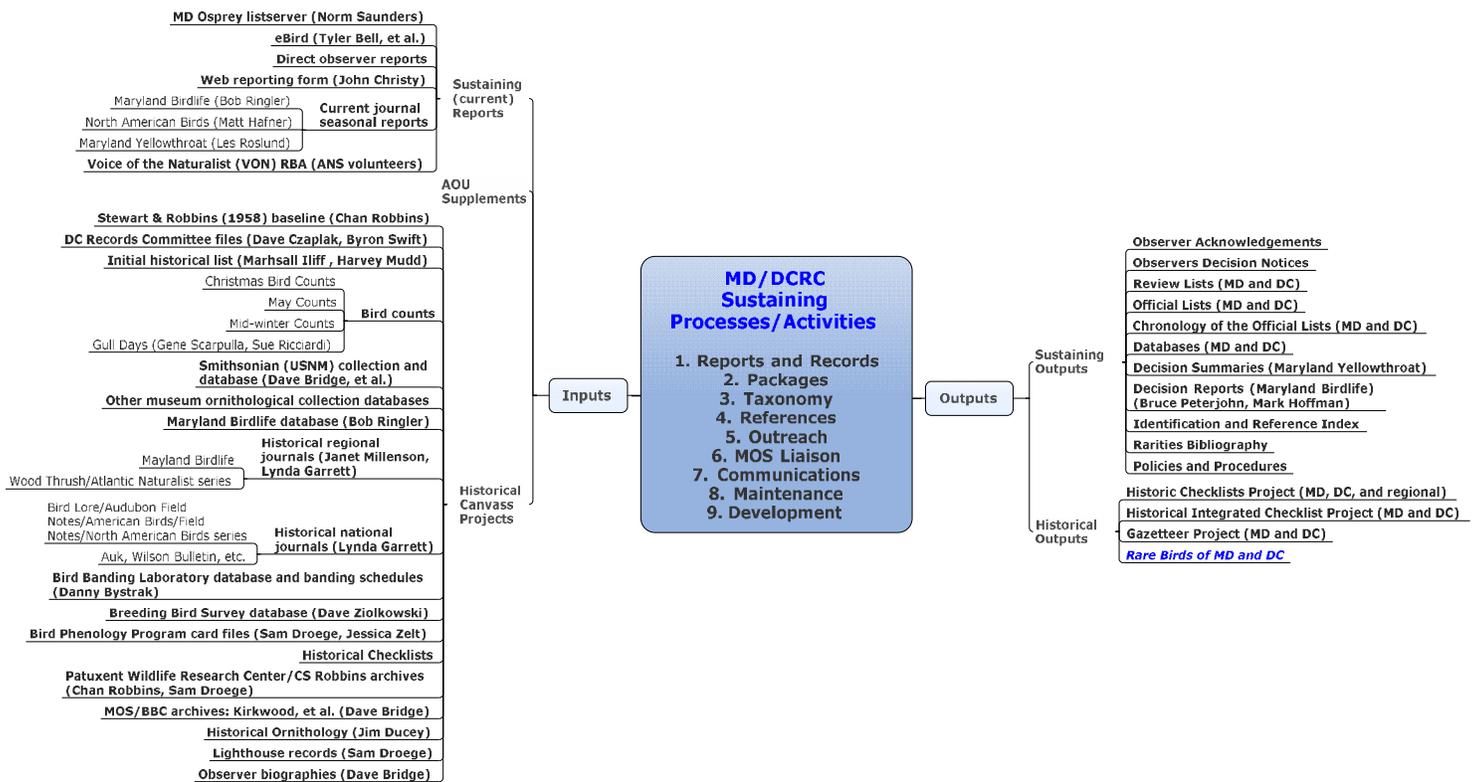
*(l-r): Walter Ellison (Kent County), Ron Gutberlet (Wicomico), Mikey Lutmerding (Prince George's), Joe Hanfman (Howard), Gwen Brewer (Charles), Fred Shaffer, (Anne Arundel), Tyler Bell (St. Mary's), Phil Davis (Secretary, Anne Arundel), and Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel). Photo by Barbara Davis. Not shown are Paul O'Brien (Chair, Montgomery) and Mike Bowen (Montgomery).*

## Preface

This year, the format for this set of minutes has been changed. The intent is to better segregate activities and processes for presentation that will support the MD/DCRC's planned future publication, The Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The key sections are now:

1. Secretary's Report
2. Processes and Activities
3. Inputs
4. Outputs
5. Resources
6. Policies and Procedures
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Elections
10. Next Meeting Dates

The processes and activities and input/output sections roughly follow the committee overview mindmap illustration, below.



**1. Secretary's Report.** The Secretary's report follows.

**1.1 Official Lists Changes and Status.** Figure 1.1-1 presents the recent year annual additions of taxa to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland and the Official List of the Birds of the District of Columbia. No new taxa were added to either the Maryland or the DC Official Lists over the past year since the last Annual Meeting.

State	As of Annual Meeting:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
MD	<b>MD List Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>436</b>
	<b>Species / Groups Added</b>	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Neotropic Cormorant</li> <li>●Northern Lapwing</li> <li>●Calliope Hummingbird</li> <li>●Cave Swallow</li> <li>●Townsend's Warbler</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Inca Dove</li> <li>●Anna's Hummingbird</li> <li>●Tropical Kingbird</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Cape Verde Shearwater</li> <li>●Say's Phoebe</li> <li>●Western Meadowlark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Allen's Hummingbird</li> </ul>	(none)
	<b>Subspecies or Forms Added</b>	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●"European" Whimbrel</li> </ul>		(none)	(none)
	<b>Questionable Origins Added</b>	(none)	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Southern Lapwing</li> <li>●Great Tit</li> </ul>	(none)	(none)
	<b>Exotic Origins Added</b>	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
DC	<b>DC List Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>330</b>
	<b>Species / Groups Added</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Black-chinned Hummingbird</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Dusky Flycatcher</li> <li>●(Rufous Hummingbird upgraded from <i>Selasphorus</i>, sp.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Cackling Goose</li> <li>●Bullock's Oriole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Long-tailed Jaeger</li> <li>●Le Conte's Sparrow</li> </ul>	(none)	(none)
	<b>Subspecies or Forms Added</b>	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
	<b>Questionable Origins Added</b>	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
	<b>Exotics Added</b>	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)

**Figure 1.1-1. Annual Additions to the Official Lists of Maryland and the District of Columbia.**

## 1.2 Review Package Status.

**1.2.1 Package Statistics.** Figure 1.2.1-1 presents a 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 categories include: "Accepted," "Accepted-Group," "Accepted-Form," "ID OK/Questionable Origin," "ID OK/Exotic Origin," and "Not Accepted."

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
2003	8	37.6	79	69	45	57%	10	9	6
2004	7	45.9	90	63	52	58%	13	9	7
2005	5	26.3	95	63	70	74%	19	13	14
2008	7	22.6	110	66	85	77%	16	9	12
2007	9	21.9	124	80	78	63%	14	9	9
2008	9	13.3	146	79	82	56%	16	9	9
2009	6	15.0	83	37	49	59%	14	6	8
2010	5	21.9	67	45	41	61%	13	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>1716</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

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	Pkg#	Start	#Items	#New
2010	134	06/22/2010	18	7
2010	135	09/08/2010	18	14
2010	136	11/17/2010	16	10
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>
		<b>Averages</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>
2011	137	02/05/2011	16	11
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
		<b>Averages</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Grand</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Grand</b>	<b>Averages</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>

Figure 1.2.2-1. Packages Currently in Circulation

**1.2.3 Acceptance Rate.** From last year's Annual Meeting to this year's, the committee's cumulative acceptance rate was 79.0 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 the "Not Accepted" decisions).

Decision/Status	Cumulative Data						
	AM 2005 #Decisions	AM 2006 # Decisions	AM 2007 # Decisions	AM 2008 # Decisions	AM 2009 # Decisions	AM 2010 # Decisions	AM 2011 # Decisions
Accepted	499	521	610	665	723	760	779
Accepted-Group	13	19	25	28	31	33	33
Accepted-Form	10	11	13	15	16	16	16
ID OK/?? Origin	8	8	8	9	10	10	10
ID OK/Exotic Origin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Not Accepted	150	152	165	180	203	211	223
<b>Cumulative Decisions Grand Totals:</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>1063</b>
<b>Cumulative Acceptance Rate:</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>79.4%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	<b>79.0</b>

Figure 1.2.3-1. MD/DCRC Acceptance Rate

### 1.3 Database Contents Status Report.

**1.3.1 Database Categories.** Figure 1.3.1-1 presents a glossary of the status/decision categories currently used in the MD/DCRC database.

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

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

**1.3.2 Database Contents.** Figure 1.3.2-1 summarizes the current contents of the MD/DCRC database by status/decision category and indicates the changes (deltas) in totals from the previous year. During the previous year, 106 historical reports were added to the database, from reports uncovered from the historical canvass.

State	Category / Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
MD	Stewart & Robbins	9	9	100	85	83	81	82	81	87	87	90	116	116	115
	Accepted	258	332	362	377	381	380	424	464	486	560	609	661	667	716
	Accepted-Group	2	2	9	9	10	10	10	11	15	21	24	26	28	28
	Accepted-Form	-	1	3	3	3	6	7	10	11	13	15	16	16	16
	ID OK?? Origin	5	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	9	10	10	10
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Not Accepted	119	124	127	132	133	132	140	147	149	161	174	193	200	212
	Circulating	45	28	9	15	49	78	29	13	84	57	33	35	32	57
	Recirculate	22	21	27	25	23	18	49	54	34	25	38	19	26	15
	Ready	102	49	64	61	69	78	77	112	82	126	163	162	172	209
	Reviewable	35	45	36	35	42	44	66	249	520	679	694	757	764	855
	Unreviewable	221	224	238	246	248	255	257	287	291	307	306	309	324	344
	USNM	-	-	6	26	21	14	14	11	10	9	0	1	1	1
	Hold	11	11	16	15	15	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Report	0	3	5	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reopened	-	-	5	5	6	7	4	8	8	8	8	8	9	10
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	361	46	41	-	13	9	11	9
	Non-Review Species	109	112	119	136	139	140	139	357	164	174	176	185	185	191
	Withdrawn	4	5	7	7	8	9	9	11	11	13	10	9	11	18
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	8
	MD Totals	942	970	1135	1179	1233	1275	1693	1871	2003	2289	2365	2523	2607	2816
DC	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	25	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	12	24	23	22
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Accepted	14	16	19	20	20	20	25	35	45	50	56	62	63	63
	Accepted-Group	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
	Not Accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	6	10	11	11
	Circulating	1	4	1	2	7	13	4	5	6	2	5	2	0	11
	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	11	12	15
	Reviewable	1	7	9	5	6	4	10	45	62	71	80	75	75	79
	Unreviewable	8	13	17	16	28	30	27	37	33	33	34	32	33	39
	USNM	-	-	4	26	27	15	14	31	32	32	-	1	2	-
	Report	0	10	10	2	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	5
	Non-Review Species	3	3	3	6	7	7	11	26	20	20	30	39	42	49
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
DC Totals	34	57	95	98	126	125	206	228	240	261	260	283	283	315	
??	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	2
	Ready	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	USNM	-	-	-	2	3	5	7	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
	Reviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	4	3
	Unreviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	8	7	7	7
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
?? Totals	0	0	0	2	3	7	17	7	7	11	21	15	13	13	
DE	Total							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
VA	Total						1	4	6	6	7	7	11	11	
NY	Total							1	1	5	1	1	1	1	
Grand Totals	976	1029	1234	1283	1369	1409	1922	2126	2270	2559	2655	2834	2924	3160	

**Figure 1.3.2-1. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 03/05/2011 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.]

**1.3.3 Reports Received Per Year.** Figure 1.3.3-1 indicates the number of reports the MD/DCRC receives each year beginning in 1995, for which the date of receipt was recorded. The table separates “current” reports (defined as initial documentation received within twenty-four months after the first sighting date) and “historical” reports (documentation received more than twenty-four months after the first sighting date). The committee’s emphasis in locating and obtaining old published historical reports during the period from 1995 through 2010 (2011 is not yet complete) can be easily seen from the numbers of historical reports received during this period. From 1994 through 2010 (since 2011 is still incomplete), the number of “current” (i.e., contemporary) reports received per year has averaged approximately 61.

Year	Reports Received	Historical Reports	"Current" Reports
1995	186	135	51
1996	103	50	53
1997	264	211	53
1998	44	14	30
1999	200	151	49
2000	56	5	51
2001	82	36	46
2002	42	10	32
2003	448	393	55
2004	194	111	83
2005	149	84	65
2006	272	184	88
2007	140	55	85
2008	171	108	63
2009	105	16	89
2010	183	106	77
2011	66	50	16
<b>Totals (1995 - 2011)</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>Average (1995 - 2010)</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>61</b>

Figure 1.3.3-1. MD/DCRC Reports Received per Year

**1.3.4 ID Articles and Index.** The committee now has 847 identification and reference articles in its files for 109 taxa. This information is summarized in Figure 1.3.4-1. During the past year, the Secretary inventoried, sorted, 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
2009	681	100
2010	741	104
2011	847	109

Figure 1.3.4-1. MD/DCRC Identification and Reference Article Index Status

## 1.4 Communications

**1.4.1 Acknowledgements.** Since last year's Annual Meeting, 90 acknowledgements were mailed to observers as shown in Figure 1.4.2-1.

**1.4.2 Decision Reports.** Since last year's Annual Meeting, notices for 33 decisions were sent to 93 observers for Packages 130-133 as also shown in Figure 1.4.2-1.

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b># Acknowledgements</b>	<b># Decisions</b>	<b># Decision Observers Notices</b>
2006	124	84	211
2007	127	100	239
2008	144	72	181
2009	112	83	154
2010	133	47	104
2011	90	33	93

**Figure 1.4.2-1. Acknowledgements and Decision Notices Mailed.**

**1.4.3 Email Traffic.** Figure 1.4.4-1 summarizes the Secretary's outgoing MD/DCRC-related email message communications over the past years, reflecting an increase in relevant email, listserv messages, digital documentation communications, and efforts to track down historical documentation. There was an unusual spike in 2008 email communications due to the Secretary's efforts to capture all published citations dealing with albatrosses in the western North Atlantic region.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b># MD/DCRC Email Messages Sent</b>
1997	64
1998	66
1999	307
2000	128
2001	287
2002	570
2003	731
2004	610
2005	1212
2006	1472
2007	1647
2008	1981
2009	1562
2010	1492

**Figure 1.4.4-1. Secretary Email Messages Sent by Calendar Year**

### 1.4.4 External Communications Status Report.

Each year, the Secretary received queries that are outside the scope of our routine operations. These contacts are notable since they typically support the scientific community and/or other records committees. During the past year, queries were received, either directly, or via the Bird Records Committee Forum-Listserver from the following:

Marshall Iliff (Chair of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee) [April 2010], regarding the status of Monk Parakeets in our region.

Diane Cole (Dorchester Soil Conservation District); Bill Giese (USFWS), [May 2010]: Red-cockaded Woodpecker records

Gabe Cahalan (The Nature Conservancy) [Oct 2010]; regarding the northern range of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

### 1.5 Storage Status

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 49 document boxes. Additional committee reference material is not boxed, but is on bookshelves. These items include a journal 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), Coues and Prentiss (1863 and 1883), etc. The committee's electronic data files currently consume over 17GBs 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 implement web-based external storage within the next year.

Media	Contents	Amount of Storage
Paper/Hardcopy	Reports/records/packages files	28 document boxes
	Current projects	2 document boxes
	Video/audio tapes	1 document box
	Identification/reference files	4 document boxes
	Correspondence/miscellaneous files	11 document boxes
	Supplies	3 document boxes
	Maryland Birdlife journals	2 feet of shelf space
	American Birds journals	3 feet of shelf space
	Historical references (S&R, AOU, etc.)	4 feet of shelf space
Electronic	Documents and databases, etc.	10.9 GB
	Electronic sighting documentation	6.8 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 various office and information technology resources that are required to operate and support the committee.

Type	Resources
Communications Services	Postage, internet, email
Reproduction Services	Bulk copying, film duplication
Office Supplies	File folders, file jackets, storage boxes, envelopes (letter size and flat), mailing labels, CD labels, file labels, photo marking pens, highlighters, ink pens, staplers
Consumables	Printer/copier paper, staples, copier/printer toner cartridges, copier/printer drum, laser toner cartridges, print heads, blank CDs, blank DVDs
Hardware	Desktop computer, black & white laser printer, color laser printer, duplex copier, flatbed scanner, film scanner, CD/DVD burner, external backup disks, video capture interface
Software	Operating system (MS Windows 7), office suites (MS Office 2010, Office Perfect X5), browsers (IE and others), geobrowser (Google Earth), database (Paradox 11), report writer (R&R 12.5), file manager (Power Desk Pro 8), email client (Eudora 7.1), PDF application (Adobe Acrobat Standard 8), Photo processing (Adobe Photoshop Essentials 8), Screen capture (SnagIt 10), CD/DVD burner (HP SmartMedia), CD/DVD Labeling (exPressit SE 2.1), Media players (Windows Media Player, WinDVD), Video editor (Pinnacle Studio 14), Scanning software (HP Director), OCR programs (Readiris Pro, OmniPage Professional), backup MozyPro

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

## 2. Processes and Activities

### 2.1 Taxonomy

#### 2.1.1 AOU Taxonomy Updates

The secretary upgraded the MD/DCRC database to reflect changes from the AOU's 49th, 50th, and 51st Supplements. The following is a summary of the changes that affect our region.

#### 49th Supplement

**Gulls.** A new classification and sequence of genera and species was adopted for gulls of the subfamily Larinae. This changes the scientific name and order of the gulls on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC.

**American Flamingo.** The English name for *Phoenicopterus ruber* was changed from Greater Flamingo to American Flamingo and the flamingo Family (Phoenicopteridae) was moved to a position immediately following the grebes (Podicipedidae). There were 10 data records in the MD/DCRC database for Greater Flamingo. The Secretary changed all of these to American Flamingo to conform to the AOU Supplement. All of the Maryland reports are presumed to have applied to species of flamingo other than American.

#### 50th Supplement

**Graylag Goose Added.** The AOU added Graylag Goose (*Anser anser*) to the AOU list (actually they transferred it from the Appendix to the Main List) due to a record from a stationary drilling ship in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador in 24 Apr - 2 May 2005. This should impact how we view (non-hybrid) Graylag Geese in our region.

**Boreal Chickadee Scientific Name Change.** The AOU changed the species scientific name from *Poecile hudsonica* to *Poecile hudsonicus*.

#### Sharp-tailed Sparrow Common Name Changes:

*Ammodramus nelsoni* was changed from Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow to **Nelson's Sparrow**

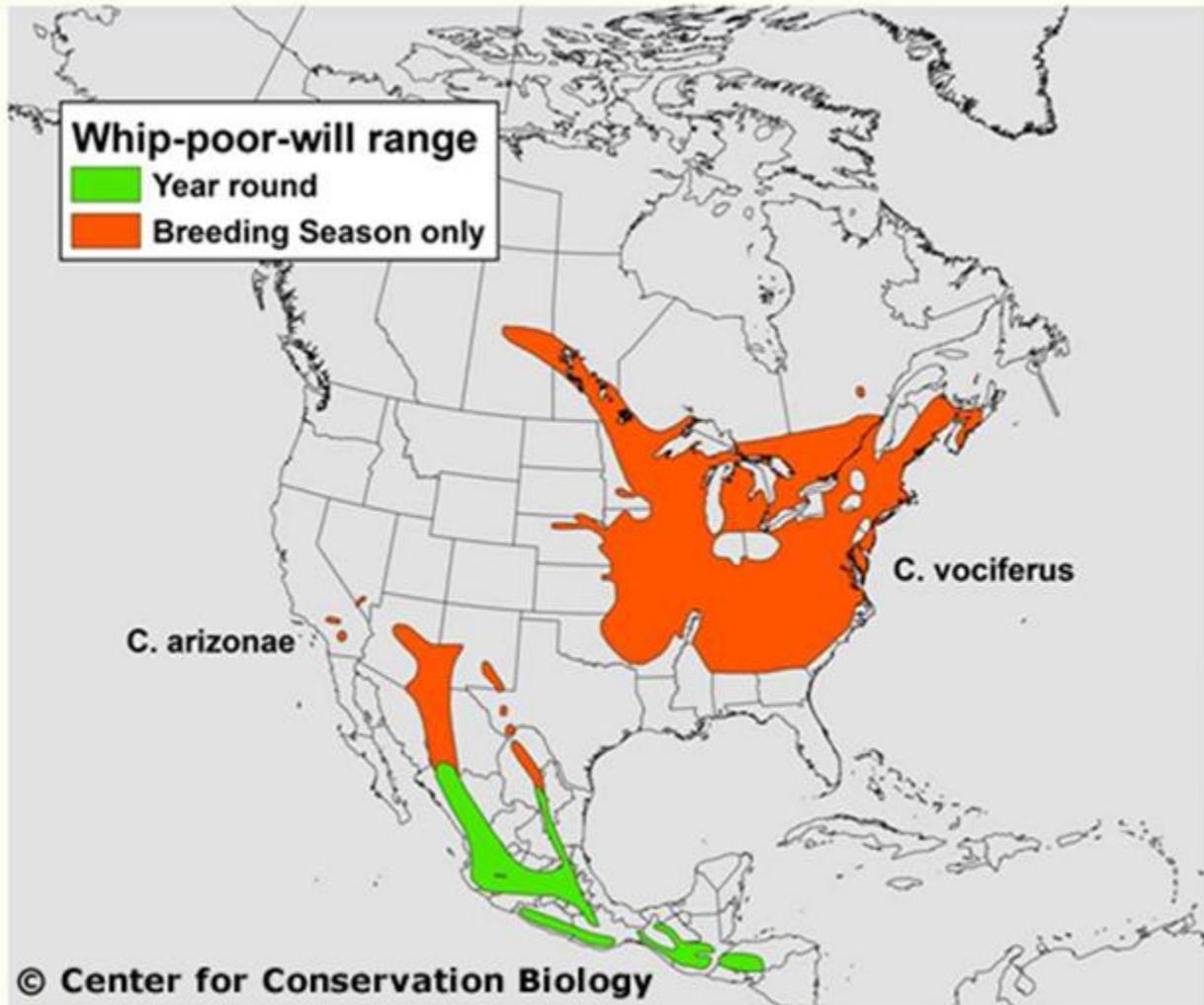
*A. caudacutus* was changed from Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow to **Saltmarsh Sparrow**

**Silver Gull Scientific Name Change.** *Larus novaehollandiae* [in the Appendix] was changed to *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*. Silver Gull has been found in Maryland as ID OK/Questionable Origin.

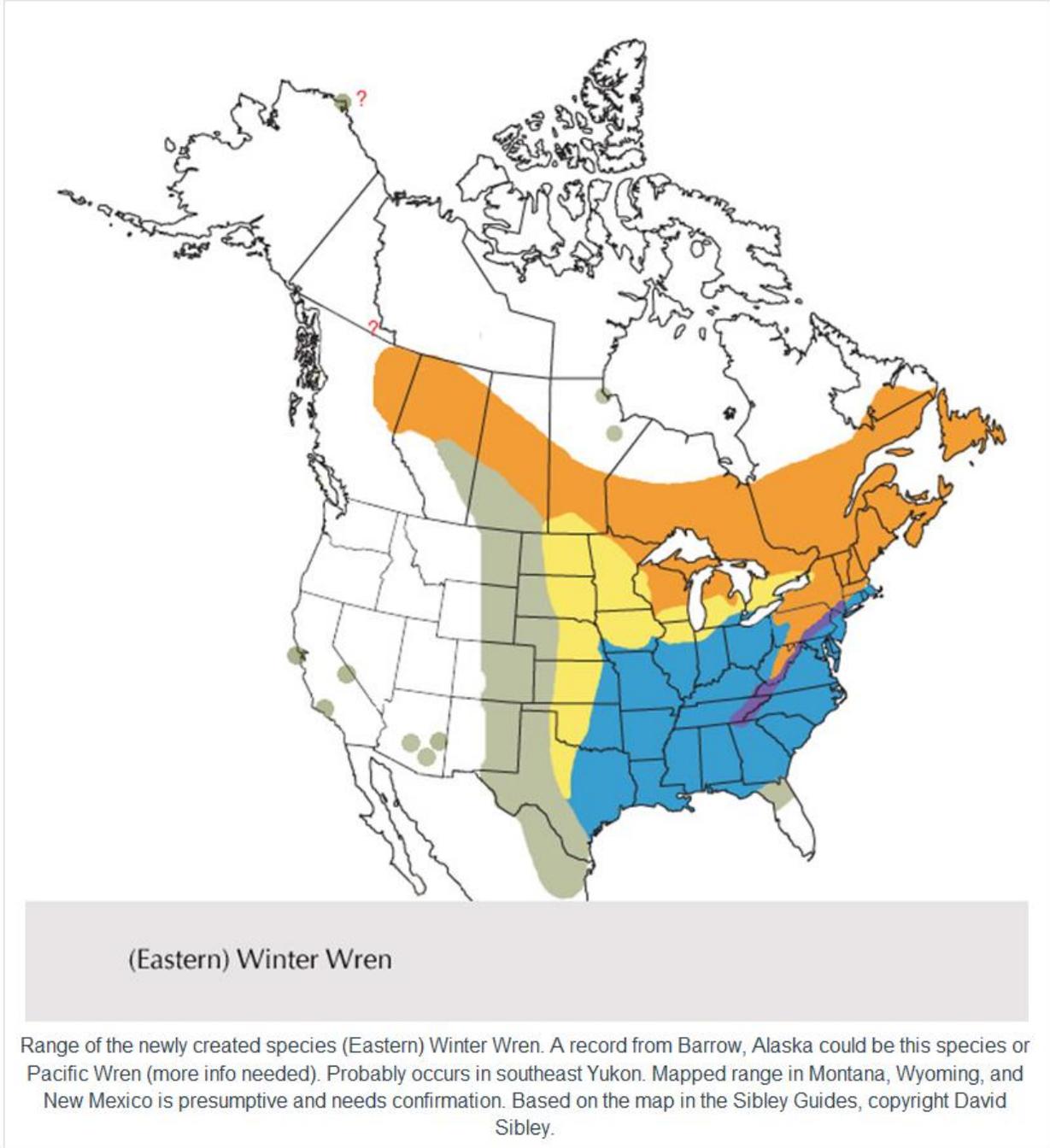
## 51st Supplement

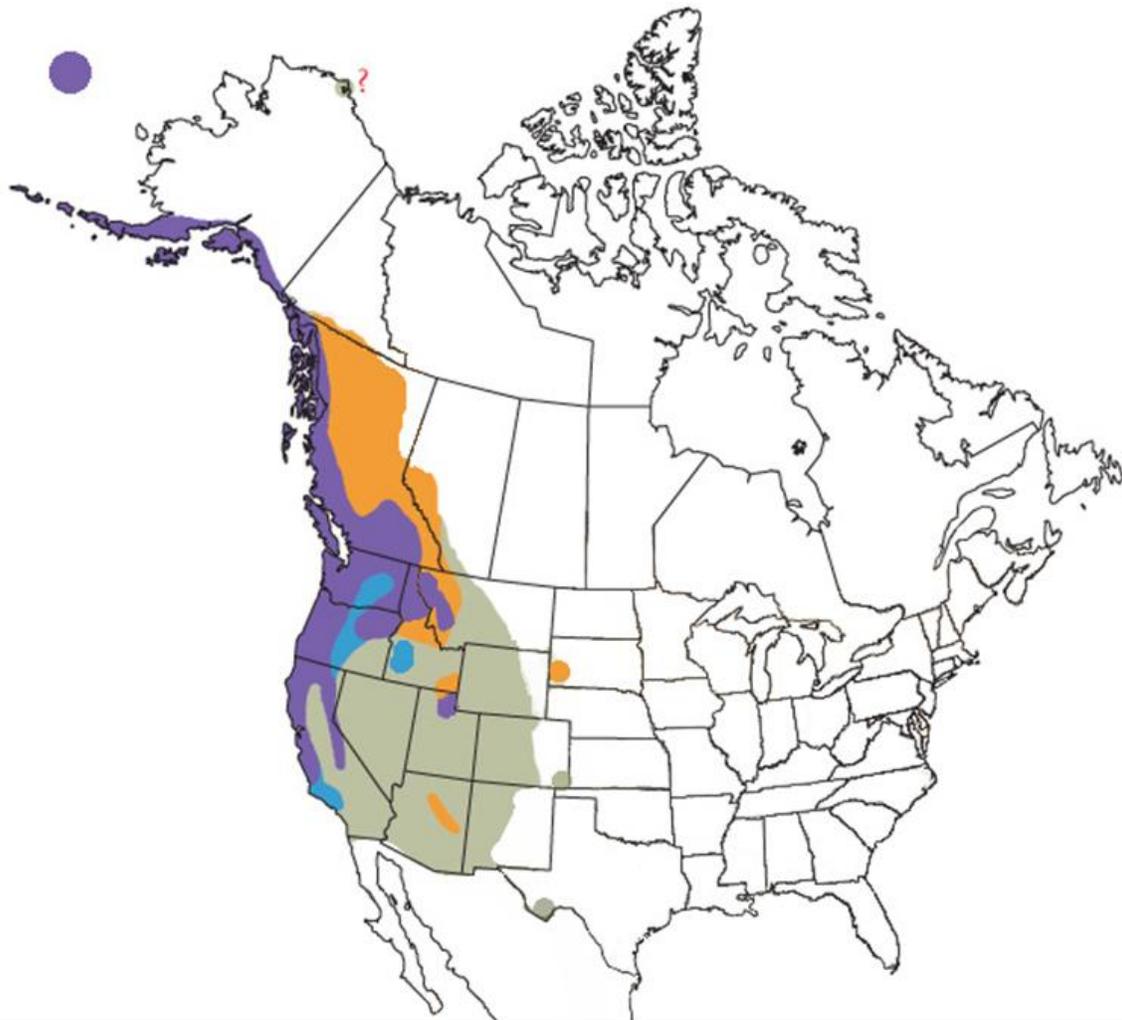
### Splits:

**Whip-poor-will Split and Common Name Change.** This species' common name changed as a result of a split from species already on the list: after *Caprimulgus arizonae* [Mexican Whip-poor-will] *Caprimulgus vociferus* [Eastern Whip-poor-will] is now inserted. The Secretary changed the MD/DCRC database to reflect this taxonomy change. No Mexican Whip-poor-wills have been recorded within the United States outside of the southwest so Eastern Whip-poor-will is presumed for all MD/DC records and checklists.



**Winter Wren Split and Scientific Name Change.** The former *Troglodytes troglodytes* [Winter Wren] is split into three species: the extralimital *Troglodytes troglodytes* [Eurasian Wren], western *Troglodytes pacificus* [Pacific Wren], and eastern *Troglodytes hiemalis* [Winter Wren]. The Secretary changed the MD/DCRC database to reflect this taxonomy change. No Pacific Wrens have been recorded further east than Colorado so Winter Wren is presumed for all MD/DC records and checklists.





### Pacific (Western Winter) Wren

Range of the newly created species Pacific Wren. Record from Barrow, Alaska could be this species or (Eastern) Winter Wren (confirmation needed). This species should be watched for east of the mapped range (especially western Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, central Texas, but also farther east). Map based on the Sibley Guides, copyright David Sibley.

#### New Names Adopted:

**Black Scoter Split and Scientific Name Change.** This species changed from *Melanitta nigra* [Black Scoter] by being split from an extralimital species to *Melanitta americana* [Black Scoter].

**Great Shearwater Common Name Change.** The AOU changed *Puffinus gravis* from Greater Shearwater to Great Shearwater.

**Blue-winged Warbler.** Because of a nomenclatural problem with the previous scientific name species *Vermivora pinus* [Blue-winged Warbler] was changed to *Vermivora cyanoptera*.

**Tennessee Warbler.** Tennessee Warbler becomes *Oreothlypis peregrina* (formerly in *Vermivora*).

**Orange-crowned Warbler.** Orange-crowned Warbler becomes *Oreothlypis celata* (formerly *Vermivora celata*).

**Nashville Warbler.** Nashville Warbler becomes *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* (formerly *Vermivora ruficapilla*).

**New Genus for the Waterthrushes.** Both waterthrushes are now in the new genus *Parkesia*:

Northern Waterthrush becomes *Parkesia noveboracensis* (formerly *Seiurus noveboracensis*).

Louisiana Waterthrush becomes *Parkesia motacilla* (formerly *Seiurus motacilla*).

**Cassin's Sparrow.** Cassin's Sparrow becomes *Peucaea cassinii* (formerly *Aimophila cassinii*).

**Bachman's Sparrow.** Bachman's Sparrow becomes *Peucaea aestivalis* (formerly *Aimophila aestivalis*).

#### **Citation Changes:**

**Pine Warbler Citation Changed.** The citation has changed for *Dendroica pinus* [Pine Warbler].

#### **Rearrangements:**

Numerous changes are made at higher levels of the classification on the basis of new genetic data:

Families transferred:

Two families were transferred from the order Ciconiiformes to the order Pelecaniformes:

The Family Ardeidae was transferred to Pelecaniformes

The Family Threskiornithidae was transferred to Pelecaniformes

Sequences were rearranged to reflect new findings on relationships:

Sequences of genera were rearranged within the Cotingidae

Portions of these genera were rearranged:

Corvidae

Emberizidae

#### **2.1.1.2 Potential Future AOU Changes**

The following changes are being considered by the AOU:

**a. Yellow-rumped Warblers.** The AOU has indicated that it has a proposal to split Yellow-rumped Warblers into up to four species. The "worst" case is that the split would result in four new species:

*D. coronata* – Myrtle Warbler

*D. auduboni* – Audubon's Warbler

*D. nigrifrons* – Mexican Black-fronted Warbler

*D. goldmani* – Guatemalan Goldman's Warbler

The latter two potential species are currently described as subspecies of the Audubon Warbler, which is a rare form occasionally found in our region. If this split happens, it may require us to reassess previous records and be more diligent in describing vagrant "Audubon" Warblers to our region. The current description of the three western/southern subspecies, according to the BNA on-line account, follows:

*D. c. auduboni* Townsend, 1837: Breeds from central British Columbia and w. Alberta south through mountains of w. U.S.; intergrades with *coronata* group in central and e. British Columbia and w. Alberta. Winters from sw. British Columbia and w. Washington south to s. Texas, n. Chiapas (Mexico), and w.

Honduras. Characters as for group; compared with other subspecies in group, breeding males not extensively black above and below. Populations from Rocky Mtns. (se. British Columbia to w. Texas) larger, and Alternate-plumaged males that have more extensive black on underparts sometimes are recognized as separate race: "*memorabilis*."

*D. c. nigrifrons* Brewster, 1889: Presumed resident in mountains from nw. Chihuahua to w.-central Durango; occasional intergrades with *auduboni* found in mountains of se. Arizona, where occurrence of true *nigrifrons* not established. Male darker above than in *auduboni*, becoming black on cheeks and forehead and having more extensive black on underparts; yellow crown-patch bordered posteriorly by small white patch. Female darker than *auduboni* female, with heavier streaking on breast. Extent and sequence of molts in this subspecies not well studied, and some changes in plumage may be due largely to wear (Hubbard 1980).

*D. c. goldmani* Nelson, 1897: Resident in central Guatemala and e. Chiapas, Mexico. Male is almost entirely black on head, back, and breast; yellow throat bordered by white chin and white patches at bottom corners; yellow crown-patch bordered by white spot posteriorly. Tail spots more often limited to outer 4 rectrices (Hubbard 1970). In this subspecies, Alternate and Basic plumages of adult males nearly identical; there may be no Prealternate molt (Hubbard 1970, 1980).

**Literature Cited:** Hubbard, J. P. 1970. Geographic variation in the *Dendroica coronata* complex. *Wilson Bulletin* 82:355-369.

**b. Laughing Moorhen.** There is a proposal before the AOU Check-List Committee to split Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) from Common Moorhen (*G. chloropus*). *Gallinula chloropus* is one of these cosmopolitan species that shows only minor morphological differences over a huge range. There has been little controversy regarding this arrangement, all controversy seems to have been focused on the English name of this bird. Plumage differences between Old World and New World birds are slight, although bill morphology differs. Old World forms have an elliptical shaped bill shield that is rounded at top, whereas New World forms have a truncated topped shield that is widest at the top. They could keep using the English Name Common Gallinule for *Gallinula galeata*, or follow Constantine et al. (2006) who suggested the English Name "Laughing Moorhen" based on its distinctive voice as well as the name *cachinnans* (Laughing) for the widespread North American subspecies.

**Literature Cited:** Constantine, M. & The Sound Approach (2006). *The Sound Approach to Birding: A guide to understanding bird sound*. Sound Approach, Dorset.

**c. Band-rumped Storm-Petrels.** This complex is not currently on the active proposal list; however, work has been done (Monteiro and Furness 1998) towards a split of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels into possibly four species Grant's, Monteiro's, Madeiran, and Cape Verde.

At our 2009 Skins Workshop, Paul O'Brien analyzed and measured the Smithsonian DC specimens of Band-rumped and came to the following preliminary conclusions:

DC/1999-059, USNM #293176 is Grant's

DC/1999-060, USNM #154436 could be either Grant's or Cape Verde

Paul indicated that his measurements were limited and crude and more careful measurements will probably resolve the matter.

**Literature Cited:** Monteiro LR, Furness RW. 1998. Speciation through temporal segregation of Madeiran storm petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) populations in the Azores? *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London Series B-Biological Sciences* 353: 945-953.

## 2.1.2 MD/DCRC Conformance to Previous AOU Changes

### Maryland Arctic Loon Reports

An ongoing committee action has been to review what to do with the two older Maryland Not Accepted "Arctic" Loon reports in the MD/DCRC files. The general feeling was that leaving them classified as "Arctic" was not accurate since the report pre-dated the Arctic/Pacific split. The Secretary scanned the two reports and provided them to Paul O'Brien and Bill Hubick for a review and recommendation for the Annual Meeting. The recommendations were:

**MD/1983-016-** Move this from "Arctic Loon" to the "Pacific/Arctic Loon complex" ... One form over the other was not claimed and there are no characteristics cited to infer one over the other.

**MD/1985-021-** Let this stand as "Arctic Loon" ... Abbott was claiming Arctic and not Pacific.

Paul O'Brien's comments: I read through the two loon reports. I am inclined to go with your proposal. The Potomac report was definitely alleged to be an Arctic as opposed to Pacific, but the Ocean City report didn't acknowledge the split, as it was not official when Peterson wrote his 1961 Western Guide (referenced by Carlson). The decisions were justified, in my opinion.

Bill Hubick's Comments: I have reviewed both reports and concur with your thoughts.

Since no objections are raised at the Annual Meeting, the recommendations will be implemented.

## 2.2 Package Processing

### 2.2.1 Review Priorities

Species/Subspecies Priorities. There are currently approximately 184 "Ready" reports in the committee's queue. The Secretary proposes the following MD and DC review priorities in support of our future *The Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* publication project:

1. New species
2. New possibly questionable origin species (e.g., Falcated Duck)
3. Formerly extirpated species (Trumpeter Swan)
4. Category 2 species (Hoary Redpoll, Pacific Loon, etc.)
5. Species that used to be reviewable, recently, but are no longer (American White Pelican, Anhinga)
6. Category 4 species (reviewable due to range)
7. Recurring possibly questionable origin species (e.g., Monk Parakeet)
8. (First) presumed exotics
9. (First) Category 3 subspecies (MD and DC) ("Black-backed American Robin, etc.)
10. (Subsequent) Category 3 subspecies (MD and DC)
11. (Subsequent) presumed exotics
12. Range-reviewable Category 3 subspecies (e.g., inland Ipswich Sparrows)
13. Questionable taxonomy Category 3 subspecies (e.g., juncos)
14. Historical firsts [to define the first record of species accepted prior to our MD/DCRC baseline (Stewart and Robbins, 1958)]
15. Species that used to be reviewable, quite a while ago, but are no longer (Brewer's Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, etc.)

### 2.2.2 Member Package Review Performance

The Secretary compiles and summarizes the length of time each member retained each review package. A handout was provided that provided the average turnaround time of all MD/DCRC members. Current member "report cards" were distributed that show each member's package review turnaround times. End times are now calculated based on the longer of either passing the package on to the next member or receipt of the ballots by the Secretary.

### 2.2.3 Next Package Plans

Package 138. This will be a special Annual Meeting 4th round package to facilitate the voting on the fourth-round Curlew Sandpiper [MD/2008-068] item discussed later during this meeting.

Package 139. This package will be started after the Annual Meeting with the new term members. The contents will be Barnacle Geese and the Wye Mills Lesser White-fronted Goose.

## 2.3 Reports and Records

### 2.3.1 Taxonomy Issues

The following are the Secretary's "problem taxa" that require some additional workup and preparation prior to circulation:

#### 2.3.1.1 Juncos subspecies.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the committee decided to go ahead and circulate the Dark-eyed Junco subspecies reports that are in our queue. However, at the 2010 Skins Workshop at the Smithsonian, Dave Ziolkowski summarized the current state of junco taxonomy and showed some subspecies examples. As a result of this, the committee decided to hold off on reviewing these subspecies reports until such time as something more definitive may be published to support subspecies separation. A summary of the status of the taxonomy and identification of this complex is included in our 2010 Skins Workshop Minutes. **DEFERRED.**

#### 2.3.1.2 "Canadian" Red-tailed Hawk

Over the past year, we had a number of discussion about the taxonomy of western and/or dark morph Red-tailed Hawks. The table below reflects our conclusions, especially with regard to "Canadian" Red-tailed Hawks, which we agreed are not reviewable. All other subspecies listed and dark morphs, are reviewable. **CLOSED.**

Genus	Species	Trinomial	Common Name	Reviewable?
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>borealis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (Eastern)	No
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>borealis (abieticola)</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (Canadian)	No
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>kriderii</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's)	Yes
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>fuertesi</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (Fuertes)	Yes
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>harlani</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan's)	Yes
<i>Buteo</i>	<i>jamaicensis</i>	<i>calurus</i>	Red-tailed Hawk (dark morph)	Yes

### 2.3.2 Distributional/Status Issues

#### 2.3.2.1 Trumpeter Swan

The committee has a number of these reports in its queue. The main issue will probably be of assessment of the status of the species, rather than of identification. The species is currently on the MD Official List as a extirpated species. After last year's Annual Meeting, Bill Hubick drafted a MD/DCRC position paper on reviewing Trumpeter Swans, below. These reports are now ready to be circulated. **CLOSED.**

#### Status of the Trumpeter Swan in Maryland

Questions of origin present significant challenges to bird record committees, and the status of the Trumpeter Swan in the eastern U.S. is an especially difficult example. Breeding programs have been releasing Trumpeter Swans since the late 1980s and early 1990s, but official labels of population status have historically been elusive. As Trumpeter Swans began appearing in Maryland with increasing frequency, questions about their status and "countability" have often been raised. Most

Trumpeter Swans are not tagged or banded, which means few individuals can be traced back to a specific population. However, the majority of involved states and provinces, particularly in the Great Lakes region, now consider their populations established. These include Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Wisconsin, and Iowa. At the time of this writing, only New York and Ohio have yet to accept their populations as established, and it has been noted that the New York population has been supplemented by the expanding Ontario population. Because it is often impossible to confirm that an individual originates from an officially established population, the committee is faced with a question of "Innocent until proven guilty" or "Guilty until proven innocent."

The MD/DCRC intends to adopt an informal policy based on "Innocent until proven guilty." If a report establishes an identification as Trumpeter Swan, and if no information suggests provenance from a captive program or unestablished population, the record can be considered a baseline "Accepted." Note that each report will be carefully evaluated, and specific circumstances might result in a report being deemed "Not Accepted" or "Accepted with Questionable Origin." What matters most is that all Trumpeter Swan reports are recorded for future research and for monitoring the success of the re-introduction programs. Such a record will be maintained via the MD/DCRC database.

#### **Population Status [From BNA Online]: Numbers**

Interior Population (IP) includes restored flocks in S. Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario. Moser (2006) reported IP population size of 64 in 1968; 116 in 1975; 176 in 1980; 209 in 1985; 422 in 1990; 927 in 1995; 2,430 in 2000; and 4,647 in 2005, with a mean annual growth rate of 11.7%.

Overall, the North American Trumpeter Swan population has grown by an average of 6.0%/yr and now totals 34,803 wild swans (Moser 2006). In comparison, a 1991 "worldwide" survey found 16,523 (15,630 wild, 893 captive) Trumpeter Swans (King 1992).

#### **Geographic And Temporal Trends**

With the exception of some components (i.e. RMP and OR-NV flocks), all populations continue to grow. Some small local flocks threatened, or extirpated (Mitchell and Shandruk 1992, Wright et al. 2002, Proffitt 2008). Changes in land use (Anderson 1993), differential recruitment (Mitchell et al. 1991, Wright et al. 2002, Moser 2006, Proffitt 2008), dispersal of free-flying birds in restored flocks, and winter range expansion efforts (Shea et al. 1991, Drewien et al. 1992, Shea 1992) responsible for geographic redistribution.

#### **Literature Referenced:**

Mitchell, Carl D. and Michael W. Eichholz. 2010. Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/105>

#### **2.3.2.2 Barnacle Goose (BARG)**

The committee has a number of reports of this species in its queue. The main issue will also be of determining the status of the species. The species is currently on the MD Official List as a species of Questionable Origin. The Secretary will collect and package the latest population and vagrancy references and the related decisions of other northeastern records committees. The Secretary suggests that when the batch of BARG reports are circulated, the previous record that was accepted as "ID OK/Questionable Origin" be reopened and included, based on the current knowledge of the patterns of vagrancy of this species. **OPEN.**

The record to be reopened is:

MD/1988-024; 10/13/1986, One bird, Fruitland, Wicomico County, MD.

### 2.3.3 Identification Issues

#### 2.3.3.1 Hoary Redpoll (HORE/CORE).

Many (over 20) reports of this species are in the committee's backlog. The Secretary plans to draft an identification key or checklist before circulating these reports to try and help standardize the member's review process in an attempt to minimize recirculations. This is a carryover action from last year's Annual Meeting and also directly relates to a species account report from this year's Skins Workshop. **OPEN**.

### 2.3.4 Notable Report/Record Issues

#### 2.3.4.1 Western Wood-Pewee (WEWP).

Before the committee reviews its backlog of WEWP reports, another check will be made with the Smithsonian Institution geneticists to try and determine why the DNA analysis did not work for one of the two MD USNM specimens. (This is a carryover action from last year's Annual Meeting.). Dave Ziolowski is working this issue with Carla Dove of the Smithsonian. Some of the MD WEWP reports recount vocalizations, even though the vocalizations were not specifically described, which is problematic. The Secretary has recently reviewed all of the WEWP reports and has drafted a compendium of all known information and the history of the reports. **OPEN**.

#### 2.3.4.2 Yellow-legged Gull (YLGU)

Despite a plea for help, all of the earlier MD and DC sightings of YLGU were apparently not documented; however, documentation for a few were located. These sightings are specifically identified in the AOU Checklist, so specific reviews are in order. One more documentation lead has to be tracked down, then the remaining reviewable reports can be circulated. **OPEN**.

#### 2.3.4.3 Brown-headed Nuthatch (BHNU)

The Secretary elicited support from Walter Ellison for the Kent County reports and from Tyler Bell and Patty Craig for the Calvert County to validate and confirm the completeness of those county reports. After this review is complete, these reports will be ready to circulate. **OPEN**.

#### 2.3.4.4 Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWFG)

The Secretary believes that all leads have been exhausted in support of or related to the MD/2006-154 Oct 1976 Wye Mills report of this species. This report will be circulated soon. **CLOSED**.

#### 2.3.4.5 Other Report Status Upgrades ("Reviewable" Research).

The Secretary continues to try to upgrade "Reviewable" reports to "Ready" reports by contacting and reminding observers. If dead ends are reached on locating documentation, then the reports are downgraded to "Unreviewable." Notable activities since the last Annual Meeting include working with Paul Guris, Mark Hoffman, and others to obtain details on some of the open pelagic trip observations. On other fronts, unfortunately, some reports were moved from "Reviewable" into the "Unreviewable" category, for example, the 2000 DC Mountain Bluebird. Matt Hafner has committed to finalizing the documentation on the "Snowy-bellied Martin" from Worcester County. The USNM Ivory Gull is subject to one more analytic pass by Dave Bridge, then it should be ready to be circulated.

### 2.3.5 Extinct Species

Some work has been done on tracking down references and/or specimens of extinct species; however, additional effort needs to be put into this project. The species are:

- Passenger Pigeon
- Carolina Parakeet
- Heath Hen

## 2.4 References

### 2.4.1 Recently published References

During the past year, two new field guides and one general reference for North American birds were published:

**Stokes, Donald and Lillian. 2010. *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Little Brown**

**Crossley, Richard. 2011. *The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*. Princeton.**

Steve Howell published his book on molt:

**Howell, Steve N.G. 2010. *Molt in North American Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt.**

Also, a new Western Palearctic book, identification guide was published. It's species accounts are composed entire of bullet points - it includes no photos or images (!):

**Van Duivendijk, Nils. 2010. *Advanced Bird ID Guide: The Western Palearctic*. New Holland.**

### 2.4.2 Articles/Accounts Added to the MD/DCRC Reference Index and Files

The following identification and references journal articles and species accounts were added to the MD/DCRC bibliography and reference files.

Author	Year	Title	Publication
Grzybowski, Joseph A	2010	Glossy and White-faced Ibises and hybrids	<a href="http://www.Pbase.com/joe_grzybowski/ibis_heads">http://www.Pbase.com/joe_grzybowski/ibis_heads</a>
Hough, Julian	2010	From the record committee's files: Pacific Loon - problems and pitfalls	Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (ARCC) Online
Howell, Steve NG, et al.	2010	Sulidae Boobies and Gannets	Molt in North American birds: 99-101
Howell, Steve NG, et al.	2010	Occurrence and identification of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel ( <i>Oceanodroma castro</i> ) complex off North Carolina	North American Birds 64 (2):196-207
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Identification tips for Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose	<a href="http://sibleyguides.Blogspot.com/2008/11/identification-tips-for-greenland.html">http://sibleyguides.Blogspot.com/2008/11/identification-tips-for-greenland.html</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	More on identifications of Greenland White-fronts	<a href="http://sibleyguides.Blogspot.com/2008/11/more-on-identification-of-greenland.html">http://sibleyguides.Blogspot.com/2008/11/more-on-identification-of-greenland.html</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Cave Swallow	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/bird-info/cave-swallow/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/bird-info/cave-swallow/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Mexican Cliff Swallows	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2010/05/mexican-cliff-swallows/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2010/05/mexican-cliff-swallows/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Another large pale redpoll	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/another-large-pale-redpoll/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/another-large-pale-redpoll/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	The redpoll questions	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/the-redpoll-questions/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/the-redpoll-questions/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Redpoll subspecies	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-subspecies/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-subspecies/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Redpoll investigation widens to include "Greater"	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/redpoll-investigation-widens-to-include-greater/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/redpoll-investigation-widens-to-include-greater/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Comments on two redpolls	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/comments-on-two-redpolls/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/comments-on-two-redpolls/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Greater Redpoll photos	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/greater-redpoll-photos/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/greater-redpoll-photos/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	More on redpolls	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/more-on-redpolls/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/more-on-redpolls/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Urging caution when identifying Common Redpolls	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/urging-caution-when-identifying-common-redpolls/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/urging-caution-when-identifying-common-redpolls/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Redpoll identification	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-identification/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2007/12/redpoll-identification/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	A character index for redpoll identification	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/a-character-index-for-redpoll-identification/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/a-character-index-for-redpoll-identification/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Redpoll age variation and ID	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/02/redpoll-age-variation-and-id/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/02/redpoll-age-variation-and-id/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	A couple of redpoll additions	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/a-couple-of-redpoll-additions/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/a-couple-of-redpoll-additions/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	My holiday (redpoll) photos	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/my-holiday-redpoll-photos/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/01/my-holiday-redpoll-photos/</a>
Sibley, David Allen	2010	Where do Hoary Redpolls winter?	<a href="http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/where-do-hoary-redpolls-winter/">http://www.Sibleyguides.com/2008/03/where-do-hoary-redpolls-winter/</a>
Stokes, Donald, and Lillian Stokes	2010	Species accounts: Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll	The Stokes field guide to the birds of North America: 750-753

### 2.4.3 MD/DCRC Decision Report Citations and References

During the previous year, the Secretary added references to MD/DCRC Decision Report #1 and #2 to the Citations database table. Relevant pages from each of these Decisions Reports were copied are are ready for filing into later report files.  
DR#2

## **2.5 Outreach.**

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 committee continues to focus on and report on outreach-related topics, such as the following:

### **2.5.1 Community Awards.**

The Secretary worked with John Malcolm, the MOS Awards Chair, to facilitated the creation and presentation of two MOS Community Awards to the hosts of the recent Allen's Hummingbird and Lark Bunting. One award was given to Deanna Baker-Farrell for her hosting birds to observe a Lark Bunting in her yard [MD/2009-002, 01/02/2009 - 03/14/2009, Union Bridge, MD]. Another award will be presented to Iris Ivanosich for her hosting of birders to observe Maryland's first Allen's Hummingbird in her yard in Prince Frederick, MD [MD/2008-166, Prince Frederick, MD 12/22-29/2008].

### **2.5.2 MD/DCRC Contribution Recognition Award.**

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the committee established an MD/DCRC occasional award to recognize field birders that have supported the committee over the years with documentation (written and photographs) of review species in an effort to document the status and history of MD/DC birding. The permanent name of this award will be taken from the first recipient. The Secretary has not yet, but still plans to submit a proposal to the committee for the first awardee. If accepted by the members, the Secretary will contact the MOS President and MOS Awards Chair, John Malcom, regarding this details of presenting this award.

### **2.5.3 Stewart & Robbins (1958) Online**

This year, the Secretary worked with Chan Robbins and the PWRC Librarian, Lynda Garrett for locate and distribute a link to a PDF version of the MD/DCRC baseline document, [title]. The link is ...

<http://www.archive.org/details/northamericanfau62unit>

### **2.5.4 Next Species Poll and Presentation**

MD/DCRC member Bill Hubick collaborated with former member Matt Hafner to poll Maryland birders and update the predictions of "Maryland's Next Species."

[http://www.billhubick.com/docs/Marylands\\_Next\\_Ten.pdf](http://www.billhubick.com/docs/Marylands_Next_Ten.pdf)

Several years aog, the MD/DCRC 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 Iliff in 2002. This presentation has been reorganized to follow the results of the latest 2009 "Next Species" poll. This program is listed in the MOS Speakers Bureau listing. A few charts and several species accounts will have to be updated and new one prepared if any chapters request the program.

### **2.5.5 MOS Convention Booth/Poster**

The Secretary suggests that the MD/DCRC staff a booth at the next MOS Convention in Wisp, in May 2011. The concept would be to highlight our planned Rare Birds of Maryland and DC publication and to showcase some of the data products generate by the committee and the lifecycle of the report and review process. The next MOS convention will be held in Ocean City in Feb 2012 and will be the first winter convention in many years.

### **2.5.6 "Incubation" Initiatives**

In the spirit of outreach, the committee decided to aggregate some of the ideas it has generated over the past years and show them all in one place. These are not activities that the committee plans to undertake as a committee; however, they are presented as suggestions that others may decide to take on.

#### **a. MD Pelagic Web Page**

To help stimulate participation in Maryland water pelagic trips, the committee suggests that the MOS web site include a section related to pelagic birding featuring the species that can be expected and the rarities that are possible on Maryland waters pelagic trips. The recommendation included that a link be provided to the only operator who currently runs Maryland water pelagic trips (usual disclaimers). The intent of this suggestion is to provide information to new birders and encourage more pelagic birding participation.

#### **b. Managing Rarities Paper**

The Secretary is planning to produce or co-author an article on "managing rarities," encompassing lessons-learned from recent private property rarity events. However, this project is currently not very high on the priority list.

#### **c. "Dastardly Duos"**

The committee still advocates that someone undertaking this project, modeled on the Tucson Audubon Society newsletter column, or a presentation for local chapters, of focusing on regional identity challenges. The committee hopes that someone will undertake the task as a service to the birding community.

#### **d. Seasonal Reviews**

At last year's Annual Meeting, a suggestion surfaced to consider undertaking out-of-seasons reviews. When the MD/DCRC was first formed, it did review some out-of-season sightings, but shortly dropped seasonality as a review criteria. Factors in favor of reinstating this policy are that it will facilitate the capture of valuable data points; however, on the other hand, this review criteria expansion would create additional work for the Secretary and the committee, especially if the review criteria were to creep and expand greatly. Generally, it was felt that the *Maryland Birdlife* and *North America Birds* seasonal editors are the proper venues for vetting these types of records. However, after a detailed discussion, the committee decided on the following:

Bill Hubick will Chair a Seasonal Rarities Subcommittee. The subcommittee will monitor the local information sources (e.g., MD Osprey listserver, eBird) for notable out-of-season sightings and he will approach the observer and try to obtain any detailed sighting documentation (field notes, photos, etc.) and forward this documentation to the Secretary. The Secretary will open a MD/DCRC data record and store the documentation in the MD/DCRC archives for posterity. The subcommittee will report at each Annual Meeting on items of note. Recent examples of notable sightings include a May Snow Bunting and a winter Least Flycatcher.

#### **e. Regional Roundups.**

Regional Rarity Weekly Summary/Roundup. Bill Hubick supports the idea of someone volunteering to compile a periodic summary report of regionally rare and other birds of interest. Such a report could be based on inputs from other regional Rare Bird Alerts, regional listservers, and eBird to provide information to MD/DC birders of notable regional events, for example, regional rarities seen in nearby states, regional sightings of locally rare Red Crossbills, arrival of Purple Martins, and other information movements, irruptions, and incursions. Bill does not envision this as a MD/DCRC functions, but hopes that someone will undertake the task as a service to the birding community. Recent discussion indicated that this function is fairly well addressed by the capabilities of eBird.

#### **f. ID Seminars**

An idea was floated several years ago that the committee, or members thereof, sponsor ID seminars at the MOS Convention and or regionally, for example, on a Saturday afternoon. Such seminars could be focused on seasonal and/or regional specialties and could be targeted to a varying range of novice through expert-level birders. The MOS Educational Committee has done a few of these, but the suggestion is that any committee-sponsored seminars would include reviewable species.

#### **g. Field Trips**

The suggestion is that one or more MOS field trips per year be sponsored by the MD/DCRC. The focus would be on find rarities or increasing list totals. Years ago, an annual field trip to the Eastern Shore was sponsored by another MOS committee (Publication Committee? RFR)

#### **h. Maryland Yellowthroat Articles**

Members of the committee are encouraged to submit articles on identification or other related issues to the MOS newsletter, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. The Secretary has submitted articles in the past on AOU taxonomy changes (however, he got behind and has not done so last few years).

#### **i. eBird Demo to Smithsonian Bird Division Staff**

One of the staff at the Smithsonian indicated that he did not know much about or how to use eBird. It seems that offering to give an on-line demo of eBird to the Bird Division staff would be an excellent outreach activity. The suggestion has been made to SI/Birds.

#### **j. Birds Records Committee Forum-Listserver**

Years ago, the Secretary co-founded the Birds Records Committee Forum-Listserver (BRCF-L), with Laurie Larson, the ex-Secretary of the NJ Records Committee. The intent of this listserver is to foster interaction and the sharing of best practices with other records committee. Note: this is NOT an identification forum; that already exists with Birdwg01, Frontiers of Bird Identification. The BRCF-L is a fairly low volume listserver. The URL for more information or subscription is here ...

<http://www.princeton.edu/~llarson2/brcf/brcfhome.html>

Recent BRCF-L messages can be monitored via Jack Siler's "Birding on the Net" web site ...

<http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/BRCF.html>

## **2.6 MOS Liaison**

### **2.6.1 Budget**

As for the past few years, the Secretary has submitted a budget that should cover the re-imbusement of all member's postage costs for forwarding review packages. This year, the budget submitted was \$450; however, not all member claim this reimbursement. Future budgets will have to be more carefully developed as move toward the data digitization phase in our planning for *The Rare Birds of MD and DC*.

### **2.6.2 Postage Reimbursement for Committee Members**

Members are reminded to submit their expenses to the MOS Treasurer in April.

### **2.6.3 MOS Board Meetings**

The Secretary attempts to attend several MOS Board of Director Meeting each year and present an MD/DCRC update. The next Board meeting is next Saturday, 12 March 2011 at Black Hill Regional Park. The Secretary plans to attend and present an MD/DCRC status report.

### **2.6.4 MOS Annual Report**

These Annual Meeting minutes are intended to also serve as the detailed MD/DCRC Annual Business report for the Board and the members. Each year, however, an abbreviated Business Report is submitted to the MOS President for inclusion into *Maryland Birdlife*.

## 2.7 Maintenance

### 2.7.1 Loss Prevention

The Secretary has subscribed to an on-line web-based backup service (Mozy) for on-line, web backup of all of the MD/DCRC digital data. The amount of data currently backup up is approximately 17.4GB and the data is checked and updated twice daily. The MD/DCRC Chair has the account ID and password.

### 2.8 Quality Control

Currently, the database quality control activities are focused on reconciling the database with Bob Ringler's Maryland Birdlife database. Other measures have been discussed in the past which can provide additional QA/QC measures. For example, with our database capabilities; however, these will not be implemented until the MB reconciliation is completed. **ONGOING**. Future quality initiatives include the following:

**Individual Observer Reports.** We 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 County Reports.** Likewise, we can generate a complete detailed report of records and reports for any given county. The Secretary plans to offer such reports to local chapters or leading county observer individuals as a means to help detect and correct any errors and to stimulate the submission of outstanding documentation.

**Technical Audit Quality Issues.** Since all of the MD/DCRC data exists in data tables, the Secretary has the capability to run a number of data analysis reports to help ensure data integrity.

**Specific Quality Tasks.** The Secretary has several specific data manipulation tasks on the list of things to do. They include:

- Research and update blank "received date" ( rdate) fields.
- Review past split origin votes [e.g., 2006-042, et al.]

## 2.9 Enhancements

This section discusses specific tasks on the Secretary's "To Do" list that will enhance or improve the committee's reporting capabilities.

### Reporting Form Feedback

The committee received feedback from one observer on suggestions to improve our reporting form. The Secretary intends to supplement these suggestions with a best practice survey of other records committee's reporting forms. This action remains **OPEN**.

### Review List Status Data Table/Species Review Status Change History.

The MD/DCRC species Review List status change history information will be converted from an esoteric spreadsheet into a format more conducive to automation, publication, and capture of annual updates.

**Open.** Specific subtasks include:

- Update Review List chronology (xls) with any recent year species review category changes.
- Design and implement a Review List database schema.
- Link to other reports to reflect the reviewable status of taxa depending on the time of observation.

### Observer Names Formalization

As we move toward publishing *The Rare Birds of Maryland and District of Columbia*, the Secretary plans to coordinate with active field birders to standardize the full names and initials that will be used for each observer. This will be deferred until after the MB reconciliation project is completed. **DEFERRED**.

## **eReviews**

The Secretary has planned to migrate to electronic reviews (eReviews) at some point in time, however, this has previously not been at the top of the priority list. However, the time seems right to start some planning for this conversion. If someone from either within or outside the committee would like to undertake a planning task, it would be welcome. The task would be envisioned to include the following: (1) A best practice review of what other committees are doing in this regard. (2) A plan for conversion to XML (or some similar technology) ballots which can integrate ballots by MD/DCRC accession number from ballots prepared by individual members; and (3) the layout of a FTP or other similar web site for the posting and retrieval of documentation and ballots. Bill Hubick has offered to coordinate on an XML approach to the ballots. **OPEN**.

## **SharePoint**

Although the planning for the Rare Birds of MD and DC is still a way out, the Secretary suspects that the only viable method of sharing documentation and data among species account authors is going to be via a SharePoint or other similar collaborative web site resource such as Google Docs, Drop Box, or NBII. This concept could factor into the eReview topic, above. Bill Hubick has offered to consult on various approaches. **OPEN**.

## **Last Round Member's Ballot Feedback**

The issue of providing access to members ballot and comment forms at the end of a round was discussed at last year's meeting. The Secretary has resolved this issue by automatically scanning any last round ballots and emailing them to the voting members. [Recirculated ballots are included in the subsequent rounds, so they will be seen by the next panel of reviewing members.] **CLOSED**.

## **Revised Database Categories**

The Secretary intends to expand 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 the current "Non-Review Species" category into several additional categories that more accurately describe some historical reports, including: "Non-Reviewable Range" for species that are reviewable in certain ranges but not from where the report occurred, and "Non-Reviewable Date," for earlier reports that were submitted for an out of season review, which the committee no longer reviews. This action remains **OPEN**.

## **Annual Meetings**

The minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were posted on the committee web page. The minutes of this meeting will also be posted there. **ONGOING**.

## **Application Migration**

The long-term plan is to migrate the committee's applications from Paradox and the R&R Relational Report Writer to Microsoft products (Access and Access Reports) to get back into the IT mainstream. **OPEN**.

## **Postal to Email Conversion**

Another long-term objective is to convert observer Acknowledgement and Decision notices from hardcopy to email, in order to save postage. **OPEN**.

## **Secretary's "To Do" List**

The Secretary maintains a list of miscellaneous improvements to implement:

### **Database**

- Reorganize MD/DCRC file structure
- Conform SPnums to BBL AOU #s
- Create a formal data dictionary
- Field name standardization
- Add a field to manage "Next" report sorts
- Add field for "current review range applicability" [?]

- Formalize "???" (Re?) as a date for a regional record of uncertain jurisdiction
- New observer key [?] observer + doc\_code [for multiple doc types]
- Revise status (decision) codes:
  - Add "Non-Review Range," and "Non-Review Period"
- Cover sheets - check handling of multiple documentation types and fix, if necessary
- Data table rationalization - consolidate Members table into Mpeople table
- Link to a County data table - delete the "County" RCMaster field, etc.
- ID article database: locate missing issue numbers
- Add a database field for "Review Type" (taxon, range, date)
- Add periods to other database comment-type data fields
- Create data entry forms using linked data table fields
- Populate "source" fields during routine input operations

### **Data Management**

The Secretary has a list of miscellaneous data management improvements to implement:

- Clean out Temp folder
- Inventory bulk A/V material
- Double check on MJI checked-out folders
- Check to see if Pkg 109 was published in MYT?

### **Policies**

The Secretary has a list of miscellaneous policy refinement improvements to implement:

- Define the "Not Accept" vote in the Goals/Procedures document

### **Operations**

The Secretary has a list of miscellaneous operational improvements to implement:

- Continue work on business products - definitions and documentation
- Continue work on a new member briefing
- Write up member mailing expenses policy/process
- Update MD/DCRC reference notebook with latest business process mindmaps and output products
- Best Practices Subcommittee

## 3. Inputs

### 3.1 Current Reports

Current reports are contemporaneous reports, vs. older historical reports.

#### 3.1.1 Direct reports [PDavis]

Direct reports are those submitted directly to the MD/DCRC Secretary via an email, postal mail, or by the MOS MD/DCRC on-line web form (26 were received this year).

#### 3.1.2 MD Osprey [P Davis]

Most current reports involve messages posted to MD Osprey, the local Maryland/DC birding listserver. When reviewable sightings are posted by people that are not regular MD/DCRC contributors, the Secretary follows up and asks the observer to submit documentation, photos, etc.

#### 3.1.3 eBird [T Bell]

Most birds are familiar with eBird, which has become an important source for rare bird sighting reports, especially from birdwatchers and birders that are not subscribed to MD Osprey. The Secretary maintains a close liaison with Maryland eBird reviewer Tyler Bell and we share reports and work together to close documentation issues. The paragraphs, below, are from the eBird web site.

##### **Overview**

A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. It is amassing one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources in existence. For example, in January 2010, participants reported more than 1.5 million bird observations across North America!

The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of eBird users. eBird then shares these observations with a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond.

##### **How does it work?**

eBird documents the presence or absence of species, as well as bird abundance through checklist data. A simple and intuitive web-interface engages tens of thousands of participants to submit their observations or view results via interactive queries into the eBird database. eBird encourages users to participate by providing Internet tools that maintain their personal bird records and enable them to visualize data with interactive maps, graphs, and bar charts. All these features are available in English, Spanish, and French.

A birder simply enters when, where, and how they went birding, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. eBird provides various options for data gathering including point counts, transects, and area searches. Automated data quality filters developed by regional bird experts review all submissions before they enter the database. Local experts review unusual records that are flagged by the filters.

##### **Data integration**

eBird collects observations from birders through portals managed and maintained by local partner conservation organizations. In this way eBird targets specific audiences with the highest level of local expertise, promotion, and project ownership. Portals may have a regional focus (aVerAves, eBird Puerto Rico) or they may have more specific goals and/or specific methodologies (Louisiana Winter Bird Atlas, Bird Conservation Network eBird). Each eBird portal is fully integrated within the eBird database and application infrastructure so that data can be analyzed across political and geographic boundaries. For example, observers entering observations of Cape May Warbler from Puerto Rico can view those data separately, or with the entire Cape May Warbler data set gathered by eBird across the western hemisphere.

##### **Data accessibility**

eBird data are stored in a secure facility and archived daily, and are accessible to anyone via the eBird web site and other applications developed by the global biodiversity information community. For example, eBird data are part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), which integrates observational data on bird populations across the western hemisphere. In turn, the AKN feeds eBird data to international biodiversity data systems, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). In this way any contribution made to eBird increases our understanding of the distribution, richness, and uniqueness of the biodiversity of our planet.

#### **3.1.4 Voice of the Naturalist (VON)** [P Davis and compilers]

Occasionally, reports of reviewable species appear on the VON transcript. When they do, we contact the compilers and ask for contact information of the person who reported the rarity. Then we request documentation from that person.

#### **3.1.5 Other Referrals**

This year, one rarity report was referred to the MD/DCRC by the North American Rare Bird Alert (NARBA) reporting service sponsored by the Houston Audubon Society. The specific report was of a Boreal Chickadee in Potomac, MD [MD/2009-011]. This report is under review.

### **3.2 AOU Check-List Supplement Updates** [PDavis]

The MOS and the MD/DCRC follow the AOU for taxonomy. AOU Checklist supplements are now issued annually, each July, therefore MD/DCRC updates are now required annually. The MD/DCRC database was last modified to conform to the latest AOU Checklist supplements, the 49th through the 51st. The taxonomy changes were discussed in Section 2, above.

### **3.3 Historical Canvass.**

A number of related initiatives are still underway to capture all historical "reviewable" reports. Overall, this project is approximately 98 percent complete and should be completely finished by next year's Annual Meeting. Continuing data capture initiatives include the following:

#### **3.3.1 Stewart & Robbins (S&R) Baseline** [C Robbins/P Davis]

The MD/DCRC baseline document is:

Stewart, R. E., and C. S. Robbins. 1958. *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. North American Fauna No. 62. U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

This annotated checklist is complete through October 1956. The MD/DCRC has mined 204 specific "S&R" reports/records of reviewable or rare reports and records. The committee has evolved to consider all published S&R sight records to be "Accepted." However, where detailed documentation, photographs, or specimens exist, the committee has put that evidence through the review process. One more check needs to be made to compare the S&R checklist to the MD/DCRC database to ensure that all records have been captured in the MD/DCRC database. There are two avenues for this check; one is via the Maryland Birdlife-MD/DCRC reconciliation process and the other is a direct record check. **OPEN.**

#### **3.3.2 M Iliff Historical Record List** [M Iliff/H Mudd/ P Davis]

The MD/DCRC historical canvass began in 1995 and particularly in earnest in 1997 when Marshall Iliff provided the Secretary with a list of approximately 518 historical records, mostly from published sources. Over the next few years, Iliff and Harvey Mudd, the then Chair of the MD/DCRC, tracked down leads and provided status report and in many cases, observer documentation to the Secretary who added the information to the MD/DCRC database. As with other historical sources, it is believed that all of these leads have been captured and pursued; however, one more pass over the original Iliff list needs to be made to ensure that all information has been captured. **OPEN.**

#### **3.3.3 District of Columbia Records Committee** [D Czaplak/B Swift/P Davis]

The District of Columbia Records Committee (DCRC) ceased operations back in the 1980s. Their records were provided to the MD/DCRC and the checklist that they published in 1985 forms the MD/DCRC

baseline for DC (since it is more recent than the 1958 S&R baseline for MD.) Ten DCRC-accepted records were added to the DC database as a part of this baseline. The MD/DCRC needs to determine if it should re-review these records. Also, the Secretary needs to make another pass over the DCRC files and summary tally that was prepared years ago. **OPEN.**

### 3.3.4 eBird [T Bell]

eBird has become another source for historical records as observers enter their old day lists. Most reviewable sightings are not producing reviewable documentation, but a few do, as eBird observers are questioned about documentation and then they try to locate field notes or photos to provide supportive information for historical eBird reports. **ONGOING.**

### 3.3.5 Smithsonian Institution (SI) Bird Division Collection ("USNM") Reconciliation Project

[P Davis/R Clapp/C Angle/J Dean/D Bridge]

For many years, we have pursued reviewable MD/DC specimens found in either the USNM database and/or in the specimen cases. "USNM" (United States National Museum) is the legacy official museum abbreviation for the now, National Museum of Natural History. The entire bird collection is not yet fully computerized; the staff has been working on the collection in taxonomic order, so the passerines are incomplete. The catalog database currently included 444,000 records out of approximately 590,000 specimens, or approximately 75 percent of the total specimens are captured in the USNM database. The current on-line public version of the USNM birds database can be accessed here ...

<http://acsmith.si.edu/vzbirds/pages/nmnh/vz/QueryBirds.php>

Sixty-three reviewable MD/DC specimens have been located, photographed, and in some cases, measured to support MD/DCRC reviews. Last June, a presentation was given to the USNM staff summarizing our progress and providing information for approximately 56 reported or rumored reviewable species that we have not been able to locate or account for. Dave Bridge, formerly of PWRC and the SI, is working on tracking down these "problem children" using various SI resources and references, and has successfully resolved at least 12 of these cases, so far. A full report on the final status of the USNM-MD/DCRC reconciliation project will be presented at next year's Annual Meeting, after the project should be completed. **OPEN.**

### 3.3.6 Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) Reconciliation Project

[P Davis/K Klimkiewicz/D Bystrak/Jo Lutmerding]

The objectives of this project have been (1) to mine the BBL banding and encounter database, schedules, and files for previously unknown reports and documentation of MD/DCRC "reviewable" taxa; and (2) to identify and correct errors in the BBL database which would falsely indicate the presence of reviewable species in MD and DC and, as such, be in conflict with the accounts published in the RBMDC.

This project analyzed the following number of BBL data records from over 400 banders:

Banding records (for birds banded in MD and DC):

- o MD banding data records: 2,086,366 records of 299 taxa
- o DC banding data records: 28,031 records of 137 taxa

Encounter records (for previously banded birds sighted or recovered in MD and DC):

- o MD encounter data records: 6,631 records of 174 taxa (excluding common, numerous species)
- o DC encounter data records: 399 records of 52 taxa (excluding common, numerous species)

Three generations of BBL banding schedules have been searched:

- Pre-1960 ("old" banding schedules) - not fully computerized
- 1960-2007 - Manual; Band-Ops [DOS]; Band Manager
- 2008-on - Electronic [Bandit?]

BBL database species that have shown to be in error are the following: Smooth-billed Ani, Red-shafted Flicker, Gilded Flicker, Say's Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Bronzed Cowbird, Lesser Goldfinch, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Yellow-green Vireo, Tropical Parula, Olive Warbler, American Dipper, Le Conte's Thrasher, and Mountain Bluebird.

BBL discoveries (mostly from encounter records) that may prove to be correct include the following: a California Gull banding as a young bird in SK, hence *albertainensis*; an early Great Cormorant (1977) from PLSP; inland Brown Pelicans; two Mottled Ducks that were banded in Chester, MD; an early (1969) Ross's Goose, a Greater White-fronted Goose that was banded in SK, hence, *frontalis/gambelli*); several Trumpeter Swans, a 1987 Sandhill Crane that was banded in FL, a 1970 White-winged Dove that was banded in Mexico; a banded Prairie Falcon that was intentionally released in 1950; a Western Kingbird that was collected in 1956 (this is how we learned about the specimen that the committee recently reviewed); a 1952 Black-billed Magpie, a number of Bewick's Wren bandings, and several Carolina Chickadees that were banded in Allegany County.

The Secretary has worked this project over the past year and has made good progress and it is near to being closed out. A detailed report of all MD/DCRC data items of interest and BBL data errors is in preparation. The final action is to coordinate the findings with Danny Bystrak at the BBL. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.7 North American Bird Phenology Program (BPP) Data Analysis Project**

[P Davis/S Droege/J Zelt]

The North American Bird Phenology Program, part of the USA-National Phenology Network, was a network of volunteer observers who recorded information on first arrival dates, maximum abundance, and departure dates of migratory birds across North America. Active between 1880 and 1970, the program was coordinated by the Federal government and sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union. It exists now as a historic collection of six million migration card observations, illuminating almost a century of migration patterns and population status of birds.

Today, in an innovative project to curate the data and make them publically available, the records are being scanned and placed on the internet, where volunteers worldwide transcribe these records and add them into a database for analysis.

These historic card files on the distribution and migration of North American birds data are now housed in Office 105 of Building 308 at BARC, Beltsville, MD. Formerly, the data was located in the attic of the Nelson Building at PWRC in Laurel. The data are neatly ordered within 60 feet of card cabinets. This system contains six million records of occurrence, migration, and nesting data from published sources, and from field reports of Biological Survey employees and a network of amateur ornithologists, 1880-1950. The cards, which are sorted by species, country, and state or province contain clippings from ornithological journals as well as observer reports containing date of arrival, next date recorded, date the species became common, and date species was last seen or heard. Each record includes locality and observer's name. These data are an almost complete record of bird sightings prior to the 1920's. Many of these records have never made it into published accounts.

The Secretary is reviewing the BPP card files for reviewable species to locate either previously unknown records or additional details on historical, published records. This project has just begun, but has yielded valuable and interesting data. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.8 PWRC Nest Records** [P Davis/S Droege]

Nest Record Cards are used to enter data on the successes and failures of individual bird nests. Much of these data are collected by volunteers and submitted to a central coordinating body. In addition to the central repositories many individual researchers have large collections of nest records. A set of PWRC nest cards are also currently housed at BARC Bldg 308, Office 105 and are either considered to be an adjunct to or separate from the BPP data, described above. These cards will be checked for any reviewable records; however, not much is expected since these are nest records. A preliminary check of the Bewick's Wren file did provide previously undocumented Maryland nesting records for this extirpated breeding species. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.9 North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Reconciliation Project [P Davis/D Ziolkowski]**

Dave Ziolkowski has provided a summary of species observed in Maryland on BBS routes. A few of these are reviewable species. The Secretary is working with Dave to investigate these observations to see if they were otherwise documented or try to obtain documentation, if available. This project should be completed by the next Annual Meeting. **OPEN.**

#### **About BBS**

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/about/>

#### **What is the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)?**

The BBS is a long-term, large-scale, international avian monitoring program initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations. The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Research Center jointly coordinate the BBS program.

#### **Why was the BBS created?**

In the mid-twentieth century, the success of DDT as a pesticide ushered in a new era of synthetic chemical pest control. As pesticide use grew, concerns, as epitomized by Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring*, regarding their effects on wildlife began to surface. Local studies had attributed some bird kills to pesticides, but it was unclear how, or if, bird populations were being affected at regional or national levels. Responding to this concern, Chandler Robbins and colleagues at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center developed the North American Breeding Bird Survey to monitor bird populations over large geographic areas. Although most concerns over pesticide use in North America have subsided in recent decades, bird populations continue to be subjected to numerous widespread threats including habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, land-use changes, and other chemical contaminants. Today, the BBS continues to monitor bird populations across North America and informs researchers and wildlife managers of significant changes in bird population levels. If significant declines are detected, their causes can then be identified and appropriate actions taken to reverse them before populations reach critically low levels.

#### **How does the BBS work?**

Each year during the height of the avian breeding season, June for most of the U.S. and Canada, participants skilled in avian identification collect bird population data along roadside survey routes. Each survey route is 24.5 miles long with stops at 0.5-mile intervals. At each stop, a 3-minute point count is conducted. During the count, every bird seen within a 0.25-mile radius or heard is recorded. Surveys start one-half hour before local sunrise and take about 5 hours to complete. Over 4100 survey routes are located across the continental U.S. and Canada. Once analyzed, BBS data provide an index of population abundance that can be used to estimate population trends and relative abundances at various geographic scales. Trend estimates for more than 420 bird species and all raw data are currently available via the BBS web site.

#### **How are BBS data used?**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, and Partners in Flight all use BBS trends along with other indicators to assess bird conservation priorities. BBS data were instrumental in focusing research and management action on neotropical migrant species in the late 1980s, and on grassland species in the mid-1990s. State Natural Heritage programs and Breeding Bird Atlas projects often utilize BBS data to enrich their databases. Educators often use BBS data as a tool to teach biological, statistical and GIS concepts. More than 270 scientific publications have relied heavily, if not entirely, on BBS data. The entire BBS bibliography is viewable in PDF format or in field-searchable web format.

### **3.3.10 Historical Ornithology [J Ducey]**

Jim Ducey of Nebraska is researching "Historical Ornithology" including searching for historical ornithological records and specimens. He made contact with the Secretary and has provided some references about historical specimens in MD and DC. Some of these were new to the MD/DCRC, including a possible Jouy-collected, Coues-analyzed specimen of a putative Spotted Towhee for DC from 1975. A separate report will be prepared to document these findings. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.11 Ornithological Collection Database Canvass Project [P Davis]**

Museum ornithological collection datasets from other North American institutions have been obtained either directly from the institutions or via the ORNIS/Arctos web interfaces. These datasets will be analyzed for any reviewable MD or DC taxa. A few reviewable specimens have already been located at other museums and will be tracked down and photographs and/or measurements will be requested.

Open. Some data manipulation is still required to convert non-ORNIS and Arctos databases to the ORNIS format. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.12 Historical Checklists [P Davis]**

An MD/DCRC data product that the Secretary started years ago captured the chronological history of the years when species were added to the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC. This data product is currently on the MD/DCRC web site. Most of the species were considered to have been added in 1958, which represents the publication of the MD/DCRC baseline, Stewart and Robbins (1958). Records that were accepted by the MD/DCRC are indicated along with the MD/DCRC record accession number that was responsible for adding the species to the official lists. For these records, the date of observation is known from the MD/DCRC documentation. However, for species that were added after 1958 but for which the MD/DCRC added "by acclamation," (for example, House Finch, Manx Shearwater, etc.), research was required to determine the first record and associated date. In this process of performing this research, the Secretary began to also research the first observation dates for species added prior to 1958. This, in turn, led to a search and analysis of earlier historical checklists for our region. Now, the intent of this project is to capture and present the chronology of all species added to the MD and DC checklists over time via an integration of the historical checklists and MD/DCRC data records that represent the first observations of species for MD and DC. This project is underway. **OPEN.** The historical checklists that are being analyzed are on the web at this URL ...

<http://mddcrc-resources.posterous.com/md-and-dc-historical-checklists>

### **3.3.13 Maryland Ornithological Pioneers Biographies [D Bridge]**

Dave Bridge (formerly of PWRC and the Smithsonian) is doing independent research on the ornithological pioneers of Maryland. He has begun researching the original notebooks of Frank C. Kirkwood and others. His original description of these notebooks was superficial and his initial goal is to make a more complete inventory, providing some details, date spans, number of pages, etc.

Dave just learned the following information from Chan Robbins: "Bob Stewart and I did not see any of the original notebooks you mentioned, but Kirkwood had copied data from all of them onto 2x5 slips of paper for his species file and Bryant Tyrrell had loaned us the species file when we were working on Birds of Maryland. The card file (in a big collection of cigar boxes) was subsequently given to the MD Historical Society by Tyrrell. I think it was John Sommer who ended up with the original notebooks, and he (or his heirs) gave the notebooks to MOS about 20 years ago. I have not been to Cylburn to examine them."

Dave's research will directly support the planned biographical section of the *Rare Birds of MD and DC*. However, his preliminary research has already uncovered some reviewable records, such as a Limpkin reported by Kirkwood to have been shot at Eastern Branch, DC in May 1899 (!) Dave is also working with the officers of the Baltimore Chapter regarding a system to index these records and controlled storage to protect them. **OPEN.**

### **3.3.14 Targeted Observer Canvass [P Davis, et al.]**

The Secretary is trying to elicit any existing documentation from specific observers who are credited with many published reports. Specifically:

Past committee member, Ellen Lawler, has volunteered to work with Sam Dyke to try and determine if documentation exists for reports of his that have been published in *Maryland Birdlife*. **OPEN.**

Jim Stasz has indicated before that he has digital documentation photos and video to provide to the MD/DCRC. We are coordinating with him to capture this data. **OPEN.**

Hal Wierenga has indicated that some of the MD/DCRC data records are incorrectly attributed to him (Hal) and to his late father (Harold). We have offered to work with him to sort this out, but have not yet come together. **OPEN**.

The Secretary is reviewing Dave Czaplak's web site for any images that have not been previously captured. **OPEN**.

Unfortunately, the committee lost a number of important reports when Gene Scarpulla's basement was flooded during a hurricane a few years ago. **CLOSED**.

### **3.3.15 Maryland Birdlife-MD/DCRC Database Reconciliation Project [B Ringler/P Davis]**

While some of the other ongoing reconciliation projects may have resolved outstanding issues or uncovered a small number of new reviewable MD/DCRC reports, the last major database project is to coordinate and double check the MD/DCRC data records against Bob Ringler's *Maryland Birdlife* seasonal database for discrepancies. Bob has 19-years of the *Maryland Birdlife* "The Season" reports in his database and many years of CBC rare bird reports in his files. This process has begun; however, the interactive nature of checking data and backup files on both sides of this process dictates that this project will take a while to complete. When specific reports indicate that documentation is missing, and if the observer(s) are available, the Secretary has contacted them to determine if any documentation is extant. After this 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. **ONGOING**.

### **3.3.16 Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) [P Davis]**

Many rarities were observed on CBCs. The PWRC/Chan Robbins files that were retrieved from deep storage and are now housed at Bldg 308 at BARC are providing a source for additional details of some historical CBC observations. **ONGOING**. All CBC data is now also available from the "historical results" database housed at the National Audubon Society CBC web site ...

<http://birds.audubon.org/historical-results>

### **3.3.17 Other Counts**

Other bird counts, besides the CBCs have yielded historic rarity reports. Including May Counts, Mid-winter counts, and Gull Days. Sue Ricciardi of Anne Arundel County possesses the Gull Day records and those files have been able to provide reviewable documentation for several specific published reports. **ONGOING**.

### **3.3.18 Exotics/Introduced/Questionable Species Canvass [P Davis]**

Published reports of exotic species have pretty much been ignored by the birding community, in general, and by the committee. The Secretary had captured some, but not all, of such sightings. In tandem with the Maryland Birdlife-MD/DCRC reconciliation project, the Secretary has worked with Bob Ringler and captured all additional published references to exotic species. The Secretary has been working on drafting a proposed MD/DCRC policy dealing with exotic/introduced species and this current data supports that task. A table summarizing the status of these species has been prepared and will be provided to the members at this year's Annual Meeting, along with a draft review policy. It was proposed that the MD/DCRC establish an Exotic/Introduced Birds Subcommittee and the Secretary is willing to constitute that as a subcommittee of one, for now. **OPEN**.

### **3.3.19 Patuxent Wildlife Research Center/Chan Robbins Archives Canvass Project**

[P Davis/D Bystrak/S Droege/C Robbins]

Within the past year, PWRC bird records, specifically some of Chan Robbins's records, were retrieved from deep storage and placed in the basement of a USFWS building located at BARC (Building 308). These records deal with Maryland Birdlife seasonal reports, American Birds seasonal reports, and MD/DC Christmas Bird Counts from the 1930s through the 1970s. A detailed finding aid was prepared by the Secretary for these files. The Secretary is currently reviewing these files for either unknown reviewable records or data to support previously published records. Additional records also exist in Chan

Robbins office at PWRC. A finding aid will be developed for those records and they will also be canvassed for any extant reviewable report documentation. The Secretary is coordinating with Chan on the timing for this search. Some new reports have already been located. This task should be completed by next year's Annual Meeting. **OPEN**.

### **3.3.20 Lighthouse records ("The Famous Lighthouse Surveys") [P Davis/S Droege]**

Sam Droege of the USFWS advised me of ornithological records that were commissioned by the Fish and Wildlife Service from lighthouse and light station keepers. He indicated that these records were located at the National Records Archives facility in Philadelphia. The Secretary has contacted NARA and it appears that these records have now been relocated to College Park, MD. We are trying to locate these records and gain access. **OPEN**. Sam's summary of this data follows"

#### **The Famous Lighthouse Surveys**

The first systematic bird surveys in North America were those collected by lighthouse keepers. In the late 1800's there was concern that lighthouses were a fatal attraction to migrating birds. Birds, lured into the bright lights, would dash themselves to death on the tower. The American Ornithologist's Union (AOU) decided to look into the situation and asked keepers to write down all the birds that they found dead or that hit the light.

Lighthouse keepers, being regular joes, kept that data, but being rather untrained in ornithological observation and nomenclature, returned results often difficult to interpret. Some keepers claimed that no birds struck the light and also wrote back saying the whole thing was a big waste of their time. Others recorded extensive observations of sea robins, mother-careys chickens, black sea ducks, bee martins, and other local and often ambiguous names.

Tucked in with the lighthouse data are stored the correspondence of the many private individuals and ornithologists who wrote in to the AOU Committee with reports and observations of birds. These data, and the notes by Bureau biologists, form the baseline for North American knowledge about the migration, abundance, and distribution of birds.

These data are now safely, but obscurely, stored at the Philadelphia branch of the National Archives. They are contained within 95 boxes and stored in Lot 22.

## 4. Outputs

### 4.1 Observer Acknowledgements

Data from observer reports are entered into the MD/DCRC database. Periodically, several times a year, the Secretary generates a batch of Acknowledgements and mails them (via USPS) to the observers, showing all of the relevant database fields. Observers are asked to identify any data field errors, which helps to improve the quality of the process.

### 4.2 Observers Decision Notices

After decisions are rendered, the Secretary composes a decision summary, which is reviewed by the members during the package closeout process. A decision notice, including the current data field and the decision summary are sent to the observers, also via USPS.

### 4.3 Not Accepted eMails.

A few years ago, the Secretary began the practice of sending a personal email to observers whose reports were not accepted. These message indicate that the decision notice will provide more details, but the email message to is provide a "heads up" to the observers.

### 4.4 Decision Summaries (Maryland Yellowthroat)

Periodically, a list of recent decisions is generated and provided to the Maryland Yellowthroat editor, Lydia Schindler, for publication.

### 4.5 Official Lists (MD and DC)

Whenever new species are accepted to either the MD or DC Official Lists, updates are generated and sent to the MOS Webmaster, John Christy, for posting to the MD/DCRC web page.

### 4.6 Official Lists Documentation Types (MD and DC)

The MD/DCRC Official Lists for MD and DC include an indication of the type of documentation that is available for each species; such as, specimen, photograph/video, audio recording, or written report. Occasionally a different level of documentation becomes available for species that are no longer on the Review Lists. The committee decided at the 2008 Annual Meeting that these updates to the Official List documentation types will be considered as editorial changes and can be implemented by the Secretary. Changes to documentation status during the past year include the following additions for DC photographic documentation:

None

### 4.7 Chronology of Species Added to the Official Lists

Years ago, the Secretary generated a report from the database that indicates the year that each species was added to the Official List. This report is now posted to the MD/DCRC web page whenever a corresponding Official List is updated.

An earlier member 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 prepared a report which can report these dates, however, this data was only available for records accepted by the committee; historical "firsts" were not in the MD/DCRC database. Therefore the Secretary worked to determine the first dates for species added since the publication of Stewart and Robbins (1958) that were not accepted via the formal committee review process. These records includes those accepted "via proclamation" for sight records that were recognized since the publication of our baseline, Stewart & Robbins (1958), and the formation of the MD/DCRC in the early 1980s. The Secretary then extended this task further back in time to try and locate and create a data record for the "first record" for each species (for both MD and DC), including historical species.

The Secretary will continue to pursue this task. However, one issue deals with "hypothetical" species to regional checklists which were then "replaced" or "upgraded" with photographed birds or specimens; in such cases, we will need to determine which should be used as the "first" observation: the first

hypothetical report, or a later report based on physical evidence? This task closely relates to and integrates with the "Historical Checklist" project. **Open.**

#### **4.8 Review Lists**

Whenever new species are added to the Official Lists, or by actions at the committee's Annual Meetings, the MD and DC Review List criteria change and new versions of the Review Lists are generated and sent to the MOS Webmaster for posting to the MD/DCRC web page.

#### **4.9 Databases (MD and DC)**

Periodically, the Secretary generates an abridged report of the MD and DC databases, which are sent to the Webmaster for posting to the MD/DCRC web page. These abridged reports provide some of the key data fields for each data record, but not all fields. Also, these reports are filtered to eliminate certain categories of data records, such as "Reopened," "Withdrawn," "Non-Review Species," and extralimital reports that have worked their way into the database (for example VA Potomac River reports). Likewise, reports that we carry in the database as State="??" are not presented, since we generate separate reports for MD and DC. These "??" reports are typically historical Potomac River for which the state provenance cannot be determined.

#### **4.10 Identification and Reference Index**

All MD/DC identification and reference articles that are captured by the Secretary are entered into the database. An index report of references by species is easily generated and is periodically posted to the MD/DCRC web page.

#### **4.11 Rarities Bibliography**

Since each published reference to a specific MD/DCRC rarity report is also captured in the committee database, a complete bibliography of all published articles is easily generated that encompasses all MD/DCRC rarities. This data is presented in two formats: chronologically and sorted by author and is posted online. The plan is that most or all of these articles can eventually be linked to as on-line PDF documents. Many are already available online. The current version is here ...

<http://mddcrc-resources.posterous.com/mddcrc-bibliography>

#### **4.12 Decision Reports (Maryland Birdlife)**

The first two MD/DCRC Decision Reports were published in 1996 and 1998, with senior authors Bruce Peterjohn and Mark Hoffman, respectively. However, subsequent report attempts stalled and this is one of the primary motivators to move toward the *Rare Birds of MD and DC* book.

#### **4.13 Decisions Publication Project**

Despite the planned MD/DCRC publication, *The Rare Birds of MD and DC* (RBMDC), there was some interest by the MOS Publications Committee to go ahead and publish the MD/DCRC decision in Maryland Birdlife, in a similar fashion as they are published in The Maryland Yellowthroat. The intend would be to "catch up" the MB publication of our decision in the MOS journal. The decisions would reflect the originally planned Decision Report #3 - 6. The decisions would be published without editorial comment or the level of detail as they would be for RBMDC. All of the Secretary's efforts are now focused towards RBMDC and this plan has not been brought up again, which is OK with the Secretary.

#### **4.14 Reports/Records Digitization Plan**

To prepare for RBMDC and to distribute the workload among various species account authors, the plan is to digitize all MD/DCRC documentation. The scope of digitization would include slides, photos, text, and references material. As we get ready to plan and implement, we will seek the advice of MOS members who have experience in this area. Maryland Birdlife is available in PDF format. The American Birds series is available from 1973 forward. The Atlantic Naturalist series is not available digitally.

#### **4.15 *Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (RBMDC)**

[P Davis/R Ringler/P O'Brien/J Millenson]

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the committee affirmed that, since its decision reports are highly backlogged, it has abandon periodic publication of these MD/DCRC decision reports in *Maryland Birdlife* and instead will move forward towards the publication of a book, *The Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. This has been previously discussed and presented at earlier Annual Meetings and those details will not be repeated here, at this time. A rough concept cover was presented by the Secretary. **OPEN**.

#### **4.16 Gazetteer** [P Davis/B Ringler]

This project involves generation of an automated, database-driven gazetteer. The report generation phase is completed; however, a data validation phase, working with Bob Ringler, is in progress. Several on-line and historical references are used in researching MD and DC place names (including McAtee, 1918). **OPEN**.

#### **4.17 Historical Checklists** [P Davis]

A master bibliography was compiled of historical checklists that encompass Maryland and/or DC. The hope is that most or all of these checklists can eventually be linked to as PDF documents. Some are already available online. **OPEN**. The current list can be found here ...

<http://mddcrc-resources.posterous.com/md-and-dc-historical-checklists>

#### **4.18 Integrated Historical Checklist** [P Davis]

The Secretary is working to generate an integrated master checklist that indicates when and by which authority each species was added to “official” state checklist over time, beginning with the earliest checklists. **OPEN**.

#### **4.19 Review List Chronology** [P Davis]

This project is to create a data table that indicates the review status of species and how that status has changed over time. This capability will be used in a number of committee reports and for the RBMDC species accounts. This project is in-work. **OPEN**.

#### **4.20 MOS MD/DCRC Web Page Updates** [P Davis/John Christy]

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 15 Sep 2010. The Secretary occasionally reminds the local birding community via e-mail messages on the local birding listserver (MD Osprey) that MD/DCRC web site information is available for reference. The link to the committee’s web pages is:

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

#### **4.21 MD/DCRC Web Page Redesign** [P Davis/John Christy]

The Secretary has marked up the design of the current MD/DCRC web page, providing new links and information; however, this update has not yet been provided to the MOS Webmaster. The Secretary would like to first conduct a best practices survey of other records committees' web pages. **OPEN**.

#### **4.22 MD/DCRC Blog Page** [P Davis]

The Secretary has established an independent MD/DCRC blog site for casual use:

<http://mddcrc-blog.posterous.com/>

#### **4.23 MD/DCRC Resource Page** [P Davis]

The Secretary has also established an independent MD/DCRC resources site for casual use, where some of the MD/DCRC historical artifacts are stored:

<http://mddcrc-resources.posterous.com/>

#### 4.24 MD/DCRC Intranet Page [P Davis]

The Secretary has also established a private Intranet site that can be used in the future for document sharing, including future eReviews.

#### 4.25 Skins Workshops Minutes.

**2007 - "Snowy-bellied" Martin Account.** There remains an issue with the Skins Workshop minutes from 2007. Some potential errors were pointed out in the account for the "Snowy-bellied" Martin complex. The author had planned to update the account, but this never happened, so the account was deleted. I suspect the status of this account will not change and recommend that the committee close this item.

**2010 - Minutes.** After a long period of time, all accounts have been submitted and only some Pacific Loon editorial questions remain to be resolved before this set of minutes can be published.

**2011 - Minutes.** The committee held its 2011 Skins Workshop at the US Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The species accounts are being prepared for the minutes. The species accounts, authors, and status is shown in the following table.

Member	Document Section	Species Account Volunteer	Submitted
Fred Shaffer	3.1	Common/Arctic Tern	due
Tyler Bell	3.2	Anna's/Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbirds	01/28/2011
Ron Gutberlet	3.3	Northern/Loggerhead Shrike	due
Mike Bowen	3.4	Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee	01/23/2011
Fred Shaffer	3.5	Pacific/Winter Wren	due
Walter Ellison	3.6	"Black-backed" Robin	02/22/2011
Bill Hubick Mikey Lutmerding	3.7	Cassin's/Bachman's Sparrow	03/04/2011
Bill Hubick	3.8	"Gambel's" Sparrow vs. Intergrades	due
Phil Davis	3.9	Common/Hoary Redpoll	due

## 5. Resources

This section described the key resources that support MD/DCRC research.

### 5.1 Journals

Historical published journals are available in both the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's library in Laurel, MD and the Smithsonian's Birds Division library in Washington, DC.

#### Regional Journals [P Davis/L Garret]

Regional sources of MD/DCRC bird reports include the following:

***Maryland Birdlife.*** *Maryland Birdlife* is the bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), the sponsoring organization of the MD/DCRC. *Maryland Birdlife* began publication in 1945. All issues of *Maryland Birdlife* are available on a CD, up through the year 2000.

#### The Atlantic Naturalist series:

***Wood Thrush.*** The Audubon Society of the District of Columbia was founded on 18 May 1897 "...for the protection and study of birds..." The *Wood Thrush* was published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia from March 1946 until Jan./Feb. 1950 (volumes 1-5).

***Atlantic Naturalist.*** In December 1959, the name of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia was changed to the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc. (ANS). The ***Atlantic Naturalist***, became the Audubon Naturalist Society's official organ, continuing the Wood Thrush series numbering. The ***Atlantic Naturalist*** was published from 1950 to 1976. The historical archives of the ANS are housed in the Smithsonian Archives as Record Unit 7294. A finding aid is located at the following URL ...

<http://siarchives.si.edu/findingsaids/FARU7294.htm>

The Secretary plans to review certain records in these archives, especially Series 10, 11, 12, and 14, in search of details to support published sightings. OPEN

**Bulletin/Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington.** The Biological Society of Washington is a worldwide acting scientific organization established on 3 December 1880 in Washington, D.C.. The original purpose was "to encourage the study of the Biological Sciences and to hold meetings at which papers shall be read and discussed." In May 1882 the first issue of the peer reviewed journal Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington was published. Since then it appears quarterly. Another journal is the Bulletin of the Biological Society of Washington which is published since 1918 and contains larger studies, symposia proceedings and special study collections. The Biological Society of Washington was among the eight organizations which founded the Washington Academy of Sciences in 1898.

**Bulletin of the Proceedings of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science.** The National Institution for the Promotion of Science organization was established in Washington, D.C. in May, 1840, and was heir to the mantle of the earlier Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences. The National Institution for the Promotion of Science was later renamed the National Institute and eventually became a part of the Smithsonian Institution. The National Institute was the initial repository for collections of artifacts brought to the US by the United States Exploring Expedition, as well as various other objects accumulated by the government, such as items owned by early American politicians, patent models, and natural objects. Housed in the Patent Office Building, these were the precursor to the Smithsonian Institution collection. The cabinet was managed by a group of scientists in 1840 and others to secure control of the Smithson bequest and create a National Museum in Washington.

#### Serial Publications of the Former United States National Museum

**Bulletin of the United States National Museum** (1875–1971): Each Bulletin comprised a single monograph (occasionally in several volumes) of general systematic treatises, large zoological and faunal works, reports of expeditions, and catalogs of type specimens and special collections.

**Proceedings of the United States National Museum** (1878–1968): Each volume contained multiple papers that reported on new facts in biology, anthropology, and geology; on descriptions of new forms and revisions of limited groups; and on the collections of the United States National Museum.

**Annual Reports** (1881–present): This serial has had various names, including Report on the Progress and Condition of the United States National Museum for the Fiscal Year Ended . . .; The United States National Museum Annual Report for the Year Ended . . .; and Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution. The format and content have varied greatly over the years.

**Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club/ Cassinia.** The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club came into being on February 3, 1890, The early history of the Club is well documented, but most of the sources of this information are not readily available today. *Cassinia*, the Club's journal, made its debut in 1901, and it was preceded by four small printed publications entitled Abstract of Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club covering the years 1890 to 1900.

**The Maryland Yellowthroat**, the newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society.  
<http://www.mdbirds.org/publications/yellowthroat/yellowthroat.html>

**The Bulletin of the Natural History Society of Maryland.** Interest in the "natural sciences", in distinction to mathematical, historical, philological and other forms of knowledge, has had a rather chequered career in the Baltimore region. As early as 1797 an organization that included such an interest was founded there. It had a brief existence. A generation later another organization appeared; it too met an early end. Baltimore was a thriving city and bustled with energy, but its prosperity was commercial and the interests of its citizens centered primarily, though certainly not entirely, on mercantile affairs. Later in the nineteenth century an organization that endures today was founded: the Maryland Academy of Sciences. The Academy had some active researchers among its members in the latter part of the nineteenth century, notably Phillip Uhler, still remembered as a leading student of Heteroptera. It also published a set of transactions. However, by the 1920's the organization had greatly declined in vigor. Dissatisfied with the situation, a small group of Academy members founded and incorporated The Natural History Society of Maryland in 1929. It is this institution that publishes The Maryland Naturalist.

**The Raven.** The Raven is published twice a year by the VSO to provide an outlet for original articles reporting research on Virginia's birds and significant sightings of birds in the state. The Raven also publishes the results of studies by VSO members such as the annual breeding bird forays and Christmas Bird Counts, as well as reports of the state bird records committee (VARCOM), book reviews, and other items. The Raven was first published in 1930, the year after the VSO was founded. It was edited by Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington, Virginia from its origins until the June 1969 issue. Through 1961 it was a mimeographed bulletin appearing monthly or every other month. In 1962 it became a quarterly publication and appeared in a new, more compact format, similar to its appearance today. From the beginning The Raven included reports on significant observations of birds in Virginia, and early issues also included news items and announcements of the kind that would now be found in the VSO Newsletter.

<http://ccb-wm.org/raven/ravenpage.htm>

**The Pastime.** The "*Pastime*" is a small and all but forgotten monthly periodical with natural history leanings, of which William Palmer was for a time one of the editors and proprietors.

## **National Journals** [P Davis/L Garrett]

National ornithological journals that are used as rarities source material and references include: *American Midland Naturalist*, *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, *The Audubon Field Notes/American Birds/Field Notes/North American Birds* series, *Bird-Lore*, *Birding*, *Nidologist*, *Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, *The Oologist*,

## **5.2 Libraries**

**5.2.1 PWRC Library.** Lynda Garret, the PWRC Librarian, has been exceeding helpful in support of the MD/DCRC ongoing research. More information on the PWRC library can be found here ...

PWRC Library: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/library/>

Other specialized journals are available in the PWRC and SI libraries. Special thanks to Lynda Garret of PWRC for assistance in finding and requesting copies of articles from other libraries.

**5.2.2 Smithsonian Libraries.** The Smithsonian operates a number of libraries, a number of which have provided support to the MD/DCRC research activities. The primary finding aid for the Smithsonian Libraries is SIRIS Library Catalog, found here ...

Smithsonian SIRIS: <http://siris-libraries.si.edu/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=liball#focus>

The **Main National Museum of Natural History Library**, contains about 120,000 items on general science, biology, ecology, evolution, biodiversity, geology, paleontology, conservation and other subjects. There are over 540 journal subscriptions and a large number of journals received on exchange. The Main Branch (Room CE-100) and its sublocations are located in the Natural History Building.

Main NMNH Library: <http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmnh/>

The **Charles A. Richmond Memorial Library** in the Birds Division (Room E607) holds over 10,000 volumes, including approximately 100 journal subscriptions.

Birds: <http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmnh/vz/#06>

The **Joseph F. Cullman Special Collection Library** holds the Smithsonian's collection of rare books in anthropology and the natural sciences. Its world-class collection contains approximately 10,000 volumes published before 1840.

Cullman Library: <http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/cullman/index.cfm>

## **5.2.3 Other Local Libraries**

Some other local libraries have either provided reference material, or are expected to in the near future:

**The Carter Library and Information Resource Center.** The Carter Library and Information Resource Center, in Annapolis, is the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' central source for information, serving the needs of DNR staff, researchers, and the public ...

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/irc/>

**McKelden Library.** McKelden Library at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD., is the main library and houses the General Collection ...

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/PUB/libraries.html>

**The Maryland Room.** The Maryland Room, located in University of Maryland, College Park, Hornbake Library North, is one of the foremost centers to study all aspects of Maryland - past and present - and also serves as a gateway to many valuable special collections ...

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/mdrm/>

### **5.3 Smithsonian Institution Archives Research [P Davis/D Bridge]**

The Smithsonian Archives Unit provides access to archived records of the Smithsonian and other scientific/nature organizations. Their home page is here ...

Smithsonian Archives <http://siarchives.si.edu/>

### **5.4 MOS Archives at Cylburn Mansion**

These resources include a collection of mounted specimens and ornithological archives, includes the notebooks of Frank C. Kirkwood. et al.

**5.5 MD Historical Society.** Founded in 1844, the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) is the state's oldest continuously operating cultural institution. In keeping with the founders' commitment to preserve the remnants of Maryland's past, MdHS remains the premier institution for state history. With over 350,000 objects and seven million books and documents, this institution now serves upward of 100,000 people through its museum, library, press, and educational programs.

The Maryland Historical Society's H. Furlong Baldwin Library ...

<http://www.mdhs.org/library/library-overview>

**5.6 MD Society of Natural History.** The Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1929. Its extensive collections of Maryland flora, fauna, fossils, and minerals, dating back to the early 1800's, are a rare and valuable asset to the State of Maryland. Many of the items that were on display in the Natural History Museum in Druid Hill Park from 1936 to the early 1970's are still in their collection.

<http://www.marylandnature.org/>

### **5.7 Online Resources**

More and more references are available online via the Internet, including:

**SORA - The Searchable Ornithological Research Archive.** Ornithological research has been made much easier due to the establishment of the SORA web site. The SORA project is an open access electronic journal archive and is the product of a collaboration between the American Ornithologists Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the University of New Mexico libraries and IT department. This archive provides access to an extensive Ornithological literature of international scope, and detailed material documenting the history of Ornithology in North America over the last 120 years. The content of this site includes the following titles: The Auk (1884-1999), The Condor (1899-2000), The Journal of Field Ornithology (1930-1999), The North American Bird Bander (1976-2000), Pacific Coast Avifauna (1900-1974), Studies in Avian Biology (1978-1999), and The Wilson Bulletin (1889-1999). SORA intends to expand the content available as more Societies and journals join.

SORA: <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/>

### **Biodiversity Heritage Library**

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) is a consortium of 12 natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize and make accessible the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections and to make that literature available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global "biodiversity commons."

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

**Google Books**

Google Books is scanning and making available more ornithological references each year ...

<http://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp>

**The Center for Conservation Biology.** This resources provides online access to *The Raven*, the journal of the Virginia Society for Ornithology. The Center for Conservation Biology is a research and education organization within the Department of Biologoy at the College of William & Mary. Their focus is the development of information resources needed for effective, scientific-based conservation.

<http://www.ccb-wm.org/>

## 6. Policies and Procedures

### 6.1 Photography

This MD/DCRC guidance policy on digital photograph and documentation submission was published with last year's Annual Meeting minutes. The policy can be found in this document ...

[www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcannual2010.pdf](http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcannual2010.pdf)

### 6.2 Exotics/Introduced/Questionable Species Review Policy [P Davis]

The committee does not currently have a formal policy to govern the submission and review of documentation of species that are presumed to be of questionable origin (e.g., Monk Parakeet) or presumed to be of exotic origin (e.g., Black Swans) and introduced species (e.g., African Collared-Doves). At last year's Annual Meeting, the Secretary presented for comment and discussion a draft of a policy based on the AOU Checklist and the ABA Checklist. Since last year, this draft was reworked again and a later version is being prepared but was not ready in time for the Annual Meeting for the members and their comments. Work on this draft will continue with the intent to have it completed and circulated for review and comment by the members prior to next year's Annual Meeting. The Secretary suggested that the committee establish a Subcommittee on Exotic and Introduced Species, similar to what has been done within some other state records committee. The Secretary, Phil Davis, volunteered to Chair this subcommittee. Progress made, but work remains to be completed. Deferred, one more year. **OPEN.**

## 7. Old Business

### **Voting Procedures/Voting Approach.**

At last year's meeting, Dave Ziolkowski and Bill Hubick facilitated a very interesting discussion about the committee voting approach, particularly as oriented toward new members, who may need several packages to "get the feel" for the voting process and voting standards.

Dave manages the Breeding Bird Survey program, has a great deal of experience with and views on working with data quality and data standards. Dave submits that, outside of actual descriptions in reports, our review comments suggest that we evaluate the same types of information (probability of occurrence, skill level, etc.) but often end up at contrasting votes simply because we may have differing ideas of what the committee is looking for in terms of weighting and/or ordering this information. While the Goals and Procedures document advocates a "mix" approach, it does not address weighting considerations, and Dave suggests that doing so could improve the committee's long-term consistency and thus record quality, without adding reviewer work or additional scrutiny. Also, we frequently internally cite the "100 year rule" (will the documentation sustain the record 100 years from now, when all of the observer and committee personalities are no longer around?); however, this 100 year rule is not described in our [Goals and Procedures document](#). Another issue we continually wrestle with is whether a first state record is subject to a higher level of scrutiny than subsequent records. The other side of this issue is that the committee is comprised of nine voting members who do intentionally bring differing views and approaches to the voting process.

The committee suggested that Dave and Bill review the MD/DCRC governance documents and report back before this year's (2011) Annual Meeting with any recommended policy changes or perhaps develop some instructional material on the voting process for new members. Relevant documents are the MD/DCRC charter from the MOS [By-Laws and Manual of Operations](#), section 4.6.4.h of the committee [Goals and Procedures document](#), and the MD/DCRC [background paper on Not Accepted Records](#) that was adopted from the [first MD/DCRC Decision Report \(Peterjohn and Davis, 1996\)](#).

Bill Hubick provided the following comments and suggestions for changes to our "Goals and Procedures" document. He stated, "The comments regarding 4.6.4.h touch on the complexity of what goes into the appropriate voting considerations, balancing the 100 Year Rule and natural biases, some of which are surprisingly encouraged in our current document." Specific suggestions include:

#### **Section 4.3.6 Doubtful Forms or of Hybrid Origin:**

I recommend changing the following line:

"For example, Lawrence's Warbler and Brewster's Warbler hybrids are not unusual for Maryland or DC; however, Nelson's Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull) would be notable."

I suggest the following:

"For example, Lawrence's Warbler and Brewster's Warbler hybrids are expected in Maryland or DC; however, Olympic Gull (Glaucous-winged x Western Gull) would be notable."

#### **Section 4.6.4.b Acceptance Criteria - Consistency:**

I recommend adding our first official reference to the "100 Year Rule" in Section b.

"Members should strive to judge each report with the same stringency and with uniform rigor. Use of a "sliding scale" as the number of records of a given species increases is discouraged. One aim of this practice is to minimize circularity of reasoning. Members should consider the "100 Year Rule," which dictates that an accepted record should be able to stand on its own merit after 100 years. This consideration encourages a focus on the documentation itself rather than observer experience and other supplementary details."

#### **Section 4.6.4.h Acceptance Criteria - Voting Considerations:**

This is a helpful section, but I was somewhat surprised to see multiple references encouraging consideration of observer experience. We often pay lip service to the record standing fully on its own (in

fact, I call this out above, albeit only minimizing it, not eliminating it); however, see the following sentences:

"Comments about observer experience, reliability, and whether allowance should be made for writing skills are important since such comments will permit future reviewers to be better informed about these matters on the basis of the first-hand experience of the observer's contemporaries."

"Typical considerations may include the following: ...

(6) The experience of the observer in general and with the species under consideration in particular.

(7) The reliability of the observer, and his or her ability and experience in writing a clear, accurate, and precise description, in so far as these factors are known to the members."

It seems that there's some disagreement between the 100 Year Rule and our current policy document with regard to considering observer experience. Or is there? If we consider the finished record, including member comments, perhaps the detailed comments by members, including notes on an observer's careful nature could be considered to be enough to make a record 100-year-worthy. To be honest, I think it is impossible to fully avoid personal biases (positive and negative), and that in many cases they are part of the strength of a diverse and experienced nine-person committee. I am very willing to discuss any of this, but I do think we should drop (7) and consider it part of (6). In addition to finding it dangerous to highlight "reliability" directly, I think the second half of (7), pertaining to writing skills, need not be addressed. The clarity and accuracy of writing skills will be obvious in the submitted report, and their presence alone do not strengthen a report. Only with the proper details should they become a force enabler. Anyway, I recommend dropping (7) and keeping (6).

"(6) The experience of the observer in general and with the species under consideration in particular."

#### **Section 4.8.3 Confidence Categories:**

I'm a big fan of the confidence codes.

#### **Section 5.4.2.1 Proclamation:**

Trumpeter Swan - Just a note that we might want to add a couple sentences here at some point in 2011.

We will put these proposed changes to the MD/DCRC Goals and Procedures document up for a vote at next year's Annual Meeting.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 Records Separations/Combinations

The floor is open each year for members to suggest or comment on MD/DCRC reports or records that should be considered for separation (i.e., split out) or combined (i.e., lumped together).

Reports/records discussed at the meeting for separation/combination include:

None

### 8.2 Record Re-Openings

A standing agenda item is to determine if any members think that any previous reports or records be reopened. The committee can re-open records via one of two methods ... (1) New information re-opening. Typically, newly published ID or distributional references or recently provided new observer info (newly discovered, previously unavailable field notes, photos, etc.). The Chair/Secretary can effect a re-opening in this case. (2) Consensus re-opening. A consensus of at least five voting members petitions for a re-opening; including a statement of why the reopening is requested. Reports/records discussed at the meeting for reopening include:

MD/2007-089 Red-necked Stint was decided to be reopened by at least five members. Members felt that distributing the image of the Sanderling, also present at the same time, may have confused the evaluators. Ron Gutberlet will write the note.

### 8.3 Fourth Round Discussions.

One report qualified for fourth round discussions before a final fourth-round vote. Logistically, this report will be processed in an Annual Meeting special follow-up package, Package 138.

**MD/2008-068 Curlew Sandpiper**, 13 Sep 2008, Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore County (Pkg 133). The discussion items focused on (1) the conditions of the sighting, and (2) the plumage at the time of year of the sighting and similarities and differences of the Curlew Sandpiper with the Dunlin and White-rumped Sandpiper.

Ballots will be sent out immediately following the meeting as Annual Meeting Special Package 138 with a two-week turnaround time.

### 8.4 Review List Changes

The following were discussed as potential changes to the MD and DC Review Lists.

#### MD List Changes.

Taxa discussed regarding possible Review List changes:

#### MD List Changes:

Taxon	Maryland			District of Columbia			Committee Action / Discussion Summary
	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	
Ross's Goose	16	0	31	0	0	0	It was proposed to either delete this species from the MD Review List or move it into review category 4D (Species seen west of the Washington/Frederick county line). Due to the increase in records on the Western Shore, the committee decided to <b>DELETE</b> this species from the MD Review List.
Common Murre	8	0	18 (there will be more)	0	0	0	It was proposed to either delete this species from the MD Review List or move it into review category 4A (Species seen

			from the 2010-2011 winter pelagic season)				in locations other than coastal Worcester County or over the ocean). Due to the increase in pelagic records, the increase of records in New England, and an expansion of the North American breeding range, the committee decided to <b>MOVE this species to review Category 4A</b> , however, no earlier than 1 May 2011, after the winter season.
Common Teal	12	1	37	1	0	2	It was proposed to remove this subspecies from the MD Review List. It is currently reviewable as a subspecies or form unusual to our region. The committee had hoped that this taxon would have been split by the AOU by now, but that has not happened. Bill Hubick had checked his personal records and found that he has observed this drakes of this taxon at all locations where he has seen at least 200 Green-winged Teal. The committee decided that this taxon has become similar, distributionally, to the Eurasian Wigeon and <b>MOVE it into Review Category 4C of the MD/DCRC Subspecies Review List</b> . (Editorially, the committee wonders how many females are not being reported!)

**DC List Changes:**

No changes to the DC Review List were proposed.

**8.5 Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns.** General discussions are encouraged regarding any recirculating and pending reports. Figure 5-1 lists reports that are currently queued for recirculation. Members were welcome to discuss any of these reports.

State	Rec#	Species	Start	Co	Co2	Location	Observer	Apkg	Vote1	Vote2	Decision
MD	2009-053	Pacific Loon	05/18/2009	TLBT		Poplar Island	Hanfman_J	133	1-8-0		Recirculate
MD	2007-128	Pacific Loon	12/26/2005	WORC		Ocean City	Sheppard_JM	133	5-4-0		Recirculate
MD	2009-003	"Common" Teal	01/03/2009	WORC		Berlin	Burggraf_D	130	7-2-0	6-3-0	Recirculate
MD	2008-094	"Audubon's" Warbler	11/15/2008	WORC		West Ocean City	Hubick_B	125	8-1-0		Recirculate
MD	2008-079	"Audubon's" Warbler	09/26/2008	CARR		Westminster	Bollinger_SM	125	6-3-0		Recirculate
MD	2000-033	Ruff	07/26/1997	BALT		Papermill Flats	Simon_SW	084	4-5-0		Recirculate
MD	2002-026	"Gambel's" Sparrow	11/08/1944	PGEO		Patuxent Research	Stewart_RE	082	8-1-0		Recirculate
MD	2000-017	Chukar	03/24/2000	CECL		Port Deposit	Patton_H	082	0-2-7		Recirculate
MD	2000-061	"Gambel's" Sparrow	11/11/2000	WORC		E. A. Vaughn WMA	Iliff_MJ	080	8-1-0		Recirculate
MD	2001-081	"Gambel's" Sparrow	11/12/2001	MONT		Black Hill Region	Czaplak_DS	079	8-1-0		Recirculate
MD	1997-333	American White Pelican	07/11/1980	SMST		Cedar Island WMA	Maldeis_RW	076	5-1-3	5-0-4	Recirculate
MD	2000-020	Western Wood-Pewee	10/05/1992	PGEO		Laurel	Robbins_CS	076	6-3-0		Recirculate
MD	1995-024	"Oregon" Junco	01/17/1971	BALT		Cockeysville	Pope_F	051	8-1-0		Recirculate
MD	1994-006	"Oregon" Junco	03/28/1980	BALT		Baltimore City	Geddes_SH	051	3-6-0	0-9-0	Recirculate

**Figure 5-1. Reports currently queued for recirculation.**

None were discussed, however, this item was actually skipped for the sake of time.

## 9. Elections

**9.1 New members.** Members completing their voting terms are Mike Bowen, Bill Hubick, and Fred Shaffer. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. The new members elected were: Matt Hafner (Harford), John Hubbell (DC), and Sherman Suter (Calvert).

**9.2 Chair.** Paul O'Brien decide to not be re-nominated as Chair and is stepping down from eleven years in this position. The Committee graciously acknowledges all of Paul's service and guidance over these years. Bill Hubick was elected as the Chair.

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

## 10. Next Meeting Dates

**10.1 Annual Meeting:** The date for the 2012 Annual Meeting is Saturday, 10 Mar 2012. This date, the second Saturday in March, should not conflict the MOS Board Meeting schedule. If a Lewes, DE pelagic into Maryland waters should be scheduled for this date, we will reschedule the meeting date.

**10.2 Skins Workshop:** A tentative date for our 2012 Skins Workshop is Saturday, 18 Feb 2012; however, the actual date will be subject to the availability of our USNM sponsor, Roger Clapp, and will be established/confirmed later.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Davis  
MD/DC Records Committee Secretary  
2549 Vale Court  
Davidsonville, MD 21035  
Phone: (301) 261-0184  
E-mail: [pdavis@ix.netcom.com](mailto:pdavis@ix.netcom.com)