



**Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee
2014 Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 08, 2014**

Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order on 08 March 2014 at 10:15 am at the home of the Secretary, Phil Davis, in Davidsonville, MD. Present were Chair, Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel); Secretary, Phil Davis (Anne Arundel), and members Matt Hafner (Harford), Clive Harris (Montgomery), John Hubbell (DC), Jared Fisher (Montgomery), Nancy Magnusson (Howard), Rob Ostrowski (Prince George's), Dan Small (Queen Anne's), and Sherman Suter (Calvert). Not present was member Patty Craig (St. Mary's). MOS President, Maureen Harvey, and Vice- President, Tom Strickwarda, also attended.



The 2013-2014 term Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee.

Front row [l-r]: Bill Hubick (Chair – Anne Arundel County), Jared Fisher (Montgomery County), Rob Ostrowski (Montgomery County), Clive Harris (Montgomery County), Matt Hafner (Harford County),
Back row: Dan Small (Queen Anne's County), Phil Davis (Secretary – Anne Arundel County), Nancy Magnusson (Howard County), and Sherman Suter (Calvert County), and John Hubbell (DC).

Photo by Barbara Davis.

Special Notice: In Memoriam -- Dr. S. Harvey Mudd (1927 – 2014)

The MD/DCRC would like to formally acknowledge the vast contributions made to this committee by its former member and Chair, Harvey Mudd, who passed away on 21 Jan 2014. We are forever indebted. Condolences to his wife, Marion, and his family and friends.

1. **Secretary's Report.** The Secretary reported the following.

1.1 **Official Lists Changes and Status.** Exhibit 1.1-1 presents the recent 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 the Maryland or DC Official Lists in 2014.

State	Calendar Year:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
MD	MD List Total	424	429	433	436	436	438	438	446		
	Species / Groups Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Neotropic Cormorant ●Northern Lapwing ●Calliope Hummingbird ●Cave Swallow ●Townsend's Warbler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Inca Dove ●Anna's Hummingbird ●Tropical Kingbird 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Cape Verde Shearwater ●Say's Phoebe ●Western Meadowlark 	(none)	●Allen's Hummingbird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Golden-crowned Sparrow ●Brown Booby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pink-footed Goose ●Barnacle Goose ●White-tailed Kite ●Green Violetear ●Bell's Vireo ●Virginia's Warbler ●Cassin's Sparrow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Herald Petrel ●White-tailed Tropicbird 	(none)	
	Subspecies or Forms Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●"Black" Brant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●"European" Whimbrel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●"Western" Greater White-fronted Goose ●"Scopoli's" "Cory's" Shearwater 	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Southern Lapwing 	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●European Greenfinch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●<i>Calipepla</i> species 	(none)
	Exotic Origins Added	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Great Tit 	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
DC	DC List Total	325	326	328	330	330	331	331	331		
	Species / Groups Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Dusky Flycatcher ●(Rufous Hummingbird - upgraded from <i>Selasphorus</i>, sp.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Cackling Goose ●Bullock's Oriole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Long-tailed Jaeger ●Le Conte's Sparrow 	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Painted Bunting 	(none)	(none)	(none)	
	Subspecies or Forms Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Barnacle Goose 	(none)	(none)
	Exotics Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)

Exhibit 1.1-1. Annual Additions to the Official Lists of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

1.2 Review Package Status.

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

Year	#Pkgs	Avg 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	36	36	67%	9	5	6
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	38	55%	9	5	5
1992	8	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
1996	4	25.8	63	60	33	62%	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	16.2	27	16	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
2006	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	46	41	61%	13	8	8
2011	7	29.1	101	74	56	54%	14	11	8
2012	6	18.1	105	46	79	75%	18	8	13
2013	8	11.6	129	80	87	67%	16	10	11
Total	160	24.2	2051	1308	1286	63%	13	8	8

Exhibit 1.2.1-1. Package Statistics Summary

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

Year	Pkg#	Start	#Items	#New
0	155		18	11
		Totals 1	18	11
		Averages	18	11
	Grand	Totals	18	11
	Grand	Averages	18	11

Exhibit 1.2.2-1. Packages Currently in Circulation

1.2.3 Acceptance Rate. As of this year's Annual Meeting, the committee's cumulative acceptance rate was 76.5 percent, down slightly from last year's 77.6 percent. This rate, shown in Exhibit 1.2.3-1, is determined by dividing the total number of accepted decisions (which includes "Accepted", "Accepted-Group", "Accepted-Form", "ID OK/?? Origin", and "ID OK/Exotic Origin") by the total number of decisions--which includes "Not Accepted" decisions).

Decision/Status	Cumulative Data									
	AM 2005 # Decisions	AM 2006 # Decisions	AM 2007 # Decisions	AM 2008 # Decisions	AM 2009 # Decisions	AM 2010 # Decisions	AM 2011 # Decisions	AM 2012 # Decisions	AM 2013 # Decisions	AM 2014 # Decisions
Accepted	499	521	610	665	723	760	779	812	858	910
Accepted-Group	13	19	25	28	31	33	33	33	33	34
Accepted-Form	10	11	13	15	16	16	16	16	16	16
ID OK/?? Origin	8	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	18	19
ID OK/Exotic Origin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Not Accepted	150	152	165	180	203	211	223	245	268	301
Cumulative Decisions Grand Totals:	682	723	823	899	985	1032	1063	1117	1195	1282
Cumulative Acceptance Rate:	78%	79%	80%	80%	79.4%	79.6%	79.0%	78.1%	77.6%	76.5%

Exhibit 1.2.3-1. MD/DCRC Acceptance Rate

1.3 Database Contents Status Report.

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

Decision	Decision / Status Description
S&R	Sight records from the committee's baseline document: Stewart & Robbins, 1958, <i>The Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia</i> .
DCRC	Records from the (defunct) DC Records Committee baseline (1984).
Accepted	Reports accepted by the committee.
Accepted-Group	Reports accepted only as to a species group or genus--where all other species of this group are reviewable at the observed location.
Accepted-Form	Reports accepted as an unusual subspecies or form.
ID OK/?? Origin	Reports accepted for the species/group reported, however, the committee questioned whether the bird was a "natural" vagrant or a "wild" bird.
ID OK/Exotic Origin	Reports accepted for the species/group reported, however, a majority of the committee felt the bird was of exotic (i.e., captive) origin.
Not Accepted	Reports not accepted by the committee.
Circulating	Reports currently in circulation and under review by the committee.
Recirculate	Reports where no committee decision was reached during the latest circulation. The report will be circulated again.
Ready	Reports ready for circulation. All relevant reports, or a sufficient number of reports, have been submitted.
Reviewable	Reports of a species/location that meets the committee's Review List criteria. Additional observer data is believed to be or may be outstanding.
Unreviewable	Reports with insufficient descriptive identification details to permit a review by the committee. Typical for many older published sight records.
Non-Review Species	Reports submitted for a species that does not meet the committee's Review List criteria.
Reopened	Reports reopened for consideration by the committee. Reopened reports are "removed" from the committee's database statistics and replaced by the reopened report.
Withdrawn	Reports withdrawn by the original observer(s).
Retracted	Published reports - subsequently retracted by the observer(s).

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

1.3.2 Database Contents. Exhibit 1.3.2-1 summarizes the current contents of the MD/DCRC database by status/decision category and indicates the changes in totals from the previous year.

State	Category / Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Delta
MD	Stewart & Robbins	9	9	100	85	83	81	82	81	87	87	90	116	116	115	111	109	109	0
	Accepted	258	332	362	377	381	380	424	464	486	560	609	661	667	716	745	787	834	47
	Accepted-Group	2	2	9	9	10	10	10	11	15	21	24	26	28	28	28	28	29	1
	Accepted-Form	-	1	3	3	3	6	7	10	11	13	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	0
	ID OK?? Origin	5	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	17	18	1
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
	Not Accepted	119	124	127	132	133	132	140	147	149	161	174	193	200	212	232	251	283	32
	Circulating	45	28	9	15	49	78	29	13	84	57	33	35	32	57	62	49	-	0
	Recirculate	22	21	27	25	23	18	49	54	34	25	38	19	26	15	24	15	23	8
	Ready	102	49	64	61	69	78	77	112	82	126	163	162	172	209	255	296	300	4
	Reviewable	35	45	36	35	42	44	66	249	520	679	694	757	764	855	981	1087	1118	31
	Unreviewable	221	224	238	246	248	255	257	287	291	307	306	309	324	344	391	397	402	5
	USNM	-	-	6	26	21	14	14	11	10	9	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	0
	Hold	11	11	16	15	15	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Report	0	3	5	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Reopened	-	-	5	5	6	7	4	8	8	8	8	8	9	10	11	12	12	0
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	361	46	41	-	13	9	11	9	9	-	-	0
	Non-Review Species	109	112	119	136	139	140	139	357	164	174	176	185	185	191	194	194	194	0
	Withdrawn	4	5	7	7	8	9	9	11	11	13	10	9	11	18	21	26	26	0
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	8	13	16	17	1
	MD Totals		942	970	1135	1179	1233	1275	1693	1871	2003	2289	2365	2523	2607	2816	3104	3302	3384
DC	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	25	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	12	24	23	22	18	17	17	0
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0
	Accepted	14	16	19	20	20	20	25	35	45	50	56	62	63	63	67	71	76	5
	Accepted-Group	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0
	Not Accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	6	10	11	11	13	17	18	1
	Circulating	1	4	1	2	7	13	4	5	6	2	5	2	-	11	8	5	-	0
	Recirculate	1	2	4	4	5	2	9	3	4	4	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	0
	Ready	6	2	3	7	14	21	15	19	8	11	10	11	12	15	22	21	27	6
	Reviewable	1	7	9	5	6	4	10	45	62	71	80	75	75	79	122	127	126	-1
	Unreviewable	8	13	17	16	28	30	27	37	33	33	34	32	33	39	43	43	43	0
	USNM	-	-	4	26	27	15	14	31	32	32	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	0
	Report	0	10	10	2	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	5	5	5	-	0
	Non-Review Species	3	3	3	6	7	7	11	26	20	20	30	39	42	49	51	55	53	-2
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	0
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	7	7	8	1
	DC Totals		34	57	95	98	126	125	206	228	240	261	260	283	283	315	375	383	389
??	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	0
	Ready	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	0
	USNM	-	-	-	2	3	5	7	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Reviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	4	3	14	14	14	0
	Unreviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	8	7	7	7	4	4	4	0
	Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	Non-Review Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	0
Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	0	
?? Totals				2	3	5	17	7	7	11	21	15	13	13	21	23	23	0	
DE	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-1
VA	(Various)	0	0	0	4	6	12	34	14	14	22	21	15	13	13	13	16	15	-1
NY/ NJ	Withdrawn						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	Outside State Totals				4	6	14	35	15	15	23	22	16	14	14	19	18	18	0
	Grand Totals	976	1029	1234	1283	1369	1409	1922	2126	2270	2574	2655	2834	2924	3160	3523	3726	3815	89

Exhibit 1.3.2-1. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 03/07/2014 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 may be deleted in future tabulations.]*

1.3.3 Reports Received Per Year. Exhibit 1.3.3-1 indicates the number of reports the MD/DCRC has received 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 can be easily seen from the numbers of historical reports received during this period. From 1995 through 2013 (since 2014 is still incomplete), the number of “current” (i.e., contemporary) reports received per year has averaged approximately 66. During the previous year (2013), approximately 88 historical reports were added to the database, from reports uncovered from the ongoing historical canvass.

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

Year	Total Reports	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	80	34	46
2002	42	10	32
2003	448	393	55
2004	194	111	83
2005	151	84	67
2006	272	183	89
2007	139	55	84
2008	170	106	64
2009	105	16	89
2010	192	116	76
2011	414	309	105
2012	197	117	80
2013	97	9	88
Totals	3354	2109	1245
Average			66

1.3.4 ID Articles and Index. The committee now has 1240 identification and reference articles in its files for 133 taxa. This trend of this information is summarized in Exhibit 1.3.4-1.

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
2012	916	116
2013	1100	126
2014	1240	133

Exhibit 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, 152 acknowledgements were mailed to observers as shown in Exhibit 1.4.2-1.

1.4.2 Decision Reports. Since last year’s Annual Meeting, 184 notices for 79 decisions were sent to observers, as tallied in Exhibit 1.4.2-1.

Annual Meeting	# Acknowledgements	Decision Notices	
		# Decisions	# Notices
2006	124	84	211
2007	127	100	239
2008	144	72	181
2009	112	83	154
2010	133	47	104
2011	90	33	93
2012	231	43	95
2013	173	72	220
2014	152	79	184

Exhibit 1.4.2-1. Acknowledgements and Decision Notices Mailed.

1.4.3 Email Traffic. Exhibit 1.4.4-1 summarizes the Secretary’s outgoing MD/DCRC-related email messages over the past years. The increasing totals over the years reflect increases in documentation submissions by email, listserver messages, digital documentation communications, and additional historical documentation canvass projects.

Calendar Year	# MD/DCRC Email Messages Sent
1997	64
1998	66
1999	307
2000	128
2001	287
2002	570
2003	731
2004	610
2005	1212
2006	1472
2007	1647
2008	1981
2009	1562
2010	1492
2011	2251
2012	1790
2013	1248

Exhibit 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 as shown in Exhibit 1.4.4-1.

Date	Subject	Correspondent
02/2013	Kirtland's Warbler Records for MD and DC	Ned Brinkley
03/2013	DE records	Colin Campbell
07/2013	MD Records	Tony White; Shawneen Finnegan
07/2013	A request for an Opinion from Prince Edward Island re: "collared doves"	David Seeler
09/2013	Pelagic MD records – Royal Navy BW Society	Capt Neil Cheshire MN
11/2013	NC pelagic records	David Lee

Exhibit 1.4.4-1. External Communications (non-routine) Highlights.

1.4.5 Maryland Yellowthroat Articles. Articles published in the Maryland Yellowthroat during 2013 are shown in Exhibit 1.4.5-1.

Article	Issue Date
Changes to the Maryland Pelagic Boundaries	May-Jun 2013
MD/DCRC Decisions	May-Jun 2013
MD/DCRC Decisions	Sep-Oct 2013

Exhibit 1.4.5-1. Maryland Yellowthroat Articles Published during 2013.

1.5 MD/DCRC Storage Status

A summary of the amount of MD/DCRC storage, both hardcopy/paper and electronic, is shown in Exhibit 1.5-1.

Media	Contents	Amount of Storage
Physical (Paper/Hardcopy)	Archived Decisions	25 document boxes
	Active Queue reports	13 document boxes
	Previous package records	4 document boxes
	Current packages (in circulation)	1 document boxes
	Current/active projects	1 document box
	Video/audio tapes (older analog media)	1 document box
	Identification/reference files	7 document boxes
	Correspondence/miscellaneous files	14 document boxes
	Supplies	2 document boxes
	<i>Maryland Birdlife</i> journals / Maryland Yellowthroat newsletters	3 feet of shelf space
	<i>American Birds</i> journals	3 feet of shelf space
Historical references (S&R, AOU, etc.)	4 feet of shelf space	
Electronic	Documents and databases, etc.	15.3 GB
	Electronic sighting documentation	10.3 GB

Exhibit 1.5-1. MD/DCRC Storage Status

1.6 MD/DCRC Resource Summary

The Secretary has summarized, in Exhibit 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	Occasional 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), online backup: MozyPro

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

1.7 Member Package Review Performance

The Secretary normally compiles and summarizes the length of time each member retained each review package. A handout is usually provided that provides the average turnaround time of each MD/DCRC members. [Due to some personal complications, the Secretary was not able to prepare this report for this year's Annual Meeting.]

1.8 MOS Liaison

1.8.1 Budget

Since the committee no longer sends review packages around via postal mail, the need for a budget for this expense is no longer required. This year (2014), the budget was approved at \$75. Future budgets will be more carefully developed as we move into the data digitization phase in our planning for *The Rare Birds of MD and DC*.

2. MD/DCRC Processes and Activities [Inputs]

2.1 Taxonomy

2.1.1 AOU Taxonomy Updates

The secretary upgraded the MD/DCRC database to reflect changes from the AOU's 54th Supplement. A summary of these changes was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*.

3. MD/DCRC Report and Records [Inputs]

3.1 Current Reports

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

3.1.1 eBird

The committee and the eBird coordinators continue to collaborate on current rarity reports regarding information that does not come directly to the committee. Items of particular relevance include start and end dates, and detailed comments. During 2013, eight (8) current reports were referred to the committee via eBird. So far in 2014, two (2) current reports have been referred by eBird.

There was discussion of only vetting the first and last claim, plus at least one submission. Reference was made to a recent California policy change. A month or 28-day eBird alert summary would also help with committee documentation processing. An idea was suggested to name an eBird coordinator to offload the Secretary; however, no one volunteered for this position.

3.2 Historical Canvass Projects

A number of related initiatives are still underway to capture all historical “reviewable” reports. Much of the details on these individual projects was presented in last year's meeting minutes and is not repeated here. Overall, this project is approximately 90 percent complete and should be completely finished by next year's Annual Meeting.

4. MD/DCRC Outputs

The following information summarizes projects that generate committee outputs:

4.1 Reports/Records Digitization Plan

To prepare for our future publication, *The Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (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 this project, we will seek the advice of MOS members who have experience in this area.

4.2 Historical Checklists

A master bibliography is being 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 needs to be moved from the Secretary's Posterous (free) blog site, which is being shut down.

4.3 Integrated Historical Checklist

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**.

4.4 Review List Chronology

This project is to create a data table that indicates the MD/DCRC 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**.

4.5 MD/DCRC Web Page Redesign

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**.

4.6 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, efforts continue to focus on and report on outreach-related topics, such as the following:

4.6.1 MD/DCRC Contribution Recognition Award.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the committee established an MD/DCRC occasional award to recognize field birders who have provide exceptional support to the committee over the years with documentation (written and photographs) of review species to better understand the status and history of MD/DC birding. The permanent name of this award will be taken from the first recipient. At this year's meeting, the Secretary nominated the first awardee and the committee concurred. Unfortunately, the MOS Awards Chair, John Malcolm, passed away this past year. John's wife, Joy Aso, has recently taken on this position, so the Secretary will reinstate efforts to go forward with this award. The presentation of this award will be coordinated with the MOS Executive Board and/or Board of Directors. **OPEN**.

6. Old Business

6.1 Goals, Policies, and Procedures Document Revision.

The Secretary published last year's changes to the MD/DCRC Goals, Policies, and Procedures Document to the MD/DCRC web page. **CLOSED.**

6.2 eReviews

Overview.

The committee's new eReview process is going well. If members face known personal delays, they should notify the Secretary so that turnaround ("report card") dates can be adjusted.) The committee's Goal, Policies, and Procedures Document still needs to be updated to reflect the changes. A full report on this changeover and changes to the Goal, Policies, and Procedures Document will be presented at next year's Annual Meeting. **OPEN.**

6.3 Cylburn Collections Task Force

The Secretary was asked to join the MOS/BBC Collections "Task Force" to deal with issues associated with the collections currently housed at Cylburn Mansion in Baltimore. This has turned into a task of some magnitude that could result in digitization of many historical journals (Kirkwood, et al.) and should also provide a source for historical records. The Secretary has inventoried all of the Cylburn historical records, except the John Sommers records which will be inventoried shortly. The next phase of this project will be to obtain digitalization cost estimates and then look for grant opportunities to cover those costs. When this project is completed, some of these records, especially Kirkwood's journals will be canvassed for historical reviewable reports and records. **OPEN.**

6.4 Exotics/Introduced/Questionable Species Review Policy

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 of 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. Deferred, one more year (!). **OPEN.**

6.5 MD/DCRC Conformance to Previous AOU Changes

Maryland Western Grebe Split and MD/DCRC Reports

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, the committee addressed the issue of old MD/DCRC Pacific Loon reports that pre-dated the AOU split of Pacific and Arctic Loon. We have the same situation with Western Grebe reports, since some older MD/DCRC reports predate the 1985 AOU split into Western and Clark's Grebe. The Secretary and the Chair will analyze any related reports and records and recommend any needed courses of action to the committee. The Secretary began to look at this before this year's Annual Meeting but did not complete the action. **OPEN.**

Other Splits and MD/DCRC Reports

The Secretary will analyze the entire MD/DCRC database to ensure that there are no other cases of splits that need to be addressed; for example, Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles. **OPEN.**

6.6 Pelagic Boundaries

6.6.1 General

At last year's meeting, the committee adopted the Nearest Point of Land (NPL) protocol to re-define the Maryland pelagic boundary. Matt Hafner, Rob Ostrowski, and Sherman Suter formed a subcommittee to review previously accepted records to determine if any were from outside of the newly adopted Maryland pelagic boundaries.

Matt Hafner reported that approximately two-thirds of all the states now follow the Nearest Point of Land protocol for state pelagic boundaries. This is also the eBird protocol. Virginia has also recently switched. Relevant pelagic documentation covering the new pelagic territory includes the VARCOM "Gold Book" *Virginia's Birdlife An Annotated Checklist* (latest version 2012, Rottenborn and Brinkley) and the Rowlet (1980) publication, *Observations of marine birds and mammals in the northern Chesapeake bight*.

Historic pelagic data was reviewed for records that were previously considered to be from other jurisdictions, but would now be considered Maryland records.

Matt presented several other state's records that the subcommittee reviewed since the last meeting that should convey to Maryland. Virginia reports and records are discussed below. The positions of the reports and records are annotated on the pelagic zone in Figure 6.6-1. Each report/record is presented and discussed in terms of (a) the VA Gold Book account; (b) Matt Hafner's analysis and comments, and (c) the MD/DCRC Secretary's (Davis) actions.

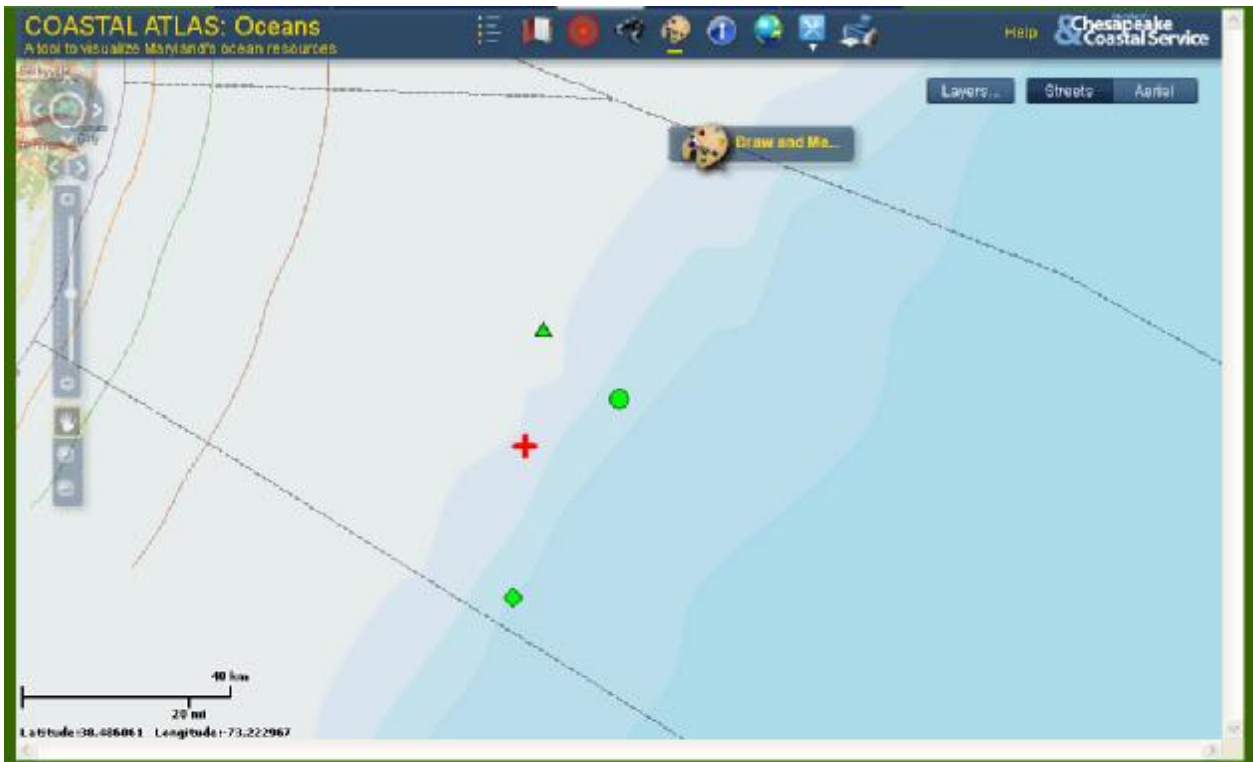


Figure 6.6-1. Maryland Pelagic Zone Map with Virginia Records of Interest Marked

6.6.2 Records of Interest

The following review of Rowlett records and the Virginia Gold Book yields several historical pelagic records that should be added to Maryland records through the change of the offshore boundaries:

Yellow-nosed Albatross [green triangle] (03-Dec-1979). [MD/2014-073]

- **VA Gold Book:** “One bird. Sight record: 55 miles east of Assateague Island (38-01N, 74-04W).”
- **Hafner:** This record was accepted by VARCOM with written documentation, according to the VA Gold Book. MD/DCRC record MD/2008-020, 38° 01' N 74° 04' W, originally not accepted due to the committee’s inability to confirm the location as being in MD waters. Rowlett used 38° 01' as the Maryland boundary (actually north a few hundred meters) so this record is now soundly within the new MD pelagic boundaries.
- **Meeting decision - Reopen the record since this was previously reviewed by the committee.**
- **Davis:** The original report is MD/DCRC accession number MD/2008-020. *The Raven* article was discovered in 2008 and the report was captured in the MD/DCRC database. The report was then review by the committee. In a multi-round, split decision, the committee Not Accepted the report in 2011, not based on identification issues but based on the questionability of the location being in Maryland. What Hafner has suggested is that the committee may want to reopen this report based on the new pelagic boundaries. Without objection, this will be course of action. The reopened MD/DCRC accession number is MD/2014-073.

Black-capped Petrel [green circle] (07-Sep-1975). [MD/2014-074]

- **VA Gold Book:** “One bird. Sight record: 69 miles east of Assateague Island.”
- **Hafner:** This Rowlett off-the-Continental Shelf report, discussed in the VA Gold Book, was not reviewed by VARCOM. This Rowlett sight record, recorded as 37° 54' N 73° 54' W, was not reviewed by VARCOM.
- **Meeting decision – Capture but mark as “Unreviewable” in the MD/DCRC database, unless more information is uncovered.**
- **Davis:** The Secretary will ask Rowlett if he has any additional information or recollections. In the interim, this will be captured as an MD/DCRC “Reviewable” report, with the understanding that it will be moved to the “Unreviewable” category if no detailed documentation is located. The MD/DCRC accession number for this report is MD/2014-074.

White-faced Storm-Petrel:

These three reports, from Poor Man’s Canyon, are in the VA Gold Book:

1) **White-faced Storm-Petrel** [red cross] (21-Sep-1985). [MD/2014-075]

- **Gold Book:** “One bird. Sight record: 60 miles east of Assateague Island.”
- **Hafner:** M Barnhill took notes. Pelagic trip record accepted by VARCOM with written documentation according to the VA Gold Book. Location noted as “Poor Man’s Canyon.” Exact location and details are in Barnhill’s eBird checklist:
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S7088144>
- **Meeting decision - Accept as reviewed by VARCOM**
- **Davis:** The MD/DCRC accession number for this “Ready” report is MD/2014-075.

2) **White-faced Storm-Petrel** [red cross] (12-Aug-1991). [MD/2014-076]

- **Gold Book:** “One bird. Sight record: Poor Man’s Canyon. Photographed.”
- **Hafner:** eBird trip list; check location. This pelagic trip record accepted by VARCOM with written documentation.
- **Meeting decision - Accept as reviewed by VARCOM.**
- **Davis:** The MD/DCRC accession number for this report is MD/2014-076.

3) **White-faced Storm-Petrel** [green diamond] (17-Aug-1991). [MD/2014-077]

- **Gold Book:** “One bird. Sight record: Washington Canyon.”
- **Hafner:** VA waters (off the Continental Shelf); a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was recorded at the same location with good photos. This pelagic trip record was accepted by VARCOM with photo documentation according to the VA Gold Book. Location noted as

"Washington Canyon." GPS coordinates from Dave Czaplak's eBird checklist gives the location as "500 fathom lumps east of Washington Canyon" 37° 33.27' N 74° 07.97' W. Photo links are included in his eBird checklist:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S8298544>

- **Meeting decision - Accept as reviewed by VARCOM.**
- **Davis:** The MD/DCRC accession number for this report is MD/2014-077.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrels:

Two reports are from the VA Gold Book:

1) Band-rumped Storm-Petrel [green diamond] 17 Aug 1991. [MD/2014-078]

- **Gold Book:** "[One] photographed off Virginia coast, 17 Aug 1991."
- **Hafner:** Pelagic trip record accepted by VARCOM with photo documentation according to the VA Gold Book. Location noted as "off Virginia coast". GPS coordinates from Dave Czaplak's eBird checklists give the location as "500 fathom lumps east of Washington Canyon" 37° 33.27' N 74° 07.97' W. Photo links in eBird checklist: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S8298544>
- **Meeting decision - Accept as reviewed by VARCOM.**
- **Davis:** The MD/DCRC accession number for this report is MD/2014-078.

2) Band-rumped Storm-Petrel [red cross] (14-Aug-1993 – 11 birds). [MD/2014-079]

- **Gold Book:** "Eleven (11) birds. Sight record: Poor Man's Canyon, Hafner: AB 48(1) MJ Iliff, M O'Brien, Brian Patteson."
- **Hafner:** 11 birds, Pelagic trip record not reviewed by VARCOM according to the VA Gold Book. Location noted as "Poor Man's Canyon." An eBird checklist from Marshall Iliff states this was a pelagic trip led by Brian Patteson and Michael O'Brien, but only lists 4 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. *American Birds* Vol 48 No 1 cites 11 birds with the observer as Brian Patteson.
- **Meeting Decision - request information from original observers.**
- **Davis:** The MD/DCRC accession number for this report is MD/2014-079.

6.3 What are we missing?

According to the VA Gold Book, most historical records of Arctic Tern and Long-tailed Jaeger were not reviewed. Exact locations are not listed for those records. It is very likely that several pelagic trips that left from Ocean City, MD and visited "Virginia waters," likely never left Maryland according to the new boundaries. Therefore, trips we do not have good location data for, such as this one: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S13188868>, will be left in limbo for the time being.

6.4 Next Phase

The next phase of research will focus on the MD records from Wilmington Canyon – will the MD/DCRC have any to relinquish? **OPEN.**

7. Standing Agenda Items

7.1 Fourth Round Discussions.

NOTE: At last year's Annual Meeting, the fourth-round discussion exercise reinforced a view that our fourth-round discussion procedure is probably no longer needed since we now have the capability to share ballot comments electronically and discuss these reports in a more timely manner. The Secretary proposed to submit a change to the committee's procedures to formalize this change. **OPEN - CONTINUED.**

7.2 Record Re-Openings

A standing agenda item is to determine if any members believe that any previous reports or records should be reopened. The committee can re-open records via one of two methods. Two potential records were discussed:

Slaty-Backed Gull. Matt Hafner expressed a desire for the committee to post to the web the reports and discussions of the 1999 Conowingo Slaty-backed Gull [MD/1999-052] to the web for the members (and others) to review. Some reasons include that this is just an interesting bird and more information has become available over the past years, for example information on hybrids and Slaty-backed vs. Vega Gull separation. **OPEN:** The Secretary will take actions to post this information.

Cape Verde Shearwater. There was some discussion concerning the Maryland Cape Verde Shearwater record. Some of the members may prepare a proposal to take another look at this record.

7.3 Review List Changes

The members first had a general discussion of the committee review lists. The committee noted the logical succession of review category changes for some species; such as Ross's Goose, which was first a new state record and reviewable statewide, then reviewable just on the western shore, then removed from the review list altogether. Similar progressive cases exist for White-faced Ibis, and Common Raven. It was also noted that the "coastal only" [Cat 4X] is important as it relates to phenomena such as storms and the hurricane season. Other dynamic changes to the review list in recent years included Northern Goshawk, Roseate Tern, and Brewer's Blackbird.

The taxa shown in Exhibit 7.3-1 were discussed and considered as potential changes to the MD and DC Review Lists. The results are shown in the exhibit.

Taxon	Maryland			District of Columbia			Committee Action / Discussion Summary
	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	19	7	33	0	0	0	Retain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●No MD records since 9/12 except flybys ●Found in VA in small towns ●About 40 breed in PA at the Greencastle Reservoir, but not in MD ●Once breeding – remove
Little Gull	5	0	12	1	1	2	Retain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Violetts Lock is an exceptional location
Franklin's Gull	4	1	9	0	0	0	Move from 4D to 2 (reviewable statewide) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Shows up in fields
Swainson's Warbler	4	2	12	0	0	0	Move from 4E to 2 (reviewable statewide) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Status is threaten/endangered in MD
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	0	15	2	0	3	Retain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Only ~5-6 MD pelagics per year ●Special relationship with researchers (T Johnson/NOAA) ●On a total of 5 overnight trips, double digit BANP counts ●In new deeper water, off canyon, >500 ft ~1000 ft; ~95 miles out BANP are present and are not tied to the Gulf Stream ●Up and down the coast, in deep water BANP are present. Options considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Keep; more documentation work ●Move 2 → 4A or a new 4E (OCS)? ●4A improvement ? BANP/LESP; only if seen from shore ●Review by day? Yes, but on a case by case basis
DC taxa							No changes proposed

Exhibit 7.3-1. Taxa Considered for Review List Changes and Resulting Dispositions.

7.4 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., multiple birds separated into individual reports/records) or combined (i.e., individual records grouped together). Reports/records discussed at the meeting for separation/combination included: **None**.

7.5 Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns. General discussions are welcome and encouraged regarding any recirculating or pending recirculation reports. **Note: Some members commented that discussions do happen “in the field;” however, not all members would be privy to such discussions. Therefore, open discussions at these meetings and via email are still encouraged.]**

8. New Business

8.1 Species - "Problem Children." The committee discussed the following:

Thayer Gull (DC) – We need to review this species for DC; it is currently not on the DC list and we have several submitted reports. A general discussion ensued to lay the ground rules for how the committee will deal with this. The consensus was to circulate all of the DC reports rather than just pick one (i.e., “the best” – typically a first-year bird) to try and get it accepted for DC. (This was the approach that was used to add the species to the MD list, years ago.)

Trumpeter Swan – We discussed the process we will use to review this taxon. This policy was actually written earlier. The committee agreed to treat the Great Lakes population as established; following the committee’s “innocent unless guilty” approach that was used for some other cases (such as Barnacle Geese). The members felt comfortable using a band as proof of identification.

8.2 Garrett Arctic Terns [MD/ 2013-030] - We discussed out how to handle this report of a flock of terns for the next round. **Action:** Matt Hafner will try to get better photos from Mikey Lutmerding, who also has some notes. The committee will hold the recirculation for this update. **OPEN.**

8.3 Range Reviews. The Secretary proposed that the committee at least discuss the possibility of no longer reviewing based on ranges. The proposal follows:

Phil Davis:

I have been ruminating on some of our records committee activities and our role vis a vis eBird, NAB, etc. I came up with a realization that I like a lot ...

Background: Since the committee's inception, it has several times narrowed, or simplified, its role or its mission. Initially, the committee reviewed first county records and also early/late seasonal records. However, just before I took over as Secretary, the committee took itself (rightfully, I believe) out of those roles. I believe the rationale was that the committee should keep a broader, statewide perspective and reviewing county records and seasonal records was best left to others.

Proposal: Staying with this logic, I think it would be perfectly fine for the committee to take itself out of the business of range-oriented reviews (Review Codes 4A-4E). There are other venues--notably *North American Birds* (NAB) regional reports; MDBirding group messages; and eBird checklists [however, unfortunately, no longer via *Maryland Birdlife* (MB), unless “The Season” report is resurrected]--that can adequately deal with the range-oriented record. Also, and importantly, there is no MOS-defined “product” for publishing the results of these reviews ... these decisions don't factor into our MD and DC “Official” lists, which are only statewide in scope. Whenever our *Rare Birds of MD and DC* book is published, these range-oriented rarities would be perhaps, at best, a rather minor, separate chapter. Also, over time, we have frequently changed the definitions of what is reviewable and what is not reviewable within various ranges, so the overall historical picture that these records paint is somewhat cryptic.

Comments: Personally, I think this is a good idea. It will simply our workload, and reduce consternation dealing with wrangling-in documentation of “regional” rarities from observers. As with other related review list changes, we could agree to review what is already in our queue, but as of some effective date, such a change could be placed into effect. I know that some other states (continue) to review by range (e.g., Virginia), but I don't think that means that we need to.

Comments:

Sherman Suter:

1) I certainly agree that such a shift is worth at least serious consideration to. In the past, I suspect I would have not wanted to actually make the change. (Once upon a time, Virginia did not distinguish between its far western tip and the sea of Cape Charles---a policy that seemed nonsensical to me.) But, with people willing to provide supporting evidence for submissions to widely accessible databases such as eBird, the benefits of the additional work in dealing with records on the level of within-state regions become questionable.

2) One suspects that at some point eBird will have to deal with archiving the photo and recording support of individual records (rather than, as currently seems to be the case, relying on links to storage elsewhere on the web). After that occurs, the benefits of the within-state regions are even less obvious.

3) In the past I have thought that adapting some form of the Arizona Field Ornithologists rarity photos page [http://www.azfo.net/gallery/1main/photos_tax.html] would be a good way to handle records that were unusual for a given date or over a more restricted area. However, the AFO evidently was faced with the "too many submissions" problem, and at the start of 2013 they trimmed the list of "details desired" species that they wish to include. And even if such an approach was taken for unseasonal or restricted range MD birds, the project would probably make more sense if the work was handled separately from the tasks of the MDDCRC.

Rob Ostrowski:

Given that categories 4A--E have not been around forever, have been somewhat dynamic, and are not generally well-known in the birding world, any inquirer of regional rarities would certainly check *North American Birds* and eBird for whatever species and region were in question. I imagine that NAB and eBird combine to include the vast majority of range-oriented records in the MD/DCRC database. If we were to go further and enter the range-oriented records from the database into eBird, we would have complete inclusion. That being said the MD/DCRC's general mission is to keep tabs on all the unusual birds in the area. Since the value we gain from this data is in understanding range expansions, contractions, and vagrancy, it's probably just as important that we review Tricolored Herons west of Frederick as it is Arctic Tern anywhere in the state.

On the topic of bird records committees in general, it's important to note that the MD/DCRC does provide a warehouse (aka Phil's basement) for physical documentation and a user-friendly searchable database (finding stuff in the NAB archives takes a lot time). Sherman brought up the issue of eBird having to deal with photo archival at some point. This is apparently on their short list for next year, so I would not be surprised if we are submitting photo/video/audio documentation directly into eBird at some point in 2014. I don't think this will spell the end of BRCs (for good reasons), but it could further shift their focuses away from storage and compilation to more review and analysis. BRCs are still our best answer for preserving dialogue, so perhaps this purpose will become more front and center too.

Results: This proposal was discussed and the committee decided not to drop range-related reviews. In fact, Matt Hanfer commented that some of the committee's regional/temporal reviews are more rare than regular rarities and more interesting.

8.4 Voting Procedures. Sherman Suter proposed accepting records with 8-1 (Accept to Not-Accept) votes on the second round without further circulation. The reasoning for proposing this change is that over the years there have been few instances where committee members shifted

their positions between the second and third rounds so it seems more efficient to dispense with the additional circulation of the record, especially in view of the efficiency of the committee's new paperless eReview processes. **The committee accepted this change.**

[Note-added later: the committee did not discuss the case of an 1-8 split on the second round. Applying the same reasoning as for the 8-1 case, above, this might support taking that as grounds to "not accept" a record; however, the committee decided later (via email) that it would need an explicit motion by the committee before making such change to its procedures. This could be considered at next year's annual meeting.]

Matt Hafner provided the following change to be incorporated into the committee's "Goals, Policies, and Procedures Document":

4.7.5.2 Second Circulation

Reports that receive a vote of 9-0-0 or 8-x-x are accepted. Reports that receive fewer than five favorable votes are not accepted. Reports that receive votes of 7-x-x, 6-x-x, or 5-x-x are circulated for a third round.

Out of curiosity, the Secretary will also do an analysis of the number of prior 8-1 decisions; and possibly 7-2 decisions.

8.5 eBird Impact on Records Committee Documentation

The Secretary believes that a "problem" is developing due to the volume of rarity sighting eBird documentation that is being posted online and is not being channeled directly to the committee. Without some automatic feed from eBird, the Secretary's workload is significantly increasing in order to mine all related documentation from eBird checklists, linked images, etc. ... and then capture this information and format it for suitable archival and review distribution. Furthermore, according to current committee policies, the Secretary still needs to obtain permission of the observers to use their documentation for a committee review.

The Secretary suggested that eBird could drastically help with this situation by flagging records of committee reviewable taxa to observers and automatically formatting and forwarding their documentation, with the observer's expressed permission, to the records committee. This would also be consistent with one of the eBird stated goals to support existing documentation channels. However, the eBird team indicated that such a process is not on the cost/labor planning horizon.

Some detailed discussions, both before and during the meeting, ensued and is summarized, below.

Sherman Sutter:

One point that we might want to consider is whether it still makes sense for the Secretary (or any subsequent person or even group of people) to try to capture everything posted (and now also tweeted, entered in eBird, etc) about a bird. Far too much of that material seems little more than "I ticked the bird" or (much less frequently) "we dipped on the bird." eBird is quite well positioned to archive that data.

As far as the records committee and its archives are concerned, I think the crucial aspects of any record are the ID (and evidence for it), and first and last documented occurrences. Once we have diagnostic photos, we probably don't need to worry about getting still more images. (Of course, for the tricky cases, we may want/need everything anyone managed to get, but those can probably be handled as they arise.)

If some of that material is best gained through eBird entries, perhaps we can work out a procedure for capturing it efficiently. (One approach possibly worth considering: getting the Secretary some help through a long-term, nonvoting assistant who acts as a liaison between the committee and the MD eBird team.)

Bill Hubick:

I have given the topic of harnessing eBird data some thought, and I think the only logical/available solution is to harness Maryland eBird reviewers to assist with capturing / compiling the data. I think there's a simple and powerful way to do this, at least with a little help from Excel Master Mike Ostrowski. Here's how it would work. We create an Excel file with a "white list" of non-reviewable Maryland species. We then create a macro that runs against the raw eBird data for a time period and filters out all records that aren't on the white list. We can do this once a month or once a quarter, capturing all data for review species in eBird. The only edge cases are the range restricted species, but even that can be possible with a little time. (Or handled manually for those rare cases.)

In any case, I think the short answer is that we need a well-defined process that funnels eBird data to the Secretary. There are other ways to do it, but I think that is by far the easiest.

This would also work, and I'm including for the sake of discussion, but I suspect the macro-based solution is best:

- Creates a new MD/DCRC eBird account.
- Create an incidental checklist for 1/1/1900.
- Add to the checklist all non-reviewable species. Add comments: "Base list to be used for monitoring for review species. Feel free to invalidate all reports from this checklist." (or similar)
- Turn on state needs alert.
- Don't use the account except for monitoring these alerts. Any species reported not on that junk checklist would generate an e-mail alert. These can be configured to hourly or daily.

In any case, the Maryland eBird team will help. Should be straightforward.

Maryland's own Mike Ostrowski, however, has developed an extensive set of eBird macros that can extract information from the eBird database. Mike is planning on developing a macro which would provide some of the functionality described above. We look forward to testing and implementing this macro when it is ready. **OPEN.**

9. Elections

9.1 New members. Members completing their three-year voting terms are Matt Hafner, John Hubbell, and Sherman Suter. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. The new members elected for three-year terms were: Marcia Balestri (Worcester), Hugh McGuinness (DC), and Russ Ruffing (Howard).

9.2 Chair. Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel) was re-elected as the Chair.

9.3 Secretary. Phil Davis (Anne Arundel) was re-elected as the Secretary.

10. Next Meeting Dates

The members decided to swap the order of the Skins Workshop and the Annual Meeting, so that the Annual Meeting precedes the workshop (back to the order that was used, years ago).

10.1 2015 Annual Meeting: The planning date for the 2015 Annual Meeting is Saturday, 28 Feb 2015. This date should not conflict the MOS Board Meeting schedule. If a pelagic trip into Maryland waters should be scheduled for this date, we will reschedule the meeting date.

10.2 2015 Skins Workshop

TBD. However, we will try to schedule next year's workshop, with our host, for about two weeks after the Annual Meeting, in March.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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