

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.



**Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee
2016 Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 27, 2016**

Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report

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Introduction

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order on 27 February 2016 at 10:30 am at the home of the Secretary, Phil Davis, in Davidsonville, MD. Members present included Chair, Bill Hubick (Anne Arundel County); Secretary, Phil Davis (Anne Arundel), and members Marcia Balestri (Worcester), Kathy Calvert (Frederick), Tim Carney (Baltimore), Jared Fisher (Montgomery), Matt Hafner (Harford), Nancy Magnusson (Howard), Hugh McGuinness (DC), and Russ Ruffing (Howard). Unable to attend was Clive Harris (Montgomery). MOS Vice President, Barbara Johnson (Anne Arundel), also attended.



The 2015-2016 Term Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Members.
Left to right: Phil Davis (Secretary – Anne Arundel County); Hugh McGuinness (DC); Barbara Johnson, MOS Vice President (Anne Arundel); Kathy Calvert (Frederick); Jared Fisher (Montgomery), Tim Carney (Baltimore); Nancy Magnusson (Howard), Marcia Balestri (Worcester), Bill Hubick (Chair – Anne Arundel County); Matt Hafner (Harford); and Russ Ruffing (Howard). Not present was Clive Harris (Montgomery).
Photo by Barbara Davis.

1. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported the following.

1.1 Official Lists Changes and Status

Exhibit 1.1-1 summarizes 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 Official List, yet, in 2016. In 2015, one new taxon was added to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland and two new taxa were added to the Official List of the Birds of the District of Columbia. A previously accepted record to the DC list in 2013 had been missing from this list, but is now included, below. The total numbers of species on the MD and DC lists now stand at 448 and 334, respectively.

State	Calendar Year:	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
MD	MD List Total	432	435	435	436	438	445	447	448	448	
	Species / Groups Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Cape Verde Shearwater ●Say's Phoebe ●Western Meadowlark 	(none)	●Allen's Hummingbird	●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 	●Herald Petrel	(none)	●Couch's Kingbird	(none)
	Subspecies or Forms Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●"Western" Greater White-fronted Goose ●"Scopoli's" Cory's Shearwater 	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
	Questionable Origins Added	●Southern Lapwing	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	●European Greenfinch	● <i>Calipepla</i> species	(none)	(none)	(none)
	Exotic Origins Added	●Great Tit	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
DC	DC List Total	330	330	330	331	331	332	332	334	334	
	Species / Groups Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Long-tailed Jaeger ●Le Conte's Sparrow 	(none)	(none)	●Painted Bunting	(none)	●Arctic Tern	(none)	●Cave Swallow	●Ross's Goose	(none)
	Subspecies or Forms Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	●Barnacle Goose	(none)	(none)	(none)	
	Exotics Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	

Exhibit 1.1-1. Annual Additions to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland and the Official List of the Birds of 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 total and average number of reports circulated, the total and average number of new reports, and the total and average number of decisions reached. Decision categories 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	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
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	45	41	61%	13	9	8
2011	7	29.1	101	74	55	54%	14	11	8
2012	6	18.1	105	46	79	75%	18	8	13
2013	8	11.5	129	80	87	67%	16	10	11
2014	4	7.0	72	43	46	64%	18	11	12
2015	3	6.1	56	48	44	79%	19	16	15
2016	1	5.6	26	20	23	88%	26	20	23
Total	168	22.4	2205	1419	1399	63%	13	8	8

Exhibit 1.2.1-1. Annual Package Statistics Summary

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

[None]

Exhibit 1.2.2-1. Summary of Packages Currently in Circulation

1.2.3 Acceptance Rate. As of this year's Annual Meeting, the committee's cumulative acceptance rate was 76.6 percent, down slightly from last year's 76.2 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	# Decisions – Cumulative										
	AM 2006	AM 2007	AM 2008	AM 2009	AM 2010	AM 2011	AM 2012	AM 2013	AM 2014	AM 2015	AM 2016
Accepted	521	610	665	723	760	779	812	858	910	940	986
Accepted-Group	19	25	28	31	33	33	33	33	34	35	35
Accepted-Form	11	13	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
ID OK/ ?? Origin	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	18	19	19	22
ID OK/ Exotic Origin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10
Not Accepted	152	165	180	203	211	223	245	268	301	316	326
Cumulative Decisions Grand Totals:	723	823	899	985	1032	1063	1117	1195	1282	1328	1395
Cumulative Acceptance Rate:	79%	80%	80%	79.4%	79.6%	79.0%	78.1%	77.6%	76.5%	76.2%	76.6%

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 describes 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. (Note: some of the earlier years will not total to the sums shown since some unused status categories were deleted to conserve space.)

State	Category / Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Delta	
MD	Stewart & Robbins	9	9	100	85	83	81	82	81	87	87	90	116	116	115	111	109	109	109	109	0	
	Accepted	258	332	362	377	381	380	424	464	486	560	609	661	667	716	745	787	834	858	904	46	
	Accepted-Group	2	2	9	9	10	10	10	11	15	21	24	26	28	28	28	28	28	29	30	30	0
	Accepted-Form	-	1	3	3	3	6	7	10	11	13	15	16	16	16	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	18	21	3	
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	8	
	Not Accepted	119	124	127	132	133	132	140	147	149	161	174	193	200	212	232	251	283	298	308	10	
	Circulating	45	28	9	15	49	78	29	13	84	57	33	35	32	57	62	49	-	17	0	-17	
	Recirculate	22	21	27	25	23	18	49	54	34	25	38	19	26	15	24	15	23	17	23	6	
	Ready	102	49	64	61	69	78	77	112	82	126	163	162	172	209	255	296	300	338	360	22	
	Reviewable	35	45	36	35	42	44	66	249	520	679	694	757	764	855	981	1087	1118	1125	1131	6	
	Reopened	-	-	5	5	6	7	4	8	8	8	8	8	9	10	11	12	12	12	12	0	
	Non-Review Species	109	112	119	136	139	140	139	357	164	174	176	185	185	191	194	194	194	195	196	1	
	Withdrawn	4	5	7	7	8	9	9	11	11	13	10	9	11	18	21	26	26	28	28	0	
Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	8	13	16	17	17	18	1		
MD Totals		942	970	1135	1179	1233	1275	1693	1871	2003	2289	2365	2523	2607	2816	3104	3302	3384	3499	3589	90	
DC	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	25	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	12	24	23	22	18	17	17	17	17	0	
	DCRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	10	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	82	82	0	
	Accepted-Group	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	0	
	Not Accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	4	6	10	11	11	13	17	18	18	18	0	
	Circulating	1	4	1	2	7	13	4	5	6	2	5	2	-	11	8	5	-	-	-	-	
	Recirculate	1	2	4	4	5	2	9	3	4	4	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	0	
	Ready	6	2	3	7	14	21	15	19	8	11	10	11	12	15	22	21	27	29	36	7	
	Reviewable	1	7	9	5	6	4	10	45	62	71	80	75	75	79	122	127	126	124	124	0	
	Unreviewable	8	13	17	16	28	30	27	37	33	33	34	32	33	39	43	43	43	44	44	0	
	Non-Review Species	3	3	3	6	7	7	11	26	20	20	30	39	42	49	51	55	53	53	53	0	
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	0	
	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	7	7	8	8	8	0	
DC Totals		34	57	95	98	126	125	206	228	240	261	260	283	283	315	375	383	389	396	403	7	
??	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	
	Ready	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1	
	Reviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	4	3	14	14	14	14	13	-1	
	Unreviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	8	7	7	7	4	4	4	4	4	0	
	Non-Review Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-1	
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	0	
Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	0		
?? Totals				2	3	5	17	7	7	11	21	15	13	13	21	23	23	23	21	-2		
DE	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	0	
VA	(Various)	0	0	0	4	6	12	34	14	14	22	21	15	13	13	13	16	15	15	15	0	
NY/ NJ	Withdrawn						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	
	Outside State Totals				4	6	14	35	15	15	23	22	16	14	14	19	18	18	18	0		
	Grand Totals	976	1029	1234	1283	1369	1409	1922	2126	2270	2574	2655	2834	2924	3160	3523	3726	3815	3936	4031	95	

Exhibit 1.3.2-1. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 02/22/2016 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 with 1995 when the committee began recording dates-of-receipt. 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 2015 can be seen from the numbers of historical reports received during this period. From 1995 through 2015 (since 2016 is still incomplete), the number of “current” (i.e., contemporary) reports received per year has averaged approximately 67. During 2015, 25 historical reports were added to the database from the ongoing historical canvass.

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	152	84	68
2006	272	183	89
2007	139	55	84
2008	171	107	64
2009	105	16	89
2010	192	116	76
2011	413	308	105
2012	197	117	80
2013	98	9	89
2014	115	23	92
2015	98	25	73
Totals	3569	2157	1412
Average			67

Exhibit 1.3.3-1. MD/DCRC Total, Current, and Historical Reports Received per Year (from 1995)

1.3.4 eBird Referrals. During 2015, 39 reports were referred by eBird (i.e., not first posted to MDBirding).

1.3.5 ID Articles and Index. The committee now has 1574 identification and distribution references in its files for 147 taxa. The trend of these references 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
2015	1420	140
2016	1574	147

Exhibit 1.3.4-1. MD/DCRC Identification and References Captured

1.4 Communications

1.4.1 Acknowledgements. Since last year's Annual Meeting, the committee has discontinued direct USPS mail of acknowledgements to observers, consistent with its revised communications policies (see Section 3.1.2). The previous annual totals are shown in Exhibit 1.4.2-1.

1.4.2 Decision Notices. Since last year's Annual Meeting, 72 notices for 33 decisions were mailed (via USPS) to observers, as tallied in Exhibit 1.4.2-1. In the future, however, decision notices will not be mailed, consistent with the committee's revised communications policies.

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
2015	N/A	33	72
2016	See note	See note	See note

Exhibit 1.4.2-1. Acknowledgements and Decision Notices Mailed.

Note: In accordance with our revised observer/documentation procedures, we are no longer mailing (via USPS) acknowledgements or decision notices to observers. Some new process, either web-based process or automated PDFs, will be developed to assume these functions. If the committee had followed the old procedures, we would have mailed 471 acknowledgements and advised 515 observers on 70 decisions.

1.4.3 Email Traffic. Exhibit 1.4.3-1 summarizes the Secretary’s outgoing MD/DCRC-related email messages over the past years. The increasing totals reflect increases in documentation and communications via email and the Internet, and also due to ongoing projects such as the historical canvass tasks.

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
2014	1173
2015	1207

Exhibit 1.4.3-1. 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 the committee’s routine operations. Many of these contacts are notable since they typically support the scientific community and/or other records committees. During the past year, some of the notable queries received are shown in Exhibit 1.4.4-1.

Date	Subject	Correspondent
05/2015	“Greenfinch” report from NY	Robert Michaud
05/2015	DBRC procedures request	Frank Rohrbacher (DBRC)
07/2015	Birds at the White House data	Chris Milensky (SI)
10/2015	Records Committee database schema	Louis Bevier (ME – MBRC)
01/2016	Birds of MD, DE and DC book inputs	Bruce Beehler (SI)
02/2016	Audubon Soc of No Va Checklist inputs	Dixie Sommers (ASNV)
02/2016	VARCOM pelagic record coordination	Gerry Hawkins (VARCOM)

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

1.4.5 Maryland Yellowthroat Articles. Articles published during the last calendar year in the MOS newsletter, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, are shown in Exhibit 1.4.5-1.

Article	Issue Date
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkgs 158-159)	Apr-May 2015
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkg 160)	Oct-Nov 2015
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkg 161) [first batch of TRUS decisions]	Jan-Feb 2016

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

1.5 MD/DCRC Storage Summary

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	28 document boxes
	Active Queue reports	14 document boxes
	Previous package reports	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	6 document boxes
	Correspondence/miscellaneous files	14 document boxes
	Supplies	2 document boxes
	<i>Maryland Birdlife</i> journals / <i>Maryland Yellowthroat</i> 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	Documentation, references, databases, etc.	44.2 GB

Exhibit 1.5-1. MD/DCRC Storage Summary

1.6 MD/DCRC Office and Information Technology Resources 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 10), office suites (MS Office 365, Office Perfect X7), browsers (IE and others), geobrowser (Google Earth), database (Paradox 11), report writer (R&R 12.5), file manager (Power Desk Pro 9), email client (Eudora 7.1), PDF application (Adobe Acrobat Standard XI), Photo processing (Adobe Photoshop Essentials 14), Screen capture (Snagit 12), 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 14, OmniPage Professional 18), online backup: MozyPro

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

1.7 Member Package Review Performance

The Secretary compiled and distributed to each member an overall averaged summary report and a package detail report that provides the length of time each member retained each review package.

1.8 MOS Liaison

1.8.1 Budget

Since the committee no longer circulates review packages via postal mail, the need for a budget item for postage expenses is no longer required. This year (2016), the committee budget was approved at \$125 by the MOS. Future budgets will be carefully developed as we move into the data digitization phase in our planning for *The Rare Birds of Maryland and District of Columbia*.

1.8.2 Maryland Birding Trail Support. The Secretary generated database reports of rarity locations by county for the Maryland Birding Trail committee. This exercise also afforded the Secretary to apply some consistency and quality control over the location fields in the MD/DCRC database.

2. MD/DCRC Processes and Sustaining Activities

2.1 Taxonomy

2.1.1 AOU Taxonomy Updates

The secretary has not yet upgraded the MD/DCRC database to reflect changes from the AOU's 56th Supplement. The AOU web page was recently updated so this update can now be performed. [NOTE: This update, to apply the taxonomy of the AOU 56th Supplement, was completed, after the Annual Meeting on 13 Apr 2016.] **CLOSED**

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 Team continues to collaborate on historical and current rarity reports regarding information that does not come directly to the committee. Reviewable reports, including historical reports filed by observers, are referred to the MD/DCRC.

3.1.2 MD/DCRC Web Reporting Form

It was suggested that the current MD/DCRC web reporting form may be an artifact of the pre-digital camera era and could be revamped. This is a good opportunity for a best practice survey to see how other records committee are handling reporting forms in this highly digital era. **OPEN.**

3.2 Historical Canvass

The Secretary presented selected status reports to the committee and answered committee questions on the Historical Canvass. Historical projects include:

- M Iliff/H Mudd Historical Reports Canvass – Done; not documented
- BBL Reconciliation – Done; documented
- BBS Reconciliation – Done; documented
- N.A. BPP Reconciliation – Done; not documented
- PWRC Nest Cards – Done; not documented
- Royal Navy Bird Watching Society Canvass – Done; documented
- Christmas Bird Count Canvass – Done; not documented
- May Count Canvass – Done; not documented
- PWRC/CS Robbins Archives – Data pulled; not integrated yet, not documented
- Lighthouse Survey Records – Done; not documented

- USNM Specimens – In progress; not documented
- DC Records Committee files – Revisit; not documented
- MD/DC Baseline Survey (S&R 1958) – Done; not documented
- Ornithological Collections Database Survey – In progress; not documented
- Cylburn Journals Canvass – Done; documentation in progress
- Biological Survey Bird Stomach Contents Survey – In progress; not documented
- eBird Reconciliation – In progress (as observers report); not documented
- Historical Ornithology Canvass – Done; not documented
- Maryland Birdlife “The Season” Report Database Reconciliation – In progress; not documented
- Exotics/Introduced Canvass (MB/eBird) – Done; not documented
- Smithsonian (Birds Division and Archives Unit) References Canvass – In progress
- General Ornithology Canvass – In progress

Ft. McHenry Library. The Secretary made arrangements with NPS Historian Scott Sheads to visit the Ft. McHenry Library to review the ornithological records, especially those dealing with the formerly locally breeding African Collared Doves. **OPEN.** (The Secretary already has a copy of the Elliott Coues’ Ft. McHenry 1870-1872 bird list.)

4. MD/DCRC Outputs

The following information summarizes projects that generate committee outputs:

4.1 *Maryland Birdlife* Decision Report

The Secretary discussed the history of *Maryland Birdlife* Decision Reports and the status of the next report.

4.2 The [History of] the Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia (RBMDC)

The Secretary reviewed the vision and status of this future publication. Note the potential title change.

4.3 Reports/Records Digitization Plan

To prepare for the RBMDC and to distribute the workload among various species account authors, the plan is to digitize all MD/DCRC documentation. The scope of digitization will 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. **OPEN.**

4.4 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 posted to the web as PDF documents. Some are already available online. **OPEN.**

4.5 Integrated Historical Checklist

The Secretary is planning to generate an integrated master checklist that indicates when and by which authority each species was added (as a “first”) to the “official” state checklists (for MD and DC) over time, beginning with the earliest checklists. **OPEN.**

4.6 Review List Chronology

This project is to create a data table that captures the change in status of taxa on the MD/DCRC Review Lists, over time. This table can be used in a number of committee reports and also in the RBMDC species accounts. This project is in-work. **OPEN.**

4.7 MD/DCRC Web Page

MOS MD/DCRC 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.**

Adjunct MD/DCRC Web Pages

The following MD/DCRC-related web pages currently reside in a commercial blog space (Word Press) web site:

MD/DCRC Blog

<https://mddcrcblog.wordpress.com/>

MD/DCRC Resources

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/>

4.8 MD/DCRC Contribution Recognition Award

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the committee established an MD/DCRC occasional award to recognize field birders that have provide exceptional support to 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 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.**

4.9 Outreach

Presentation. At the last Annual Meeting, the Secretary offered to develop a current presentation on the MD/DCRC. A presentation was developed and over the past year it was given to the Montgomery chapter, the Howard County chapter, and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. It is scheduled to be presented to the Frederick Chapter in May. **CLOSED.**

Monthly Outreach Topics. At last year's meeting, Chair, Bill Hubick suggested that the committee try to also re-engage with the birding community via other outreach techniques. One suggestion was to deal with a monthly outreach topic on the local MDBirding Google Group or the bi-monthly MOS newsletter, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. We will leave this item in these minutes for one more cycle to see if it might stimulate any volunteers. **OPEN.**

4.10 Other Publications

Now that *Maryland Birdlife* has resumed publication, there are many committee-related articles that can be developed and submitted, for example:

- Maryland's Great Gray Owl
- The Potomac River Ivory Gull
- The Accokeek Trumpeter Swan Tibia Bone
- Unpublished USNM Regional Rarities
- MD/DC Ornithological Pioneer Bios (by Dave Bridge)
- Maryland and DC's "Firsts"
- Results of the MD/DCRC BBL Historical Canvass
- Results of the MD/DCRC BPP Historical Canvass
- Results of the MD/DCRC BBS Historical Canvass
- Results of the MD/DCRC RNBWS Historical Canvass
- A Summary the DC Records Committee Activities
- Regional Passenger Pigeon Records
- Regional Carolina Parakeet Records
- Regional Heath Hen Records

- The Potomac River 1915 Barrow's Goldeneye
- Observations of Rev. White (1600s)
- and more

5. Old Business

5.1 Goals, Policies, and Procedures Document Revision

An update to the MD/DCRC Goals, Policies, and Procedures Document was drafted to accommodate procedures changes over the past year dealing with eReviews, Pelagic Boundaries, and the committee's recent 8-1 Second-Round Accept policy change. This set of changes was discussed and adopted at the meeting and the revised document will be posted to the committee's web page. **CLOSED.**

5.2 Cylburn Collections Task Force

Journal Summaries. This project by the Secretary is still in progress. Field journals have been analyzed and summary documents prepared for several of the field journal contributors: Kirkwood, Fisher, Cook, Sommers. Work on Hoen is in process. A few others have yet to be done, including Wholey. **OPEN.**

Kirkwood Collection. In January, the Secretary and the Cylburn Collections Manager, John Denehey, visited the Mt. Aetna Nature Center in Smithsville, MD and met with Floyd Murdoch to see the Kirkwood egg collection and catalogs. Some of the catalogs were borrowed for scanning. **OPEN.**

5.3 Exotics/Introduced/Questionable Species Review Policy

All eBird exotic reports were captured in the MD/DCRC database. A white paper is in work on this topic by the Secretary and is almost done. Deferred, one more year (!). **OPEN.**

5.4 Pelagic Boundaries

The next phase of research, due to our recent change of Maryland's pelagic boundaries, focuses on MD records from Wilmington Canyon. Matt Hafner reported the following:

For historical pelagic records, most rarities were reported by the canyon where they were observed. With the new boundaries, Poor Man's Canyon moves from Virginia to Maryland, Wilmington Canyon is no longer in Maryland, and Baltimore Canyon remains in Maryland. Accepted records from Wilmington Canyon will need to be researched and likely removed. Hafner compiled a list of records of interest in 2014 and during that annual meeting, some records were voted to be "grandfathered" in by their acceptance through VARCOM. The committee has now decided against that approach and Hafner will make contact with VARCOM to obtain the relevant information so these records can be reviewed by the committee.

5.5 Review of DC Records Committee Records

At last year's meeting, the Secretary raised a question about the committee's earlier decision to grandfather-in the accepted records of the defunct DC Records Committee (similar to the question about grandfathering-in pelagic records from other states due to the pelagic boundary changes. A list of DCRC records was distributed to the members. It was noted that many of the members of the DC committee also served, at some time, on the MD committee. **Action:** The committee decided to appoint a subcommittee, headed by Hugh McGuinness, to review this list of records and then use the committee's normal re-opening procedure for any records that they find warrant a re-evaluation. **OPEN.**

5.6 Garrett Arctic Terns [2013-030]

At last year's meeting, 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. **Action:** Hugh McGuinness offered to show the photos to an outside expert he knows who has extensive experience in identifying Arctic Terns from photos. The committee will hold for this update. **OPEN.**

5.7 eBird Impact on Records Committee Documentation

Monthly Reviewable Alerts. In addition to the Documentation and Communications White Paper and related changes to committee procedures, discussed above, the Secretary suggested again that eBird could drastically help with the documentation mining volume challenge by extending the eBird Alert process to a monthly report that aggregates and sorts all of the committee-reviewable taxa reports to include text comments and links to A/V files. This would save a great deal of work on the part of the Secretary. However, such a capability does not seem to currently be in the offing. [This item was held over from last year's meeting. The Secretary wants to pursue this again during the coming year.] **OPEN.**

Flickr Group – Bill Hubick suggested that adding a Flickr Group for MD/DCRC reviewable observations could make it easier to locate and access photo documentation. Bill took an action to establish this capability and it has been implemented (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2758347@N25/>). **CLOSED.**

6. Standing Agenda Items

6.1 Fourth Rounds

Report Discussions

No fourth-round votes were slated for discussion at this year's annual meeting.

Policy Discussions

A revised fourth-round procedure was discussed briefly at last year's Annual Meeting. This proposed process change was again discussed to ensure that the members concurred with the proposal. The committee agreed to wait for the next fourth-round candidate to formally test this process, below, in real-time. **OPEN.**

Proposed Related Policy Change

Our fourth-round discussion procedure can probably be eliminated since we now have the capability to easily share ballot comments electronically and in a timelier manner. With our new eReview processes and procedures, there are steps we can now take to resolve decisions even more quickly and reduce the need for some recirculations, which take time and effort of both the Secretary and the members. Also, more immediate final reviews can ensure that the members who are most knowledgeable about a review item can participate in the final vote, rather than having to hand the final vote over to a new term committee.

Proposed Related Procedure Changes

The Secretary suggested the following procedure changes:

Fourth-Round Discussions

Rather than waiting for the next Annual Meeting, we can handle fourth-round discussions during the package review period immediately after a third-round 7-2 vote, via real-time open email exchanges. After on-line discussions, the Secretary will "call the question" and members can then decide whether they were swayed via the discussion to change their vote or not. If the revised vote

changes to either 8-1 or 9-0, then the report would be considered to be accepted in that third round.

This procedure totally obviates that need for fourth round circulations.

Since the committee agreed to try this new procedure, whenever the next fourth-round case presents itself, the following language was placed into the recent Goals and Procedures document revision.

4.7.5.3 Third Circulation

Reports that receive votes of either 9-0-0 or 8-1-0 are accepted. Reports that receive fewer than seven favorable votes (6-x-x or 5-x-x) are not accepted. Reports that receive votes of 7-2-0 were previously circulated for a fourth, final circulation (however, see next section, below).

4.7.5.4 Fourth Circulation

Traditionally, reports that receive third-round 7-2-0 votes qualified for a fourth circulation but were first discussed at the next MD/DCRC Annual Meeting before being circulated for the final fourth-round vote. Fourth circulation reports receiving votes of 9-0-0 or 8-1-0 were accepted. An unchanged 7-2-0 vote resulted in being "not accepted."

However, since the committee now uses on-line communications to conduct its reviews, rather than waiting for verbal discussions at the next Annual Meeting, the committee can now handle fourth-round discussions during the package review period immediately following the third-round 7-2-0 vote, via real-time group email exchanges. After opening and conducting on-line email discussions for a period of time, the Secretary will then "call the question" and members can then decide whether they were swayed via the discussion to change their third-round vote or not. If the revised vote changes from 7-2-0 to either 8-1-0 or 9-0-0, then the report will be considered to be accepted in that third round.

This procedure can totally obviate the need for fourth round verbal discussions and an additional circulation. The committee agreed to wait for the next fourth-round case to apply this process in real-time and to make a final decision as to whether to adopt this procedure and implement related changes to this document.

Resolving Group and Origin Votes

The Secretary also suggested that this same process could be used for recirculation cases to resolve split Accept-Group and Accept-Origin votes.

When votes are split between Accept and Accept-Group, or between Questionable Origin and Exotic Origin, the members can be asked to review the other members' ballots immediately after voting to determine if they wish to change their vote or to stay pat. The resulting votes would then determine the final Group or Origin decision, according to the committee's existing voting resolution rules.

This process would ensure that the most knowledgeable members resolve the split Group and Exotic cases and avoid further recirculations in these situations.

Likewise, we can take a look at first implementing this process when the next split Group or Origin situation arises.

6.2 Record Re-Openings

A standing agenda item is to solicit from the members if any previous reports or records should be reopened. The committee can re-open records via one of two methods, defined in our Goals and Procedures document. Specific re-openings considered at the meeting were:

2006-033 Lesser Black-Backed Gull; Washington County, C&O Canal, Lock 38; 25 Mar 2006

The eBird team forwarded a new photo that was not in the original review file when this report was Not Accepted. This photo was shown to the members who decided to reopen this report based on this new information. This revised report will be scheduled for a new review. **CLOSED.**

2006 Cape Verde Shearwater

Past committee members, Sherman Suter and Jonathan Alderfer (National Geographic Field Guides editor), suggested that the committee consider re-opening its 2006 accepted record of Cape Verde Shearwater [MD/ 2006-264], the second record for North America. At last year’s Annual Meeting, after a lengthy discussion, the committee used its “majority rule” procedure to decide to re-open this record. The vote was 5-4. However, before reviewing this reopened record, the committee requested that the Secretary place the photos on the web and ask for expert opinions from appropriate venues, including Birdwg01 (Frontiers of Bird Identification) and the Seabird listserver. The comments received so far were distributed to the members. The committee will move forward with its reopening of this record. **CLOSED.**

Slaty-Backed Gull

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, 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 for this include that (1) this is just an interesting bird and also (2) more relevant reference information has become available over the past years, for example information on hybrids and Slaty-backed vs. Vega Gull separation. The Secretary has not yet posted this documentation but will do so shortly. **OPEN.**

6.3 Review List Changes

6.3.1 Taxa Changes

The taxa shown in the exhibits below were discussed and considered as potential changes to the MD and DC Review Lists. Inputs were also solicited before the meeting from other MD and DC birders, especially members of the eBird Teams, such as Paul Pisano for DC. The numbers of Accepted, Not Accepted, and total number of reports for both MD and DC are shown in the table to help portray the relative status of each taxon. Note that not all taxa are reviewable in each jurisdiction and review categories have changed over the years, so the numbers are not absolute. The results of the discussions are also shown in the Exhibits 6.3.1-1 (for MD) and 6.3.1-2 (for DC), below.

Red (rose) highlights means “no change” to the review status; green highlights indicate a change to the review status.

MD Review List Changes Considered and Results.

[LEGEND: Green = a change; red = no change]

Taxon	Maryland			District of Columbia			Committee Action / Discussion Summary
	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	
MD Taxa							

Trumpeter Swan	33	04	39	00	00	00	<p>Davis: "I propose to drop this species from the MD Review List based on the number of recent records accepted and an established distribution pattern."</p> <p>Result: Change: Removed from the MD Review List as of the date of this meeting.</p>
<p>"Western" Greater White-fronted Goose</p> <p>(on MD Subspecies/Forms Review List)</p>	01	01	07	00	00	00	<p>Harris: I am not sure if there would be time to review the subspecies part of our review list, but I'd recommend removing the reference to Greenland WFG. Identification criteria are not well covered in any guide I've seen, practically no local birders have seen this ssp in its wintering range, and the ID criteria are not all that well established and the present approach is probably encouraging birders to identify GWFG as <i>flavirostris</i> whenever the bill looks a bit orange. I have never seen the original documentation for this decision but would note that the Baker park bird in 2014 was identified by Marshall Iliff as a <i>flavirostris</i> but this was not supported by the late Martin Garner when I asked him to review the photos and I imagine he had an awful lot of field experience of that ssp. Having seen a lot of flavs a year ago in Scotland the Baker park bird was clearly too pale for that form. And there are a few obvious Western birds knocking around the mid-Atlantic right now, at least based on photos on eBird. So overall I don't think it's a helpful thing for us to have.</p> <p>Result: No change. This remain an open issue. No change to the MD Review List at this time.</p>
Thayer's Gull	01	00	47				<p>Group: This species was removed from the statewide MD Review List after the first report was accepted, due to ID challenges and taxonomy issues. This is still a ID challenge; however, most reports now have photos. Currently it is reviewable only west of the Wash/Fred line.</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave as is on the MD Review List.</p>
Le Conte's Sparrow	28	04	37	01	00	01	<p>Group: MD had a good run of records for a while; and then a drought.</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave on the MD Review List.</p>

Exhibit 6.3.1-1. MD Taxa Considered for Review List Changes and Resulting Dispositions.

DC Review List Changes Considered

Taxon	Maryland			District of Columbia			Committee Discussion / Decision Summary
	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	Accepted	Not Accepted	Total Reports	
DC Taxa							
Ross's Goose	18	00	32	03	00	03	<p>McGuinness: Not reviewable in neighboring MD counties.</p>

							Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.
Anhinga	16	11	41	03	00	03	<p>Pisano: "The only species the Committee might want to consider dropping in Anhinga. I'd be OK if that got dropped, although I defer to Hugh if he wants to keep it on there."</p> <p>McGuinness: "With regards to the DC review list ... I don't think we should drop Anhinga."</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave on the DC Review List.</p>
American White Pelican	15	00	63	01	00	03	<p>Pisano: "After looking at the attachment (missed it the first time I read the email), I might also be convinced to drop the 2 pelicans. Hugh - what do you think?"</p> <p>McGuinness: "With regards to the DC review list, I could see dropping both Pelicans"</p> <p>Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.</p>
Brown Pelican	03	00	21	01	00	04	<p>Pisano: "After looking at the attachment (missed it the first time I read the email), I might also be convinced to drop the 2 pelicans. Hugh - what do you think?"</p> <p>McGuinness: "With regards to the DC review list, I could see dropping both Pelicans ..."</p> <p>Group: Noted that this species is currently reviewable in the adjacent MD counties.</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave on the DC Review List.</p>
Red Knot	n/a	n/a	n/a	01	00	01	<p>Group: This should probably be reviewable if seen in neighboring MD, but no MD change is proposed at this time.</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave on the DC Review List.</p>
Nelson's Sparrow	02	00	09	00	00	01	<p>McGuinness: "I might also be tempted to bring back Nelson's Sparrow b/c it is such a tricky ID."</p> <p>Result: No change. Leave off of the DC Review List.</p>
Northern Shrike	09	01	46	03	00	06	<p>McGuinness: Not reviewable in neighboring MD counties.</p> <p>Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.</p>
Cave Swallow	23	07	38	01	00	01	<p>McGuinness: Not reviewable in neighboring MD counties.</p> <p>Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.</p>
Seaside Sparrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	00	01	01	<p>Group: This should probably be reviewable if seen in neighboring Montgomery County, but no MD change is proposed at this time.</p>

							Result: No change. Leave on the DC Review List.
Painted Bunting	23	01	31	01	00	01	McGuiness: Not reviewable in neighboring MD counties. Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	10	02	24	00	00	02	McGuiness: Not reviewable in neighboring MD counties. Result: Change: Removed from the DC Review List.

Exhibit 6.3.1-1. DC Taxa Considered for Review List Changes and Resulting Dispositions.

6.3.2 General Review List Criteria Discussion

McGuiness: “Perhaps before considering additions and deletions, it would be a good idea for the committee as a whole to discuss what qualifies a bird for inclusion in this age of e-bird reviewers. Last year I remember Phil saying that one reason for the committee is so that future workers will be able to make sense of all the records. If that is truly our motivation, then it would seem we would want to include more species, and not fewer. At any rate, I'd love to have a discussion about member's ideas about what kinds of things should be reviewed by the committee. I, for one, have grown increasingly confused about this issue.”

DC Review Criteria

Clive Harris: I'd argue there is a more general case to be made for aligning the DC review list to the treatment of the neighboring geographical areas (i.e. Montgomery and PG counties).

Yes, DC is a small urban environment which makes the occurrence of some birds exceptional from a listing viewpoint but is that a reason for reviewing reports of birds that would not be reviewable a few miles away over a state line? The other boundaries we use approximate to distinct habitat divisions but this does not. eBird does a great job of tracking unusual sightings so we don't need to perform that function.

For example, **Hudsonian Godwit** would be a great bird in DC (though I believe Jonathan Alderfer and Jon Dunn had a small flock go over Rock Creek a few years back one Sept morning) - but equally rare in Montgomery frankly.

Ditto **Eurasian Wigeon** which is on the DC review list and reviewable nowhere in MD.

Nelson's Sparrow mentioned by Paul Pisano is a good example of this point. The obvious exception from alignment would be for species not currently on the DC list of accepted species.

Analysis: For this year’s meeting, Hugh McGuinness develop a comparison and analysis of the consistency of the DC Review List vis a vis the MD Review List. “It shows [right] pretty clearly the nine species that would make some sense to remove from the DC review list.”

6.4 Unusual Subspecies/Forms Reviews

Matt Hafner volunteered to review and suggest updates to the Maryland Unusual Subspecies/Forms Review List. **Action:** Matt will coordinate with Clive and consider the Greater White-fronted Goose issue as well as other updates. **OPEN.**

6.5 Regional or Range Reviews

Matt Hafner suggested that the Maryland Review List could use an overhaul of its “Review by Range” criteria. **Action:** He volunteered to look at this before next year’s Annual Meeting. **OPEN.**

6.6 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 include: **None.**

6.7 Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns

General discussion is encouraged regarding any of the following pending reports or groups of reports:

Problem Taxa - Species:

Thayer's Gull:

The following is a summary of last year’s meeting discussion:”

Thayer’s 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 (“the best” – typically, a first year bird) to try and get it accepted for DC. **OPEN.**

There is a renewed argument to hold off on Thayer’s Gull reviews due to open taxonomy issues. The Secretary compiled the Dec 2015 discussion thread on Birdwg01, with the

DC Reviewable	Status in MD	Yes Anywhere	Yes in Neighboring Counties	Comments
Ross's Goose	Not			
Tufted Duck		yes		
Pacific Loon		yes		
Leach's Storm-Petrel			NC	
Wood Stork		yes		
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel		yes		
Anhinga	Not			
American White Pelican	Not			
Brown Pelican			NC	
Yellow Rail		yes		
Clapper Rail			NC	
Purple Gallinule		yes		
Black-necked Stilt		yes		
Piping Plover			NC	
Long-billed Curlew		yes		
Red Knot	Not			
Ruff			NC	
Parasitic Jaeger			NC	
Long-tailed Jaeger		yes		
Thick-billed Murre		yes		
California Gull		yes		
Yellow-legged Gull		yes		
Sooty Tern			NC	
Bridled Tern			NC	
Gull-billed Tern			NC	
Arctic Tern		yes		
Black Skimmer			NC	
Common Ground-Dove		yes		
White-winged Dove		yes		
Ash-throated Flycatcher		yes		
Northern Shrike	Not			
Cave Swallow	Not			
Bewick's Wren		yes		
Bohemian Waxwing		yes		
Bachman's Sparrow		yes		
Henslow's Sparrow		yes		
Le Conte's Sparrow		yes		
Seaside Sparrow	Not			
Black-headed Grosbeak		yes		
Painted Bunting	Not			
Yellow-headed Blackbird			Not	Only reviewable in far west of MD
Bullock's Oriole		yes		

referenced articles inserted. This lengthy (35 page) document can be accessed at the following link:

<https://mddcresources.wordpress.com/2016/04/18/compilation-of-birdwg01-messages-dealing-with-the-iceland-thayer-gull-complex/>

Regardless, the committee decided to go forward and review the DC Thayer's Gull reports that are ready. **OPEN.**

Hoary Redpolls - May be lumped with Common - continue to hold off on reviews for now.

Problem Taxa - Subspecies:

Juncos - Continue to hold off; taxonomy is messy and unsettled

Small white-cheeked geese - Ditto

European Herring Gulls - AOU still has not split them yet; continue to hold off

Problem MD Groups of Records:

Trumpeter Swans - do we keep on the review list or not? (I vote to remove! [PCD])

Franklin's Gulls - Matt is consolidated the 2015 invasion reports and will discuss what he presented in a recent email (below).

Date: Wed, 18 Nov 2015 07:57:26 -0500
Subject: Franklin's Gull invasion Review
From: Matt Hafner <hafner.matt@gmail.com>
To: Phillip Davis <pdavis@ix.netcom.com>

I would like to volunteer to collect and organize the Franklin's Gull photos and reports from this past weekend. Particularly of interest to me are the birds reported from the Ocean City Inlet and trying to get an accurate account of the day on Friday.

For the inlet on Friday, based on talking to people and reading the reports, I see 3 ways we that we could review them.

1) Separate the day into 3 different segments:

- Early morning group of 4 birds (once these birds flew off, there were no other reports in the morning)

- George Armistead's report of 7 around Noon, all flybys (there were only between 1-3 people here for this report, I couldn't get a handle on exactly who saw these birds)

- Late Afternoon crowd which reported up to 27 birds (there were many observers for these, but I'm not sure many, if any, people saw every bird)

2) Lump all the Friday reports into one record. I could gather up all the photos from the day and create a timeline to say: "X birds were seen at the inlet over the course of the day on Friday as part of the larger Mid-Atlantic invasion" (Probably what will be written in NAB)

3) Lump all Inlet reports (Friday-Sunday) into one record. Saturday has (I believe) only one report from one observer, while Sunday has only one bird with many observers.

Personally, my preference is the order I've laid them out, but I will defer to you on this. Any opinions?

I'd like to get out ahead of this now, before memories fade and lesser quality (but possibly important timeline) photos get deleted.

Matt

The committee decided on Option 2, above. That is, we will review all the Friday reports from the inlet as one record. All other sightings from the invasion will be reviewed independently. **ACTION:** Matt will send a compilation of all the records and photos that he has received and hunt down the ones we are missing.

Pelagic Species Reports - 2013 and 2014 pelagic reports still need some cleanup work; 2015 is in pretty good shape:

White-faced Storm-Petrels - these are all pretty clean and supported by photos; should be ready for reviews

Scopoli's Shearwaters - these are now being reported and generally "accepted" but not documented. This taxon is not currently on the Maryland Unusual Subspecies/Form Review List (<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/mdsubrev.pdf>). **ACTION:** The Secretary will check with regional states to see what their review policy is on Scopoli's Shearwaters.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrels - these are now being grouped by time blocks; should be ready for reviews

Arctic Terns - observers are becoming more casual with these

Long-tailed Jaegers - I think most pelagic reports have photos

Pomarine Jaegers - inland flock reports are problematic; some documentation still missing

Leach's Storm-Petrels - from Conowingo; these are ready

Common Murres - the last reviewable batch is probably ready, but needs to be double checked

NOTE: It was suggested that on all upcoming pelagic trips to Maryland waters, the organizers will be asked to remind the participants at the dock to check their cameras to make sure that the date and timetags are set correctly and enable GPS, if available.

Problem MD Specific Records:

Common Snipe [MD/2013-018] – The outside expert opinions were equivocal. Still waiting on final inputs from Mikey Lutmerding. **ACTION:** The Secretary will contact him. **OPEN.**

Zino's/Fea's Petrel [MD/2013-042] - Still waiting on final inputs from Tom Johnson. **ACTION:** The Secretary will contact him. **OPEN.**

Trindade [formerly Herald] Petrels [8 reports - 2013] - Not sure if we have everything on these from Tom Johnson. **ACTION:** The Secretary will contact him. **OPEN.**

Eurasian Collared Dove [MD/2012-090; 09/18/2012] - Mark Hoffman - still awaiting photos. **ACTION:** The Chair will contact him. **OPEN.**

"Interesting Gull - Salisbury Landfill" (Feb 2011; European Herring Gull, Vega Gull?) - Mikey Lutmerding. These photos are online. **ACTION:** The Secretary will contact him. **OPEN.**

Misc Observer Open Report Issues:

Kyle Klotz - several reviewable western MD reports. **ACTION:** Tim Carney will contact him. **OPEN.**

David Gersten - three non-responsive requests for documentation for reviewable reports. These will be closed out.

7. New Business

7.1 Issue with Printing eBird Checklist with Embedded Photos

The Secretary began to experience a problem around 11 Jan 2016 dealing with printing eBird checklist. The Secretary briefly discussed this and after the meeting sent out a test case to several of the members for verification. Workarounds are being implemented and the fault isolation process is still in work.

7.2 Skins Workshop Suggestions

Bill Hubick reviewed the status of the 2014 and 2015 Skins Workshop accounts and the plans for this year's 2016 accounts. Suggestions for study skins for this year's Skins Workshop (scheduled for 12 Mar 2016) were solicited and discussed. Recommendations included the following:

- Western-type/juv Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (Kathy, but unable to attend the workshop)
- Lazuli Bunting (Hugh)
- Nelson's/Sharp-tailed/Le Conte Sparrow (Marcia)
- Tropical/Couch's Kingbird
- Thayer's Gull
- Snowy/Kentish Plover (Phil)

8. Elections

8.1 New members

Members completing their voting terms are Jared Fisher, Clive Harris, and Nancy Magnusson. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. The new members elected for three-year terms were: John Hubbell (DC), Mike Ostrowski (Montgomery), and Andy Wilson (Frederick).

8.2 Chair

The committee thanks Bill Hubick for his past eight years of service as a member and five years as the committee Chair. Bill has reluctantly decided to step down from the committee at this time in order to focus more on his Maryland Biodiversity Project work

(<http://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/>)

but wishes to stay engaged with us in an emeritus role. The committee expresses a great deal of thanks for his service and support during this period. Thanks, again, Bill!



Matt Hafner was elected as the Chair.

8.3 Secretary

Phil Davis was re-elected as the Secretary.

9. Next Meeting Dates

9.1 2016 Skins Workshop

This year's workshop, hosted by Dave Bridge, will be held on March 12, 2016. Logistic details will be emailed to both the old term and new term members.

9.2 2017 Annual Meeting

The planning date for the 2017 Annual Meeting is Saturday, 25 Feb 2017. This date should not conflict the MOS Board Meeting schedule. If a pelagic trip into Maryland waters should become scheduled for this date, we will reschedule the meeting date.

9.3 2017 Skins Workshop

TBD. We will try to schedule next year's workshop, with our host, for about two weeks after the Annual Meeting. This would make the planning date Saturday, 11 March 2017.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Davis
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