

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.



**Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee
2018 Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 24, 2018**

Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report

V06 – 18 Jun 2018

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Introduction

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order on Saturday, 24 February 2018 at 10:20 am at the home of the Secretary, Phil Davis, in Davidsonville, MD. Members present included Chair, Matt Hafner (Harford), Secretary, Phil Davis (Anne Arundel); and members Kathy Calvert (Frederick), Tim Carney (Baltimore), Barry Cooper (Montgomery), Keith Costley (Baltimore), John Hubbell (DC), Sean McCandless (Cecil), and Andy Wilson (Frederick). Unable to attend was Mike Ostrowski (At Large); however, Mike participated on some topics via texting. MOS Vice President, Robin Todd (Howard), also attended.



MD/DCRC 2018 Annual Meeting attendees (L-R): Barry Cooper (Montgomery); Tim Carney (Baltimore); Keith Costley (Baltimore); Kathy Calvert (Frederick); Robin Todd, MOS Vice President (Howard); John Hubbell (DC); Phil Davis, Secretary (Anne Arundel); Matt Hafner, Chair (Harford); Sean McCandless (Cecil); and Andy Wilson (Frederick).

1. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported the following information regarding last year's committee operations and the current committee status.

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. The total numbers of species on the MD and DC lists now stand at 452 and 339, respectively. Unusual recent actions of note are highlighted in red.

State	Calendar Year:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (so far)
MD	MD List Total	436	438	445	447	447	448	450	452	452
	Species / Groups Added	●Allen's Hummingbird	●Brown Booby ●Golden-crowned Sparrow	●Pink-footed Goose ●Barnacle Goose ●Mexican Violetear ●White-tailed Kite ●Bell's Vireo ●Virginia's Warbler ●Cassin's Sparrow	●White-tailed Tropicbird ●Trindade [Herald] Petrel	(none)	●Couch's Kingbird	●Snowy Plover ●"Western" Flycatcher	●Thayer's Gull [deleted - lumped] ●Cape Verde Shearwater [deleted - overturned] ●Sharp-tailed Sandpiper ●Masked Booby ●Crested Caracara ●Shiny Cowbird	(none)
	Subspecies or Forms Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	●Scopoli's (Cory's) Shearwater ●Thayer's (Iceland) Gull [lumped]	(none)
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	●European Greenfinch	●Calipepla species	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
	Exotic Origins Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)
DC	DC List Total	330	331	331	332	332	334	336	339	340
	Species / Groups Added	(none)	●Painted Bunting	(none)	●Arctic Tern	(none)	●Ross's Goose ●Cave Swallow	●Thayer's Gull ●Bell's Vireo	●Thayer's Gull [deleted - lumped] ●Black-throated Gray Warbler ●Mississippi Kite ●Sandhill Crane ●Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	●Sabine's Gull
	Subspecies or Forms Added	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	●Thayer's (Iceland) Gull [lumped]	(none)
	Questionable Origins Added	(none)	(none)	●Barnacle Goose	(none)	(none)	(none)	(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 calendar year summary 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 consist of: "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	5	15.5	96	77	75	78%	19	15	15
2017	5	5.2	92	60	66	72%	18	12	13
2018	1	3.9	17	13	13	76%	17	13	13
Total	178	21.7	2384	1549	1530	64%	13	9	9

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 this year's 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 76.2 percent, unchanged from last year. 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 the "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	AM 2017	AM 2018
Accepted	521	610	665	723	760	779	812	858	910	940	986	1018	1081
Accepted-Group	19	25	28	31	33	33	33	33	34	35	35	35	36
Accepted-Form	11	13	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
ID OK/?? Origin	8	8	9	10	10	10	9	18	19	19	22	22	22
ID OK/Exotic Origin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	10	10
Not Accepted	152	165	180	203	211	223	245	268	301	316	326	344	364
Cumulative Decisions Grand Totals:	723	823	899	985	1032	1063	1117	1195	1282	1328	1395	1445	1529
Cumulative Acceptance Rate:	79%	80%	80%	79.4%	79.6%	79.0%	78.1%	77.6%	76.5%	76.2%	76.6%	76.2%	76.2%

Exhibit 1.2.3-1. MD/DCRC Acceptance Rate

1.3 Database Contents Report

1.3.1 Database Categories

Exhibit 1.3.1-1 defines the status/decision categories 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 total current MD/DCRC database data records by status/decision category and indicates changes in the totals from the previous year. (Note: some of the earlier years' totals will differ from the sums shown since some unused historical 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	2017	2018	Delta	
MD	Stewart & Robbins	9	9	100	85	83	81	82	81	87	87	90	116	116	115	111	109	109	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	932	987	55	
	Accepted-Group	2	2	9	9	10	10	10	11	15	21	24	26	28	28	28	28	29	30	30	30	31	1	
	Accepted-Form	-	1	3	3	3	6	7	10	11	13	15	16	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	21	21	0	
	ID OK/Exotic Origin	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	10	10	0	
	Not Accepted	119	124	127	132	133	132	140	147	149	161	174	193	200	212	232	251	283	298	308	326	344	18	
	Circulating	45	28	9	15	49	78	29	13	84	57	33	35	32	57	62	49	-	17	0	15	0	-15	
	Recirculate	22	21	27	25	23	18	49	54	34	25	38	19	26	15	24	15	23	17	23	16	18	2	
	Ready	102	49	64	61	69	78	77	112	82	126	163	162	172	209	255	296	300	338	360	358	365	7	
	Reviewable	35	45	36	35	42	44	66	249	520	679	694	757	764	855	981	1087	1118	1125	1131	1132	1120	-12	
	Unreviewable	221	224	238	246	248	255	257	287	291	307	306	309	324	344	391	397	402	418	420	421	429	8	
	Reopened	-	-	5	5	6	7	4	8	8	8	8	8	9	10	11	12	12	12	12	14	14	0	
	Non-Review Species	109	112	119	136	139	140	139	357	164	174	176	185	185	191	194	194	194	195	196	196	202	6	
	Withdrawn	4	5	7	7	8	9	9	11	11	13	10	9	11	18	21	26	26	28	28	32	33	1	
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	8	13	16	17	17	18	18	19	1
	MD Totals		942	970	1135	1179	1233	1275	1693	1871	2003	2289	2365	2523	2607	2816	3104	3302	3384	3499	3589	3646	3718	72
	DC	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	25	8	8	8	7	9	9	10	12	24	23	22	18	17	17	17	17	17	17	0
DCRC		-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	10	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	86	94	8	
Accepted-Group		0	0	0	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	
ID OK/Exotic Origin		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	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	18	20	2	
Circulating		1	4	1	2	7	13	4	5	6	2	5	2	-	11	8	5	-	-	-	3	0	-3	
Recirculate		1	2	4	4	5	2	9	3	4	4	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	
Ready		6	2	3	7	14	21	15	19	8	11	10	11	12	15	22	21	27	29	36	30	29	-1	
Reviewable		1	7	9	5	6	4	10	45	62	71	80	75	75	79	122	127	126	124	124	125	123	-2	
Unreviewable		8	13	17	16	28	30	27	37	33	33	34	32	33	39	43	43	43	44	44	44	43	-1	
Non-Review Species		3	3	3	6	7	7	11	26	20	20	30	39	42	49	51	55	53	53	53	53	56	3	
Retracted		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	5	0	
Withdrawn		-	-	-	-	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	7	7	8	8	8	9	12	3
DC Totals		34	57	95	98	126	125	206	228	240	261	260	283	283	315	375	383	389	396	403	407	417	10	
??	Stewart & Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	
	Ready	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	
	Reviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	4	3	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	0	
	Unreviewable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	4	8	7	7	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	4	
	Non-Review Species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
	Retracted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	
?? Totals					2	3	5	17	7	7	11	21	15	13	13	21	23	23	23	21	21	25	4	
DE	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	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	15	15	0	
NY/ NJ	Withdrawn	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	
	Outside State Totals				4	6	14	35	15	15	23	22	16	14	14	19	18	18	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	4092	4178	86	

Exhibit 1.3.2-1. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 02/20/2018 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.

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 old published historical reports during the period from 1995 through 2017 can be seen in the totals of historical reports received during this period. From 1995 through 2017 (since 2018 is still incomplete), the number of “current” (i.e., contemporary) reports received per year has averaged approximately 67.

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	446	391	55
2004	193	110	83
2005	152	84	68
2006	273	183	90
2007	140	55	85
2008	171	107	64
2009	105	16	89
2010	192	116	76
2011	413	308	105
2012	197	117	80
2013	101	9	92
2014	116	23	93
2015	99	25	74
2016	62	3	59
2017	81	17	64
Totals	3716	2174	1542
Average			67

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

1.3.4 eBird Referrals

During 2017, 10 reports were referred by eBird (i.e., not initially, or in parallel, posted to MDBirding).

1.3.5 Identification and Reference Articles and Index

The committee now has 2265 identification and distribution references in its files for 161 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
2017	1912	153
2018	2265	161

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

1.4 Communications

1.4.1 Acknowledgements and Decisions

The committee previously discontinued direct USPS mail (“snail mail”) of hardcopy acknowledgements to observers consistent with its revised communications policies. The total number of observer documentation captures as of the date of each Annual Meeting is shown in **Exhibit 1.4.1-1**. Also shown are the number of decisions rendered and the related number of observers as of the date of each Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting	# Observer Documentation Captures	Decisions	
		# Decisions	# Observers
2006	119	105	359
2007	181	13	33
2008	125	74	207
2009	137	67	182
2010	141	42	121
2011	177	29	110
2012	242	79	294
2013	203	20	60
2014	208	63	194
2015	383	29	77
2016	310	41	329
2017	197	50	328
2018	285	82	635

Exhibit 1.4.1-1. Acknowledgements and Decision Notices Mailed.

1.4.2 Email Traffic

Exhibit 1.4.2-1 summarizes the Secretary's outgoing MD/DCRC-related email messages over the past years.

Calendar Year	# MD/DCRC Email Messages Sent
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
2016	1275
2017	1269

Exhibit 1.4.2-1. Secretary Email Messages Sent by Calendar Year

1.4.3 External Communications Status Report

Each year, the Secretary receives queries that are outside the routine scope of the committee's operations. Some 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 1.4.3-1**.

Date - 2017	Subject	Correspondent
Jan-Dec	Book: Birds of MD, DE, and DC	B Beehler (Smithsonian)
Feb	Scopoli's Shearwater policies	various (BRCF-L)
Feb	Barnacle Goose voting policies	M Burrell (PA) et al. (BRCF-L)
Feb	Extirpated species questions	J McCann (DNR)
Feb	Web-accessible committee database	various (BRCF-L)
Apr	Second round voting procedures	P Hertzell (IA) et al. (BRCF-L)
Jun	DC Prairie Falcon review	VARCOM
Jun	Chan Robbin's files	PWRC staff/MOS/Robbins family
Sep	Reviewing eBird data	M. Meyers (NV) et al. (BRCF-L)
Sep	MD Records of Great White Heron	J Herman (OH)
Nov-Dec	RNBWS pelagic records database	various (RNBWS)

Exhibit 1.4.3-1. External Communications (non-routine) Highlights.

1.4.4 Maryland Yellowthroat Articles

Articles published during the latest calendar year in the MOS newsletter, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, are shown in **Exhibit 1.4.4-1**.

Article	Issue Date
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkgs 165-166)	Mar-Apr 2017
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkgs 167)	May-Jun 2017
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkgs 168-169)	Sep-Oct 2017
MD/DCRC Decisions (Pkg 170)	Jan-Feb 2017
MD/DCRC News and Taxonym Updates	Oct-Nov 2017

Exhibit 1.4.4-1. 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	29 document boxes
	Active Queue reports	13 document boxes
	Previous package reports	5 document boxes
	Current packages (in circulation)	1 document box
	Current/active projects	6 document box
	Video/audio tapes (older analog media)	1 document box
	Identification/reference files	6 document boxes
	Correspondence/miscellaneous files	21 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.	65.5 GB

Exhibit 1.5-1. MD/DCRC Storage Summary

1.6 MD/DCRC Office and Information Technology Resources Summary

Summarized in **Exhibit 1.6-1** are the various office and information technology resources that are required to operate and support the committee.

Type	Resources
Communications Services	Internet, email, phone
Reproduction Services	Occasional bulk copying, (previously) 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 copiers, flatbed scanner, film scanner, CD/DVD burner, external backup disks, video capture interface
Software	Operating system (MS Windows 10); Anti-virus (Norton 360); Anti-malware (Malware Bytes); Online backups (local and remote): MozyPro File manager (Power Desk Pro 9); Email client (Eudora 7.1); Office suites (MS Office 365, Office Perfect X8); Browsers (IE, Firefox, Chrome, and others); Database (Paradox 11); Relational report writer (R&R 12.5); Screen/video capture (SnagIt 13); CD/DVD burner (HP SmartMedia, Roxio Burn); CD/DVD Labeling (exPressit SE 2.1); Media players (Windows Media Player, WinDVD); Video capture (YouTube Downloader); Video editor (Pinnacle Studio 20); Audio editor (Replay Converter 5, Replay Media Splitter); PDF applications (Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard, Power PDF Standard, and others); Photo processing (Adobe Photoshop Elements 15); Scanning software (HP Director, VueScan x64, NikonScan 4); OCR programs (Readiris Pro 15, OmniPage Professional 18); Geobrowser (Google Earth Pro); Mindmapping: MindManager 2017

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

Backups. All MD/DCRC computer files are backed up, twice daily, on a cloud service and on a fire-proof, water-proof external drive at the Secretary's house.

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

This year (2018-2019), the MD/DCRC budget submitted to the MOS was \$225. A portion of this budget is allocated to scanning submitted color slides. The Secretary was surprised to find how inexpensive were color slides to DVD transfers. We have 237 color slides, total, in our archives. Here is the budget request for the next MOS FY (Apr 2018- Mar 2019):

\$ 50.00 - Annual Meeting (Feb 2019) expenses
 \$123.45 – CVS/WalMart: \$24.96 first 40 slides; \$.50 each additional slide: \$24.95 + (197 x \$.50) = \$123.45
 \$ 50.00 - incidental/contingency
 =====
 \$223.45

\$225.00 - rounded total

Joy Aso, Awards Committee Chair, indicated that the award plaque for the MD/DCRC Field Excellence Award, to be awarded this year, can come out of the Awards Committee budget.

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*.

2. MD/DCRC Processes and Sustaining Activities

2.1 Taxonomy

2.1.1 AOU Taxonomy Updates

The Secretary has upgraded the MD/DCRC database to reflect changes based on the AOS's 58th Supplement.

Regional Taxonomy Changes. We had reported earlier that the AOS (formerly, the AOU) was considering some splits, lumps, and name change proposals that would affect our regional lists. Most of these expected proposed changes were NOT adopted by the AOS Checklist Committee:

58th Supplement Proposals Not Adopted:

- The following species were NOT split: Willet, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and Bell's Vireo.
- The redpolls were NOT lumped.
- The common name of Ring-necked Duck was NOT changed to Ringed-billed Duck.
- Wilson's Phalarope and Cattle Egret were NOT moved to new genera.

58th Supplement Proposals Adopted:

- The AOS Checklist Committee DID lump Thayer's Gull with Iceland (and, hence, Kumlien's) Gull. This reduces the total number of species on the MD and DC lists each by one.
- The common name of Le Conte's Sparrow (and Le Conte's Thrasher) WAS changed to reflect the correct family spelling: LeConte's Sparrow.
- Our Northern Harrier was split from the extralimital Hen Harrier and as a result, the scientific name our Norther Harrier WAS changed to *Circus hudsonias*.
- The Yellow-breasted Chat WAS moved out of the warblers and into its own genus, *Icteria*.
- The Northern Shrike scientific species WAS changed to *Lanius borealis*.

Taxonomic Order. The taxonomic order of a number of species changed again:

- Some ordering changes were made in the Geese and Ducks (where the genus *Chen* was merged with *Anser*),
- Whimbrel was moved to follow Upland Sandpiper,
- American Woodcock was moved to follow Long-billed Dowitcher,
- Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were swapped [note that they are not contiguous],
- Evening Grosbeak was moved in front of Pine Grosbeak, and
- the redpolls were moved in front of the crossbills.
- Some larger blocks of passerines were moved: The towhees through juncos, the chat, the blackbirds, and Bobolink though the orioles, were all moved to follow Snow Bunting.

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 continue to collaborate on historical and current rarity reports regarding information that does not come directly to the committee. Non-confirmed reviewable reports, including historical reports filed by observers, are referred to the MD/DCRC.

3.1.2 MD/DCRC Web Reporting Form

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, it was suggested that the current MD/DCRC web reporting form (<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcform.html>) may be an artifact of the pre-digital camera era and could be revamped. This was taken as a good opportunity for a best practice survey to see how other records committee are handling reporting forms in this highly digital era.

Just before the 2017 Annual Meeting, the Secretary conducted a survey of other records committees' best practices regarding reporting form. Each of US committee's web site was visited and a screen capture was taken of their web reporting form. This information has not been extensively evaluated, however, a quick inspection of the other committee's forms seems to indicate that the contents of our form is in line with the forms of others.

The raw screen captures, including committee home pages, can be found here ...

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/2017/02/06/records-committees-web-sites-best-practices-survey/>

NOTE: The updated MOS Web Site is now actively being designed. The current plan is to port over the current web reporting form, except the form will be updated to comply with the latest (2015) PDF/Word file update. If any members have any concerns or suggestions on a revised format, please chime in.

The 2015 PDF and Word formatted report files can be found here ...

PDF <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcform.pdf>

Word <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcform.doc>

3.2 Historical Reports 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 – Completed; not documented.
- BBL Reconciliation – Completed; documented.
- BBS Reconciliation – Completed; documented.
- N.A. BPP Reconciliation – Completed; not documented
- PWRC Nest Cards – Completed; not documented
- Royal Navy Bird Watching Society Canvass – Completed; documented. **MB article in press.**
- Christmas Bird Count Canvass – Completed; not documented
- May Count Canvass – Completed; not documented
- PWRC/CS Robbins Archives – Data pulled; not integrated yet, not documented
- Lighthouse Survey Records – Completed; not documented
- USNM Specimens – In progress; not documented
- DC Records Committee files – Revisit; not documented

- MD/DC Baseline Survey (S&R 1958) – Completed; not documented
- Ornithological Collections Database Survey – In progress; not documented
- Cylburn Journals Canvass – Completed; 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 – Completed; not documented
- Maryland Birdlife “The Season” Report Database Reconciliation – In progress; not documented
- Exotics/Introduced Canvass (MB/eBird) – Completed; not documented
- Smithsonian (Birds Division and Archives Unit) References Canvass – In progress
- General Ornithology Canvass – In progress

4. MD/DCRC Outputs

Since three members of the committee turnover each year, the following list of committee output products and planned output projects is presented as an opportunity for questions or comments by the members:

4.1 Committee Decision Reports

4.1.1 *Maryland Birdlife Decision Report*

Years ago, the MD/DCRC published two formal decision reports in *Maryland Birdlife*; however, this series of reports stalled due to lack of volunteers. Instead, the Secretary now publishes decision summaries, without editorial comment, in the MOS newsletter, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. The strategy to overcome this deficiency is the next item, below.

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

This committee output is envisioned as a future publication that captures the complete results of the committee’s decisions, since inception.

4.2 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. **CONTINUING/OPEN**.

4.3 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 many committee reports and in the RBMDC species accounts. This project is in-work. **OPEN**.

4.4 MD/DCRC Web Page

4.4.1 *MOS MD/DCRC Web Page Redesign*

At the 2016 MD/DC Records Committee Annual Meeting, the Secretary took an action item to survey current best practices from other records committees regarding (1) committee web site appearances and functions, (2) sighting reporting forms and (3) user database access. In response to the action item, the MD/DCRC Secretary visited each United States records committee web page and captured screen images of (1) the home page, (2) available reporting forms, and (3) any database search pages or forms. These screen captures were compiled into a large (155 page) Word document, which was then saved as a PDF. A state index was added to the front of the document for ease of reference. This document is basically raw data and is

provided without comment. The Secretary has quickly reviewed this information to identify what are current best practices. The Secretary plans to summarize these findings. **OPEN.**

MOS Web Page Redesign Discussions

In the meantime, this web site best practice information might provide some benefit to the MOS Web Page Redesign Team and to other records committees, therefore, the screen captures are contained in the PDF document posted at the link below ...

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/2017/02/06/records-committees-web-sites-best-practices-survey/>

The following information, dealing with the MD/DCRC web page, is from the Redesign Team, led by past MOS President, Tom Strikwerda:

Tom:

We're starting to update the MOS website. The developer is having us review each page and decide whether it's what we want or if it needs modification. For the Records Committee, I suspect the latter. We could leave all the text and links as is or perhaps break it in to submenus. Since this won't appeal to the casual birder I don't know if we need to make wholesale changes to pretty it up. Perhaps add some photos, diagrams, etc. to add interest. In any case, once its set up with WordPress you'll probably be the one to update it rather than the webmaster. Please give it some thought and get back to me. If you have pics, charts, maps etc. that relate to records, please pass along (we have lots of pretty birds already). Developer hopes to complete main work in about a month (!!). I think you're gearing up for Records Committee meeting so you're busy I'm sure! Sorry for the bad timing if that's the case.

Tom:

Quite a trove of information here.

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/2017/02/06/records-committees-web-sites-best-practices-survey/>

Thanks. I encountered some of these pages during our review of sites. I'm thinking that the Records page would have a few menus and pictures to make it attractive and easy to navigate. We can pull ideas from some of the better ones. Developer will be looking for ideas, so I can kick that off, but will get you guys involved as soon as possible.

Will the committee want to set up login for committee members? Not sure how we'll handle that in the new design - might be out of scope for first round since we didn't explicitly ask for that (general membership login - yes; committees, not explicitly); we can add it to wish list. I'll inquire when I talk to the developer tomorrow how that might work.

Are you OK with the form submission as it stands? We'll want to move that over to new site.

Phil:

Some of the questions will have to wait until the annual meeting, or after. I'm a bit tight for time right now.

Right now, I don't see need for a separate log-in for the committee members, based on the current web page functionality. If we change functionality, that might change too, but we are not there, yet.

Re the reporting form, the current web form is based on an earlier version of our PDF/Word document. When we updated our PDF/Word form a few years ago, the MOS webmaster

wasn't able to easily make the changes in the web form, so we deferred it for the big update. So, please have the developer create the new web form based on our either the PDF/Word documents that are currently on the web page. The PDF/Word versions are the same. The changes from the old version are few and subtle, but we would like to get them in.

Also, the current web form does not automatically echo the completed form back to the observer. We would like to get that fixed.

4.4.2 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/>

4.5 Outreach

4.5.1 MD/DCRC Presentations

There are two MD/DCRC-related presentations available for local chapters and clubs:

Behind the Scenes of the MD/DC Records Committee. Last year (2017), the Secretary gave the presentation, "Behind the Scenes of the MD/DC Records Committee" to the Montgomery and Kent Chapters. The synopsis of the presentation is ...

Phil Davis has been the Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee for over 20 years. In this presentation, he first addresses some obligatory "dull" records committee topics, including the history, role, and functions of the committee. Next, he segues into describing the committee's "historical canvass" and shares intriguing images of and anecdotes about some of our region's more unusual and interesting records. Finally, in a masterful crescendo, he divulges some behind the scenes "dirty little secrets" through some tales of MD and DC's little-known vintage records that will eventually comprise the committee's future publication, *The History of the Rare Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*.

Maryland's Next Species. The Secretary also has a MD/DCRC presentation entitled, "Maryland's Next Species." The synopsis of this presentation is ...

Periodically, the editors of the *Maryland Yellowthroat* poll Maryland birders to determine which species they predict will be the next to be observed in our state. This presentation provides an update to the latest survey, indicating which species have since been recorded in the state, which ones are currently under review by the MD/DC Records Committee, and which ones are still predicted. For the still-predicted species, field identification is discussed, including key field marks with emphasis on how to separate similar species. This multi-media presentation includes both images and vocalizations. Tips on where and when to look are also covered.

4.5.2 MD/DCRC Field Excellence 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 to document the status and history of MD/DC birding. The permanent name of this award will be taken from the first recipient. The Secretary has, after considerable unwarranted delays, reinitiated the efforts to go forward with this award. A detailed article about the first recipient will be published in the next issue of

Maryland Birdlife. The physical award has been coordinated with the MOS Executive Committee and the Awards Committee Chair. All activities are in motion and this action will be closed before next year's annual meeting. **OPEN**.

4.6 Historical Checklist Project

The following projects are personal pet projects of the committee Secretary. They are related to work of the MD/DCRC but are more historical in nature. The Secretary plans to continue work on these projects as time allows.

4.6.1 Historical Bibliography

A master bibliography has been compiled of historical checklists that encompass Maryland and/or DC. The plan is that these checklists eventually be posted to the web as PDF documents. Some are already available online. **OPEN**.

4.6.2 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**.

4.7 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 Status of the Trumpeter Swan in Maryland (and the Accokeek Trumpeter Swan Tibia Bone)
- Unpublished USNM Regional Rarities
- MD/DC Ornithological Pioneer Bios (a concept championed 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
- A Summary the DC Records Committee Activities
- A History of the MD/DC Records Committee
- 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

A minor update was made to the MD/DCRC Goals, Policies, and Procedures document to change references from the AOU to the AOS. **CLOSED**.

5.2 Exotics/Introduced/Questionable Species Review Policy

All eBird exotic reports have been captured in the MD/DCRC database. A white paper dealing with records committee best practices related to exotic species is in work by the Secretary. Progress was made prior to this year's Annual Meeting; however, the task was not completed due to other priorities. Deferred, one more year (!). [Still] **OPEN**.

However, one “best practice” that was identified from surveying other records committee (e.g., FOSRC) is the concept of an Exotic Species “Log.” This concept provides a mechanism to request and capture documentation on exotic species without having to subject them to the formal committee review process. Expect the Secretary to propose this idea next year with the completion of the “exotics white paper.” **OPEN.**

5.3 Pelagic Boundaries

The next phase of research, due to our recent change of Maryland's pelagic boundaries, focuses on MD records from Wilmington Canyon. At the 2016 Annual Meeting, Matt Hafner reported the following:

For historical pelagic records, most rarities were reported according to 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.

In 2014, Matt compiled a list of records of interest and during that year's annual meeting, some records were voted to be "grandfathered" in by their acceptance through VARCOM. However, the committee subsequently decided against grandfathering and instead, have the MD/DCRC re-review the reports against current review standards. Hafner will contact VARCOM to obtain the relevant information so these records can be reviewed by the MD/DCRC. This action remains **OPEN.**

In preparation of the Rowlett award article for *Maryland Birdlife*, the Secretary has compiled all of Rowlett's early records. A canvass will be made of the final article copy to identify all early, reviewable Rowlett records (MD and VA) and ensure that they are captured in the committee database. **OPEN.**

5.4 Review of DC Records Committee Records

At the 2017 annual meeting, the Secretary raised a question about the committee's earlier decision to grandfather-in the accepted records of the defunct DC Records Committee (DCRC), similar to the related question regarding 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. Hugh has rotated off the committee and this action was not completed. This action may be resurrected in the future. **OPEN.**

5.5 Garrett Arctic Terns [2013-030]

At the 2017 annual meeting, the committee discussed how to handle this report of a large flock of mix terns for the next round. **Action:** Matt Hafner will try to get better photos from Mikey Lutmerding, who also has some notes. Mikey has indicated that he has photos to provide and will do so. The committee will continue to hold this action open for an update. **OPEN.**

5.6 eBird Impact on Records Committee Documentation

Monthly Reviewable Alerts. In addition to the recent Documentation and Communications White Paper and related changes to committee procedures, discussed above, the Secretary suggested again that eBird data could drastically help with the records committee 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 the 2017 annual meeting. The Secretary would like to pursue this again during the coming year.] **OPEN**.

5.7 Previous Skins Workshops

2016 Skins Workshop. Skins studied at the 2016 Skins Workshop 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)

No action has yet been taken to produce a set of minutes from this workshop. **OPEN**.

2017 Skins Workshop. Skins studied at the 2017 Skins Workshop included the following:

- **Cape Verde Shearwater.** In preparation for a record reopening, former committee member George Jett studied Cape Verde, Scopoli's and Cory's Shearwater skins.
- **Black-throated Gray Warbler subspecies.** Phil and Kathy studied the two subspecies of Black-throated Gray Warbler.
- **The Petrels:** Kathy studied Zino's/Fea's and Trindade Petrels, as well as Band-rumped and White-faced Storm-Petrels.
- **The Murres:** Kathy studied Thick-billed and Common Murres.
- **Accipiters:** Kathy studied Northern Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk
- **Empids:** Sean studied Willow Flycatcher ssp. including Western, also a few other fall empids: Least, Yellow-bellied, and Acadian.
- **Blackbirds:** Sean studied female Brewer's Blackbirds and other blackbirds.
- **Curlew Sandpiper/Dunlin:** Sean studied these in both summer and winter plumages
- **Gulls:** Sean studied Iceland Gulls, especially in where they were collected. Are there dark-winged birds that were collected from Greenland or Iceland? Are there pale birds that were collected in British Columbia or Alaska?
- **Teal:** Barry compared eclipse/female/first winter Garganey with similar age Blue-winged Teal. Garganey have been recorded in several east coast States from Virginia north to the Canadian provinces. Barry Cooper provided a written account on his study of the Garganey/Blue-winged Teal.

No action has yet been taken to produce a set of minutes from this workshop. **OPEN**.

5.9 Recent Review Policy Changes

5.9.1 Fourth-Round Review Process

A revised fourth-round procedure was discussed briefly at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The committee agreed to wait for the next fourth-round candidate to formally test this process, below, in real-time. However, no fourth rounds recirculations have happened since our 2015 meeting. This item remains **OPEN**.

5.9.2 Resolving Group and Origin Votes

The Secretary also suggested that this same "real-time" process could be used for recirculation cases to resolve split Accept-Group and Accept-Origin votes. Likewise, we can look at first

implementing this process when the next split Group or Origin situation arises. However, no group or origin recirculations have happened since our 2015 meeting. This item remains **OPEN**.

5.10 2015 Franklin's Gulls

Matt Hafner consolidated the 2015 invasion reports and presented options at the 2015 meeting of how to handle them. The committee decided on Option 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)"). 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. This item remains **OPEN**.

5.11 Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns

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

5.11.1 Problem Taxa - Species

Thayer's Gull - Last year, the committee decided to go forward and review the "ready" DC Thayer's Gull reports and two of these reports were accepted. This taxon has now been added to the Official List of the Birds of the District of Columbia. However, the AOS lumped Thayer's Gull with Iceland Gull in last year's 2017 58th Supplement. **CLOSED**.

Hoary Redpolls – The AOS did not lumped Hoary Redpoll with Common in the 2017 58th Supplement. Therefore, this taxon (Hoary Redpoll) remains a reviewable taxon and the committee will plan to (eventually) review reports in the committee's ready queue. **OPEN**.

5.11.2 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 has repeatedly contacted him – **No Response!** **OPEN**.

Zino's/Fea's Petrel [MD/2013-042] - The Secretary has contacted Tom Johnson. He has now given us everything he has on this observation and it is ready for a review. **CLOSED**.

Trindade [formerly Herald] Petrels [8 reports - 2013] - The Secretary has contacted Tom Johnson. He has now given us additional photos, so we now have everything he has on these observations and they are ready for a review. **CLOSED**.

Eurasian Collared Dove [MD/2012-090; 09/18/2012] - Still awaiting photos from Mark Hoffman but no response has been forthcoming. **OPEN**.

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

MD/ 2006-265; Snowy-bellied Martin. Will anything be forthcoming on this one? Rum Pointe, Berlin, Worcester; 10/29/2006. **Matt? OPEN**,

Mottled Duck. New, recent report was received from a hunter. **Matt? OPEN**.

5.12 Previous Record Re-Openings

5.12.1 2006 Cape Verde Shearwater

The original 2006 (MD/2006-264) report was reopened (as MD/2017-035), reviewed, and not accepted. The following information was distributed via email to the local birding community:

Date: Thu, 08 Feb 2018
MD/DC Birders:

Since the last MDBirding update was posted, the following species were added to the MD list: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*, Masked Booby, Crested Caracara, and Shiny Cowbird. **However, the 2006 MD Cape Verde Shearwater* was reopened and re-reviewed and the result was that it was Not Accepted, removing it from the Official MD list.** These net changes raise the total number of accepted MD species to 452.

*Notes:

Cape Verde Shearwater: Since this was the second North American report for this species, the committee decisions have wide interest. For those who would like to learn more about these decisions and the decision process, the following links may be of interest:

Re-opened Not Accepted Decision. This link provides the rationale for the recent Not Accepted decision:

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/2018/02/08/reopened-maryland-2006-cape-verde-shearwater-not-accepted-decision/>

Re-opening Rationale: This link provides earlier background information and additional details on the motion to reopen the original record:

<https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/2016/02/09/potential-reopening-of-marylands-cape-verde-shearwater/>

5.12.2 Slaty-Backed Gull

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, Matt Hafner expressed a desire for the committee to post on the web the reports and discussions related to the 1999 Conowingo Slaty-backed Gull [MD/1999-052] for the committee members (and others) to review. Reasons for this action are that (1) this is basically 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 documentation is available to the public and is located here ...

<https://mddcrcblog.wordpress.com/2018/01/30/1999-conowingo-dam-md-slaty-backed-gull-documentation/>

Our Chair, will send appropriate messages to invite comments from outside reviewer from venues such as birdwg01, the Facebook Gull Identification page, etc. **OPEN.**

5.13 Unusual Subspecies/Forms Reviews

5.13.1 General

At the 2016 annual meeting, Matt Hafner volunteered to review and suggest updates to the Maryland Unusual Subspecies/Forms Review List:

5.13.2 Greater White-fronted Goose Subspecies Review Status.

Background:

2009: In 2009 the first MD/DCRC "Western" Greater White-fronted Goose was accepted for MD:

Record information:

MD RECORDS ACCEPTED-FORM:

"Western" White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons frontalis/gambel* [MD/2001-039]
Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County
13-Nov-2000 through 28-Nov-2000

2009: Greater White-fronted Geese discussion from the 2009 MD/DCRC Annual Meeting:

Regarding the Solomons' bird, two photos of same bird showed the bill as pink in one photo and orange in the other. The committee consensus is that bill color is unreliable unless the legs are showing for a direct color comparison. Also, the European subspecies probably have not been given enough review consideration (for example, considering the tail tip pattern). Any new reports will probably be put on hold. No decision was made to reopen any of the previous decisions at this time.

2010: Greater White-fronted Geese discussions from the 2010 MD/DCRC Annual Meeting:

The committee decided to hold off on reviewing "western" or "non-*flavirostris*" Greater White-fronted Geese until more reference material is published on this topic.

2017: Greater White-fronted Geese discussions from the 2017 MD/DCRC Annual Meeting:

Matt will coordinate with Clive and consider the Greater White-fronted Goose issue, as well as other subspecies review list updates.

2018: Greater White-fronted Geese discussions from this year's 2018 MD/DCRC Annual Meeting:

Tim: Western GWFG is being reported on dozens of [eBird] checklists. I am leaving all of them unconfirmed since this is a review taxon. Should I validate them anyway in eBird, just to get them out there? From what I understand of this "subspecies," the Centennial bird and the Cumberland birds are a match.

Tyler Bell [former MD/DCRC member and current eBird Team reviewer]: One thing about eBird review is that you can resurrect anything at any time. So, if it's easiest for us to just invalidate all of the ones that are questionable and wait for word from the Annual Meeting, that might be the easiest route for now. Seems like the Centennial and Cumberland birds are a better fit for the Western subspecies than a lot of the other submissions. I wish people would use the species when there's doubt and not try and pin a subspecies on them.

Matt: I agree we need to talk about them at the meeting. Based on Clive's local analysis (and speculation from Sibley years ago), I believe dropping the subspecies from the review list is the correct determination. We should focus on

the subspecies that have better defined identification points and distribution status (of course, juncos....).

As to these particular birds, anytime there is a large (greater than a family group) flock of GWFG, the Western ssp. are probably the default. The Centennial and Cumberland birds seem to fit Western as well. I would not be surprised if the increase in Western Shore Ross's is related to an increase in Western GWFG.

Since we can resurrect and change eBird records easily, we can accept [eBird "confirm"] the ones that seem to fit current criteria for identification and change them if we need to.

Consensus:

It has been 5-6 years since the committee looked critically at the criteria for separating Greenland from western Greater White-fronted Geese. Now, we seem to be seeing more geese from the Western Great Plains than before, to wit, the increase in Ross's Geese seen with Greater White-fronted Geese, especially in western Maryland. Years ago, we could probably take it that Greater White-fronted Geese on the Maryland Eastern Shore were from Greenland, maybe, but now, who knows?

Our position is that we will formalize our current information position to not review Greater White-fronted Geese subspecies since subspecies review criteria are not firm. This species is a large and easily photographed bird, so eBird checklist reports with photos can always be resurrected in the future, if the knowledge base changes.

5.14 Maryland Regional or "Range" Review Categories

At the 2016 annual meeting, Matt Hafner suggested that the Maryland Review List could use an overhaul of its "Review by Range" criteria. He volunteered to look at this for this year's Annual Meeting:

Discussion:

Some states do not conduct regional reviews; for example, California, Texas, and Alaska. The pros and cons of regional reviews were discussed, and the committee decided that it should continue with Regional Reviews.

The committee also decided that the current range review categories are good and don't need to be changed.

Matt also proposed specific changes to the current "range" review categories. These proposals are discussed in Section 7.3, below.

5.15 Review List Format

Matt brought up the topic of the format of the MD/DCRC Review List. He noted that while our Maryland Review List was formatted to present the all the required review category species and definitions and yet keep the number of sheets of paper to a minimum (two pages that fit one sheet, front and back), including a map of the state showing the related biogeographic provinces.

However, this is now the age of smart phones, so hardcopy-formatted PDF documents are no longer the most useful. The committee concurred that we should look at migrating to a more modern format, suitable for iPhone and field reference. One suggestion was to have two versions of the review list, one keeping the current hardcopy format and another, suitable for iPhone. The Secretary, as an "old" computer-type, sagaciously (!) reminded everyone of the old Confucius saying, "Man with two watches never know what time it is!" (Did they have watches back in Confucius's time?)

The Secretary agreed to research new formats and share examples the members. The VARCOM (VA) one- or two-column html list was suggested as a possible model. **OPEN.**

6. New Business

6.1 Revised Voting Process Diagram

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the Secretary asked members to look at a voting process mindmap he provided for possible inclusion into the committee's Goals and Procedures document. Matt provided the following comments prior to last year's meeting:

Overall, I think this process is how I approach most records. I actually like the term "Origin" for our purposes and perhaps have a minor quibble with the definition of "Exotic" in this context. I wish I could discuss this more at the meeting, but here is my basic break down of votes:

Accepted - probable natural vagrant or probable vagrant from an established population

Questionable Origin - both natural vagrancy and exotic origin are plausible, difficult to decide if one is more likely than the other

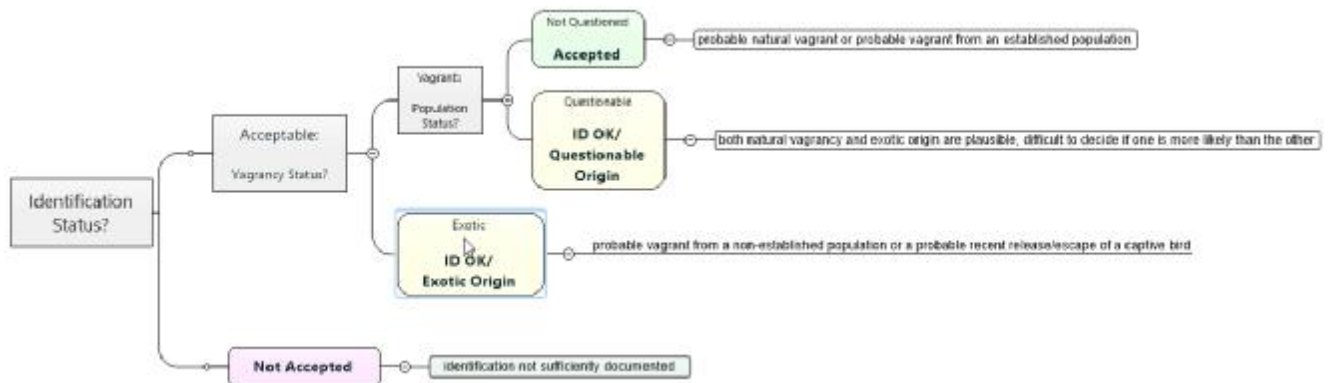
Exotic Origin - probable vagrant from a non-established population or a probable recent release/escape of a captive bird.

Not Accepted - identification not sufficiently documented

The exotic definition on the mindmap can apply to established non-natives as well as recent escapees. I think in terms of voting, our definition of "exotic" should be limited to escapees and non-established populations.

I think with some more member input, this could be handy for new members.

The following version of the diagram, produced post-Annual Meeting, incorporates Matt's suggestions and text deletions are shown in red:



Definitions:

Vagrant. Vagrancy is a phenomenon in biology whereby individual animals appear well outside their normal range; individual animals which exhibit vagrancy are known as vagrants. The term accidental is sometimes also used. There are a number of factors which might cause an individual to become a vagrant — genetic factors and weather conditions are two — but the causes are overall poorly understood. Vagrancy can be a precursor to colonization if individuals survive.

Exotic. An exotic species is a species that historically lives in one place, but that has been moved to a new geographic location due to human interference. There are other terms for an "exotic" species including non-native, non-indigenous and alien species.

Population. A population is a group of individuals of the same species that have a high probability of interacting with each other.

Established. Having existed for a long time, and therefore recognized as good or successful.

Introduced, not indigenous, not native to the area in which it now occurs.

Reintroduced. ~~Reintroduction is the deliberate release of a species from captivity or other areas where the animal survives. A species that needs reintroduction is usually one whose existence has become threatened or endangered in the wild.~~

Probable. To say that something is probable means that it is very likely to be the case, that it has a high degree of probability. To refer to something as proven implies that a claim is definitely true, though given the ever present possibilities of faulty observation (even systematic faulty observation), partial understanding or misunderstanding of empirical materials, nothing (at least outside the abstract realm of pure logic and mathematics) is ever demonstrated to be completely and irrevocably true. Instead, to say something is proven is really to say that it has such a high degree of probability of truth that we can pragmatically assume it to be true through ideally keeping an open mind towards potential counter-evidence.

Possible. ~~Saying that something is possible simply means that it does not violate the basic laws of logic in the realm of empirical scholarship; one could also add that it does not violate basic physical laws, that something is both logically and physically possible.~~

Plausible. To say that something is plausible is to indicate that it has a higher probability than the merely possible — it is believable, it makes sense. But claims that are merely plausible (that is, that are not as probable) lack the evidence to be taken as having a high degree of probability of truth.

At next year's Annual Meeting (2019), we will consider this version for adoption and inclusion into the committee's Goals and Procedures document.

6.2 eBird Data

The Secretary attempted to export a set of data for Tim to use for eBird checklists. There was a problem with comment fields and quotes that created data alignment issues. This will take a bit more coordination and/or work to resolve. The Secretary will continue to work with Tim to provide a useable set of records. **OPEN.**

6.3 DC Bicknell's Thrush

In reviewing Bruce Beehler's forthcoming book material, it became apparent that we have an issue with our DC Official List. In 1998, when the AOU split Bicknell's Thrush from Gray-cheeked, the committee accepted Bicknell's for MD by a fiat committee vote, based on comments that there were specimens. However, in the process, we overlooked DC and Bicknell's was never added to the DC list.

There are extant DC Bicknell's specimens at the Smithsonian that the committee can study at our upcoming Skins Workshop and then, later, review them with the intent of adding the species to the DC list.

The Smithsonian task will be to photograph the specimens, take measurements, and perhaps comment on key specimen characteristics (lower mandible color, etc.) and write all of this up.

The Secretary proposes, that while we are at it, we also do the same for the historical MD specimens to establish the first accepted record of Bicknell's for Maryland (there aren't that many of either from DC or MD).

The Secretary has already wrangled together all of available Bicknell's Thrush ID and distribution references and it has been posted on our Google Drive.

New (returning) member, Dan Small, volunteered to take the lead on this task and create a paper for *Maryland Birdlife*.

6.4 Ringed-necked Pheasant Status in Maryland.

Matt has suggested that the committee review the status of this species with regard to whether we should change its status to "Extirpated" in Maryland (and DC?).

Pre-meeting Discussions:

Matt:

Nearly every time there's a pheasant (eBird) report, I get questions regarding countability of said pheasant. Now, I know the committee does not want to get into countability questions, but I do think we should evaluate the status of Ring-necked Pheasant in Maryland.

Many of the primary State-wide birders do not believe there are remnant populations of breeding, established pheasants anywhere in Maryland. The Cherry Hill/SWAP area of Southwest Baltimore may be the exception as there are still sightings and it is far from any realistic release area. Pennsylvania still releases thousands of pheasants in the counties bordering Maryland, which explains many of the sporadic sightings along the northern tier of counties and, of course, local releases. The recent spate of Baltimore sightings was due to a mass release of birds on a farm.

I wasn't sure if the records committee was the proper venue for this, but I did some research and found that VARCOM declared Ring-necked Pheasant extirpated from Virginia in 2005.

Thoughts?

Jim Nelson (Seneca CBC Compiler) to JB Churchill (Maryland CBC Editor):

I'm compiling the Seneca CBC and hoping to begin data entry later this week.

I have a question for you [JB Churchill].

Two very reliable and experienced observers in my sector of the Seneca CBC heard, but did not see, a Ring-necked Pheasant. This was in Montgomery County in the Agricultural Reserve south of Poolesville. Ring-necked Pheasant has not been reported on the Seneca CBC since 2004 according to the spreadsheet I inherited from my predecessor. Further, checking eBird for the last ten years, the only recent records of a Pheasant in Montgomery County are two reports of a single bird in April and June 2016 in the Hughes Hollow area and numerous reports of a single bird from January to May of 2017, also in the Hughes Hollow area (with one outlier report a bit farther downstream at Riley's Lock on the C&O Canal).

Folks train "versatile" hunting dogs in the Hughes Hollow/Mckee-Beshars Wildlife Management Area, and they often release captive Mallards or exotic game birds (like Chukar) in connection with that training. Some remain in the area and are seen by birders for a while before a predator gets them. I'm not aware of anyone releasing Pheasant for this purpose, but they could do that. There also may be Pheasant in private collections in this area that could escape. The bird heard on the CBC was north of Hughes Hollow, so it might or might not be the same bird that was reported earlier in 2017. That bird was definitely in the area where dog training takes place. The two 2016 reports are also at or near that location. Given the dearth of recent records in eBird other than the single birds in 2016 and early 2017, and the heavy coverage of this area by local birders, I strongly doubt the CBC bird is "wild." In Montgomery County, the only other recent report in eBird is a single bird north of Laytonsville in May 2016, and there is a report of one in PG County near Beltsville in January 2017. Both of these are a long way from our bird.

I can't rule out wild origins totally, so my question is whether to include this bird in our tally. I couldn't find any relevant guidance on the Audubon CBC website about "exotics" or birds that aren't established. The Pheasant might or might not be considered an "unusual species" since it had been reported pretty consistently on the Seneca CBC until 2004. It does not appear on the default eBird checklist for Montgomery County, so someone reporting it for eBird has to "add species" and then document it as was done with the sightings I described above in 2016 and 2017.

JB Churchill:

Regarding Ring-necked Pheasants ... I heard back today (from Audubon) on this. Geoff LeBaron (Audubon) says "YES" we definitely include it and the number counted count towards the total number of birds but whether it counts in the "total species" count or not depends on the State Records Committee's determination as to whether they are exotic or established. Ring Necked Pheasant occurs on the State list (not under exotics) but in the regular list. I'm copying Phil Davis (Secretary) & Matt Hafner (Chair) in case they have anything to add about this, but I suppose it should count as a species since it is on the state list. That bothers me a little since a statewide acceptance doesn't necessarily mean a given group of birds weren't just released for hunting. It sounds like that is the way Audubon wants to treat it though so perhaps "thems the rules". The point about counting exotics to track numbers is a good one!

Here is what Geoff LeBaron wrote to me when I forwarded your e-mail to him.

Exotic species should certainly be included, and their numbers go toward the number of individual birds counted, but they only count toward the species total if the state records committee considers them as established exotics and "countable."

It is important to keep track of exotics on CBCs as the results can help determine when species do actually become established.

Matt:

Funny that you write about this JB since I just asked Phil last week to add Ring-necked Pheasant to the meeting agenda next month. The point being to discuss whether or not Ring-necked Pheasant still exists in Maryland as an established exotic. As Jim Nelson notes, they were regular on the CBC until 2004 and this jives with my anecdotal evidence of pheasants around the state. However, I highly question the "established" credentials of any recent pheasant report, nearly anywhere in the State.

As JB mentions, just because the State and records committee have Ring-necked Pheasant currently on the checklist as an established exotic, does not necessarily make that particular bird part of an established population. In this instance, I would default to the local expertise and if Jim (and others) doesn't believe they are "wild" than you should treat them the same as you would a Chukar.

Matt Hafner to "Records Committee Members and Statewide Birders!"

I'd like to have a discussion about Ring-necked Pheasants in Maryland at the records committee meeting next month, the exact direction and scope will be determined after I gather some more information, but right now I'm looking for some insight and opinions.

The main question I'm asking is "Are there still established populations of Ring-necked Pheasants in Maryland?" If so, where are they? Are they self-sustaining?

My personal observation is that there may still be a few birds in southwest Baltimore, between Cherry Hill Park and Southwest Area Park, and perhaps some refugees from PA releases may be surviving along the border. However, given the severe declines that we have seen in this species, I doubt these would be considered self-sustaining. I emailed Bob Long, Upland Game Bird Project Manager at DNR, and he concurred with my assessment and said he was not aware of anywhere in MD with a significant number of "wild" pheasants. I have searched on some hunting forums and found the opinion to be, if you want to hunt pheasant, you have to release them.

So, does anyone feel that there are still established populations of pheasants in the area?

Jim Stasz:

Nope. But it makes no difference for eBird. They get counted. I haven't seen a juvenile Pheasant in 15 years.

Sean McCandless:

Nope. I'm with Jim. None in Cecil. It's been 2 decades since I have observed young birds which was in Fair Hill.

Jim Brighton:

Contacts from lower Dorchester County mentioned a couple years ago that they have become super scarce and they might see one or two a year.

Bob Ringler:

Matt, Negative. The last time I saw a young pheasant was in 1991 at Piney Run Park. Occasionally I still see or hear a bird in Carroll County but there is no evidence of any breeding.

Marcia Balestri:

The last young ones I saw in Frederick were on Harbaugh Valley Road in 2004. The last adult was in 2010 at Lilypons.

References

The Secretary pulled the following references from historical Maryland annotated checklists:

Species Account from Kirkwood (1895):

Phasianus colchicus. European Pheasant.

Col. W. F. Mason McCarty tells me that some years ago a number were liberated on the grounds of the Woodmount Gunning Club in Washington County. They are now fairly numerous, and this colony may be considered as established. Occasionally birds wander off and have been shot quite a distance away from the preserve.

Species Account from Stewart and Robbins (1958):

RING-NECKED PHEASANT *Phartanus colchicus* Linnaeus

Introductions of this species have been made on numerous occasions, at many locations in Maryland. However, the Ring-necked Pheasant has been unable to maintain itself in numbers except locally in the Piedmont, Ridge and Valley, and Allegheny Mountain sections. This species may be found most commonly near the Pennsylvania boundary in Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties.

Haven Kolb reports that this species was first noted at Loch Raven in Baltimore County about 1939, and that territories of several crowing males have been maintained there since the spring of 1951.

2018 Annual Meeting Discussions:

The 2nd Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia (Ellison 2010) provides the following information on Ring-necked Pheasant:

"It is hard to tell if any truly self-sustaining population exists in Maryland. ... During the 1983-1987 Maryland atlas, the species was found in 417 blocks; however, during the 2002-2006 atlas, the species was found in only 101 blocks; a net change of -76%, "the largest loss for a widespread bird between the two statewide atlas projects." Ellison states, "They were reported from only 11% of blocks in the Ridge and Valley and 18% of blocks on the Piedmont. They were still found in 10 Dorchester County blocks; the clustering of blocks suggests local stocking. Most of the blocks with reports in Central Maryland are along the Pennsylvania line. Ring-necked Pheasants are still being stocked by the Pennsylvania Game

Commission. ... The future of Ring-necked Pheasant is uncertain at best, although sportsmen will probably continue to stock them for hunting on larger properties."

The committee agreed to change the status of Ring-necked Pheasant on the Official List of the Birds of Maryland to "Extirpated Exotic" (Xx) since there are no longer any known breeding populations in Maryland. **CLOSED.**

6.5 Whooping Crane Status in Maryland.

The Secretary has been working closely with Bruce Beehler, reviewing drafts of material for his new book on the Birds of MD/DE/DC. He has identified historical information on the status of this species in MD. Currently, this species was not addressed in Stewart and Robbins (1958) is not on our MD Official List. I will provide the historical information and we can consider whether we think the species should be added to the MD list as an extirpated species, similar to what the committee did for the Trumpeter Swan (before they started showing up from the ne reintroduction programs).

Pre-meeting Discussions

The discussion that initiated this topic follows:

Phil (After reviewing Bruce's Book):

Whooping Crane: I have no Whooping Crane reports in my database. What's your source?

Bruce:

I point you to the account on p. 208 of Birds of Delaware as well as the account in Greenway's Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World (1967). The former mentions MD and the Chesapeake specifically, whereas the latter shows a map indicating subfossil records from NJ.

Phil:

Interesting ... Our committee starting point is, of course, S&R 1958. They did not include Whooping Crane in the MD baseline, in fact, they did not even mention the species. So, the species is not on the Official List of the Birds of MD.

I could see the committee pursuing this, similarly to how Harvey Mudd researched Trumpeter Swans and found accounts that generally, but unequivocally, placed them on the lower Potomac River (which all belongs to MD) in the 1700s. So, based on this research and his proposal, the committee added TRUS to the MD list as an extirpated species (this was before they starting showing up from the NE reintroduction programs ... !)

Many years ago, Mark Hoffman suggested that the MD/DCRC use "as of" or "from" dates on our official lists to establish some kind of cut-off process to differentiate fossil records from historical, documented records. So, our current cutoff dates are 1804 for MD and 1842 for DC, based on the earliest records for each jurisdiction. These dates are shown on our Official Lists cover sheets.

So, I think pursuing this issue has merit, but I don't know if anything can be done before our committee Annual Meeting on 24 Feb. My plate is too full right now. If you are interested and willing to prepare something for the committee meeting, we would be glad to consider it. I'm not sure that the species' status affects anything you would want to say in the book, since it sounds like you have a good story to tell. So, this may not be a timely issue. I know that you plate is full too, and this is something that we can always tackle later.

Bruce:

Just to clarify, I was NOT suggesting your committee take this up any time soon. Just talking about historical sources...

Phil:

Totally understand! You just happened to unwittingly identify a committee disconnect with WHCRs ... something we should fix! Your historical sources pointed that out to us!

Reference

Here is the reference that Bruce cited: The following is the species account by G.A. Inskip from *Birds of Delaware* (Hess et al. 2000: 208):

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

Gregory A. Inskip

Formerly present in the region, but no Delaware records.

REMARKS: The Whooping Crane wintered on the Atlantic coast within the historical period. Allen (1952, 2) mapped the distribution as consisting of 2 disjunct areas--coastal New Jersey north to the mouth of the Hudson River, and coastal South Carolina and Georgia. However, evidence is available indicating that the coastal distribution of this always scarce bird was more continuous. Allen (1952, 508) notes possible records from coastal North Carolina, and it apparently occurred in Virginia and Maryland as well. Captain John Smith explored Chesapeake Bay in 1606 and described its winter bird life as follows: "In Winter there are great plentie of Swans, Cranes, gray and white with blacke wings, Herons, Geese, Brants, Ducke, Wigeon, Dotterell, Oxeies, Parrats, and Pigeons" (Smith 1907 [1606], 1:57, emphasis added). The italicized passage indicates that Smith probably saw Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes, and Great Blue Herons, and that he did not mistake one species for another.

New Jersey records include "white and gray cranes" noted in Newark Bay in 1642 by David De Vries (Jameson 1909,221) and 3 Whooping Cranes seen by Turnbull (1869, 43) at Beesley's Point near Ocean City [NJ]. Perhaps more significant for Delaware is Wilson's observation (Wilson and Bonaparte 1859-60, 1:312; Stone 1937) that "A few [Whooping Cranes] sometimes make their appearance in the marshes of Cape May in December, particularly on and near Egg Island." Birds arriving at Cape May in the fall often proceed across the Bay to Delaware.

Conclusion:

The committee considered the information presented and concurred that there is no definitive case for adding Whooping Crane to the Maryland Official List as an extirpated species. **CLOSED.**

6.6 Prairie Falcon

The MD/DCRC is still awaiting the conclusion of the VARCOM (Virginia) review, before moving forward with our DC review. **OPEN.**

7. Standing Agenda Items

7.1 Fourth Rounds

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

7.2 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. One new report/record was proposed for reopening.

Tropical Kingbird MD/2016-039 Baltimore/North Point.

This report was originally submitted as a Tropical Kingbird with one photo. In Pkg 167, the committee accepted it as a "group" Tropical/Couch's Kingbird. After the Secretary

notified the observer of the decision, he informed the committee that he had other photos of the bird, which he provided. The Chair and Secretary agreed that we would provide the additional photos to the committee members and determine if there is a consensus to reopen the record, to refine the decision to the species level. The Secretary followed-up with a separate message and provided the original documentation and copies of the additional photos. The only question the committee needed to address at the meeting, is due the new photos, does this record warrant a new review? (The committee does not need to make any identification decision at the meeting.)

At the meeting, Keith advised the committee that other photos of this bird were taken by another observer, Brian Harris, and they are available on Flickr.

The committee thought that the new photos probably still did not allow resolution of the identification to the species level; despite the apparent large bill, an open wing or vocalization was still probably needed, and questions exist regarding age and feather wear. Perhaps a study at the upcoming committee Skins Workshop would be appropriate?

The committee decided to circulate all the photos for expert opinions, for example, to the National Bird ID group, and/or Birdwg01. The Secretary will post the documentation and the Chair will send the request for opinions message. **OPEN.**

7.3 Review List Changes

7.3.1 Review List Proposed Changes

The following changes were proposed by Matt and implemented by the committee:

Maryland			
Change	Species	Reviewable	Rationale
Move to 4A from 4B:	•Piping Plover •Pomarine Jaeger •Parasitic Jaeger	Reviewable if seen in locations other than over the ocean, coastal Worcester County, in major Chesapeake Bay tributaries, or along the Potomac River south of Prince George's County.	These species are all quite rare in the Chesapeake Bay and not seen every year.
	•Common Eider		Common Eider has been seen with some regularity at Point Lookout, but not as often as King Eider and there are very few other records in the Bay
Move to 4C from 4D:	•Whimbrel •Hudsonian Godwit •Marbled Godwit	Reviewable if seen west of the Coastal Plain, except along the Susquehanna River.	These species are all very rare on the Piedmont with less than 10 combined records for all three species.
Add (new) to 4C:	•Long-billed Dowitcher •Red Knot •Painted Bunting		These species were not previously on the regional review list, but a review of the records shows them to be extremely rare away from the coastal plain
Add (new) to 4D:	•Brant •King Rail •Summer Tanager	Reviewable if seen west of the Washington/Frederick county line.	These species were not previously on the regional review list, but a review of the records shows them to be extremely rare in Western Maryland.

Add (new) to 4E:	•Black-capped Chickadee	Reviewable south of Cecil County on the Eastern Shore.	During the few invasions of the last 20 years, Black-capped Chickadee was rarely reported on the Eastern Shore, with a few records from Kent and Queen Anne's County. We would like to capture these records and any further south.
	•Common Raven	Reviewable south of Cecil County on the Eastern Shore.	As Common Ravens expand their way across Maryland, we would like to track their expansion onto the lowlands of the Eastern Shore.
	•Ruffed Grouse	Reviewable east of Washington County.	An oversight on previous regional review lists, Ruffed Grouse is also declining in the eastern portion of its Maryland range and may no longer occur in Frederick. The committee wishes to highlight this fact and encourage reports from Frederick County and eastward.
District of Columbia			
Change	Species	Reviewable	Rationale
Remove from DC Review List.	•Mississippi Kite	Remove from DC Review List.	We now have three accepted records and the species is not reviewable anywhere in MD and it probably (?) breeds only a few miles away from DC in northern VA.

7.3.2 Not Added to the Maryland Review List – Northern Bobwhite

Northern Bobwhite was discussed as a possible addition to the Maryland Review List as "Reviewable west of the Chesapeake Bay":

The Committee considered adding Northern Bobwhite to the regional review list away from the Eastern Shore but voted not to at this time. Still, the committee wants to highlight the precipitous decline of this species in Maryland. Less than 20 years ago, this species could be found at locations on the Piedmont. Less than ten years ago, there were still reliable places to hear them in Southern Maryland and they were still widespread on the Eastern Shore. Now, birders travel to specific spots on the Eastern Shore to hear Northern Bobwhite. Most records on the Western Shore are presumed to be released birds, but observers are encouraged to monitor suitable habitat for remnant wild populations.

7.3.3 Maryland Subspecies Review List.

Matt will review this list and propose changes for next year's annual meeting. **OPEN.**

7.4 Scopoli's Shearwater

Background. This taxon was first discussed at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Secretary reported that at that time this taxon is now being reported and generally "accepted" in Maryland waters by eBird and others, but generally not documented. The Secretary checked with regional states to see what their review policy is on Scopoli's Shearwaters and the results were shared with the committee members at last year's (2017) Annual Meeting.

Subsequently, the committee circulated and reviewed all detailed reports of Scopoli's Shearwater and has accepted several records in case the AOS does split this taxon from Cory's Shearwater.

This taxon is not currently on the Maryland Unusual Subspecies/Form Review List (<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/mdsubrev.pdf>) but will be added as a review subspecies. The committee suggests that Maryland waters pelagic organizers and trip leaders remind observers to specifically call out and photograph any putative Scopoli's Shearwaters.

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 include: None were proposed.

7.5 Circulation/Species Issues and Concerns

The following shows the status of reports awaiting recirculation: General discussion is encouraged regarding any of the following pending reports or groups of reports.

St	Rec#	Species	Start	Co	Location	Apkg	Vote1	Vote2	Vote3
MD	2009-003	Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)	01/03/2009	WORC	Berlin	130	7-2-0	6-3-0	
MD	2000-017	Chukar	03/24/2000	CECL	Port Deposit	082	0-2-7		
MD	2000-033	Ruff	07/28/1997	BALT	Paper Mill Flats	084	4-5-0		
MD	2015-055	Franklin's Gull	08/21/2015	BALT	Masonville	166	8-1-0		
DC	2009-022	Thayer's Gull	02/08/2009		Tidal Basin	165	2-7-0		
MD	2009-101	Arctic Tern	07/25/2009	WORC	Assateague Island	155	6-3-0	5-4-0	
MD	2010-149	Arctic Tern	08/22/2010	WORC	Skimmer Island	155	5-4-0	6-3-0	
MD	2013-030	Arctic Tern	05/11/2013	GRTT	Deep Creek Lake	155	3-6-0		
MD	2017-021	Brown Booby	04/29/2017	CLVT	Chesapeake Bay	170	7-2-0	6-3-0	
MD	1997-333	American White Pelican	07/11/1980	SMST	Crisfield	076	5-1-3	5-0-4	
DC	2017-053	Mississippi Kite	07/09/2017		Chain Bridge	172	6-3-0	5-4-0	
MD	2017-088	Gyr Falcon	12/13/2017	MCNT	Violetes Lock	172	5-4-0		
MD	2000-020	Western Wood-Pewee	10/05/1992	PGEO	Laurel	076	6-3-0		
MD	2017-085	Ash-throated Flycatcher	12/04/2017	PGEO	Colmar Manor	172	7-2-0		
MD	2017-069	Lark Bunting	09/25/2017	WASH	Hagerstown	172	2-7-0		
MD	2002-026	White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)	11/08/1944	PGEO	Patuxent Research Refuge	082	8-1-0		
MD	2000-061	White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)	11/11/2000	WORC	E.A. Vaughn WMA	080	8-1-0		
MD	2001-081	White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)	11/12/2001	MCNT	Black Hill Regional Park	079	8-1-0		
MD	1995-024	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	01/17/1971	BALT	Cockeysville	051	8-1-0		
MD	1994-006	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	03/28/1980	BALT	Baltimore City	051	3-6-0	0-9-0	

[AM 2017] Note on MD/1994-006: The second-round vote of 0-9-0 for this report should have resulted in a Not Accept decision; however, in the ballots comments there is a reference to extant photographs of the bird. The report was therefore administratively left "open" until a search for the photograph(s) could be completed. The Secretary will investigate. **[AM 2018 PCD:]** I pulled and reviewed the file. It looks like a dead-end on find any photo. I'll administratively fix this as a Not Accepted report. **CLOSED.**

8. Elections

8.1 New Members

Members completing their voting terms are Kathy Calvert, Tim Carney, and Matt Hafner. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years.

The new members elected for three-year terms were: Marcia Balestri (Worcester), Mike Hudson (Baltimore), and Dan Small (Kent).



MD/DCRC Members Rotating Off of Three-Year Terms (L-R): Tim Carney (Baltimore); Kathy Calvert (Frederick); Matt Hafner (Harford) – however, Matt will now serve as the non-voting Chair.

8.2 Chair

Matt Hafner was elected/re-elected as the Chair.

8.3 Secretary

Phil Davis was elected/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 10, 2018. The Chair will invite the new members. Logistic details were provided to both the old term and new term members.

Initial Study Requests. Members are asked for suggestions of skins to study. Initial requests were:

Bicknell's vs Gray-cheeked Thrush, including the historical DC and MD Bicknell's species. This will be the precursor to adding Bicknell's to the DC list.

Thick-billed vs. Common Murre

Accipiters (Cooper's Hawk vs. Northern Goshawk)

Empids (including Yellow-bellied Flycatchers)

Curlew Sandpiper (winter)

Garganey (immature/females)

Fox Sparrow subspecies
Sharp-tailed vs. Pectoral Sandpiper (winter)

Workshop Attendees

Attendees included: Kathy Calvert, Phil Davis, Matt Hafner, John Hubble, Mike Hudson, and Dan Small.

Summary

Our group was able to closely study the historical Bicknell's Thrush specimens for DC and MD. The measurements and photographs will allow us to review this taxon and officially add it to the Official List of the Birds of DC. This will correct a procedural error that was made when the species were split. We are going to prepare a paper for Maryland Birdlife to document the history of Bicknell's Thrush in DC and MD.

We were also able to study several other taxa that relate to misidentification challenges in MD (Northern Goshawk vs. Cooper's Hawk) and Fox Sparrow subspecies, of which we have two reports of western ssp.

Thanks, to Dave Bridge, for donating his time to allow us to hold this on a Saturday.

9.2 2019 Annual Meeting

The planning date for the 2019 Annual Meeting is Saturday, 23 Feb 2019. 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 2019 Skins Workshop

TBD. We will try to schedule next year's workshop, with our host, for about two-three weeks after the Annual Meeting. Let's use a planning date of Saturday, 9 Mar 2019. There was discussion of changing the timing and relationship of the Annual Meeting and Skins Workshop. The committee has tried various combinations over the years but can try and accommodate any proposal from the members to make these activities more convenient. **OPEN.**

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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18 Jun 2018