Maryland Ornithological Society

MD/DC Records Committee

Study Skin Workshop

22 February 1992

Members Present: Roger Clapp; Dave Czaplak; Willem Maane; Paul O'Brien; Claudia Wilds, Chair; Erika Wilson, Secretary.

This is a brief summary of the workshop. Please let me know if anything needs to be added. Color designations are, of course, approximate.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*):

USMNH #572665, immature female, March date; plumage included red on the lower belly and flanks, but no red in the crown; Dave pointed out the pale outer web which contrasts with the brown inner web on the outermost rectrix.

USMNH #299802, adult male, April date; plumage included extensive red on entire belly and crown; outer rectrix had outer web very pale, almost white, in contrast to brown inner web.

USMNH #235147, juvenile male, September date; plumage included all red belly, but no red in crown; there were some dark brown streaks on the breast, and the throat was white.

USMNH #235150, juvenile male, September date; plumage included orange red belly, even up into the breast area; no brown streaks on the breast; throat white; scattered red feathers in the crown.

EASTERN & WESTERN MEADOWLARKS (*Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta*): Several trays of each species were looked over. It quickly became apparent that there was a lot of variation in both species, especially with *S. neglecta* specimens collected at the eastern edge of their range (Gila, Arizona) which appeared to be indistinguishable from western *S. m. lilianae* specimens. Stage of molt and geography seem to have blurred any easy distinctions between this species pair, especially without reference to their vocalizations.

JAEGERS: although several trays of immature jaegers were pulled and looked over while one person at a time was scoring the gulls, no studied comparisons were made. "Inconclusive" was the general consensus before the meeting split up.

GULLS: Eighteen gull specimens of various species and subspecies were laid out with their backs up and tags hidden. They were roughly arranged from light to dark by those present. Using a Munsell color chart showing various shades of gray, each person scored the mantle color of each gull. The gulls were then identified and re-arranged according to the mean value of the five evaluations. See attached results. Comments while scoring included the effect of the angle of observation, the lack of an exact match to the colors provided, and the effect of both brown and blue tones in the feathers and the color swatches.

	Species	Mean	Range		DCZ	EMW	WMA	CPW	POB
1	L. delawarensis	7.2	8.0	6.5	8.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	6.5
2	L. delawarensis	7.1	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.0	6.5
3	L. a. smithsonianus	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.5	6.5	7.0	7.5	6.5
4	L. a. smithsonianus	6.7	7.2	6.0	7.2	6.5	7.0	7.0	6.0
5	L. c. cachinnans	6.6	7.2	6.0	7.2	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.0
6	L. c. michahellis	6.4	7.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.0
7	L. c. michahellis	6.3	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.0
8	L. a. "omissus"	6.2	6.5	6.0	6.5	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.0
9	L. californicus	5.9	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.8
10	L. a. vegae	5.6	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.5
11	L. californicus	5.5	6.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.5
12	L. atricilla	5.1	5.7	4.5	5.7	4.5	5.0	5.5	5.0
13	L. c. atlantis	5.0	5.5	4.5	5.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.0
14	L. c. atlantis	4.9	5.5	4.5	5.2	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.0
15	L. pipixcan	4.7	5.5	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.7	5.5	4.5
16	L. f. ?"heuglini"	4.6	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.3	5.0	5.0
17	L. f. graellsii	4.1	4.5	3.5	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.5
18	L. f. graellsii	4.1	4.5	3.5	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.5
	Scorer's Lightest			8.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	6.5	
	Scorer's Darkest			4.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	

Specimen Source

1	Delaware, USA
2	Oregon, USA
3	Oregon, USA
4	Maryland, USA
5	South Russia
6	Greece
7	Greece
8	Norway
9	Oregon, USA
10	Amoy, South China
11	California, USA
12	Pacific Ocean
13	Azores
14	Azores
15	North Dakota, USA
16	Sind, Pakistan
17	Denmark
18	Morocco

Scorer's Name

DCZ	Dave Czaplak
EMW	Erika Wilson
WMA	Willem Maane
CPW	Claudia Wilds
POB	Paul O'Brien

Erika Wilson
MOSRC Secretary