



**Maryland/DC Records Committee
1999 Annual Meeting
February 22, 1999**

Meeting Minutes and Annual Business Report

The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was called to order at 9:15 a.m at the home of Phil Davis in Davidsonville, MD. Present were Harvey Mudd (Chair), Phil Davis (Secretary), Gail Mackiernan, Marshall Iloff, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Paul Pisano, Sue Ricciardi, and Mary Ann Todd. Absent was Sam Dyke.

1. Secretary's Report. The Secretary presented the following information:

Database Status Report. Figure 1, below, summarizes the current contents of the MD/DCRC database and changes from last year, consistent with the current MD/DCRC status categories.

Figure 1. MD/DCRC Database Summary as of 02/22/1999

State	Status	1998	1999
MD	Accepted	258	333
	Not Accepted	119	124
	ID OK/?? Origin	5	6
	Genus Only	2	2
	Withdrawn	4	5
	Unreviewable	221	224
	Non-Review Species	109	112
	Circulating	45	28
	Recirculate	22	21
	Ready	102	49
	Reviewable	35	45
	Hold	11	11
	Report	0	3
	Stewart & Robbins	9	9
MD Totals		942	972
DC	Accepted	14	16
	Not Accepted	0	0
	Unreviewable	8	13
	Non-Review Species	3	3
	Circulating	1	4
	Recirculate	1	2
	Ready	6	2
	Reviewable	1	7
	Report	0	10
	DC Totals		34
Grand Totals		976	1029

Package Review Status. Figure 2, below, summarizes the statistics of the package review process, including the packages reviewed over the past year.

Figure 2. MD/DCRC Package Summary: 1994 - 02/22/1999

Annual Meeting	Pkg	Start	End	Duration (weeks)	# Items	# New	# Decisions	Decision %
1994	42	04/20/1993	06/20/1993	8.7	4	0	4	100%
	43	06/10/1993	10/01/1993	16.1	13	7	9	69%
	44	11/03/1993	03/14/1994	18.7	10	5	8	80%
				14.5	27	12	21	78%
1995	45	04/18/1994	11/12/1994	29.7	4	0	4	100%
	46	04/18/1994	11/21/1994	31.0	12	7	8	67%
	47	04/18/1994	09/27/1994	23.1	13	8	8	62%
				28.0	29	15	20	69%
1996	48	11/14/1994	06/06/1995	29.1	16	12	10	63%
	49	11/14/1994	07/22/1995	35.7	17	13	10	59%
	50	03/01/1995	07/01/1995	17.4	15	15	4	27%
	51	07/24/1995	12/16/1995	20.7	15	10	9	60%
	52	09/25/1995	03/09/1996	23.7	15	10	7	47%
	53	11/13/1995	03/11/1996	17.0	11	6	10	91%
				24.0	89	66	50	56%
1997	54	02/14/1996	09/20/1996	31.3	14	13	11	79%
	55	04/05/1996	10/23/1996	28.7	11	8	5	45%
	56	08/26/1996	03/11/1997	28.1	14	8	11	79%
	57	10/15/1996	02/22/1997	18.6	12	10	9	75%
	58	12/01/1996	03/05/1997	13.4	14	13	10	71%
				24.0	65	52	46	71%
1998	59	04/11/1997	10/07/1997	25.6	12	6	9	75%
	60	06/13/1997	10/31/1997	20.0	16	10	11	69%
	61	08/06/1997	01/08/1998	22.1	16	13	10	63%
	62	09/30/1997	02/18/1998	20.1	12	9	11	92%
				22.0	56	38	41	73%
1999	63	12/02/1997	04/14/1998	19.0	19	19	16	84%
	64	01/20/1998	06/09/1998	20.0	15	11	11	73%
	65	03/23/1998	06/26/1998	13.6	15	11	12	80%
	66	05/05/1998	11/02/1998	25.9	15	10	12	80%
	67	07/06/1998	10/15/1998	14.4	15	11	11	73%
	68	09/09/1998	01/27/1999	20.0	16	12	11	69%
				18.8	95	74	73	77%
2000	69	11/29/1998			16	13		
	70	02/11/1999			16	13		
					32	26		

External Communications Summary. During the year, the committee engaged in the following requests for information, shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3. MD/DCRC Outside Correspondence Summary - 1999 Annual Meeting

Mon	Year	Contact	St	Topic
Feb	1998	Rising, Jim	ON	Western Wood-Pewee research
Apr	1998	Johnson, Ann	IA	Iowa Records Committee procedures questions
Apr	1998	Pelikan, Matt	MA	ABA "Winging It" article on Conowingo Dam
May	1998	Mlodinow, Steve	WA	Research for article on Southern Hemisphere albatrosses
Jun	1998	Opperman, Hal	WA	Tufted Duck profile for "Birding"
Jun	1998	Cooper, Mort	FL	Black-bellied Whistling Duck question on Birdchat
Jun	1998	Abbott, David	VA	Yellow Rail record info
Jun	1998	Abbott, David	VA	Questions on inland Nelson's STS and Le Conte's SP
Jul	1998	Flann, Ian	ON	Article on Winter Dispersal of immature Gyrfalcons
Aug	1998	Holleman, John	AR	Records Committee Survey (not completed)
Oct	1998	Beaton, Giff	GA	GA & SC Records Committee research on Black-bellied Whistling Duck status
Oct	1998	Tozer, Ron	ON	Inland Greater Shearwater records
Dec	1998	Watson-Whytmyer, Marcia	MD	Thayer's Gull question re Cecil County list
Dec	1998	Mlodinow, Steve	WA	Ani research
Jan	1999	Armistead, Harry	MD	Ash-throated Flycatcher article for ???
Jan	1999	Burgiel, Joe	NJ	Reddish Egret research
Jan	1999	Reese, Jan	MD	Talbot County Black-capped Petrel questions
Jan	1999	Grover, Brad	IL	Barnacle Goose research
Feb	1999	Halliwell, Tom	NJ	Article on records accepted within 200 miles of NJ

Database Projects Completed. Database projects completed over the past year include:

- **AOU 41st Supplement Changes.** The 41st supplement to the 6th Edition of the AOU *Check-list of North American Birds* contained many name and taxonomy changes. Changes to the database were implemented to comply with the 41st supplement.

Database Plans. Plans for future database projects include:

- **Dissect Early Package Decisions.** Very early committee ballots were just written out in sequence on a piece of paper by the members. At some time in the future, these will be dissected and collated so that all ballots for a given record/report will be contained in the physical file jacket for that record/report.
- **Add Decision Summary Text for Old Records.** In the past, decision letters were individually prepared and mailed to observers. An attempt will be made to cut these decision summaries from the word processing files and to paste them into the associated database field. This will provide easier automated access to the historical data associated with old reports/records.
- **Automate Observer Fields/Links to Report Records.** This project will link database records for each observer directly to the sighting report database records. This will eliminate some manual processing that is currently required for acknowledgements, decision, and decision reports..
- **Link ID Article Database to Package Content Reports.** This project will provide the capability to automatically print a list of all committee ID article titles associated with each species in a review package.

- **Add Fields for Citation References (MB, AB, AFN, AN, etc.).** This project will standardize the references to the typical citation publications and provide a capability to sort and run reports based on these fields.
- **AOU 7th Edition Check-list Changes.** The new 7th edition has been published. A major database reindex is required to allow the committee's reports to be sorted into the new taxonomic order. The index fields have been built, however, an integration of the old and new databases is required to complete this task.

MOS-MD/DCRC Web Site. <http://www.MDBirds.org/>. Phil Davis reported that since the last meeting, he and Fran Saunders, MOS webmaster, have rolled-out more MD/DCRC data products onto the committee's web pages. Products provided include:

- First Annual Decision Report
- Minutes of all Annual Meetings/Annual Business Reports
- Minutes of all Skins Workshops
- ID Article Index
- Recent Package Status
- A Static version of the complete MD/DCRC database

Numbering System for Reopened Reports. Currently, reopened reports are assigned a new database report control number, resulting in multiple database entries for the same sighting. The secretary will add a suffix and an additional field to flag reports that have been reopened.

Loss Prevention Plan/Permanent Storage Status Update. This is an open project. The MOS is securing climate-controlled secure storage space for various MOS requirements (e.g., the Atlas Project). The MOS President has made this space available to the MD/DCRC. The committee is not yet ready to send any of its records into storage, but will use these facilities when ready. In the interim, the secretary will investigate obtaining fireproof document boxes.

MOS By-Laws Status: The Secretary owes the MOS By-Laws Chairman suggested wording to correct the Manual of Operations to indicate that the Committee Chair can be either a voting or a non-voting member.

Missing *Maryland Birdlife* Issues. The committee does not have a complete archive of *Maryland Birdlife* issues. A list of outstanding issues will be prepared for *The Maryland Yellowthroat* in hopes of receiving donations from members.

Secretary's Outreach Plans.

- **Review List and Documentation Checklist Distribution.** The secretary already includes MD/DCRC Review Lists and Documentation Guides in its mailings to observers. Other future ideas include developing a database, in conjunction with the MOS Publicity Committee, to position Review Lists and Documentation Guidelines at places where birders are present. Such places would include, parks and nature centers, National Wildlife Refuges, wild bird stores, DoD facility wildlife biologists, etc.
- **Anecdotes from Committee Research for *Maryland Yellowthroat* Article.** Many interesting and humorous anecdotes resulted from Harvey Mudd's canvass of the Maryland birding community over the past several years while tracking down old documentation. It was suggested that this would make a great article or series of columns for the *Maryland Yellowthroat*.
- **Yellowthroat Plea for Additional Documentation.** Unreviewable records will be analyzed to determine which of them might be addressed in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* as the subject of a plea to Maryland birders to see if they have any existing notes or photographs of these observations.

Review/Status of Unsubmitted Reports. Marshall Iloff is sorting through the committee's file of information dealing with unsubmitted reports (RBA transcripts, Internet messages, etc.) Sightings of merit will be followed-up in an attempt to obtain details from observers.

2. Status of Previous Action Items. The follow actions were taken at the 1998 Annual Meeting:

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Confidence Experiment.** Paul O'Brien presented a summary of the results to date. His analysis follows:

MD/DCRC Voting Confidence Experiment: Analysis of Third Group of Packages

This analysis includes part of Package 62 and all of Packages 63 – 68 for a total of 896 ratings of 107 records. As before, the results remain in close agreement with prior analyses, even though we had a large number of older records that were documented with excellent photographs. Also, as before, the crossover point was the "c" rating. But this year, instead of a nearly even split, 2/3 were in the "accept" category.

Rating	Accept	Not Accept	?? Origin	Total
A	334 (42%)		8	342
B	274 (35%)			274
C	161 (20%)	80 (82%)		241
D	1 (?)	15 (15%)		16
E				
?	20	3		23
Total	790 (100%)	98 (100%)	8	896

Comparing the years we have the following breakdown:

1997 – Packages 51 – 55 and parts of 56 and 57, a total of 650.

1998 – Packages 56 – 61 and part of 62, a total of 816 ratings.

1999 – The rest of packages 62 and 63-68, a total of 896 ratings.

Accept	1997	1998	1999
A	54%	51%	42%
B	34%	29%	35%
C	13%	19%	20%

Not Accepted	1997	1998	1999
C	77%	77%	82%
D	18%	19%	15%
E	2%	1%	0%

C Ratings	1997	1998	1999
Accept	43%	47%	67%
Not Accept	52%	50%	33%

- The committee decided to continue recording the member's voting confidence levels, therefore the term "experiment" will be discontinued and this will continue as a permanent MD/DCRC procedure. The process will be referred to as the "Confidence Code".
- The committee discussed whether a value could be associated with the confidence code to

arrive at a probability value (e.g., 90%, 80%, etc.). The committee did not come to a conclusion as to how this could be reasonably implemented. It also discussed whether the final confidence code result could be succinctly reported and recorded in the database. It was decided that this was too awkward and not totally necessary since the decision summary is currently drafted from the individual members' comments, so that a qualitative assessment of the decision is generally reflected in the decision text. Therefore, the committee will continue to use the codes primarily for its internal deliberations, especially for recirculations.

- On the question of "origin", the committee agreed that the confidence code would refer to only the ID portion of the vote.
- Code C2 will be modified to read "Some described features seem incorrect **or conflicting**".
- The following sentence will be incorporated into the confidence vote procedures:

"Members are encouraged to submit suggestions for new confidence categories whenever the existing ones seem inadequate for the situation. Just include a note when sending in your reviews of records."

- **Outreach Committee.** Mary Ann Todd reported that the subcommittee plans to have their outreach program ready by the fall season of local chapter meetings. Most clubs plan their programs for the year during the summer. Therefore, it was decided to have an announcement ready by the MOS Convention in early May.

The program will be less than 60 minutes and multiple members will give the presentation. Slides will be used and handouts will be developed, including the committee Review List, Documentation Checklist, and the article on documenting rarities by Claudia Wilds and Rob Hilton. A Q&A session will also be included. A comparison of two similar species will be used to open the presentation. Action items status:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Status</u>
Sue Ricciardi	Introduction	Done
Phil Davis	Photo duplication	Open
Paul O'Brien	Eared Grebe exercise	Open
Paul Pisano	Townsend's Solitaire exercise	Open
Mary Ann Todd	"Poor Report" example	Open
Sue Ricciardi	Handouts	Open

Mary Ann cannot continue as the Subcommittee Chair. Paul O'Brien will assume the Chair.

- **Subspecies/Distinct Forms Committee.** Marshall Iliff reported that this committee will continue the work that was started during the summer. Marshall will continue to chair the subcommittee. A goal will be to make improvements to the Review List. The MD/DCRC consensus was that the subcommittee should first determine which distinct and field-identifiable forms have already occurred in MD/DC. A survey of specimens should be performed. Secondly, the subcommittee could determine which forms occur in the northeast and could occur in Maryland. This information, however, would make a good topic for an article in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* or other publication. The consensus also was the subcommittee should be cautious about trying to anticipate splits and in leading birders to believe that its list is all-inclusive.

Quantitative Status System. Phil Davis and Marshall Iliff presented a draft quantitative system to describe the number of accepted and reported records in the committee's database. The system presented was of the form:

(acc, rpt) where,

acc = the number of report accepted by the committee
rpt = the number of reports in the committee's database

The committee decided to use the system:

(acc, **not**, rpt) where,

not = number of reports not accepted

Marshall Iliff is currently analyzing Stewart & Robbins and will copy references to all reports that conform to the current committee review list. These data will be included in the committee database so that all historical references will be available in one place. Where specimens exist, the committee will review those reports. This activity could be the focus of a single Skins Workshop. Withdrawn reports will not be included in this numbering system, even though the reports still exist in the committee's database and files.

Official List of the Birds of Maryland. Phil Davis presented the latest version of the List. It includes the latest first state records. The committee decided to not include the Black-tailed Gull (see discussion, below). The list will be published within the next few weeks. The Maryland species total is now 414.

Official List of the Birds of DC. Harvey Mudd explained actions completed since the last committee annual meeting on this project. Special thanks to Ottavio Janni, Dave Czaplak, and Marshall Iliff for researching this project. The files of the now defunct DC Records Committee were reviewed and the list was brought up to date. A few species deserve comment: Mute Swans have occasionally been seen in DC, but are currently not documented. They will not be included in the list. Also, Bicknell's Thrush specimens are reported to exist in the NMNH, but the committee cannot get to them at this time (the Bird Division is closed for renovations). This species will be left off the list at this time, until the specimens can be located and inspected. The DC list total is now 312.

3. Committee Procedures. The topics below deal with how the committee conducts business:

Review List.

- **Review Category Changes.** One change was made to the definition of Review List categories:
 - **Review Category 4.** This category deals with subspecies and distinct forms. It was decided to drop the examples that are currently shown on the review list until the Subcommittee on Subspecies and Distinct Forms has completed its analysis. The wording of the category will be changed to "**Any** subspecies or form of species not known to occur regularly in Maryland or the District of Columbia".
- **Species Review Status Changes.** Various species changes were adopted:
 - **Mississippi Kite** – Deleted from the list (Category 3 – rare/accidental). There are currently 13 accepted records and reports are increasing. The species is now considered to be annual in Maryland.
 - **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** – Deleted from the list (category 5C - Piedmont). The species is regular in western Maryland.
 - The following species were deleted from the list (category 5D – Western Maryland). These

committee felt that these species should probably not have originally been on the list:

- **Eared Grebe**
 - **Sandhill Crane**
 - **Western Kingbird**
 - **Clay-colored Sparrow**
 - **Lark Sparrow**
- **Carolina Chickadee** – This species is added under Code 5E (restricted ranges). The species will be reviewed if found west of Washington County.
 - **Automated List Generation.** The list will now be generated from the committee database (rather than as a separately prepared document). The species will read from left to right across the page, instead of down each column.

DC Review List. The committee discussed whether to develop a separate DC Review List, or keep MD and DC combined. Paul Pisano agreed to work with Ottavio Janni to develop a draft for the next Annual Meeting for the committee to consider.

Exotics. The committee discussed whether it should define exotic species of reviewable interest. It was decided to accept all reports submitted and decide at each Annual Meeting whether to review the reports or not. For example, Monk Parakeets may be of interest, whereas Black Swans may not be. In general, however, the committee encourages any and all report submissions.

“Questionable Origin” and “Exotic” Votes.

- The committee decided to reinstitute an optional vote for “Exotic”, in addition to “Questionable Origin”. These two votes will now require at least eight (out of nine) to sustain. A revision to the committee’s goals and procedures document is being prepared and will be distributed to the members.
- These votes only apply after the member decided to “accept” the species ID. The question of how to handle splits between “?? Origin” and “Exotic” was discussed. It was decided to recirculate split origin and exotic votes for review only and then discuss and resolve the cases at Annual Meetings.
- It was also decided that the members confidence level for a vote of “?? Origin” or “Exotic” need only be greater than 51%.

Record Reopening

- **Policy.** The committee decided that when a record is reopened via the “consensus reopening” procedure (at least five members request the reopening), that one of the requestors should submit a short narrative discussing why the reopening was requested.
- **Reports to Reopen.** Five members requested that the 1995-033 Common Gull record be reopened. Marshall Iliff will provide the short narrative regarding why the reopening has been requested.

Genus Only Votes. Marshall Iliff has proposed the following policy to deal with special “genus only” situations that may span multiple genera. His proposal follows:

Dear MD/DCRC members,

This is a quick letter to be appended to Package 69 to try to clarify voting procedure. In Package 69 we deal with a number of reports of Selasphorus hummingbirds, some of which have been identified as Rufous Hummingbirds, some of which have not. With the recent occurrence of Allen’s Hummingbird in Virginia and Delaware (see ABA Field Notes 52(2)), Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Delaware (see ABA Field Notes 52(3)),

and Calliope Hummingbird in New Jersey and North Carolina, we must exercise caution in reviewing these reports and many will stand only as *Selasphorus* sp.. We need to clarify what is meant by *Selasphorus* sp. though, as the term is often used recklessly.

Three hummingbirds in the genus *Selasphorus* occur in the United States: Rufous, Allen's, and Broad-tailed. Rufous and Allen's are very similar, while Broad-tailed is separable in the field given experience and/or good looks. Calliope (genus *Stellula*) is also very similar in plumage and structure and is perhaps similar to Rufous Hummingbird than Broad-tailed Hummingbird. New Jersey's first Calliope Hummingbird was misidentified as a *Selasphorus* by many of New Jersey's best birders until it was captured. An additional several species occur outside the United States (i.e. Bumblebee and Wine-throated hummingbirds) Publishing a record as *Selasphorus* sp. it leaves as many questions as it answers. Does this imply that Broad-tailed was not eliminated? How about Bumblebee or Wine-throated? Does it mean that Calliope was sufficiently eliminated?

This is a call to let our votes reflect what we can actually determine from the information. I think *Selasphorus* sp. should be used to refer to Rufous/Allen's/Broad-tailed but that this should be stated somewhere and should be restated whenever these records are published. If we can determine that the bird was a Rufous Hummingbird, our vote will of course reflect that. If Broad-tailed and Calliope hummingbirds can be eliminated by the information contained in the record, but Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds cannot be separated with certainty, let us vote for Rufous/Allen's hummingbird instead of the misleading *Selasphorus* sp.. By the same token, if Calliope Hummingbird remains a possibility, let us use *Selasphorus/Calliope Hummingbird* sp., awkward though it may sound.

Best wishes,

Marshall Liff

PS - In voting for these records, I also noted that on occasion I felt I needed to give two confidence codes - one for identification as Rufous/Allen's and another for identification as *Selasphorus* sp.. Keep this in mind when voting.

The committee decided to adopt this policy. Any consensus decision will be reflected in the record's decision summary. The Secretary will figure out how to implement this in the database. It was agreed to change the vote option to read "Accept to genus/**group** only".

Black-tailed Gull Issues. The Black-tailed Gull was reopened at the last annual meeting. Even though the record passed, the committee felt that the primary issue deals with the question of origin—the question of ID was never an issue. The committee felt that it really needs to review the deliberations of the other state records committee's that have dealt with Black-tailed Gull records (TX, RI, VA, NJ). The secretary will contact these state records committees for details. Gail Mackiernan will collect some other relevant information, such as references to ship-assisted cases. Marshall has seen references to various map projections that put the issue of migration patterns in better context. He will provide these to the committee. It was decided that this report will not be accepted, but will be recirculated as a first round circulation to the current committee members. Since it may take some time to assemble the reference material, this will be circulated as a single report package when it is ready.

MD Pacific Loon Issues. It was decided to continue to hold up on circulating this report to try to get the report from the bird's discoverer.

Trumpeter Swan Issues.

- **Reintroduction status.** Since no northern/eastern state have yet added this species onto their official state list, it was decided to place all Trumpeter Swan reports in a "Hold" category for now.
- **"Trumpling" hybrid ID issues.** No literature is known to exist on dealing with hybrid swans. Distinguishing features are known to be intermediate between the two species. The committee felt that there was no need to circulate ID reference material from the committee's files when, and if,

these reports do circulate.

- **Historical Potomac River ecology issues.**

- An informal question was raised on the committee's decision to add Trumpeter Swan to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland as an extirpated species, based on literature from 1835 that described the species' presence on the Potomac River. The question addressed the fact that the coves on the Virginia side of the river are in the state of Virginia, while the river, itself belongs to Maryland.
- Gail Mackiernan has obtained information that describes the Potomac's historical ecological status at that period of time. The river level was lower and subaquatic vegetation was present throughout, except in the deep channel. Therefore, the committee feels that the river habitat was conducive to supporting the wintering species. A letter from Gail's source will be provided to the committee. Furthermore, even if the species were primarily confined to the coves, the river would have been used to move from one cove to the other.

Preparation of Next MD/DCRC Decisions Report for *Maryland Birdlife*. The committee felt that a two year cycle is reasonable for preparation of committee decision reports. Marshall Iliff has expressed tentative interest in preparing the next report. Michael O'Brien and Mark Hoffman have also expressed interest in supporting this task. The effort should begin around March of 2000.

Expert Opinions. The committee decided that when outside expert opinions are solicited, the committee should try to obtain at least 2 (maybe 2-3) opinions. The members were reminded that their assistance is needed in finding qualified experts that are willing to review the records. For reports that were "not accepted", the observer can always personally obtain an "expert opinion" and this information, in turn, could constitute new information which can serve as the basis for reopening a report.

Combine Records. Several members commented that they would like to combine several reports--that is, if certain reports were combined, the members would accept the aggregated report. Current issues involved:

Swallow-tailed Kite (Laurel) (MD/1996-007, MD/1996-008)

Since 1996-007 was accepted and 1996-008 is to be recirculated, the former will be included in the review package to possibly support the later. The committee decided to continue to take a conservative approach to such reports and treat them separately, unless there is compelling evidence to combine them, prior to circulation.

4. Fourth Round Circulations: The only fourth round report to consider was the DC/1995-027, Anhinga. Michael O'Brien called attention to the fact that the bird was noted by the observer to be swimming partially submerged with only its neck protruding from the water. [**Note:** Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided to have the members vote directly on this report, since each member has a full copy of the file.]

5. Old Business. None.

6. New Business:

PWRC Card Files. These recently discovered files were discussed and it was felt that they probably could not contribute any data of relevance. Mark Hoffman did, however, find a Trumpeter Swan sighting for Worcester County and he is planning to forward it to the committee.

7. Skins Meeting/Identification Issues.

Red Crossbills. Michael O'Brien has analyzed recordings of Maryland Red Crossbill vocalizations provided to him from last year's invasion. Type IV was the most common, with some Type IIIs. Jim Stasz and Marshall Iliff have some other recordings to provide to Michael. Michael will provide copies of the sonograms and a summary to the committee. It is suspected that reports of Alleghany County Red Crossbills may include Type I or II species. Recordings of these birds are needed.

Skins Workshop. The committee did not have access to the NMNH this winter due to renovations. It was decided it would like to try to hold a workshop in mid-July (second Saturday, if a sponsor and access can be provided). Skins of interest include:

- White-winged Dove (DC specimen)
- Bicknell's Thrushes (DC specimens)
- Western Wood-Pewees (DC specimens – try to locate)
- Slaty-backed Gulls
- Kelp Gulls
- Herring Gulls
 - Vega
 - European
- Common Gulls
- Common and Thick-billed Murres
- Pacific and Arctic Loons
- Red Crossbills
- Other Stewart & Robbins specimens – Marshall Iliff will consolidate a list

8. Election of New Members and Chair. The voting members whose three-year terms expire this year are Marshall Iliff, Harvey Mudd, and Paul O'Brien. The committee wished to thank them for all their support over the past three years. The new members of the committee are: Patty Craig, Mark Hoffman, and Sherman Suter. Harvey Mudd was elected to another term as Committee Chair.

9. Next Year's Meetings. Next year's meetings are scheduled as follows:

Annual Meeting	Saturday	February 26, 2000
Skins Workshop	Saturday	March 25, 2000 (tentative)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Davis
MD/DCRC Secretary
March 1, 1998

cc:
MOS President
MOS Vice-President
MOS Executive Secretary
MOS Publications Committee Chair