

VBRC 2008 Meeting
Nov 1, 2008
(red=action item, bold=decision)

Present:

Dick Lavalley, Hector Galbraith, Julie Nicholson (non-voting), Judy Peterson, Allan Strong, Sue Wetmore, Julie Hart, Dottie Lavalley (non-voting)

Roz Renfrew does not think she is still a member, so shouldn't count towards quorum.

Post results to listserv at same time as posted on website. Provide more justification for records that are not accepted.

1. Review of Minutes:

Reviewed what is required for a first state record.

Hypothetical means could be a first state record, but doesn't meet standards for submission of first state record (no corroboration/not enough evidence). Not on state list.

What about if bird observed by two people, and written up separately, but perhaps not completely independent? Make best judgment.

Minutes approved

Is there an ideal number of people to have for voting? 7 active members, 6 voting members present

2. Procedures and Protocols:

Need 4 votes for non-hypothetical species

Need 6 votes for hypothetical

Need 6 votes for new state record

Unanimous vote to require 100% vote for hypothetical records.

For first state records, at a minimum we need a unanimous vote of the Committee and a convincing RSD with either a photograph, a taped call, or an independent RSD by another observer.

Require documentation of when and where photo is taken. Don't need to require detailed description if a good photo, but encouraged.

For 2009, have a discussion of what exactly a hypothetical record means.

Hector will check with other state record committees to see if they have a similar "hypothetical" category.

Do we revisit first hypothetical records? No, there is a reason why it didn't get accepted as a first state record.

3. Field Card

Indicate What do we want RSDs for?

Indicate what we want for breeding record?

Have a separate checklist and a state list for RSDs?

Make a precursor that could be printed as a field card.

Do we want to provide and sell a hard copy? Or have available for downloading?

Start with downloadable copy. Print a few copies with plain paper.

VCE would be publisher long-term. No funding up-front. VBRC make it available.

Seasonal abundance codes or bar charts.

Subcommittee Members:

Judy Peterson

Ted Murin

Julie Hart

4. Species on RSD list

Cackling Goose—remove

Ross' Goose—remove

Harlequin Duck—remove from Lake Champlain

Tufted Duck—remove from Lake Champlain

Common Eider—keep on list to make people distinguish the two species

King Eider— keep on list to make people distinguish the two species

Long-tailed Jaeger—remove from Lake Champlain

Northern Gannet—remove from Champlain Valley

Black Vulture—remove

Little Blue Heron—keep

Tundra Swan—already off

Black-headed Gull—keep

Black-legged Kittiwake—already off

White-eyed Vireo—keep

Yellow-breasted Chat—keep

Clay-colored Sparrow—already off, keep on for nesting

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow—remove

White-winged Crossbill—remove from nesting, already removed for occurrence

Hoary Redpoll—remove

Orchard Oriole—remove for nesting records, already removed for occurrence

Orange-crowned Warbler—keep for spring records

Have a discussion with Kent about regional flags.

Maintain one month on either side of early and late dates for each species

5. Sample RSDs for website

Allan will write a bad example with bubble comments explaining what we would want by end of calendar year.

6. Web voting

Have 2 electronic votes per year, votes collected by June 1 and Oct 1.

Have second vote results in before assignments made.

Without paying, can't add name or print in a use-friendly way.

Painless. Keep doing it.

Never vote on first state record.

If 100% vote accept, approve automatically.

If not 100% vote, keep on table for discussion.

If unanimous not accept, still keep on table for discussion.

7. Administrative matters

Date and place for next meeting: VCE office, first Sat in Nov, Nov 7, 2009

Chairs for 2009: motion to keep Judy and Allan, approved

8. Review RSDs

Notes for unaccepted records:

F07-10--Long-tailed Jaeger: not accepted—very distant to see white on upper primaries, lacks detail in size comparison to Bonaparte's, light head could be on a juvenile Parasitic too, doesn't describe breast or tail

F07-11—Wilson's Storm-Petrel: not accepted—late date for Wilson's, white flanks curious, flight pattern leads more to Leach's, doesn't rule out Leach's or Band-rumped, doesn't conclusively indicate Storm-petrel

F07-13—Arctic Loon: Accepted as hypothetical—very good write-ups, no reason not to believe it's not an Arctic, but difficulty in identification (distinguishing marks still in flux) and lack of photo lead us to hypothetical. **Revisit in the future.**

F07-15—Cliff/Cave Swallow: accepted as either Cliff or Cave (*Petrochelidon* spp.), we would accept as default Cliff except that it's a late date, not adequately distinguished between the species

W08-3—Yellow-breasted Chat: not accepted—not enough details provided and doesn't rule out White-eyed Vireo or other species

W08-6—Hoary Redpoll: not accepted—not enough detail provided, bright red chest indicative of Common Redpoll, no discussion of undertail coverts

Su91—Common Crane: Accept as an escapee. Evidence indicates an escapee. Was determined at the time of the sighting that it was an escapee.

Sp85-1—Trumpeter Swan: accepted as a Mute Swan, pink on bill, black leading to eye not indicative of Trumpeter, dirty neck

Sp08-6—Black Vulture: not accepted—not sure why it was compared to a Red-tailed Hawk or why it was pointed out that it had dark primaries; doesn't preclude Turkey Vulture; not enough detail provided

Sp08-10—Swainson's Warbler: not accepted—seen from a boat without binoculars; not correct behavior for a Swainson's (this is a very cryptic species)

Sp08-11—Little Gull: not accepted—very distant, no description of shape of secondary bars, carpal bars, or head pattern

Su08-4—White-eyed Vireo: not accepted—not enough detail, doesn't mention yellow spectacles, couldn't see whole body

Su08-5—Ringed Turtle-Dove: accepted as an escapee—definitely a Ringed Turtle-Dove, not known to survive in the wild