

MINUTES OF THE VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, November 1, 2003 at 10:00 am
VINS-Church Hill Rd, Woodstock, VT.

Present: Judy Peterson, Roz Renfrew, Julie Nicholson, Pat Pratt, Dick Lavallee, Sue Wetmore
Absent: Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin, Pam Hunt, Wayne Peterson, Simon Perkins

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am. by chair Judy Peterson

MINUTES OF 2002

The minutes from last year were read and accepted with the following correction:
Julie Nicholson was a voting member at the 2002 meeting and it was at that meeting that she tendered her resignation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There was considerable discussion as to the number of members to make up this body. Currently one half of the members reside outside of Vermont. The editors of North American Birds should have a different status as members. It was determined that the 5 members made a quorum at this meeting and that only those in attendance would have a deciding vote. Electronic votes could be overridden by those present. However the electronic votes would be reviewed at the meeting.

E-BIRD

This new program online for collecting data is being managed by Kent McFarland. Listings on our VTBird do not automatically appear on this E-Bird site. However anything that appears there that is out of season, rare or other unusual reports will be flagged by Kent. The person making the report will then be contacted for further information. There should be an easy form available for people to download and report to this committee any of those rarities. Roz volunteered to create a separate website for our committee and in that site the necessary documentation would be available.

RSD/RVB

Birders continue to send in RSD reports that we no longer require for certain species. It was decided that a thank you be returned for their submission saying that we accepted the report. For the reports that are reviewed by the committee we should put in the reason for rejecting a submission. In the past we only published the accepted reports. There was discussion as to listing the submitters names collectively or with their reports. We believe folks enjoy seeing their names with their sightings but we would not list the names of the rejected submissions. Copies of RVB will be available online with hard copies available on request.

Discussion as to the necessity of a signature on a RSD. Many now send via email and do not have the opportunity to sign their report. It was decided that it is important to receive this data than to require the signature.

CLASSIFICATION OF RSD REPORTS

The AOU numerical system is now non-existent so how are we to continue to file our records? Historically we have used taxonomic order. The original reports we have are all in AOU order, copies in chronological order. Do we make up our own system or continue for now as we have in the past?

ELECTRONIC VOTING & RSD REPORTS

Sending RSDs via email cuts down on the costs of mailing especially if there is an increase in reports received from birders. We will keep the system of assignments that was instituted at this meeting by Judy Peterson. Only those attending the meeting would receive such an assignment of birds to review. The committee will continue to solicit comments from non-attendees.

LIST CHANGES

The following species no longer require documentation:

- Merlin - nesting
- Orchard Oriole - nesting
- Black-legged Kittiwakes
- Fish Crow-not needed from Red Rocks Park in S. Burlington

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

We currently have 10 members and have had up to 14 people on this committee. Unless those that are not attending we will keep them on as members. If they attend then they have a vote but if they are not here it will not affect the quorum.

Names for consideration were presented: John Sutton, Allen Strong, George Clark, Angele Brill, Sue Elliott. It was decided to contact the first 2 names on the list.

CONSIDERATION OF RSD'S

- F02-7 Black-headed Gull ACCEPT 11/1/03
- OOS W03-1 Baltimore Oriole ACCEPT 11/1/03
- W03-2 Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich) TABLED) 11/1/03
- W03-3 Tufted Duck ACCEPT 11/1/03
- OOS W03-4 Gray Catbird ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-1 Golden Eagle ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-2 Northern Gannet ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-3 White Pelican ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-4 Yellow-breasted Chat ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-5 Northern Hawk Owl ACCEPT
- Su03-1 Merlin (nesting) ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Su03-2 Merlin (nesting) ACCEPT with second report 11/1/03
- Su03-4 Orchard Oriole (nesting) 11/1/03
- F03-1a,b,c,d Wilson's Storm-Petrel ACCEPT AS FIRST STATE RECORD 11/1/03
- F03-2 Pomarine Jaeger ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Su03-5 Merlin (nesting) ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Su03-3 Merlin (nesting) ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-6 Fish Crow ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Sp03-7 Whip-poor-will (on territory) ACCEPT 11/1/03
- F03-3 Clay-colored Sparrow NOT ACCEPT 11/1/03
- F03-5 Sabine's Gull ACCEPT 11/1/03
- Su02-3a Caspian Tern (nesting) ACCEPT 11/1/03

Officers for Next Year-- Judy Peterson and Roz Renfrew---Co-chairs
Next Meeting Date--November 6, 2004 at VINS, Woodstock

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Wetmore, Secretary Pro-tem

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE - October, 2003

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