

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MINUTES
Saturday 4 November 1995
VINS, Woodstock, VT

Present:

Walter Ellison, Steve Faccio, Terry Hall, Sally Laughlin, Nancy Martin
Scott Morrical, Whit Nichols, Julie Nicholson, Blair Nikula, Simon Perkins
Judy Peterson, Wayne Peterson, Pat Pratt, and Sue Wetmore.

Absent:

Chris Rimmer, Frank Oatman
Michele Patenaude has resigned from the Committee.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Cochair Whit Nichols at 10:15 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE 1994 MEETING:

The minutes of the 5 November 1994 Meeting of the Vermont Bird Records Committee were approved as distributed.

REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

The Vermont Bird Records committee operates under Robert's Rules of Order. In addition, the Committee has adopted these procedures:

1. A first state record must be accepted by unanimous vote
2. A first state record accepted as hypothetical must be accepted by a 3/4 majority vote
3. Acceptance or non-acceptance of all other records is by 2/3 majority vote
4. First state records must have one of the following:
 - a. A report by two independent observers
(ie, the reports must be written independently)
 - b. A photograph
 - c. A specimen
 - d. A tape-recorded song
 - e. a videotape

It was moved, seconded, and voted to add videotapes as evidence for first state record, with all present voting in favor of the measure.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING SET

Frank Oatman has written asking that we change our meeting date to earlier in the fall. He is always away at this time. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and voted to keep the meeting date in early November. Whit will respond to Frank.

The Committee will meet Saturday 2 November 1996, at 10 a.m.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Judy Peterson gave her report. Michelle Patenaude has resigned as editor.

Status of the Seasons:

Spring 1994: Scott is still working on; has done through the shorebirds.

Summer 1994: Sue turned it in a year ago today. It has not yet been published.

Fall 1994: Terry and Judy will do it together.

Winter 94-95: Pat completed the manuscript a month ago.

Spring 1995: Scott will do.

Summer 1995: Sue will do.

Fall 1995: Terry will do.

New Editors: we should find an alternate editor for Fall; Terry prefers to do every other year. Wayne suggested Tom Aversa; the Committee gave their approval to Wayne's asking him if he would take on alternate falls.

The Committee stated that it was acceptable to publish issues out of sequence. Once we have the data, we should publish it.

A vote of thanks was made to Judy for her work as editor. A vote of thanks also went to Julie Nicholson for her assistance.

REVIEW OF THE PROCESS:

At Wayne's request, the process of the Records was reviewed:

Material comes to VINS

Selected portions go to American Birds

Then everything goes to the Editor

In some states, paid help enters everything before it goes to the editor.

Could an intern do this at VINS?

VINS' IDEA OF CREATING A VERMONT BIRDING JOURNAL

Steve Faccio presented the idea (outline attached). Discussion followed. The idea has been discussed here before. What is the connection between Mass Audubon and the Bird Observer? Mass Audubon distills the information and sends it to the Bird Observer. Wayne says that c 850 copies of the Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts are printed.

The following statement was adopted: **The Vermont Bird Records Committee endorses the concept of expanding the RVB into a quarterly birding journal and will work with VINS on developing the concept. The Committee recommends that RVB data in its present form be included in the new journal.**

FIELD CARD

Steve reported that there are about 1600 left. The Field Card was reprinted with a few changes and a few errors. The Field Card Committee did not have an opportunity to review it beforehand. Ring-billed Gull and other typos. After we print a corrected version, we should again sell copies through ABA and American Birds.

Motion: The Field Card should be redone every 10 years, and printed with updates between times. It should be okayed by the Committee before being printed.

The Field Card Committee consists of Whit, Walter, Nancy, Sally, Pat, Steve, and Terry.

COMPUTERIZATION COMMITTEE

Scott reports that he has the RSD form in Microsoft Word and WordPerfect.. He will make copies available on the net. He has set up a Vermont Birding Site on the World Wide Web; the Vermont Bird Alert is on it. Has phone numbers and list.

OLD BUSINESS

King Rail report: what happened to the tape? Doesn't Walter have it? Scott and Judy believe that they gave it to him last year to get to an expert for review.(Last year we voted to table the King Rail tape until an expert on the species has reviewed the tape for us.)

STATE LIST

Julie has updated the list that Walter did several years ago; it is the only list for Vermont. Copies were distributed to the Committee.

It should be updated each time we accept new records. Scott said he would put the current list in the computer. We could sell copies for the cost of duplicating.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

Some have not been researched or voted on. We need to pull them together for a vote next year.

REVIEW OF RECORDS

The Committee action on records has been published and distributed to the Committee. Notes on the actions:

Pending:

The King Rail mentioned above
Sandhill Crane F94-20, 11/7&8/94
tabled pending receipt of photos

Ross's Geese

There were at least 3 white and 1 blue morph.

Wayne recommends that we send it to an expert for verification; it would be very rare to have a blue morph Ross's.

It was moved and seconded to remove Yellow Breasted Chat from our list of required reports (unless there is breeding evidence). This passed 9 - 2, with Walter and Scott in opposition and Pat abstaining.

Gyrfalcons require verification reports. Moved, seconded, and voted.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was **MOVED, SECONDED AND VOTED** at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Laughlin

attached
11/5/95

TO: Vermont Bird Records Committee
FROM: VINS Research Dept.
SUBJECT: Creation of VT Birding journal

4 Nov. 1995

VINS is considering expanding the *Records of Vermont Birds* into a quarterly, statewide "Birding" journal similar to *Bird Observer* or *The Connecticut Warbler*. We would very much appreciate feedback from the Bird Records Committee members on our preliminary ideas which are outlined below. Please send comments to Steve Faccio by 1 Dec. 1995.

Why a new Journal?

Recently, VINS has been involved in developing a strategic plan for the future. During this long range planning, the idea of how best to complement the current strengths of RVB was discussed. We believe there are many reasons to expand RVB into an attractive journal similar to those published in other states, including:

- to better serve the birding community
- to more widely disseminate information about birds and birding in Vermont.
- to generate greater interest in birding among Vermonters and those birding in Vermont.
- to diversify VINS publications & offer more to members.

What form might this new journal take?

The publication could have 2-3 feature articles per issue which might range from ID pieces, to birding hotspots, to original research, Christmas count summaries, etc. There could be departments such as Book & Equipment Reviews, Rare Sightings & Nesting Reports, Hawk Migration Report, a photo challenge, etc. Of course it would also contain the seasonal report (which is now RVB), in perhaps a more condensed format, as in *Bird Observer*. Clearly, many details would need to be worked out in advance.

Who would put the journal together?

Publishing such a journal would still be largely a volunteer effort, but VINS is considering creating a new position for a Birding Activities Coordinator, who would be very much involved in all aspects of the publication. An editorial board would be established to review articles submitted and prepare manuscripts for publication. Steve F. spoke with the Editors of *CT Warbler* who use desktop software to get each issue ready for the printer. Printing costs/issue, for approx. 700 copies is around \$800. The cost of printing is easily covered by their subscriptions (650 members @ \$12/yr).

RVB currently costs \$10/yr and has about 250-300 subscribers. We think a more diverse, attractive and informative publication would increase subscriptions both in and out of state and justify a modest increase in the subscription rate. Limited advertising space could also be offered to generate income to offset the cost of printing.

Please send your thoughts and comments to Steve by 1 DEC.
Remember, we are only in the conceptual stages at this point!
(E-Mail: VTINST@aol.com)

Add E-mail Add

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