

MINUTES OF THE VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Saturday, 6 November 1999

VINS, Woodstock, Vermont

Present: Whitney Nichols, Pat Pratt, Sue Wetmore, Judy Peterson, Terry Hall, Julie Nicholson, Nancy Martin, Steve Faccio

Absent: Sally Laughlin, Walter Ellison, Pam Hunt, Simon Perkins, Wayne Petersen

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by Co-chair Whitney Nichols.

Minutes of the 1998 Meeting:

The minutes of the 1998 Records Committee meeting were summarized by Judy Peterson. Two items were brought up: 1) to clarify Nancy Martin's status as a full voting member of the committee as editor of *North American Birds (NAB)*, and 2) to correct the comments attributed to Walter on the tabled nesting Merlin report to say "nothing in the materials at hand ruled out Sharp-shinned Hawk". Acceptance of the minutes as revised was Moved, Seconded, and Voted.

2000 Meeting Date:

Committee members recommended that a postcard be mailed out in late winter/early spring as a reminder of the meeting date and the importance of attending. The consensus of the group present was that this date was OK – Terry offered to query other *NAB* editors about other possible timing. The 2000 meeting will be held on Saturday, 4 November.

Written comments from Walter Ellison and Wayne Petersen will be discussed with individual RSD reports.

Sally Laughlin's Recommendations Memo:

Whit reviewed the procedural points of the e-mail from Sally attached to the agenda of this meeting. Her Motion of Appreciation and Three Cheers to Julie Nicholson for her guidance getting the new field card done was duly noted, as well as thanks to Ted Murin and Betty Jillson for their help.

After discussion of/by the Nominating Committee, Julie moved that Sally and Whit continue as Co-chairs of the Committee and that Nancy serve as Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded and approved. Julie will continue serving as Corresponding Secretary.

Discussion of additional committee members considered by the Nominating Committee:

Ted Murin – turned down the opportunity;

Wayne Scott – willing to join (emeritus editor of *RVB*);

Dick Lavalley – willing, meeting timing could be a problem as he goes to Florida for winter now, he is willing to work something out. Committee needs to work out what category he falls in, since he has not held editorial positions for *RVB* or *NAB*;

Anne Aversa – will join as new *RVB* Autumn season editor;

Terry Hall – retiring as Autumn editor, but willing to continue on the committee.
Pat raised the question of how big the committee would be if everyone joined: 4 *RVB*, editors, 5 honorary, 2 *RVB* staff, 4 *NAB* editors = 15.
Whit recommended we raise the number of committee members to 15 (or 16 if Dick could join). A quorum would still be 60%. Pat moved that Wayne and Terry serve in the honorary editor role. The motion was seconded and approved. Dick will be invited to join if he thinks he can make the current meeting date.

Records of Vermont Birds status:

Managing editor Steve Faccio reviewed the publication status of most recent issues:

Winter '98-'99 ready to go to lay-out

Mailing will probably also include Spring '97, which Anne Aversa did.

Only currently outstanding season is Fall '98, which Anne is doing with help from Terry. Editors doing current seasons will continue.

RVB editorial staff will be meeting, probably in January, to discuss computerization.

Removal of some species from the RSD list:

Judy moved that we remove Ross' Goose. In discussion that followed, Pat pointed out that many people likely make an incorrect ID of this species. Julie remarked that the files "are bursting". Pat observed that the current field card says "RSD may be requested" (emphasis added) for this and many other species, leaving the option for not getting RSDs for all reports. Vote: 4 for and 4 against the motion, so further discussion will be tabled until next year. We could consider additional species at that time as well. General question about what this action would mean re: *RVB* record-keeping.

Additions to Vermont State List:

Julie had questions about Pacific/Arctic loon and Western/Clark's grebe. Those entries will have to stay in the ambiguous, dual species form, since the records in question do not provide sufficient detail to confidently assign each sighting to one or the other of each species pair.

Fish Crow is added to the list following American Crow.

Review of RSD reports:

The committee broke up into RSD review groups at 11:25. The meeting reconvened at 1:45 to hear recommendations and vote on records.

Item for next meeting:

Safer storage of record archives.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Nancy L. Martin,
Recording Secretary