

CALIFORNIA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Minutes for the 1997 annual meeting
Saturday, 18 January, Camarillo, California

1. Called to order (Patten presiding) at 0915. All members were present.
2. Approval of 1996 minutes. (Patten/Terrill motion, 10-0)
3. Proposed bylaw revisions. Splitting the current Secretary position into two positions, being (a) a voting Chairperson and (b) a non-voting Secretary (Patten).
This turned into a long conversation where we agreed to Morlan's suggestion to address the succession of a non-voting secretary, which will be added to the by-laws. The removal of any member or Secretary is already covered in the by-laws.
Prior to voting on the bylaw, there was discussion to split the duties of a secretary and a new position, Chairperson. Patten/Pyle motion passed 10-0.

ARTICLE III. Membership

SECTION A. Number and Definitions - Change to:

The Committee shall consist of ten "Members" each elected to three-year terms. From this group, a Chairperson will be elected to serve one-year as Chairperson, with a maximum of three consecutive years as Chairperson.

The following information will be added for Chairperson:

ADD: SECTION E. Chairperson (and change Section lettering accordingly):

- (1) Qualifications. The same qualifications of Membership, above.
- (2) Election, Term of Office, and Nominations. (a) The Chairperson shall be nominated and elected as a regular member, but shall be elected as Chairperson for a term of one year and a maximum of three consecutive years. (see Membership, above, for other restrictions).
- (3) Duties. In addition to those of regular Members:
 - (a) With the approval of the Members, appoint chairpersons of subcommittees.
 - (b) Call and preside at Committee meetings.
 - (c) Keep or cause to keep minutes of Committee meetings.
 - (d) Furnish Members with a list of nominees for election to Member at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
 - (e) Furnish or cause to be furnished to anyone, upon request, all appropriate evidence, including Committee comments, concerning any accepted or rejected bird record. Such evidence may be in the form of copies of documents or photographs.

We also added a Vice-Chair position whose sole function is to act for the Chairperson in that person's absence.

We then discussed the issue of having a non-voting secretary. We voted on the original Patten by-law (Garrett/Patten motion, 3-7).

Then, we discussed verbiage that would accommodate a voting or non-voting secretary allowing for flexibility as members see fit. The following was agreed:

The Secretary may or may not be one of the ten voting members.

- (a) The Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year.

There is no term limit for Secretary (although if the Secretary is also a member, they will only have voting status for two consecutive three-year terms).

This new motion (Patten/ San Miguel) passed 10-0.

A number of subtle changes need to be made to the by-laws substituting Chairperson and Vice Chair for Secretary and Vice-Secretary. The Vice-Secretary position needs to be eliminated.

Under SECTION G. Voting

PARAGRAPH (4) On each circulation, THE CHAIRPERSON vote must be prior to sending the record to Members (thus without seeing Members' comments for that circulation).

We also agreed that during elections, members would be voted on and then the Secretary position would be filled, either from one of the members or a non-voting secretary.

4. Election of members: The terms of Heindel, McCaskie, and Morlan expire; McCaskie and Morlan are eligible for reelection.

Nominees formally submitted before the deadline (nominators are listed in parentheses):

Richard A. Erickson (Heindel, Patten)

Alvaro Jaramillo (Morlan)

Guy McCaskie (Garrett, Morlan)

Joseph Morlan (McCaskie, Patten, Singer)

Stephen C. Rottenborn (Morlan, Terrill)

Elected were Erickson, McCaskie, Morlan and Rottenborn.

5. Election of Chairperson. Nominations received (others may be made at the meeting):

Richard A. Erickson (Patten/Pyle, 9-0-1 abstention)

6. Election of Secretary. Nominations received (others may be made at the meeting):

David V. Blue (Heindel)

Michael M. Rogers (Morlan)

Stephen C. Rottenborn (Morlan)

Blue was elected (Pyle/Patten, 9-0-1 abstention)

7. Election of Vice-Chair Nominations to be made at the meeting. Patten/Garrett motion for Terrill, 10-0.

8. State of the Committee (= report from the Secretary)

A. Annual reports - A cozy "deal" with Philip Unitt . . . Garrett suggested that we think and search for corporate sponsors.

i. 18th report (1992 records) - published in W. Birds 27(1)

ii. 19th report (1993 records) - published in W. Birds 27(3)

iii. 20th report (1994 records) - Pyle and Howell for W. Birds 28(3).

Patten will determine a 'drop dead' date for WB. Roughly, we will need a draft for review by 1 May and the final to Phil on 1 June.

iv. 21st report (1995 records) - authors chosen at meeting: Garrett and Singer will write.

B. Circulation

- i. timeliness continues fine. There are some lingering submissions of votes, but generally good.
 - ii. handling of batches - A reminder about 3rd/4th class mail. Use 1st class or better.
 - iii. voting - Make sure to comment on rejected records!
- C. Budget - Do we need one for the new Secretary? WFO does supply \$400.
- D. Conduct- things are going well in this regard.

9. Introduced Bird Subcommittee.

A. Report from Chairman (Garrett) There is an increase in the amount of data coming in and he suggests an article or issue of WB will be forthcoming.

B. Appointment of 1997 Subcommittee- Garrett will determine this.

10. Review List changes. None submitted. We discussed Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo as they are approaching 100 records.

11. Records for which the Secretary needs direction.

A.) Yellow-billed Loon (178-1994) - 1994/1995 : Monterey Bay MTY (Are we happy with 3 birds?). We agreed to go with three- the real issue for Pyle is that we take our time when it comes to reviewing videotapes at meetings as we are making decisions based on these.

B.) Manx Shearwater (180-1994) - 21 Sep 1994 : Pt. Pinos MTY (Subsume into another record?) Monterey records can be difficult to determine the number of birds involved. We need to assess numbers.

C.) Harris' Hawk (80-1996) - various dates/locations (How to handle future circulation's?) We agreed to review each of these records individually. The secretary will put a cover sheet on the batch explaining that we are to vote on each record.

D.) Gray Catbird (43-1995) - 14 Jun 1984 : Wyman Creek INY (More info attached; recirculate?) A Patten/Garrett motion to recirc (and not consider as new and substantial) was 10-0.

12. Records brought to the meeting at the request of a member.

A.) Light-mantled Albatross - 17 Jul 1994 : Cordell Bank MRN (Garrett; Morlan?). Joe's name shall be taken off the record, but his notes will remain.

B.) Red-tailed Tropicbird - 24 Sep 1994 : 33 mi W of Pt Pinos MTY (Howell)

C.) Reddish Egret (15-1995) - 18 Dec 94/16 Jun 95 : Chula Vista SD McCaskie feels the two records are of two different birds and we will recirc and vote on both.

D.) Black Vulture (141-1993) - 19 Sep 93-9 Feb 94 : Arcata Bottoms HUM (Patten/Heindel motion to recirc)

E.) Black-billed Cuckoo (42-1995) - March 1918 : Fresno FRE (Patten) This will recirc. We are rejecting ID if we do not believe the bird was present as stated, as opposed to natural occurrence. Garrett will pursue the tags on other birds in the same collection to see if there is anything we can learn.

F.) Pyrrhuloxia (56-1995) - 28 May-11 Jun 1995 : Chemhuevi Wash SBE (Patten). We agreed to go with 4 birds.

13. Records without a decision after completion of the third round.

A.) Murphy's Petrels (45-1981) - 21 May 1981 : off Pt. Arena MEN

B.) Murphy's Petrels (68-1985) - 3 Jun 1985 : 12 mi W of SE Farallon I. SF

- C.) Stejneger's Petrel (53-1992) - 10 Oct 1991 : 120 mi WSW Pt. Conception SBA
- D.) Black Vulture (12-1972) - 13 Apr 1972 : Chico BUT
- E.) Trumpeter Swan (68-1993) - 15 Feb 1993 : Lake Almanor PLU
- F.) Mississippi Kite (142-1993) - 5 Jun 1983 : Tijuana R. valley SD
- G.) Red-necked Stint (215-1992) - 4 Jul 1987 : Santa Clara R. estuary VEN
- H.) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (57-1993) - 10 Oct 1992 : Tijuana R. valley SD
- I.) Red-throated Pipit (26-1992) - 14 Oct 1991 : Big Sur R. mouth MTY
- J.) Red-throated Pipit (26-1992) - 16 Oct 1991 : Salinas R. mouth MTY
- K.) Red-throated Pipit (26-1992) - 17 Oct 1991 : Moss Landing MTY
- L.) Yellow-throated Warbler (46-1993) - 2 Jun 1992 : Pt. Reyes MRN
- M.) Yellow-throated Warbler (126-1993) - 22 May 1993 : Pt. Reyes MRN
- N.) Painted Bunting (24-1993) - 4 Sep 1992 : San Diego SD
- O.) Painted Bunting (247-1992) - 15 Sep 1992 : Lydell Creek SCZ
- P.) Snow Bunting (234-1992) - 4 Nov 1989 : Furnace Creek Ranch INY

14. Supplemental List. No records to be considered.

15. Miscellaneous items.

A.) Additional photographs were received for Wedge-tailed Shearwater (3-1993), which was published as "not accepted, identification not established" in the 19th CBRC report. Is any further action necessary?

After review of new photos, we feel no action is needed.

B.) Does the Whooper Swan (289-1988) in San Joaquin Co. 16 Dec 1988 need to be reconsidered? We agreed that it should be reviewed Patten/Pyle motion and that the recent acceptance is new and substantial by 10-0.

C.) Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Eastern Meadowlark records remain at Louisiana State University for commentary by J. V. Remsen and Steven W. Cardiff, respectively. Heindel will ask for these records.

D.) "Old" White and Black-backed wagtail records. Steve N. G. Howell and David A. Sibley reviewed each. Should we take action on those the CBRC has accepted as "sp." that Howell and Sibley identify to species? We will get a draft as soon as possible.

E.) Status of the book on California Rarities-- The Committee agreed at the 1992 meeting to undertake a project to produce a book in which all records considered by the Committee would be listed, with brief annotations for certain records. Many seem to be in decent shape here; Patten asks members to send their versions in as soon as possible. If you are only awaiting more recent records, send to Patten and he will add. The goal is to publish this year.

F.) Steve N. G. Howell led a discussion regarding some members not phoning in rarities and one member rejecting records because of it. Interesting discussion with no conclusion.

16. Closing

A. Site and date of next meeting 17 January 1998 hosted by Scott at San Jose.

B. Appreciations: (Garrett/McCaskie, 10-0)

WFVZ for hosting the meeting. A discussion centered on ways to express this including, as a minimum, including this fact in published reports.

To Matt Heindel for years served

To Michael Patten for years served and an excellent job as Secretary.

To Walter Wehtje for hosting the Friday evening social and hospitality
C. Adjournment at 1630- a record!!

- Matthew T. Heindel, Vice-Secretary, 20 January 1997