2010 MINUTES OF THE MONTANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Date: 12 November 2010
Location: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Office, Great Falls
Members present: Dan Casey (Chair), Chuck Carlson, John Carlson, Coburn Currier, Nate Kohler, Rose Leach, Harriet Marble, Jeff Marks (Secretary), Bob Martinka, Fritz Prellwitz, Mike Schwitters, Dan Sullivan
Absent: Ted Nordhagen
Non-members present: Paul Hendricks, Alan Nelson

Approval of 2009 Minutes: 10:10

Evaluation of records: We reviewed 52 new reports in 2010, with Committee members submitting their votes to the Secretary in advance of the annual meeting. Highlights included acceptance of three new state birds, **Crested Caracara**, **Carolina Wren**, **Winter Wren** (from recent AOU split); the second records for **Costa's Hummingbird** and **Western Scrub-Jay**; and the third, fourth, and fifth records for the **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. The Official State List now stands at 427 species.

Review List: We voted to make the following changes to the list of officially "rare" species (i.e., the Review List): **Yellow Rail**, no report needed for LL12; **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler**, no report needed E of 108°W; **Blue Grosbeak**, no report needed for LL41; **Lesser Goldfinch**, no report needed for LL41. We discussed but rejected the proposal to drop **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from the review list, even though there are more than 30 records.

Old reports reconsidered: We re-evaluated the reports for the Whip-poor-will seen at Libby Dam in 1990 (MBRC 1991-003) in light of the recent split by the AOU. We were unable to make a decision on the available written evidence, and the species will be recorded simply as Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus* sp.) on the State List.

Bylaws discussion: In February, we voted to amend Part VIII(A) of the Bylaws to reflect how reports are accepted depending on the size of the Committee. At the beginning of Line 5, the Bylaws now reads: "When the Committee consists of 10 or fewer members, a report is "accepted" if there is no more than one dissenting or undecided vote ("B" or "C" as defined in Section D below). A report is "not accepted" if two or more voting members feel that the submitted documentation is inadequate to support the stated identification. When the Committee consists of 11 or more members, a report is "accepted" if there are no more than two dissenting or undecided votes. A report is "not accepted" if three or more voting members feel that the submitted documentation is inadequate to support the stated identification."

Membership: Prior to the first round of voting in 2010, we voted to add Rose Leach and Ted Nordhagen to the Committee, which now stands at 13 members (the maximum allowable number).

Election of Chair and Secretary: No elections are required until next year.

Action items: (1) The following members will track down information from the spreadsheet that Coburn handed around regarding Tracker records of rare birds for which we have no rare bird report: Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo II (John); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cackling Goose I & II (Dan C.); American White Pelican I & II (Coburn); Yellow Rail I (Fritz); Sedge Wren I & II (Jeff); Gray-headed Junco (Nate). (2) Coburn will make sure that all the reports and supporting material are placed in the archives at the Montana Natural Heritage office in Helena and that the accepted records are entered into Tracker. (3) Dan C. will have Bruce Tannehill make a sonogram of the Philadelphia Vireo recording (2010-027) for the archives. (4) Jeff will contact all observers who submitted a report for the last round of voting and inform them of the outcome of our evaluation.—(5) John will write up the Cackling Goose report for the bird he photographed the day before the meeting (five birds seen by many of us the next day).

Adjournment: 14:50

Our next meeting is scheduled for Great Falls on 14 October 2011

Submitted by: Jeff Marks, Secretary, 15 November 2010

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