

**Minutes for the 2008 CBRC Meeting
Los Gatos, 18-19 January 2008**

1. Call to order at 3:05 PM, 18 January 2008 (Chairman presiding). All members present.

2007 minutes. No approval needed; approved 28 January 2007.

Broad topics/general discussion

On-line voting/record and batch processing by secretary: no progress in 07 towards on-line voting; same issues remain: need to uncover methods to improve efficiency and decrease workload of Secretary. This will help with archiving, eliminate mail, lost batches, etc. It will greatly reduce the time it takes to vote on many records. Record/batch workload in 2007 approached or exceeded highest level yet, so improving our system is more important than ever. Guy entered 307 records into the database in 2007, about 75 more than average. Despite a fairly lengthy discussion at the last meeting, we failed to move forward on this issue. Perhaps a sub-committee should take on the task of researching a viable long-term solution. This could include identifying key questions we need answers to, soliciting help from other record committees who have successfully made the transition to a web-based system, deciding what "system" we want to adopt, and putting the call out for a volunteer with the willingness and expertise to create this system. Our ultimate goal needs to be two fold: reduce the secretary's workload and streamline the voting process for members (thereby reducing circulation times). In an effort to move the process forward, Morlan and McCaskie agreed to meet as soon as possible to set up an initial program for online voting for records in their first circulation. Comment: Meeting took place on Thursday, 31 January 2008 with progress made.

Website update and continuing issues

Pete LaTourette stepped down as webmaster for WFO and the CBRC at the end of 2007. WFO hired Tim Avery to be its new webmaster and his services were made available to the CBRC on a limited basis. Eric Preston volunteered to take over webmaster responsibilities for the Committee and members were enthusiastic about his involvement and unanimous in their support. Singer volunteered to work with Preston in revamping the website. Modifications discussed included updating the appearance of the site, changing the online documentation form to something similar to that used by the Colorado BCR (with their permission), adding an errata page for the recently published book, Rare Birds of California. Singer will update the new Chair as progress is made. WFO plans to change the URL for their website. The name Californiabirds.org is owned by WFO and available for the CBRC site. The old URL will forward to the new URL when it is set up.

Morlan expressed his desire to have a current member take over the responsibility of uploading photos to the Rare Bird Photos page. Brian Sullivan was suggested as the member best suited for this task. Comment: Sullivan has agreed to this.

Posting of minutes and annual reports – Morlan reminded members that meeting minutes and annual reports were not being added to the website in a timely fashion. Annual Report authors should request PDFs of the report from Phil Unitt so they will be available for posting on our web site as soon as published.

Committee and the community / the Book

Little done by members in 2007. The committee should have more presence at WFO meetings - only 3 voting members were at Las Vegas.

The Committee discussed the value and importance of its relationship with the birding community and ways to strengthen it. There was broad agreement that members should make an effort to attend in-state WFO conferences and that the committee would make short presentations and entertain questions from the audience.

Rare Birds of California

We've had glowing comments. Paul Hess is reviewing *Rare Birds for Birding*, which will be published in the next issue. Eric Salzman will review it for *Winging It*, the following month. Paul Baicich reviewed it for his e-bulletin. The *Wilson Bulletin* will review it but have not yet chosen a reviewer. David Fix is reviewing it for *Western Birds*. Sylvia Gallagher is reviewing it for all the southern California Audubon newsletters. Kimball Garrett reviewed it for L. A. Audubon's newsletter.

It was agreed that an effort should be made to get libraries who subscribe to "Western Birds" to buy the book. This idea will be referred to the WFO publications committee.

Identification, status issues:

Arctic Loon (Pyle) – pertains to 2007-067, Batch 07Q – Pyle led a discussion which focused on the difference in white/dark pattern on the femoral tracts of Arctic and Pacific loons – Arctics have the proximal half white, Pacifics are entirely dark. Jaramillo pointed out the difference in white flank shape of Arctics versus Pacifics, with Arctics tending to show white extending higher above the rear flanks.

American Oystercatcher (Pyle) from 2006 report - One from Long Beach LA 29 Apr 2006 was scored using the index of Jehl (1985) as a likely hybrid and the Committee followed suit by not accepting the record. However, the scoring was ultra-conservative, as marks not well seen were given a zero (meaning pure Black Oystercatcher characteristics) so it is possible this was indeed an acceptable bird. The Committee agreed that the application of the Jehl scoring system to birds in which not all field marks are visible must be modified to account for this. Applying a zero value to unseen field marks is not recommended.

Iceland Gull (Pyle, Nelson) – The committee discussed at length the status of this species in California and other areas away from core wintering areas.

There were divergent opinions concerning status and likelihood of increasing numbers of birds reaching the west coast. A review of images of purported Iceland Gulls reported recently led to a general consensus that many gulls being identified or tentatively proposed as Iceland Gulls are actually not. Many of these may be small Herring x Glaucous-winged hybrids, Glaucous x Glaucous-winged hybrids, pale Thayer's or Glaucous-wingeds. The fact that many of these birds show unusually large bills for typical Iceland Gull was considered a serious strike against their acceptability.

Crested Caracara - it was decided at the 2007 meeting records would circulate in one batch per year so that patterns of occurrence and/or numbers of individuals might more easily be sorted out. The pattern of natural occurrence of this species has been difficult to separate from potential escaped captives. There was general agreement that more research into this problem would be beneficial and Garrett agreed to contact Illiff about authoring a white paper on the subject.

2. Election of members (nominees not included here).
 - 2a. We had an extensive discussion of possible future membership, which included suggestions received from Calbirds. There was wide agreement that many outstanding potential members exist. The Committee will continue to encourage suggestions from the birding public, but we encourage suggestions for new members to include only people who have been contacted and who are willing to serve.

The Committee adjourned for the evening at 7:45 PM.

The Committee was called to order on Saturday, 19 January 2008 at 8:40 AM. All members present.

- 2b. Election. The terms of Garrett, Morlan and Singer expire.
Nominations:
Brian Sullivan (Terrill, Jaramillo)
Ken Able (Terrill)
Jon Dunn (Garrett)
Jon Feenstra (Garrett)
Jim Tietz (Morlan)
Luke Cole (Singer)
Matt Brady (Singer)
Matt Sadowski (Morlan, Terrill)

After lengthy discussion due in part to the strong slate of candidates, elected were Dunn, Sullivan and Tietz.

3. Election of Secretary (one year term) - nomination of Guy McCaskie (Singer), elected 9-0.
4. Election of Chair (one year term) – nomination of Dave Compton (Singer), elected 9-0.

5. Election of Vice-Chair (one year term) – nomination of Jon Dunn (Singer), elected 9-0.
6. State of the Committee.
 - 6a. Annual reports.

2005 records: Morlan noted that this report had not been posted on our web site. Morlan agreed to obtain a pdf copy and post it.

2006 records: Heindel and Garrett have draft ready for final review.

2007 records: Singer and Terrill coauthoring this report.

2008 records: Pike expressed interest in co-authoring report, but nobody else volunteered and authorship left unresolved.

Note: there is a shift on distribution of passerine/non-passerine records so future authors might want to shift traditional split. Singer and Terrill using MTH recommended species split: waterfowl – shorebirds / gulls – passerines.

Annual Report format change: one account per species which would include Accepted, Rejected – ID, Rejected – Origin, Miscellaneous, instead of separate sections for each result category – Pyle. This would eliminate numerous reader referrals to elsewhere in report (e.g. See Records Not Accepted”). This proposal by Pyle received unanimous support and will be implemented in the 2007 report and possibly the 2006 report if the authors have sufficient time and energy to do so. The committee also agreed that annual reports should cite Rare Birds of California instead of individual annual reports published before it.

Inconsistent terminology usage – Pyle reminded report authors that the Committee adopted standard age vs. cycle terminology for reports, but adherence to it has been sporadic. Members agreed this oversight resulted in part from using reports with inconsistent terminology as templates for the next report, hence perpetuating the problem. All agreed of the importance of using standard age terminology in future reports.

Garrett suggested that we alter the way observers are credited so that the original finder’s initials would be in brackets instead of before a semi-colon. The committee agreed that this change should be implemented.

Ongoing reminders -

Note from Phil Unitt: Please include photos/illustrations with the draft report.

Note from Phil Unitt: Western Birds has a steady flow of submissions; we do not get a place holder so our submissions get in line. Timeliness is important.

McCaskie reminded authors, when completed with your section of the report, return the records to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology – NOT to the Secretary.

Report authors should remember to acknowledge all outside contributors.

- 6b. First state records (some may still be in circulation) and potential publication in *Western Birds*:
There was general agreement that many of these potential papers will never be written due in part to time constraints by potential authors. Many members felt the importance of these papers was lessened by the immediacy of information disseminated over the internet.

Lesser Frigatebird
Wood Sandpiper
Tristram's Storm-petrel
Common Rosefinch (pending acceptance)
Swallow-tailed Kite (pending acceptance)
Townsend's Shearwater (Phil Unitt)
Eurasian Kestrel (pending acceptance)
Slaty-backed Gull (Jaramillo) – North American perspective?
Taiga Flycatcher (Terrill)

Morlan noted that the Eurasian Kestrel is planned as a "Feature Photo" in a future issue of *Western Birds*.

- 6c. Circulation (McCaskie/Singer).
- Note member absence if you are holding batch- this is by far the easiest thing to correct that is left ignored.
This is from the 2006 meeting minutes:
If you are leaving town, send an email to the entire committee so whoever is holding the batch can write the dates on the routing sheet. To help track batches, when you send a batch, send an email to the intended recipient, along with a copy to Chair and Secretary. Please remember to do this!!
 - Hold times generally OK, but bottlenecks exist and slow circulation time, sometimes substantially.
 - When Guy sends the voting results, please compare with your vote (sometimes mistakes are made and we need to catch them before the record recirculates with the wrong cover sheet and vote tally).
 - For batches emanating from the Annual Meeting, we will change the circulation order to get those people going off the committee to the front of the order (to get them "off" as soon as practical).
 - 4th and finals – see Dunn/Singer proposal
- 6d. Budget (McCaskie)
McCaskie submitted a request for reimbursement of \$104 for the 2007 cost of the committee's PO Box. The request was approved.
- 6e. Secretary's/Chair's comments:
- 1) Do not add documentation to a record during circulation without checking with Chair/Secretary – not a problem in 07
 - 2) Not all documentation is circulated through the mail and the amount of extraneous material is now too much to view

completely at the annual meeting; note that this particularly refers to videotapes;

3) The Secretary may attempt to discourage reports of “obviously misidentified” birds, but if reporters persist, the record will circulate.

4) If you ask for recirculation on “same bird/different bird” grounds, please make an argument one way or the other for the committee to consider.

5) If the Secretary sends you a revised cover sheet for a record in your possession, please replace the “old” cover as it no longer matches the database.

6) Pay attention to cover sheets and any instructions on them

7) Please be careful with batches and records. Make sure CDs are encased in padded sleeves and envelopes securely fastened before sending to next member.

6f. Assignments/volunteers

- Public relations on the Internet – Garrett agreed to continue in this role during 2008.
- Maintaining and updating the CBRC photo gallery (volunteer for 2008?) Requires ready access to photos from records in circulation, so best done by current member. Sullivan will be approached about taking on this responsibility. Comment: Sullivan accepted.
- Photos for each record need to be burned to individual CDs for archival purposes. A time consuming and laborious project. Oscar Johnson was suggested a possible candidate for this task and Compton agreed to discuss it with him.

6g. Bylaws: a few modifications were proposed.

A Terrill/Nelson motion of a Dunn/Singer proposal to facilitate timelier voting on 4th and final records produced significant discussion and was approved 9-0. Members agreed that, at each member’s discretion, voting could be accomplished by one of two options: Option 1) elect to not review records again and submit electronic votes to the Secretary within one week of the current meeting’s adjournment; Option 2) elect to review records in a batch and submit votes after receipt and review of batch. Fourth and final batches will only circulate to members not electing Option 1. It was agreed that this was a minor procedural change that did not require changes to the by-laws.

From Joe Morlan: minor changes to Section III Members that cleans up unnecessary wordiness and removes the requirements for California residency: see attached modifications. Minor changes to Section VI. Bird records: see attached. Both motions passed 9-0 and Morlan will post changes to website. Comment: web site has been so updated.

7. Introduced Bird Subcommittee.

7a. Report (Garrett)

The subcommittee will continue to gather population information on potential introduced birds which may qualify as additions to the State List. No such additions seem imminent at this time.

- 7b. Appointment of 2008 Subcommittee: Garrett will be joined by Jaramillo and Morlan.

8. Proposed Review List changes.

Additions: No recommendations

Deletions:

Manx Shearwater - Terrill/Morlan motion passed 9-0. A combination of over 100 records and, more importantly, an average of almost 7 records per year led to this decision.

Brown Booby - Compton/Nelson motion passed 9-0. Combination of over 100 records averaging over 4 per year led to this species removal.

Yellow-throated Vireo - Morlan/Pyle motion passed 8-1. Combination of over 100 records, averaging over 4 per year, led to removal.

Yellow-throated Warbler - Jaramillo/Morlan motion failed 4-5. Average less than 4 per records per year.

Scarlet Tanager - Pyle/Terrill motion passed 9-0. Combination of over 100 records, averaging over 4 per year, led to removal.

Snow Bunting - no motion made. Average less than 3 records per year.

9. Miscellaneous items.

- 9a. Group photo

- 9b. State List: new for the State are Townsend's Shearwater, Lesser Frigatebird and Wood Sandpiper. The State List is 636, with Tristram's Storm-Petrel, Swallow-tailed Kite, Eurasian Kestrel, Great Black-backed Gull, Yellow Grosbeak and Common Rosefinch as potential first records in circulation.

- 9c. What do we do with miscellaneous data not currently archived at WFVZ? E.g. Spoonbill records (mostly historical) compiled for spoonbill batch and submissions of subspecies. Best solution probably not to store with secretary as over time data might be lost as it travels from secretary to secretary, not to mention the space it might take up in someone's house. Compton will contact WFVZ about available storage space.

- 9d. Same bird issues. This is a recurring issue for some members. Should this be addressed explicitly in member comments? Obviously a good idea when possible, but there are records where it seems obvious to me that we can't know what the answer is, so I don't address it and thereby tacitly accept multiple individuals. When this is the only outstanding issue, should records be recirculated or can it be left to report authors to summarize different opinions? Note many items in section 11. Most members agreed that same-bird issues were often unresolvable and were best handled by authors of annual reports rather than by attempting to achieve a consensus among members through the voting process.

- 9e. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in San Diego County. A unique situation in which we have records with no end date. Multiple birds are resident and at least some are breeding. A short discussion was had but no action taken. General agreement that this can best be addressed by annual report authors.

- 9f. Submissions of email discussions for inclusion with records – Pyle pointed out the need for editing email submissions so discussions contained in them are in chronological order and superfluous information is removed.
- 10. Records for which the Chair/Secretary need direction or assistance.**
- 10a. Dark-rumped Petrel 2005-123 – rejected 4-5 after 3rd round, but new and substantial data has been received (documentation from Todd Easterla and Martin Myers). The committee agreed to recirculate this record.
- 10b. Green Violet-ear 1978-040/2005-050 Mt. Pinos – accepted as being in Kern County but David Vander Pluym wrote the following: “I noticed that the Green Violet-ear was accepted as being in Kern County though it was listed as being in Ventura County on the record and elsewhere. I checked the actually (sic) location in the write-up and it was given as being ‘south of the Iris Meadows parking area’. Iris Meadows and the very north edge of the parking lot are Kern County, but the county line runs through the parking lot and anything at the south end of the parking lot or south of there is in Ventura County. The road eventually goes back into Kern County down by the Mt Pinos Campground. So from the description of the location it sounds like the Violet-ear was soundly in Ventura County.” Committee agreed with Vander Pluym and a correction will be made in the 2006 report.
- 10c. Records that began circulation but were withdrawn from circulation at the request of the submitting observers. Brown Booby 2006-191 – south of Imperial Beach; proved to be in Mexico – no decision after 1 round (5-4). Field Sparrow 2007-001 near Santa Maria (Garey), SBA – observer believes he made a mistake – rejected after 1 round (4-5) but recirculation requested. Committee agreed the records should remain withdrawn.
- 10d. Photo only records posted on the web / emails posted to listserves. Members generally agreed that photos and sightings posted to public forums can be regarded as record submissions, though photos for publication in annual reports must come from records submitted directly to the committee. Morlan led a discussion of copyright issues. The committee agreed that ownership of photos and text invariably remains with the photographers and authors, according to copyright law, and is not considered to be in the public domain.

- 11. Records brought to the meeting at the request of a member.**
- 11a. Manx Shearwater 2006-159, 2006-193 – how many present in MTY Bay during fall 2006? Numerous accepted records already being dealt with in 2006 report. Morlan concerned about sorting out same bird issues and has suggested reviewing all records together like the committee did previously with Wilson’s Storm-Petrel records. Most members thought same bird issues in these types of circumstances were unresolvable and were best dealt with by annual report authors and editors of the regional reports in “North American Birds.”
- 11b. Brown Booby 2007-033 – how many present on SEFI during 2006? All but SBT accept four, Terrill accepted three but with no comments. Pyle points out that island biologists recorded seven individuals they regarded as new arrivals, but PP accepts only four of these (contra record cover sheet). Pyle offered persuasive comments that four birds were present and the committee agreed to accept four
- 11c. Little Gull 2007-012, 2007-026, 2007-050 - 1st cycle gulls at Salton Sea elicited divergent opinions on how many individuals involved. Most considered records pertained to different individuals, but one felt only one bird was involved, and two thought two or possibly three were involved. Most members thought the number of individuals involved was unresolvable and potential duplication was best dealt with by authors in an annual report.
- 11d. Lesser Black-backed Gull records recently accepted 2006-143, 2007-082 – up to 3 adults SESS and 1 at NESS. Most members thought the number of individuals involved was unresolvable and potential duplication was best dealt with by authors in an annual report.
- 11e. Lesser Black-backed Gull records recently accepted 2007-062, 2007-084, 2007-099 – first winter birds seen at SESS 22 Feb Johnson’s Landing, 23 Feb Alamo R. mouth, 8-25 Apr N. end of Poe Rd. Most members thought the number of individuals involved was unresolvable and potential duplication was best dealt with by authors in an annual report.
- 11f. Slaty-backed Gull – Bruce Webb asked about Folsom Lake record 2002-195. Morlan/Jaramillo motion to re-review passed 9-0.
- 11g. Green-violet Ear – Record 1977-059. Pyle/Jaramillo motion to re-review passed 7-2.
- 11h. Trumpeter Swan specimen records 2006-045 and 2006-046 – brought to a meeting in mid-circulation. Records are poorly documented (no measurements, out of focus tags, limited photos) which has led to diverse opinions. No reason we can’t make a more informed decision once Alan Contreras supplies us with more thorough documentation in late March when he visits the S. Oregon University. Recommend suspending circulation until then. Committee agreed the record should be suspended until further information is received from Contreras, after which Chair and Secretary will decide whether to continue circulation.
- 11i. Yellow Grosbeak 2006-093 – brought to meeting in mid-circulation. After 2 rounds the vote stands at 2-7, with two members voting to accept, 1 member voting to reject on ID and 6 members accepting ID but questioning origin. Morlan led a discussion. We interpreted the applicable by-laws to accept the identification because only one member questioned it. Thus the record stands as rejected, natural occurrence questionable, identification accepted.

11j. Slaty-backed Gull – 2005-015 & 2006-008 Added to the agenda at the meeting. Authors of 2007 annual report will discuss this bird and treat the 2006 record as a returning bird.

12. Records without a decision after completion of third circulation.

These records have considerable support. In reading record comments, I selected dissenting members to lead the conversation of the record.

2005-183 (Red-tailed Tropicbird 158 nmi sw of San Nicolas I. VEN 28 Sep 05)
Compton and Garrett

2006-070 (American Golden-Plover China Lake, KER 20 May 06) Pyle, Singer
and Terrill

2005-177 (Little Stint nr Crescent City, DN 27 Sep 05) Morlan and Jaramillo –
expert opinion will be sought before final circulation.

2005-020 (Blue-headed Vireo at DeHaven Cr. Mouth, MEN 6 Oct 84) Jaramillo

2005-189 (Field Sparrow in Berkeley, ALA 14-15 Nov 05) Jaramillo

13. Supplemental List. No action.

14. Closing.

14a. Site and date of next meeting: – When and where in 2009 – comments
from Linnea at WFVZ: committee welcome but weekends and evenings –
are likely unavailable as no staff are present. Compton will research
meeting site for 2009 meeting and inform 2008 committee accordingly.

14b. Appreciations:

Linnea Hall and WFVZ for ongoing support of archiving records;

Peter LaTourrette for web work

Garrett, Morlan, and Singer for time served

HT Harvey and Associates and Scott Terrill for hosting

14c. Adjournment. Garrett/Compton motion to adjourn at 6:30pm passed 9-0.

Submitted 13 February 2008

Dan Singer, Chair

Approved

Proposal to remove Manx Shearwater from the Review List (Compton)

This was discussed at the last meeting, however per Compton's request due to the continuing accumulation of records, continued discussion is warranted. Through 2006, there have been 97 accepted individuals, with an additional 6 records (5 in review) submitted in 2007. In the last 10 years (excluding 2007), the average is 6.8 per year, 7.3 going back 11 years, and 6.3 per year since 1993 when the species was added to the state list. We continue to have a situation in which several reported annually are not submitted, reflecting observer attitudes (particularly in MTY) that the species is expected in small numbers annually.

Record totals:

2007	1 (plus 5 in circulation)
2006	10 (plus 4 in circulation)
2005	6
2004	4
2003	2
2002	8
2001	7
2000	2
1999	12
1998	6
1997	11
1996	12
1995	5
1994	5
1993	5

Most recent 10 year average = 68 (1997-2006) <doesn't include circulating records>

Proposal to remove Brown Booby from the Review List (Compton, Singer)

Through 2006, there have been 97 accepted records, with an additional 4 records submitted in 2006 still in circulation and 17 new records submitted in 2007. In the last 10 years, the average is 4.6 per year (accepted records only through 2006) and 3.9 per year going back 15 years. The recent Western Birds paper (Whitworth et al, 2007) mentions 35 birds on Los Coronados during the 2007 breeding season. As anyone who has done any sea-watching off San Diego this past summer can attest, Brown Boobies are being seen frequently from shore and offshore. Reaching agreement on same bird issues is most certainly impossible.

Brown Booby (97 individuals thru 2006)

Record totals:

2007	17 new and in circulation
2006	11 (4 in circulation)
2005	4
2004	1
2003	6
2002	2
2001	2
2000	2
1999	9
1998	4
1997	5
1996	4
1995	2
1994	2
1993	1 (returning bird)
1992	4 (2 returning birds)

Most recent ten year total = 46 (1997-2006) <doesn't include circulating records>

Proposal to remove Yellow-throated Vireo from the review list (Morlan)

Through 2006 there are 110 individuals, with an average of 4.7 annually during the last ten years. Almost 5 per year since 1998, we've accumulated over 100 records, ID is not a serious issue, status and pattern of occurrence are well established.

Yellow-throated Vireo (110 thru 2006)

2007	4 (plus 3 in circulation)
2006	4
2005	3
2004	8
2003	6
2002	5
2001	10
2000	0
1999	5
1998	2
1997	3

Most recent ten year total = 47 (1998-2007)

Proposal to remove Yellow-throated Warbler from the review list (Morlan)

Through 2006 there are 113 individuals, with an average of 3.5 annually during the last ten years. 2007 brought 5 additional records with 1 still in circulation. The average is 3.5 per year over the past 10, a little below the 4 per year threshold. However, we've accumulated over 100 records, ID is not a serious issue, status and pattern of occurrence are well established.

Yellow-throated Warbler (113 individuals thru 2006)

2007	5 (plus 1 in circulation)
2006	5
2005	3
2004	6
2003	5
2002	3
2001	3
2000	0 (1999-197 over wintered to 4/2000)
1999	2
1998	3
1997	6

Most recent ten year total = 35 (1998-2007)

Proposal to remove Scarlet Tanager from the review list (Morlan)

Through 2006 there are 137 individuals, with an average of 4.3 annually during the last ten years. 2007 brought 4 additional records with 3 still in circulation, including one record of 5 individuals. We have now accumulated well over 100 records and status and pattern of occurrence are well established. However, ID is not always straight forward for many birders.

Scarlet Tanager (137 individuals)

2007	1 (plus 3 in circulation including a record of 5 birds)
2006	3
2005	3
2004	6
2003	6
2002	2
2001	14
2000	2
1999	3
1998	3
1997	1

Most recent 10 year total = 43 (1997-2006)

Proposal to remove Snow Bunting from the review list (Morlan)

Through 2006 there are 111 individuals, with an average of 2.6 birds per year.

2007	1 (plus 4 new and in circulation)
2006	2
2005	3
2004	6
2003	2
2002	3
2001	1
2000	2
1999	4
1998	2
1997	1
1996	12

Most recent 10 year = 26 (1997-2006)

By-law changes resulting from 2008 meeting:

III. Membership

A. Number and Definitions. The Committee shall consist of at least nine Voting Members, one of whom is the “Chair,” and one of whom is the “Vice-Chair,” each with one vote.

B. Qualifications. Anyone is eligible to become a Voting Member if, in the estimation of the existing Voting Members, that person has demonstrated an expert ability in, and knowledge of, field identification of birds and is a member in good standing of Western Field Ornithologists.

C. Members.

(1) Election and Term of Office.

(a) Voting Members shall be elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years, so that three will be elected each year. Election shall be by vote of a quorum present in person or represented by written absentee ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Committee; proxies shall not be used in this election, but an absent Voting Member may vote by indicating the choices to the Chair in writing prior to the meeting. The three candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; if necessary, ties shall be decided by additional ballots listing only those persons tied.

(b) Voting Members take office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected and serve until the close of the third Annual Meeting after election, or until their successors take office. The Members-Elect may, at the discretion of the existing Committee, be seated, without vote, during the remainder of the Annual Meeting at which they were elected.

(c) Voting Members may serve only one full term, after which they must retire until the next annual meeting before they may be considered for reelection.

(2) Nominations. Nominations of Voting Members shall be made only by Voting Members and only in writing to the Chair at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. It is the responsibility of the nominator to obtain confirmation of willingness to serve from the nominees submitted. A nominator may make a maximum of one nomination per each vacancy. If the total number of nominees is not sufficient to fill the vacant seats, it is the responsibility of the Chair to nominate the number of persons required. The Chair shall transmit the names of the nominees to all Members at least three weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.

D. Secretary.

(1) Qualifications. The Secretary must meet the qualifications of Voting Membership, above. The Secretary may simultaneously serve as Secretary and one of the Nine Voting Members, but need not be a Voting Member.

(2) Election and Term of Office.

(a) The Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year. Election shall be by vote of five or more Voting Members present in person, not by proxy or written absentee ballot, at the Annual Meeting of the Committee. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected; if necessary, a tie shall be decided by additional ballots listing only those persons tied. The Chair, or if absent another Voting Member, shall conduct the election.

(b) The Secretary takes office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which elected and serves until the close of the next Annual Meeting or until a successor takes office.

(c) The Secretary may serve an unlimited number of terms.

(3) Nominations. Nominations for Secretary shall be made only by Voting Members (not the Secretary or other persons) and at any time prior to, or at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by communication to an attending Voting Member. It is the responsibility of the nominator to obtain confirmation of willingness to serve from the nominee submitted. A nominator may make a maximum of one nomination, and may not self-nominate. The Secretary must notify all Members at least three weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of a willingness to continue in office or an intention to retire.

(4) Duties. The duties of the Secretary and Chair overlap somewhat, and responsibilities may fluctuate over time. The following are the duties of the Secretary:

(a) Receive, circulate, recirculate and file all bird records and supporting data submitted to the Committee. Whenever possible the records filed should be the originals, as copies fade with age.

(b) Procure additional data on records when deemed desirable, especially when a record is to come up for discussion at a meeting of the Committee. Prior to any meeting, furnish Members with a list of records to be discussed.

(c) Tabulate results of all votes of the Committee on records.

(d) Keep current the Review List, furnish it to anyone upon request, and publish it in *Western Birds*, preferably with each Annual Report.

(e) Furnish Members with such equipment as needed, including Voting Forms.

(f) Furnish or cause to be furnished to anyone, upon request, all appropriate evidence, including Committee comments, concerning any accepted or not accepted bird record. Such evidence may be in the form of copies of documents or photographs.

- (g) Furnish Report Forms to anyone upon request and free of charge.
- (h) Keep current a master copy of these Bylaws and assure that they are properly applied.

E. Chair.

(1) Qualifications. The Chair must be one of the nine Members.

(2) Election and Term of Office.

- (a) The Chair shall be elected for a term of one year. Election shall be by vote of a quorum present in person, not by proxy or absentee ballot, at the Annual Meeting of the Committee.
- (b) The Chair takes office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which elected and serves until the close of the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is elected.
- (c) The Chair may serve an unlimited number of terms, except as provided in the Bylaws controlling the number of terms that a Member may serve.

(3) Nominations. Nominations for Chair shall be made only by Voting Members, and only at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by communication to an attending Voting Member. It is the responsibility of the nominator to obtain confirmation of willingness to serve from the nominee submitted. A nominator may make a maximum of one nomination, and may not self-nominate.

(4) Duties.

- (a) Call and preside at Committee meetings.
- (b) Keep, or cause to be kept, minutes of Committee meetings.
- (c) With the approval of the Members, appoint chairpersons of subcommittees.
- (d) Furnish Members with a list of nominees for election to Member at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (e) Assist the Secretary and members with record distribution, recirculations, and other required clarifications.
- (f) Furnish or cause to be furnished to anyone, upon request, all appropriate evidence, including Committee comments, concerning any accepted or not accepted bird record. Such evidence may be in the form of copies of documents or photographs.

(g) Keep current a master copy of these Bylaws and assure that they are properly applied.

F. Vice-Chair.

(1) Qualifications. The Vice-Chair must be one of the nine Voting Members.

(2) Election and Term of Office.

(a) The Vice-Chair shall be elected for a term of one year. Election shall be by vote of a quorum present in person, not by proxy or absentee ballot, at the Annual Meeting of the Committee.

(b) The Vice-Chair takes office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which elected and serves until the close of the next Annual Meeting, or until a successor is elected.

(c) The Vice-Chair may serve an unlimited number of terms, except as provided in the Bylaws controlling the number of terms that a Voting Member may serve.

(3) Nominations. Nominations for Vice-Chair shall be made only by Voting Members, and only at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by communication to an attending Voting Member. It is the responsibility of the nominator to obtain confirmation of willingness to serve from the nominee submitted. A nominator may make a maximum of one nomination, and may not self-nominate.

(4) Duties. The Vice-Chair shall, at the Chair's request, assist in carrying out the Chair's duties. If the Chair shall be unable to serve, then the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair in all respects. The Vice-Chair, or a representative Member, shall conduct the election of the Chair.

G. Removals. The Committee may remove, for cause, the Secretary, or any Voting Members who are delinquent in their duties. Such action requires a vote of the majority of all other Voting Members, not merely of a quorum. A removal must be accomplished at a meeting of the Committee; absent Voting Members may vote by written absentee ballot to the Committee. If removal of the chair is proposed, the Vice-Chair shall preside.

H. Vacancies and Special Elections. If the Committee loses a Voting Member during mid-term (through death, resignation, removal, or otherwise), the Chair shall immediately conduct an election, termed a Special Election, for the purpose of filling the vacancy. A Special Election may be conducted at a meeting or by individual contact (such as mail, e-mail or telephone), whichever is most expedient in the opinion of the Chair. The manner of nomination and election shall be similar, with appropriate exceptions, to the regular selection of a Voting Member or Chair, whichever pertains.

I. Compensation. Neither the Secretary nor a Voting Member may receive compensation for Committee work, but may be reimbursed by the Treasurer of the Western Field Ornithologists for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of Committee duties.

VI. Bird Records

A. Definitions. For the purposes of this Committee and these Bylaws, a “record” is considered to be documentation submitted to the Committee as proof of the identity and presence of a bird. The “Review List” is that most recent list of “forms” (such as species, superspecies, subspecies or hybrid combinations) that will be accepted for review by the Committee.

B. Records Treated.

- (1) Records only from the State of California and adjacent ocean (as defined in II.A.) will be treated.
- (2) The forms treated will be determined from time to time by the Committee. In general, the Review List will consist of species that have occurred within California and adjacent ocean on an average of four or fewer times per year during the ten-year period immediately preceding revision of the Review List. By vote of at least seven members at a meeting or by other voting procedure, the Committee may, as it sees fit, add other species (such as those whose identification is difficult) or forms (such as superspecies, subspecies, or hybrid combinations) to the Review List. To add or delete a form to/from the Review List shall require at least seven votes. Records of species not on the Review List, but for which there is no accepted record for California, will be treated.
- (3) The criteria for inclusion on the Review List, and the forms listed, will be reviewed at least once every five years.
- (4) Records based on specimens or bandings will be treated in the same manner as other records.
- (5) Any record, whether published or not, old or new, may be submitted by a Voting Member or other person. An exception to this is a record that has received a previous Committee decision (see Resubmission).
- (6) Records concerning forms that are only locally or temporally rare in California will not be treated.

(7) Without specific Committee approval (i.e., approval of all or all but one Members at a meeting), forms other than species will not be treated unless listed on the Review List.

(8) The Committee will also review records of breeding populations of introduced species not on the state list, but only if evidence is submitted that attempts to prove (a) the correct identification of the species and (b) the viability of the population. To be judged viable, a population must: (i) have bred in the state for fifteen (15) consecutive years, (ii) in general, be increasing or stabilized after an initial period of increase, (iii) be judged to have occupied all geographically contiguous suitable habitat to such a degree as to sustain the population and be thought unlikely to significantly diminish, and (iv) occupy an environment judged similar enough in ecological factors (e.g., climate, vegetation, food, shelter, competitors, predators) to the species' natural habitat, or to other successful introductions, that permanent establishment seems likely.