

**Minutes of the meeting of the Berkshire Record Committee (BRC) held on 14 January 2020 at 20.00**

Those present: - K. E. Moore, A. Horscroft (Secretary), A. E. D. Hickman, H. Netley, A. Bassett, M. F. Walford  
Apologies: - R. J. Burness (Chairman)

In the absence of the chairman the chair was taken by K. E. Moore

1. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.
2. Actions outstanding. All actions have been completed apart from: -  
Action on **RJB** to develop a registry of the county's rare and/or scarce breeding birds is ongoing.  
Action on **RJB** to develop a historical register of migrant bird's first and last dates is ongoing.
3. Given the urgent need to prepare a dataset for the commencement of the 2017 annual report, the chairman said that the meeting should concentrate on making final decisions on outstanding Category 2 and Category 3 records.
4. Policy for the review of unsupported records. Records of scarce or rare birds that lack photographs or descriptions of an acceptable quality are a problem common to all counties. The BRC solution is to temper objective review with subjective intervention should a committee member be particularly familiar with the species concerned, the location or the observer. No method is perfect, but the Berkshire solution is better than most.
5. Given the methodology outlined above, the need to maintain two categories of scarcity (Category 2 and Category 3) has been questioned. There was some discussion on this issue, but it was decided to keep the two categories for the present.
6. Review of outstanding 2017 Category 2 records. Adjudication decisions were made on all outstanding or pended records apart from: -  
Purple Sandpiper at QMR on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Arctic Skua at QMR on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Lapland Bunting at Lambourn on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017  
The chairman was tasked with contacting the relevant observers for more information  
**Action RJB**
7. Review of outstanding 2017 Category 3 records. Adjudication decisions were made on all outstanding or pended records apart from: -  
Turtle Dove at Peasemore on 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Water Pipit at QMR on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
Wood Warbler at Theale GPs on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
The chairman was tasked with contacting the relevant observers for more information  
**Action RJB**
8. MFW provided a summary of the BRC review of 2017 records.

The BRC reviewed 446 records. 367 (83%) were accepted. 11 (3%) were considered 'not proven'. 6 (2%) were pended, awaiting further details. No documentation was received for 62 (4%) records.

9. The chairman said that, having cleared the 2017 records, a prompt start should be made with 2018 records.  
RJB and MFW to populate the Work in Progress table for 2018. **Action MFW, RJB**  
Members to commence the 2018 review. **Action all members**
10. There being no other business the chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 23.00.