

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee 1 December 2012

Present: Doug Stotz (secretary), Josh Engel, Bob Fisher (alternate), Bob Hughes (alternate), Dan Kassebaum, Travis Mahan, Paul Sweet, Mike Ward, Geoff Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

Record 2012.007 (Elaenia sp., 17-22 April 2012) was discussed. Doug Stotz noted that Aaron Gyllenhaal submitted documentation as Small-billed Elaenia. The committee addressed the question of acceptance of this record as pertaining to White-crested/Small-billed Elaenia. The committee voted to accept record 2012.007 as such with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p). The identifiability to species was discussed, and the sense of the committee was that the record likely pertains to Small-billed Elaenia on the basis of several characteristics shown in the photographic evidence. Doug Stotz will prepare a document outlining this position and will send it to experts on South American birds for comment, referring them to a web page for record 2012.007 where the photos are collected. Geoff Williamson will prepare this web page separately from the IORC web site to preserve private committee knowledge of the IORC web site. The committee plans to circulate the record in regard to species identification after this further solicitation of expert opinions.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.032 (Prairie Falcon, November 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted not to accept record 2011.031 (Slaty-backed Gull, 2 June 2012) with a vote tally of 7 as U-I on this, the second, circulation. Votes to reject should be accompanied by comments; any member who did not provide comments on the report form is encouraged to send comments to Paul Sweet.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.033 (Reddish Egret, 12 August 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.034 (Cave Swallow, 23 November 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

Doug Stotz reported that records 2010.023 (White Ibis, 23 July to 7 August 2010), 2010.024 (Brant, 25-28 November 2010), 2010.026 (Neotropic Cormorant, 29 July to 1 August 2010), and 2010.028 (Slaty-backed Gull, 30 December 2010 to 30 January 2011) had all been accepted based on votes in the first circulation by electronic mail.

Doug Stotz reported that record 2010.027 (Ruff, 20 August 2010) needs to be recirculated based on the votes in the first circulation by electronic mail.

Doug Stotz reported that the majority of records 2011.001 through 2011.034 had been accepted based on votes in the first circulation by electronic mail, but that there were several that need to be re-circulated. The specific results will be communicated at a later date. Among the records requiring

further consideration were 2011.031, which was addressed by committee action earlier during this meeting, and also record 2011.007 (Cave Swallow, 18 September 2011). Record 2011.007 was discussed. Travis Mahan asked if there were further documentary evidence regarding this record. This record will be re-circulated at a later time.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.001 (Prairie Falcon, 31 Jan to 12 Feb 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.002 (Barrow's Goldeneye, 3 Feb to 6 Mar 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.003 (Mew Gull, 12-21 Jan 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.004 (Varied Thrush, 3-13 Mar 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.005 (White-winged Dove, 1 April 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.006 (Little Gull, 14 Apr 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.008 (Neotropic Cormorant, 11-27 Apr 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.009 (Eurasian Wigeon, 6 Apr 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.010 (Ruff, 18 Apr 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation. It was noted that photographs in this record were taken by Mark Seiffert (not Dan Kassebaum as previously indicated).

The committee voted to accept record 2012.011 (Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 3 May 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee declined to review the third-hand submission of photographs of a Northern Shrike that the photographer initially identified as a Northern Wheatear.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.016 (Little Gull, 15 Jan – 7 Feb 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.017 (Mottled Duck, 1 Jun 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.018 (Lark Bunting, 7-17 Jun 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.020 (Bewick's Wren, 23 Jun 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.021 (Arctic Tern, 25 Jun 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.022 (Ruff, 13 Jul 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.023 (Ruff, 23 Jul 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.024 (Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, mid-July to 29 Jul 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.025 (White Ibis, 4-8 Aug 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.026 (Wandering Tattler, 9 Aug 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation. This constitutes a first state record. IORC members are to draft comments supporting their votes and direct them to Paul Sweet.

The committee voted to accept record 2012.013 (Bewick's Wren, 5-15 May 2012) with vote tally of 7 as A-E(p) on this, the first, circulation.

Record 1927.001 (Western Gull, 19 Oct – 17 Nov 1927) was resubmitted by Doug Stotz on the basis of new information about the plumage markings on the specimen that came to light via examination of the specimen by Robert D. Hughes and later examination of the specimen by Amar A. Ayyash. The committee voted not to accept the record with vote tally of 7 as U-I. IORC members are to draft comments supporting their votes and direct them to Paul Sweet.

The committee voted unanimously to confirm the election of Josh Engel to a three year term (his first) from 2012 to 2014.

The committee voted unanimously to elect Dan Kassebaum to a second three year term from 2013 to 2015.

Doug Stotz nominated Geoff Williamson for the position of Vice-Secretary, and the committee voted unanimously to elect him to that office.

Prior to this meeting, Paul Sweet was nominated by Geoff Williamson for the position of Secretary. The committee voted unanimously to elect him to that position.

Dan Kassebaum nominated Doug Stotz as a Member to fill the vacancy created by Paul Sweet's election to Secretary. The committee voted unanimously to elect Stotz as a member. He will serve the remainder of Paul Sweet's three year term from 2012 to 2014. The committee noted that as per prior committee

practice, this completion of a partial three year term does not count toward the two consecutive term limit of service as a member stated in section IV.C.1.c of the bylaws.

Mike Ward's second consecutive three year term as Member ends at the end of 2012. Doug Stotz nominated Keith McMullen to replace Mike Ward. The committee voted unanimously to elect Keith McMullen to a three year term from 2013 to 2015 (his first), conditioned upon Keith McMullen indicating his willingness to serve.

Bob Fisher, Bob Hughes, Mike Ward, and Dave Willard were recommended as a list of potential alternates for approval by the committee. The committee voted unanimously to accept this list of alternates.

Subsequent to these elections, the committee membership is as follows.

Paul Sweet, Secretary
Josh Engel, Member, 2012-2014 (1st term)
Dan Kassebaum, Member, 2013-2015 (2nd term)
Travis Mahan, Member, 2011-2013 (2nd term)
Keith McMullen, Member, 2013-2015 (1st term)
Doug Stotz, Member, 2013-2014 (partial term)
Geoffrey Williamson, Member, 2011-2013 (1st term) and Vice-Secretary

Bob Fisher, Alternate
Bob Hughes, Alternate
Mike Ward, Alternate
Dave Willard, Alternate

Geoff Williamson updated the committee on work of the Electronic Records and Processing Sub-committee that was created at the last Annual Meeting and which he chairs. He first commented on the on-line database of records being created. The database will consist of the basic information pertaining to all records acted on and pending before the committee. The question of what portion of the committee's archives of material pertaining to records should be accessible publicly through the database. The committee recommended that only the materials submitted by documenters should be accessible via the database, and that committee comments and votes not be included there. The committee also recommended that the Electronic Records and Processing Sub-committee create on the IORC web site a web-based voting record showing all member votes on circulating records. A further recommendation of the committee was to investigate implementation of an electronic voting system that would record and display member votes as they are executed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.