

## Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: meeting of 12 January 2014

Present: Paul Sweet (Secretary), Josh Engel, Dan Kassebaum, Travis Mahan, Keith McMullen, Doug Stotz, Geoff Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

The procedures, processes, and work flow of the Committee were discussed. These included the Committee's web presence; communication with documenters; the web-accessible database of IORC records being constructed by Tom Kelly and Geoff Williamson; a work log regarding submissions and records to be maintained in the computing "cloud space" associated with the IORC gmail account; generating submissions of records from web forums, list serves, and personal contacts and procedures to follow when doing so; a schedule for circulating records to review; the form of the records circulated to Members; the relation of IORC and eBird; issues associated with copyright and photographs; and other topics.

The Committee recommended circulating batches of records on an approximate monthly basis, with materials provided to Members via the web on the IORC web pages assembled by Williamson (<http://home.comcast.net/~geoffrey.williamson/iorc>).

Dan Kassebaum recommended having a section on Illinois Birders Forum for photographic (and related) submissions to IORC. Geoff Williamson will pursue getting this established with Greg Neise. There should be instructions on the site describing what permissions submitting records this way implies, and there should be a requirement of essential information regarding the record (observer's name, location, date and time, photographer's name), and a request to submit the full form.

Paul Sweet raised the question of having IORC records being entered into eBird.

Members whose terms are expiring include Travis Mahan (2<sup>nd</sup> term Member) and Geoff Williamson (1<sup>st</sup> term Member). Geoff Williamson was elected to the Committee for 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2014-2016, by unanimous vote. Suggestions from Committee Members of candidates to replace Travis Mahan on the Committee were Amar Ayyash, Leroy Harrison, Greg Lambeth, Dan Williams. After discussion, the Committee requested that Travis Mahan contact in sequence Greg Lambeth and Dan Williams and report back to the Committee on each individual's amenability to serve.

Paul Sweet was re-elected as Secretary for 2014, and Geoff Williamson was re-elected as Vice-Secretary for 2014, both by unanimous vote.

Doug Stotz updated the Committee on the status of the *Elaenia* record. He noted that the Committee had already accepted this bird as a White-crested/Small-billed *Elaenia*, and that he was still in the process of soliciting outside expert opinion regarding the record. He noted that in particular he hoped to obtain for the Committee's review the opinions of Bret Whitney, Tom Schulenberg, Dan Lane, and Alvaro Jaramillo, among others.

Paul Sweet reported on the results of voting on records between the last IORC meeting and this one. These are as follows.

- Records from the email circulation of 23 Aug 2013 for which some Member votes were outstanding, were reviewed and votes solicited. The results were as follows.
  - The Committee voted to accept record 2012.030 (Ferruginous Hawk) with vote tally of one A-S and six U-I on this, its first, circulation.
  - The status of record 2012.035 (Hoary Redpoll, date) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2012.036 (Barrow's Goldeneye) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2012.037 (Swainson's Thrush) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
  - The Committee proposed that record 2012.038 (Painted Bunting) be discarded given the uncertainty about the observation date and the observation location. However, no final action was taken on this record. Votes had been submitted by four Members, but three Members had not voted.
  - The Committee voted to reject record 2013.001 (Mississippi Kite) with vote tally of seven U-I on this, its first, circulation.
  - The Committee voted to accept record 2013.002 (Barn Owl) with vote tally of six A-S, one U-I on this, its first, circulation.
  - The status of record 2013.003 (Hoary Redpoll) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.004 (Barnacle Goose) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.005 (Bohemian Waxwing) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.006 (Mountain Bluebird) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding. Note also that this record was combined with 2013.021, which pertained to the same individual.
  - The status of record 2013.008 (Black-bellied Whistling Duck) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
  - The Committee chose to defer action on 2013.010 (Little Stint) until expert opinion on the record had been solicited.
  - The Committee voted to reject record 2013.011 (Townsend's Solitaire) with vote tally of five U-I and two A-S on this, its first, circulation.
  - The Committee voted to accept record 2013.012 (Spotted Towhee) with vote tally of seven A-S on this, its first, circulation.
  - The vote on record 2013.013 (Black Vulture) had a tally of five A-S and two U-I on this, its first, circulation. This record will move to a second circulation.
  - The Committee voted to reject record 2013.014 (Golden Eagle) with vote tally of five U-I and two A-S on this, its first, circulation.

- The status of record 2013.015 (Tricolored Heron) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.016 (Mottled Duck) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.017 (Black-headed Grosbeak) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.018 (Glossy Ibis) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
- The Committee voted to accept record 2013.019 (Say's Phoebe) with vote tally of seven A-S on this, its first, circulation.
- The Committee voted to reject record 2013.020 (Cassin's Vireo) with vote tally of four U-I and three A-S on this, its first, circulation.
- Record 2013.021 (Mountain Bluebird) was combined with 2013.006; see above under that record.
- The Committee voted to accept record 2013.022 (Great-tailed Grackle) with vote tally of seven A-S on this, its first, circulation.
- Records from the email circulation of 20 Dec 2013 for which some Member votes were outstanding, were reviewed and votes.
  - The Committee chose to defer action on 2012.039 (Red-naped Sapsucker).
  - The status of record 2013.023 (Anhinga) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The Committee voted to accept record 2013.024 (Anhinga) with vote tally of six A-S and one U-I on this, its first, circulation.
  - The status of record 2013.025 (Arctic Tern) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.026 (Mew Gull) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.027 (Parasitic Jaeger) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The Committee voted to accept record 2013.028 (Say's Phoebe) with vote tally of five A-E and two A-S on this, its first, circulation.
  - The status of record 2013.029 (Swallow-tailed Kite) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.030 (Swainson's Hawk) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.031 (Violet-green Swallow) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The status of record 2013.032 (Townsend's Solitaire) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
  - The vote on record 2013.033 (Chimney Swift) had a tally of four A-S and three U-I on this, its first, circulation. This record will move to a second circulation.

- The status of record 2013.034 (Swainson's Hawk) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.035 (Swainson's Warbler) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.036 (Bewick's Wren) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The Committee voted to accept record 2013.037 (Little Gull) with vote tally of seven A-S on this, its first, circulation.
- The status of record 2013.038 (Gray Kingbird) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.039 (White-winged Scoter) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.

New records were presented to the Committee by Paul Sweet, with the following dispositions.

- The Committee voted to accept record 2013.007 (Ruff) with vote tally of seven A-E on this, its first, circulation.
- The Committee voted to accept record 2013.040 (Royal Tern) with vote tally of seven A-E on this, its first, circulation.
- The Committee voted to reject record 2013.041 (Brown-headed Nuthatch) with vote tally of seven U-I on this, its first, circulation.
- The status of record 2013.042 (Golden Eagle) remains unresolved, with six votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.043 (Loggerhead Shrike) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.044 (Least Tern) remains unresolved, with six votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.045 (Western Kingbird) remains unresolved, with six votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.046 (Scissor-tailed Flycatcher) remains unresolved, with six votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.047 (Mottled Duck) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.048 (Mottled Duck) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.049 (Long-tailed Jaeger) remains unresolved, with two votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.050 (Parasitic Jaeger) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.051 (Little Gull) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.052 (Loggerhead Shrike) remains unresolved, with six votes still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.053 (Little Gull) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.

- The status of record 2013.054 (Golden Eagle) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.
- The status of record 2013.055 (Black Rail) remains unresolved, with one vote still outstanding.

Doug Stotz made available for Committee review specimen trays from the Field Museum's collection of Little Stint, Red-naped Sapsucker, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

The Review List was discussed. The following changes were suggested, with actions taken as noted.

- Swainson's Hawk: remove from Review List. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Little Gull: remove from the Review List. The Committee opted to leave Little Gull on the Review List. It was noted that it was only recently that Little Gull was put back on the Review List.
- California Gull: require documentation of non-adult birds. This change was adopted by unanimous vote.
- Prairie Falcon: remove from the Review List. The Committee declined to take this action.
- Bewick's Wren: no longer require documentation of birds from Siloam Springs State Park. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Painted Bunting: restore fully to the Review List (that is, remove the exception for the known St. Louis area location). Approved by unanimous vote.
- Bullock's Oriole: remove from the Review List once it is confirmed that there are no accepted records, and hence is not eligible for inclusion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38pm.