

## Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: meeting of 16 January 2016

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Josh Engel, Greg Lambeth (Vice-Secretary), Keith McMullen, Doug Stotz, Paul Sweet

Absent: Dan Kassebaum

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 9:05 AM at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. There being six voting members present, quorum was met to transact business.

Minutes of the 18 January 2015 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Vice-Secretary Greg Lambeth conducted elections of Members for the 2016-2018 terms. Nominees were Matthew E. Fraker (nominated by Greg Lambeth), Tyler D. Funk (nominated by Geoff Williamson), and Keith A. McMullen (nominated by Geoff Williamson). The tally of votes by the Voting Members who were present (no written votes were received) indicated in the election of Matthew E. Fraker (2016-2018, 1st term) and Keith A. McMullen (2016-2018, 2nd term).

Vice-Secretary Greg Lambeth conducted the election of Secretary for 2016. The only nominee was Geoffrey A. Williamson (nominated by Josh Engel), who was then elected.

Geoff Williamson then conducted the election of Vice-Secretary for 2016. The only nominee was Gregory S. Lambeth (nominated by Josh Engel and Paul Sweet), who was then elected.

The next Annual Meeting was scheduled to occur on the Saturday preceding Martin Luther King Day in 2017: 14 January 2017. Special meetings during 2016 will be scheduled as necessary.

Geoff Williamson presented a Secretary's report on 2015 activities (attached).

### **Archives Subcommittee report**

The Archives Subcommittee reported on its activities during 2015. Its membership consists of Greg Lambeth (chair), Josh Engel, and Doug Stotz. Josh Engel reported for the Subcommittee as follows.

The Subcommittee applied for and received a grant from the Illinois Ornithological Society that enabled it to hire Nandu Dubey, summer intern at the Field Museum of Natural History. Nandu Dubey, with some assistance from volunteer Jake Cvetas, scanned into electronic form a quantity of photographic material residing in the IORC archives. There are currently eight binders of photographic material in the archives, and the contents of seven and one half of these were scanned into electronic form.

Materials in the archives remaining to be converted to electronic form include the last half binder of photographic material plus a quantity of print material. Print material in the archives

exists in duplicate form, with one copy filed by record number and the other copy filed by species.

At present, there is about 40 GB of scanned electronic material in the archives. The Subcommittee noted that a permanent home is needed for this

Geoff Williamson reminded the Committee that the charge of Archives Subcommittee at formation was (1) defining Committee standards and policy for the maintenance of archives to achieve the purpose noted in Section II.B of the Bylaws, including (a) what is archived for each record, (b) how material is to be archived (paper, electronic, web-based, etc.), both going forward and with respect to existing materials, (c) the accessibility of archives to bird students, and (d) a proposal for a Section to add to the Bylaws concerning archives, if deemed appropriate; and (2) reviewing the contents of the extant archives, assessing its condition with respect to the subcommittee's proposed policies, and recommending Committee action to address any shortcomings in the current condition of the archives. These purposes were discussed collectively by the Committee.

Regarding (1)(a), the sense of the Committee was that archived materials for each record should include (i) all documentary materials submitted for the record, (ii) votes and comments of Voting Members for each circulation of the record, and (iii) formally solicited materials from external reviews. With regard to (iii), it was noted that reviewers should be informed that the opinions submitted by them will become part of the permanent archives and thus will be accessible to individuals that access the archives.

Regarding (1)(b), the sense of the Committee was that storage of physical items will remain at the Field Museum and that electronic items should be stored (i) with one copy in a professionally maintained cloud storage facility, and (ii) with two copies on separate portable storage media (flash drives or hard drives) that are physically kept in two different locations both separate from the Field Museum. Each of the three copies of the electronic archives should be brought up to date at least once of year.

Regarding (1)(c), the sense of the Committee was that it would be appropriate to enable, as feasible, web-based electronic access to the basic documentary materials submitted to the Committee together with votes, but not comments, of Voting Members for each circulation of the record. All archive contents would be made available to interested individuals upon request. Starting with records reviewed in 2016 forward, Voting Members will be reminded with each circulation of records that their vote comments become part of the archives, which are publicly available, and should be prepared with this in mind. At the next Annual Meeting, the Committee will review the question of making readily available via the internet the comments of Voting Members.

It was suggested that comments on records is a form of feedback that can work to improve the quality of documentation of rare birds, and that the Archives Subcommittee should keep this in mind when preparing policy on accessibility. It was noted that a purpose of IORC, as noted in its Bylaws (Section II.F), is to "strive to improve the quality of submitted ornithological field data in Illinois both through example and through the dissemination of pertinent information and suggested techniques." Toward this end, Doug Stotz and Paul Sweet will together prepare material about how to document birds for publication in Meadowlark and for placement on the IORC section of the IOS web site.

Regarding (1)(d), the Archives Subcommittee will continue its work regarding all of item (1) and will prepare written policy statements on this either in the form of a section on Archives to add to the Bylaws, or a section on Archives to include in an IORC Operations Manual, or both as the Subcommittee deems appropriate.

It was noted that for the purposes of electronic archives, file names involving the period character can be problematic. Since record numbers are desired for inclusion in file names of electronic documents, it was proposed to change the Bylaws mandate for records numbers to be in form 2016.001, 2016.002, and so forth so that instead these numbers will be 2016-001, 2016-002, and so forth. The Committee authorized the Secretary to begin immediately to use this convention, with the Committee's understanding that for all purposes 2016.001 is equivalent to 2016-001 and vice versa. The Bylaws Committee will draft a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to effect this change formally.

This concluded the discussion of the work of the Archives Subcommittee.

### **Bylaws Subcommittee report**

The Bylaws Subcommittee, consisting of Dan Kassebaum (chair) and Paul Sweet, presented its report. Paul Sweet reported for the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee proposed to amend Sections VII(F)(1) section VII(F)(2)(b)(vii) as shown in Appendix B of these minutes. The proposed amendments were accepted by a vote of six in favor and zero against.

Paul Sweet also suggested two other areas within the Bylaws that could be considered for amendment.

1. The proscription on consultations between Voting Members prior to voting on first circulations stated in Section VII(G)(7). Paul Sweet's report noted that, "Given the ubiquity of on-line discussions, this seems unrealistic. Consultation these days is often a public matter, and asking the Members to refrain from comment on discussions doesn't seem like a sensible idea. Perhaps refraining from private consultations between Voting Members? That would, it seems, attempt to balance the original reason for the rule with the current situation." The Committee expressed some general agreement with these views, but suggested that coupling a removal of any restrictions of consultations with other Voting Members with a formal exhortation in the Bylaws that Voting Members must conduct an independent evaluation and/or arrive at an independent opinion would accomplish the objective.
2. The annual election of a Secretary as described in Section IV(D)(2). Paul Sweet's report suggested that given actual practice, something other than annual election may be warranted. He also noted that more recent practice had returned to formal annual election, and the sense of the Committee's discussion was that this clause did not warrant amendment.

Paul Sweet noted that there are likely other areas in the Bylaws that could be amended. The Committee noted the following areas for review by the Bylaws Subcommittee.

1. Vote Definitions, given in Section VII(G)(2). Recent circulations have raised questions such as the following. What vote type is appropriate for acceptance of a record where documentation is a

photograph of a specimen? Is there a real distinction between A-S(1) and A-S(2) and so forth?  
What votes are appropriate when considering records of breeding activity by a species?

2. Significance of vote totals, given in Section VII(G)(13). This clause describes how the "class" of a record is determined. The current official Illinois State List of Birds used notations of "(spec)" and "(photo)" and "(doc)" to indicate the "strongest class" of evidence in support of the species presence on the list, but the voting categories in Section VII(G)(2) are not in full alignment with this practice. Also, there are no formal rules for interpreting levels of evidence or strength for breeding.
3. Section VII(G)(8), Voting Criteria. Though it may be pragmatic or desirable or both to avoid specifying criteria for acceptance of records, the Bylaws is silent about responsibilities of Voting Members in the review process. Adding a clause that gives general responsibilities (such as stipulating that Voting Members are responsible to draw an independent conclusion or make an independent evaluation) may be warranted.

The discussion of the Bylaws Subcommittee's report concluded with a request for the following actions. Each Voting Member will review the Bylaws and report to Paul Sweet a list of sections that need revision (or deletion) and areas where new material is needed. Geoff Williamson will provide an MS Word copy of the current Bylaws to each Member to facilitate the Member's review and any suggested changes. The input from Voting Members is due to Paul Sweet by 7 February 2016. The Bylaws Subcommittee will conclude its review of the Bylaws and provide its report, including any proposals for amendment, to the Secretary before 20 March 2016.

With Dan Kassebaum moving off the Committee, the Bylaws Committee membership will consist of Paul Sweet (chair) plus any additional members that Paul Sweet recruits in order to accomplish its tasks.

#### **Status of the official Illinois State List of Birds**

The official Illinois State List of Birds was noted as not up-to-date with respect to current scientific names of species and taxonomic order, nor is it up-to-date with respect to categories of occurrence status and perhaps breeding status. Some errors in the current Illinois State List of Birds on the IOS web site were noted; for instance Paul Sweet pointed out that Grace's Warbler is indicated as a regular breeder in the state. Doug Stotz will take the lead on updating the list with respect to taxonomy, status code, and breeding status. To facilitate determination of the number of records for each species, Keith McMullen will work with Geoff Williamson to proof the data currently entered into the web-accessible database of IORC records, and to enter data from the most recent IORC reports. Keith McMullen and Geoff Williamson will complete their work by 1 April 2016, and Doug Stotz will complete the list update by 1 May 2016.

#### **Status of the Review List**

No proposals for modification of the Review List were made.

#### **Consideration of Bird Records**

Record 2012-007

The status of the pending decision as to identification to species of the White-crested/Small-billed Elaenia (IORC #2012.007) was discussed. Doug Stotz informed the Committee that he had sent solicitations asking several experts to respond in writing with (1) which species they think the bird is and why they hold that opinion, (2) whether they think the evidence is strong enough for accepting it as a first state record of the species in question, and (3) in the case of Small-billed Elaenia, whether they think the evidence is sufficient to accept it as a first North American record. The experts whose opinions were solicited are

1. Marshall Iliff
2. Alvaro Jaramillo
3. Dan Lane
4. Tom Schulenberg
5. Bret Whitney
6. Kevin Zimmer

These individuals were asked to provide their input by 29 February 2016. At about 10 March 2016, Geoff Williamson will check with Doug Stotz regarding the current status of these solicitations and will assist him with obtaining any that are outstanding. Once the input is in hand, the record will be circulated to the Committee.

It was noted that once the Committee decision regarding species status is made, the decision should be communicated to the ABA Checklist Committee.

Record 2012-039

Paul Sweet has contacted or will shortly contacted Steve Mlodinow and Eric L. Walters for opinions about this record, particularly with respect to the question whether one can determine from the evidence between Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-naped Sapsucker, and hybrid Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker. The Committee suggested also contact several or all of Jon Dunn, Joe Morlan, Don Roberson, and Brian Sullivan regarding the matter.

Record 2013-010

The Committee reviewed and discussed the documentary material, including expert opinion, about this record. Trays contained all the skins of Little Stint in the Field Museum's collection and trays of a representative selection of skins of Least Sandpiper and other small calidrids were reviewed. This record remains in its first circulation, following an initial circulation on 23 August 2013 and review of materials on the last two Annual Meetings.

Record 2013-033

The Committee reviewed and discussed the documentary material as well as maps of the October and November distributions of eBird records of both Chimney Swift and Vaux's Swift. The impact on assessment of future late fall swift records that this record's decision would have was also discussed. Some Members emphasized that the uncertainties involved must be communicated with either final decision in the IORC report in which the record is published.

Record 2014-010

The Committee reviewed and discussed the documentary material associated with this record. It was clarified that this record was different from another sighting of a bird identified as a Ruff in which photographs were taken. No photographs are known to have been taken of the bird involved in this 2014-010 record.

Record 2015-037

Upon Greg Lambeth's request, the Committee discussed the documentary evidence and Voting Members' opinions regarding the identification to species of the bird involved in this record.

**Consideration of Records in the Suspense File**

No records from the Suspense File were requested to be brought up for consideration.

**Review of Barnacle Goose Records**

The factors involved in adjudicating questions of provenance in Barnacle Goose records were discussed. Geoff Williamson indicated that he had assembled a listing of 19 sightings of Barnacle Goose from Illinois that includes all the records mentioned in Michael Retter's article in vol. 16 no. 3 of *Meadowlark* plus others that have occurred since then. These sightings include three IORC records, two that have been concluded and one that is pending. The question before the Committee is the adjudication of the most recent record, 2015-038.

The Secretary informed the Committee that before circulating 2015-038, he will assemble a body of material for the Committee's information when assessing the record. He noted that he had in hand material provided by the secretaries of the Indiana and Wisconsin bird records committee, a number of published articles pertinent to this question, and a compilation of discussions that took place on Will Russell's *Frontiers of Bird Identification* list serve. Committee Members indicated that it would be important to have information from state records committees that have accepted Barnacle Goose onto their state list, particularly the reasoning used for acceptance. Doug Stotz noted that a past version from some time ago of the ABA Checklist included some remarks about Barnacle Goose that may be informative to the Committee. Geoff Williamson remarked that he was interested to have available information about the extent of the presence of captive Barnacle Geese in Illinois, and also information about what is known about the range of behaviors that previously captive geese exhibit when released or escaping into the wild. Doug Stotz noted that wild waterfowl are known to have exhibiting behavior that in at least in some respects is similar to the behavior of captive or recently captive birds.

Doug Stotz pointed out that the situation of the Barnacle Goose present 1-30 January 1983 in Winnebago County rendered it an important one to consider when evaluating whether or not Barnacle Goose deserves to be included on the Illinois list.

Geoff Williamson will work on assembling information about Barnacle Goose records in Illinois; information about other states' records committees' deliberations concerning occurrence of Barnacle

Goose in their states, especially those that have accepted records; and a collection of published material regarding the question of natural occurrence of Barnacle Goose in North America.

### **Communications to the birding public**

Geoff Williamson reviewed the communications over the past year about IORC's work to the birding public. These communications have been delivered via the IBET listserv, the bulletin board Illinois Birders' Forum (IBF), and the Illinois Birding Network (IBN) facebook page. Geoff Williamson informed the Committee that Chief Editor and Publications Committee chair Sheryl DeVore requested that the material be posted as well on the IOS facebook page and IOS web site. Williamson said that he planned in future to put the reports on records (since the last published report) on the IORC section of the IOS web site. If this were the only online repository for the information, individuals would not have a medium to post comments near the report, while IBF and facebook posts allow such comments. Williamson asked the Committee's opinion whether communications to the other four media (IBET, IBF, IBN facebook, IOS facebook) about recent decisions on records, in addition to providing a link to the IORC web page on the IOS site, should include the substance of the decision on only a subset of the media destinations, on all of them, or only on the IORC web page. The sense of the Committee was that posting the substance only on facebook sites renders it inaccessible to some fraction of the birding community, so that it was recommended to post the substance of the decisions on IBF, on the IOS facebook page, and on the IORC web site. Individuals would then have an opportunity to comment and interact on both the IOS facebook page (accessible to some) and on IBF (accessible to a greater portion of the community).

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

## Appendix A

### Secretary's Report: for meeting of 16 January 2016

submitted by Geoffrey A. Williamson  
27 December 2015  
(revised 15 January 2016)

Here is a summary of the work of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) during 2015.

- The 19th report of IORC was published in Meadowlark, vol. 23, no. 2.
- A draft of the 20th report of IORC was prepared by Paul Sweet. during January 2015. This report needs to be finalized and submitted for publication.
- IORC reached conclusions of
  - seven circulations of records made in 2013;
  - 49 circulations of records made in 2014;
  - 94 circulations of records made in 2015.
- Among circulations of records made in 2013, there remain two still open: 2012.038 and 2012.039.
- Among circulations of records made at the 12 Jan 2014 meeting, there remain 10 still open: 2013.042, 2013.043, 2013.044, 2013.045, 2013.046, 2013.047, 2013.048, 2013.049, 2013.052, and 2013.054.
- Among circulations or records make in 2014, there remain two still open: 2011.036 and 2013.010.
- The first three reports of IORC were made available on the IOS web site.
- The IORC bylaws were made available on the IOS web site.
- The status of the IORC online database at <http://empty-sunset-8541.herokuapp.com/> remains that information from the first 18 IORC reports has been entered into the database, the data entry from the 1st report has been double-checked, but the data entry from the 2nd through 18th reports has not yet been double-checked. Data from the 19th report have not yet been entered.
- The documentation forms available on the IOS web site have been cleaned up a little with respect to formatting.
- An archives subcommittee was constituted at the 18 January 2015 meeting and is to report at the 16 January 2016 meeting.
- A bylaws review subcommittee was constituted at the 18 January 2015 meeting and is to report at the 16 January 2016 meeting.
- The secretary has established a regular practice of communicating to documenters (1) the receipt of documentary material and (2) decisions on records following each circulation round ("accepted," "not accepted," or "still under active review by the committee").



- The secretary has communicated to the birding public regarding disposition of records on five occasions during 2015: 24 March 2015, 14 April 2015, 14 June 2015, 10 September 2015, and 5 December 2015. These have generally been made shortly after the conclusion of circulation of a batch of records. The format has been to provide a little background or information about IORC and its work and to communicate the results of recent decisions. These "updates" have been sent by email to the email listserve IBET and have been posted to the Illinois Birders' Forum at ilbirds.com. A link to the Illinois Birders' Forum post has also been provided on the Illinois Birding Network group on Facebook. Subsequent to the last update, Sheryl DeVore recommended to the secretary that these updates be published instead on the IOS web site with links to the update provided in communications to the three public fora.

Subsequent to the meeting of 18 January 2015, the results of concluded circulations are as follows.

#### **From the circulation of 23 August 2013:**

- **Record 2013.006**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Mountain Bluebird in Jo Daviess County during 12 Dec 2012 to 23 Feb 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of five A-E(p) and two A-S(1).
- **Record 2013.016**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Mottled Ducks in Cook County on 30 May 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one A-S(1).
- **Record 2013.018**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Glossy Ibis in Woodford County on 24 May 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of five A-E(p), one A-E, and one A-S(1).

#### **From the circulation of 20 December 2013:**

- **Record 2013.030**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Swainson's Hawk in DuPage County on 14 October 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

#### **From records first considered at the IORC meeting of 12 January 2014:**

- **Record 2013.051**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Little Gull in Clinton County on 3 November 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2013.053**

This was the first circulation of a record of two Little Gulls in Clinton County during 8-11 November 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2013.055**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Black Rail in Shelby County on 14 July 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on audio recording evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(audio).

#### **From the circulation of 14 August 2014:**

- **Record 2014.001**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Cinnamon Teal in Madison County during 8-9 April 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one A-S(1).

- **Record 2014.002**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Curve-billed Thrasher in Cook County during 18 June to 1 July 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.003**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Sprague's Pipit in Bureau County on 5 May 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-S(1) and six U-I.

- **Record 2014.004**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Sprague's Pipit in Lake County on 27 July 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I.

- **Record 2014.005**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Swainson's Warbler in Lee County on 3 May 2014. The result was rejection of the record, with a vote tally of one A-S(1) and six U-I.

- **Record 2014.006**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Tricolored Heron in Jackson County on 27 May 2014. The result was acceptance as a sight record, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.

#### **From the circulation of 15 November 2014:**

- **Record 2014.007**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Black-throated Gray Warbler in Kane County during 5-6 May 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.008**

This was the first circulation of a record of nine Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Kendall County

during 21-30 May 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.009**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Cook County on 21 June 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.010**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Ruff in Mason County on 31 August 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of four A-S(1) and three U-I.

- **Record 2014.011**

This was the first circulation of a record of an Anhinga in DuPage County on 6 September 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-S(1) and two U-I.

- **Record 2014.012**

This was the first circulation of a record of a California Gull in Clinton County during 27 September to 26 October 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.013**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Prairie Falcon in Kane County on 5 October 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on one written description, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.

- **Record 2014.014**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Lark Bunting in Cook County on 17 October 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of five A-E(p) and two A-S(1).

#### **From the circulation of 10 January 2015:**

- **Record 2013.056**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Royal Tern in Fulton County on 4 August 2013. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of one A-E(p), three A-S(1), and three U-I.

- **Record 2013.059**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Reddish Egret in Williamson County on 29 June 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of one A-S(1), and six U-I.

- **Record 2013.060**

This was the first circulation of a record of an Eared Grebe in Will County on 4 May 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I.

- **Record 2013.061**

This was the first circulation of a record of two Whooping Cranes in Alexander and Pulaski

County on 16 and 23 November 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification with also questions raised about origin, with a vote tally of three A-S(1), two U-I, one U-I&O, and one U-O.

- **Record 2014.015**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Mottled Duck in Mason County on 29 August 2014. The result was to accept the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.016**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Great Black-backed Gull in Mason County on 26 September 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-S(1) and two U-I.

- **Record 2014.018**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Black Vulture in Lake County on 19 October 2014. The result was to accept the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of seven A-S(1).

- **Record 2014.019**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Pomarine Jaeger in DeWitt County during 22-23 November 2014. The result was to accept the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.020**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Townsend's Solitaire in Jo Daviess County on 19 December 2014. The result was to accept the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of seven A-S(1).

#### **From records first considered at the IORC meeting of 18 January 2015:**

- **Record 2010.029**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher in Cook County on 11 September 2010. The result was acceptance of the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(specimen). On the question of whether to accept this record as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, the vote tally was three in favor, two opposed, and two not expressing an opinion. I am interpreting this vote indicating the Committee has declined to accept this record as specific to Pacific-slope Flycatcher, at least at this time. Also regarding this record, Josh Engel directly posed to Matt Baughman the question of whether he favored accepting this record as Pacific-slope/Cordilleran or as Pacific-slope, and he said "accepting as Western Flycatcher is likely best in this scenario."

- **Record 2013.062**

This was the first circulation of a record of a California Gull in Clinton County on 6 October and 3 November 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one U-I.

- **Record 2014.034**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Mexican Duck form of Mallard in Clinton County on 23 March 2014. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of one A-E(p) and six U-I.
- **Record 2014.035**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Neotropic Cormorant in Clinton County on 13 April 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one U-I.

**From the circulation of 4 March 2015:**

- **Record 2013.064**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Roseate Spoonbill in Sangamon County on 29 November 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).
- **Record 2013.065**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Mottled Duck in Sangamon County on 29 October and 16 November 2013. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of three A-E(p), one A-S(1), and three U-I.
- **Record 2013.066**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Neotropic Cormorant in Sangamon County during 12-23 June 2013. The result was acceptance of the record as a sight record, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2013.067**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Neotropic Cormorant in Sangamon County during 19-20 July 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one A-S(1).
- **Record 2014.021**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Prairie Falcon in LaSalle County on 14 March 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on one written description, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2014.037**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Harlequin Duck in Kane County during 9 November 2014 to 31 January 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).
- **Record 2014.038**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Prairie Falcons in Coles County with at least one individual present during 25 October 2014 to 8 February 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(p) and one A-S(1).
- **Record 2014.039**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Bullock's Oriole in Massac County on 21 November

2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2014.040**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Cassin's Sparrow in Cook County on 8 September 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(sp) and one A-E(p).

- **Record 2015.002**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Barrow's Goldeneye in Kane County during 17 January to 28 February 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2015.003**

This was the first circulation of a record of two Hoary Redpolls in Cook County with at least one individual present during 6 February to 13 March 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2015.004**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Slaty-backed Gull in Peoria and Tazewell Counties on 11 January 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2015.005**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Slaty-backed Gull in Cook County on 7 February 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

- **Record 2015.006**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Bohemian Waxwing in Cook County during 15 February to 2 March 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(p).

#### **From the circulation of 26 April 2015:**

- **Record 2013.004**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Barnacle Goose in McLean County during 29 January to 11 February 2013. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of four A-E(photo) and three U-O.

- **Record 2013.013**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Black Vulture in Woodford County on 10 June 2013. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of five A-S(1) and two U-I.

- **Record 2013.027**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Parasitic Jaeger in Fulton County on 15 September 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of one A-S(1) and six U-I. The Committee was comfortable with the record as pertaining to

jaeger sp. However, the Committee felt that the other two jaeger species were not eliminated by the description.

- **Record 2013.033**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Chimney Swift in Cook County on 14 November 2013. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of four A-S(1) and three U-I.

- **Record 2013.057**

This was the first circulation of a record of breeding by Le Conte's Sparrows in Kankakee County with evidence presented from 29 August to 11 September 2013. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of four A-E(photo) and three U. Note that the Committee's task in this case was to adjudicate whether the evidence is sufficient to establish that breeding activity occurred. The vote categories listed in the by-laws do not align neatly with the kind of judgments a Committee member makes in such instances. An amendment to the by-laws to cover this type of record may be in order.

- **Record 2013.058**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Gray-headed Junco in Ogle County on 26-27 April 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(photo) and one U-I.

- **Record 2013.065**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Mottled Duck in Sangamon County during 29 October to 16 November 2013. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of one A-S(1), three A-E(photo), and three U-I.

- **Record 2014.010**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Ruff in Mason County on 31 August 2014. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of three A-S(1) and four U-I.

- **Record 2014.011**

This was the second circulation of a record of an Anhinga in DuPage County on 6 September 2014. The result was to move the record to a third circulation, with a vote tally of four A-S(1) and three U-I.

- **Record 2014.042**

This was the first circulation of a record of two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Cass County during 7-13 July 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).

- **Record 2014.043**

This was the first circulation of a record of an Anhinga in Kendall County on 22 April 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of four A-S(1) and three U-I.

- **Record 2014.044**

This was the first circulation of a record of an Arctic Tern in Mason County on 14 June 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of three A-E(photo), one A-S(1), and three U-I.

- **Record 2014.045**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a White Ibis in Richland County and in Wayne County during 10-22 July 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.007**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Barn Owl in Will County on 10 January 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on specimen evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(specimen) and one A-E(photo). There was some confusion for several Members regarding whether votes to accept on specimen evidence were appropriate when only photographs of the specimen are reviewed. This point may warrant clarification in the by-laws (which also should address the currently unaddressed issue of how IORC determines if a record is accepted based on physical evidence, and if acceptance on physical or sight evidence are functionally different).
- **Record 2015.008**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Prairie Falcon in Sangamon County on 6 January 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.009**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Gyrfalcon in Coles County on 16 January 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(photo) and one U-I. In his comments on the record, Doug Stotz remarked, "Ideally I would argue for not voting at this time and exploring the suggestions [that possibly this bird is a hybrid] raised by Jim Mountjoy. Mary Hennen has some ties to the falconry community and might be a place start in trying to find somebody to review this record." Should an investigation lead to new information relevant to the record, the record may be resubmitted following the procedures of Section VII.D. of the by-laws.
- **Record 2015.010**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Barrow's Goldeneye in Clinton County during 21-25 March 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.011**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Say's Phoebe in Cook County during 31 March to 2 April 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.012**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Barn Owl in Woodford County on 2 April 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of seven A-S(1).
- **Record 2015.014**  
 This was the first circulation of a record of a Barrow's Goldeneye in Sangamon County on 14 March 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.



- **Record 2015.015**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Townsend's Solitaire in Lake County on 14 April 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).

- **Record 2015.016**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Little Gull in Lake County on 25 April 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.

#### **From the circulation of 26 June 2015:**

- **Record 2011.037**

This was the first circulation of a record of a White Ibis in Champaign County on 14 May 2011. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).

- **Record 2013.056**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Royal Tern in Fulton County on 4 August 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of two A-S(1) and five U-I. One point of concern raised was the lack of observation of the underwings. Also, there were concerns about various age classes of Caspian Tern not being ruled out and a concern about the documentation containing no direct argument why the observed bird could not be another species. Several committee members noted that it was unfortunate that only one set of documentation was submitted despite the bird being observed by several individuals.

Doug Stotz in his comments on this record provided information from Colin Dobson regarding his observation of a Royal Tern at the same location earlier in the day. He suggests to include this information in the record. There are several options here. (1) Leave the record concluded as unaccepted (present status). (2) Resubmit this record with Dobson's note to Stotz as new evidence, following the procedures of Section VII.D. of the by-laws. (3) Submit a new record with evidence consisting of Dobson's note to Stotz (which would prejudice the present documentary materials as not pertaining to this sighting). I have made the judgment to proceed with (1), as noted. Given this, options (2) or (3) necessitate action by a Member. If such action is taken, I would recommend option (2) over option (3).

- **Record 2014.016**

This was the second circulation of a record of a Great Black-backed Gull in Mason County on 26 September 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.

- **Record 2014.046**

This was the first circulation of a record of nine Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Ogle County on 11-12 August 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo). The possibility that these birds were the same as the ones

referenced by IORC record 2014.008; however, these remain currently two separate records separated by more than two months in time.

- **Record 2014.047**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Townsend's Solitaire in Jo Daviess County on 15 November 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2014.048**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Parasitic Jaeger in Lake County on 28 September 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(photo) and one U-I.
- **Record 2014.049**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Townsend's Solitaire in Cook County on 13 November 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2014.050**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Broad-billed Hummingbird in La Salle County during 23 August to 21 September 2014. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I. The Committee was unanimous that more complete details are warranted to support identification of this species. The need for arguments eliminating other species, which were absent in the documentation, was also noted.
- **Record 2014.051**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Barn Owl in Mason County on 9 August 2014. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-S(1) and two U-I.
- **Record 2015.017**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Black-throated Gray Warbler in Lawrence County on 26 April 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.018**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Snowy Plover in Cook County during 3-11 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.019**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Violet-green Swallow in Cook County on 9 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.020**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Kirtland's Warbler in Cook County during 16-17 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).

- **Record 2015.021**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Bewick's Wren in Hamilton County during 20 May to 3 June 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.022**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Little Gull in Lake County on 6 June 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.023**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Black Vultures in Marion County on 8 March 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.024**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Black Vulture in Clay County on 6 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.025**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Ruff in Richland County and Wayne County on 2 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.026**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Fish Crow in Clay County on 6 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of seven A-S(1).

**From the circulation of 5 October 2015:**

- **Record 2012.046**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Broad-tailed Hawk in Cook County on 10 March 2012. The result was to reject the record on the basis of identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I. Committee members had concerns that the circumstances of the observation and descriptive details did not completely exclude the possibility of Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, or Cooper's Hawk.
- **Record 2013.004**  
This was the third circulation of a record of a Barnacle Goose in McLean County during 29 January to 11 February 2013. The result was to reject the record on the basis of origin, with a vote tally of two A-E(photo) and five U-O. Through the several rounds of voting, the Committee was split on the question of origin for this individual. The negative outcome for this record was accompanied by calls to undertake a comprehensive review of all Barnacle Goose sightings in the state, going back to at least 1983.
- **Record 2013.013**  
This was the third circulation of a record of a Black Vulture in Woodford County on 10 June

2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.

- **Record 2013.033**

This was the third circulation of a record of a Chimney Swift in Cook County on 14 November 2013. The result was to move the record to a fourth (and final) circulation, with a vote tally of four A-S(1) and three U-I. This record will be discussed at the next IORC meeting, currently scheduled for January 2015, and then circulated immediately thereafter.

- **Record 2013.057**

This was the second circulation of a record of breeding by Le Conte's Sparrows in Kankakee County with evidence presented from 29 August to 11 September 2013. The result was to reject the record, with a vote tally of seven U. The sense of the Committee was that the evidence clearly showed the presence of Le Conte's Sparrows, but that the evidence is not sufficient to conclude that breeding had occurred on site. In particular, there was no direct evidence of nesting. The facts that (1) individuals of this species migrate in juvenile plumage and (2) the dates though on the early side are not exceptionally early make possible that these observations involved only migrant birds. The vote categories listed in the by-laws do not align neatly with the kind of judgments a Committee member makes in this type of instance. An amendment to the by-laws to cover this type of record may be in order.

- **Record 2013.065**

This was the third circulation of a record of a Mottled Duck in Sangamon County on 29 October and 16 November 2013. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of two A-E(photo) and five U-I. The Committee felt that this may very well be a Mottled Duck, but concerns were raised that the brief description and poor photos did not sufficiently exclude other possibilities, in particular hybrid forms, in a group of species and hybrids involving difficult identification issues.

- **Record 2013.068**

This was the first circulation of a record of an Anhinga in DuPage County on 21 September 2013. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of two A-S(1) and five U-I. The Committee was not convinced that this bird could not have been a cormorant.

- **Record 2014.010**

This was the third circulation of a record of Ruff in Mason County on 31 August 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-S(1) and four U-I. The Committee was split whether evidence was sufficient to conclude specific identity of this bird as a Ruff. However, there appears to be some confusion on the part of at least two Voting Members between this record and a different reported sighting of a Ruff. On the basis that the absence of such confusion could have led this record to be put into a fourth circulation, Geoff Williamson exercised his right under section VII.F(3)(g) of the bylaws to have this record discussed at a meeting of IORC. Given that this is the 3rd circulation of the record, the procedure will be to discuss the record at a meeting and then immediately recirculate it a final time. This discussion is expected to take place in January 2016.

- **Record 2014.011**  
This was the third circulation of a record of an Anhinga in DuPage County on 6 September 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of two A-S(1) and five U-I. Some of the Committee felt that the possibility this bird was a cormorant was not adequately eliminated. The vote swung from five in favor of accepting in the first circulation, to four in the second, and here just two in the third.
- **Record 2014.043**  
This was the second circulation of a record of an Anhinga in Kendall County on 22 April 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I. The Committee had concerns about cormorant not being eliminated as a possibility. Among other issues, the observed crook in the neck was noted as a feature better for cormorant than anhinga.
- **Record 2014.044**  
This was the second circulation of a record of an Arctic Tern in Mason County on 14 June 2014. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of one A-S(1) and six U-I. The Committee noted the difficulty inherent in identification of the medium-sized terns. Most found the photos in themselves inconclusive about the specific identify of this bird and also felt that the written documentation together with the photos still left doubt as to which such tern this was.
- **Record 2014.051**  
This was the second circulation of a record of a Barn Owl in Mason County on 9 August 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2014.053**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Slaty-backed Gull in Lake County during 14-23 February 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2014.054**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Purple Gallinule in Putnam County during 5-6 September 2014. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of seven A-S(1).
- **Record 2015.027**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Great-tailed Grackles in Montgomery County on 10 May 2015. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-S(1) and four U-I. The Committee was split on the record, but a majority felt that the brief description lacked sufficient detail necessary to conclude identification to species.
- **Record 2015.028**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Magnificent Frigatebird in Cook County on 8 July 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of four A-E(photo) and three A-S(1). A majority of the Committee felt that the bird photographed in nearby Michigan must have been the bird described from Illinois.

- **Record 2015.029**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Neotropic Cormorants in Fulton County on 13 July 2015. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-S(1) and four U-I. The Committee was split on the record, but a majority felt that the brief description in a case where identification can be tricky left too much doubt to accept the record.
- **Record 2015.030**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Long-tailed Jaeger in Madison County during 15-19 July 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.031**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Royal Tern in Lake County during 19-20 August 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.032**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Little Stint in Fulton County on 9 August 2015. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I. The Committee had concerns about accepting a first state record without physical evidence for a species in a group whose identification is tricky. Given written details from just one observer that did not describe all aspects of the bird that Committee members were interested to see, acceptance of the record was declined.
- **Record 2015.033**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Royal Tern in DuPage County on 22 August 2015. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of three A-S(1) and four U-I. The Committee was split, with the majority opinion against acceptance being that the description and the circumstances of the sighting allowed a strong enough possibility that the sighting involved a Caspian Tern.
- **Record 2015.034**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Swallow-tailed Kite in Champaign County during 24 August to 7 September 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.035**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a White-winged Dove collected in Cook County on 12 May 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on specimen evidence (definitive photographs of the specimen), with a vote tally of seven A-E(specimen).
- **Record 2015.036**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Black-headed Gull in Mason County on 4 September 2015. The result was rejection of the record based on identification, with a vote tally of seven U-I. Committee members raised a variety of concerns. Among these were the absence of a description of plumage and other features (aside from size) that would eliminate Bonaparte's Gull (and other species) and a lack of discussion of why Sabine's Gull or Black-legged Kittiwake

should be eliminated. Several Committee members felt that the initial sense that the bird was a Franklin's Gull made the record problematic.

#### **From the circulation of 8 November 2015:**

- **Record 2008.054**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Hoary Redpoll in Cook County on 28 February 2008. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2012.047**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Hoary Redpoll in Winnebago County on 22 December 2012. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2012.048**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Say's Phoebe in Lake County on 30 August 2012. The result was acceptance of the record based on written documentation, with a vote tally of six A-S(1) and one U-I.
- **Record 2012.049**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two Cave Swallows in Cook County on 8 November 2012. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-S(1) and two U-I.
- **Record 2013.069**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Hoary Redpoll in Cook County during 6-16 January 2013. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.037**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Parasitic Jaeger in Lake County on 13 September 2015. The result was to move the record to a second circulation, with a vote tally of five A-E(photo) and two U-I.
- **Record 2015.040**  
This was the first circulation of a record of two dead Barn Owls found in Christian County on 7 September 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of five A-E(photo), one of A-E(specimen/photo), and one of A-E(specimen).
- **Record 2015.041**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a White Ibis in Clinton County during 12-13 September 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).
- **Record 2015.042**  
This was the first circulation of a record of a Bullock's Oriole in Cook County on 14 October 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of six A-E(photo) and one U-I.

- **Record 2015.043**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Little Gull in Moultrie County during 18 October – 15 November 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).

- **Record 2015.044**

This was the first circulation of a record of a Wood Stork in Lake County on 21 October 2015. The result was acceptance of the record based on photographic evidence, with a vote tally of seven A-E(photo).



Appendix B  
Proposal to change Bylaws, Section VII(F)(1) and VII(F)(2)

F. Circulation Procedures.

- (1) Initial Receipt by Secretary. Upon receipt of a record, the Secretary should do the following:
  - (a) Determine whether the record should be reviewed (Section VII.B.).
  - (b) For records which are to be reviewed, the Secretary shall:
    - (i) Affix to it a unique number, consisting of the year of the initial observation followed by a decimal point and the next available unused number, starting with 001 (and proceeding through 999 if necessary). If a record is represented by descriptions from more than one person, each description should receive the same number.
    - (ii) Record in a safe place at least the name of the documenting observer(s), the name of the bird, the date and locality of the record, and the record's number.
    - (iii) Check the description for completeness and clarity and, if deemed desirable, request additional information from the reporter or other observers. Details thus acquired must be clearly marked as such and kept separate from the original submission; the original submission should not be returned to the reporter except in copy form.
    - (iv) Vote on the record (see Voting, VII.G.) before sending it to other Voting Members.
    - (v) ~~When all the evidence for a record can be safely mailed, send the record (along with other records, if desired) to a Member along with a cover sheet, which must list, in order of circulation, the names and addresses of all Voting Members, with the Secretary listed last, as well as the numbers both of the record(s) and the circulation round. Alternatively, when deemed feasible and expedient and only on first round votes, the documentation for the records under review may be copied and sent to each member simultaneously. When further evidence does not appear to be forthcoming, send the record (along with other records, if desired) to each member simultaneously, with a vote record sheet. If desirable, these can be sent and received electronically.~~

- (vi) When it is impossible or inadvisable to circulate some part of the evidence (e.g., a specimen), the following procedure shall be implemented for first round voting. All written evidence shall be circulated as usual; however, Members will be told by the Secretary to refrain from voting at this time~~retain the Evaluation Forms with their tentative votes and comments.~~ The additional evidence shall then be examined at the next possible meeting;~~Members should bring the Evaluation Forms to the Meeting and take notes on the additional evidence. The Evaluation Forms will then be returned to the Secretary when the Member finalizes his/her vote. The Secretary will see that Evaluation Forms are available at the Meeting, and any votes that are finalized will be collected at the Meeting. Upon request by any Member, an electronic copy of the Evaluation Form will be provided by the Secretary, and finalized votes can be received electronically.~~
- (vii) Records received close to the time of the next Meeting may, upon the discretion of the Secretary, be handled in a similar manner to (vi).
- (c) Records that will not be reviewed should be filed in a Suspense File by the Secretary without receiving a record number but with the date received.
- (2) Receipt by Member. Upon receipt of a record, the Member shall do the following;
- (a) Judge its validity and vote.
- ~~(b) Send the record to the next Member as soon as possible (if necessary).~~
- ~~(c)~~ Send the completed Evaluation Form to the Secretary.
- ~~(d) The last Member to vote should return the record to the Secretary (when necessary).~~
- ~~(e)~~ Proposed lengthy absences from a Member's mailing address~~periods of unavailability~~ should be reported to the Secretary. In such cases, records can be circulated to an alternate Member as deemed necessary by the Secretary.~~The circulation may be rerouted to accommodate such absences.~~