

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: meeting of 18 February 2018

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Josh Engel (Vice Secretary), Walter Marcisz, Keith McMullen, Doug Stotz, Paul Sweet

Absent: Matt Fraker

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 9:20 AM at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. There being six voting members present, quorum was met to transact business.

Josh Engel moved and Paul Sweet seconded to approve the minutes of the 12 February 2017 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

Adam Sell and Doug Stotz were elected by unanimous vote to serve a three year term 2018-2020, this being Sell's first term and Stotz's second consecutive term.

Geoff Williamson was elected by unanimous vote to serve as Secretary for 2018.

Walter Marcisz nominated Paul Sweet for the position of Vice-Secretary. Paul Sweet indicated he was willing to serve. He was elected by unanimous vote.

The next Annual Meeting is targeted to be on Martin Luther King weekend in January 2019 or the Gull Frolic weekend in February 2019.

Archives Subcommittee

The Committee discussed the status and future plans for the Archives and their electronic accessibility.

The Committee would like all primary documentation to be available electronically, preferably with appropriate search capabilities. With respect to committee votes and comments, going forward from the beginning of 2017 onward, votes and comments will be included for all records in the electronically accessible archives. Votes/comments from earlier periods should not be placed in the web-accessible location, but as before can be provided to interested individuals upon request.

Initially, the accessible archives may sit at the current "IORC Web Resources and Review Files" web site (<http://geoffwilliamson.info/iorc>). Prior to making these public, Williamson should go through to standardize the web page format of all records and ensure that votes and comments are available for records only according to the above policy.

The Archives Subcommittee will continue with a modified charge. A statement defining the work of the committee will be drafted and presented for approval by IORC via electronic vote. Paul Sweet agreed to chair the subcommittee. Doug Stotz will be a member.

Bylaws Subcommittee

Paul Sweet presented a proposed modification to the bylaws that defines the official Illinois State List and restructures the listing of status of bird forms. The Committee was supportive of the proposal. The Committee suggested that a section or subsection be devoted solely to the official list, using species as the basis unit, while "bird form" be retained with respect to bird records. The Bylaws Subcommittee will adjust the proposal to reflect this and will then present the revision to the Committee for approval.

Paul Sweet presented a proposal for modifying the bylaws with respect to vote categories and their levels of evidence. The proposal passed by a vote of six in favor and none opposed.

Status of bird species: The status and breeding code indicated for each species on the Official Illinois State List still need to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. Doug Stotz will be responsible to do this for breeding code before 30 June 2018. Keith McMullen will be responsible to do this for status code before 30 June 2018. For status code, definitions of "regular," "casual," and "accidental" will follow the updated version of the bylaws.

Walter Marcisz proposed, and Paul Sweet seconded, to remove Neotropic Cormorant from the Review List. After discussion, the motion failed by a vote of zero in favor and five against.

Walter Marcisz proposed, and Doug Stotz seconded, to remove Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six in favor and zero against.

Barnacle Geese: the Committee discussed the matter of review of Barnacle Goose records and reached consensus on doing the following: (1) gather the bases for the decisions of the Arkansas, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Tennessee bird record committees (to accept) and the Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio bird record committees (to reject), then (2) circulate 1983-003, 2015-038, and 2017-064 for votes. Also, (3) publish in *Meadowlark* a comprehensive position paper about the sightings in Illinois so far and what IORC's general viewpoint is. And (4), the Secretary will endeavor to gather reviewable evidence for sightings that are not yet documented.

1984-019. Williamson's understanding is that Fraker will shortly conclude his information gathering, at which point the information will be distributed to the Committee. Then, if any member sees fit to submit a case for specific identity, the record will be opened for re-review.

1994-T-001. The record was discussed. It will be circulated among the 2017 members of the Committee.

1995-024. The consensus of the committee is to consider the first circulation of this record as concluded (with a vote of five to accept and two to reject) and to conduct a second circulation using the materials on file (original documentation, votes/comments of the seven Committee members at the time, Dave Johnson's "vote change letter," and Paul Clyne's rebuttal).

2001-063. Doug Stotz recalls that he received documentation from Michael Retter and one other person whose name he did not recall at the time of this meeting. IORC also has received a set of photographs

from Greg Lambeth. This information will be gathered together by the Secretary, and the record will be circulated.

2012-007. The record will be circulated on or after 15 April 2018. Doug Stotz has partially completed his summary of arguments about the specific identity of the bird and intends to provide these to the Committee by early April.

2012-039. The record was discussed. It will be circulated among the 2017 members of the Committee.

2016-063. The record was discussed. It will be circulated among the 2017 members of the Committee.

2016-073. The record was discussed. It will be circulated among the 2017 members of the Committee.

2017-013, 2017-018. Geoff Williamson moved and Keith McMullen seconded to merge these records (as an accepted record). This was approved by unanimous vote. The Secretary will obtain officially submitted photo documentation to establish a good lower bound of the number of males and females involved and will include this information in the record. He will then send a letter to IORC members about the additional gathered information. The IORC report should make note of the nature of (old) record 2017-013.

The Committee briefly reviewed the list of specimens in the Field Museum collection that pertain to Review List species.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.