

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: meeting of 20 February 2020

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Robert Hughes (alternate), Davida Kalina, Walter Marcisz, Adam Sell, Doug Stotz, Paul Sweet (Vice Secretary)

Absent: Matt Fraker

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 9:16 AM at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. There being seven voting members present (Robert Hughes acting in place of Matt Fraker), quorum was met to transact business.

Adam Sell moved and Paul Sweet seconded to approve the minutes of the 24 February 2019 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

Walter Marcisz and Paul Sweet were elected by unanimous vote to serve a three year term 2020-2022, this being both individuals' second consecutive term.

Geoff Williamson was elected by unanimous vote to serve as Secretary for 2020.

Walter Marcisz nominated and Adam Sell seconded 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 2021 or the Gull Frolic weekend in February 2021, at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Geoff Williamson presented his Secretary's Report for 2019. Davida Kalina noted that the vote tally for the Little Gull record 2019-022 was incorrect. The Secretary indicated that he would correct that error before placing the report at the IORC Web Resources and Review Files web site.

The work of the Archives Subcommittee (Subcommittee Chair: Paul Sweet; other committee members: Adam Sell, Doug Stotz) was discussed.

The Committee discussed the status and plans for the Archives and their electronic accessibility. Tasks to accomplish include the following.

- Drafting a set of Archive Procedures to achieve the IORC purpose to maintain permanently the original bird records and all Committee votes and comments.
- Documenting the present location of all archival material.
- Ensuring access to electronic archives, including the IORC web site (currently hosted on Geoff Williamson's personal web site) by two or more Committee members.
- Scanning the paper records in the Archives at the Field Museum.
- Work toward creating a complete listing of all records.

The work of the Bylaws Subcommittee (Subcommittee Chair: Paul Sweet) was discussed.

The following changes to the bylaws were discussed. Each was approved by unanimous vote.

- Replace the entirety of Section VII.A.(2)(a) with the following text.
Regular: Recorded within the state with at least eight records in the previous 10 years, including those species that are very local and those that cannot be located reliably anywhere in the state. Most species in this status category are expected within the state annually.
- Replace the entirety of Section VII.A.(2)(b) with the following text.
Casual: Not regular, with at least six records in the state and three to seven records in the previous 10 years.
- Add a new subsection Section VII.A.(2)(c) containing the following text.
Accidental: Either less than six records in the state or less than three records in the previous 10 years.
- Add a new subsection Section VII.A.(2)(d) containing the following text.
Accidental (provisional): Forms with accepted records, all of which are sight records documented by no more than one observer (see Section VII.G.(2)(a)).
- Add a new subsection Section VII.A.(2)(e) containing the following text.
Extirpated: Formerly Regular but not recorded in the state in the previous 50 years.
- Add a new subsection Section VII.A.(2)(f) containing the following text.
Extinct: Forms that no longer exist.
- Replace the first sentence of Section VII.A.(3) with the following text.
The "Review List" consists of all bird forms (superspecies, species, subspecies, hybrid combinations, etc.) for which the Committee will review all records (possibly excepting records from specified areas for some forms); it is to include all species of Casual, Accidental, or Accidental (provisional) status; first state nesting records for a species; out of season Christmas Bird Count rarities, as well as such other forms as the Committee shall decide upon.
- Insert a new Section VII.B.(4) with the following text, and renumber sections (4), (5), and (6) that follow as (5), (6), and (7).
All records of species whose status code is Extirpated or Extinct will be reviewed.

The Committee considered the following changes to species' status and breeding codes on the Official List of Illinois Birds, as proposed by Keith McMullen.

1. Change Black-bellied Whistling-Duck status from "Casual" to "Regular".
This change was adopted by unanimous consent.
2. Delete the breeding occurrence status for Snow Goose
By unanimous consent, this change was tabled pending further information regarding the species' breeding status.
3. Change Trumpeter Swan status and breeding code from "Extirpated (reintroduced/ established) / (b)" to "Regular (reintroduced, established) / B"
This change was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. Change Mottled Duck status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
5. Change Gray Partridge status and breeding code from “Regular (N, Introduced) / B” to “Accidental (N, introduced) / b”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
6. Change Ruffed Grouse status from “Accidental (NW)” to “Extirpated”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
7. Change Whooping Crane status from “Accidental” to “Casual”
The Committee concluded to leave the status as Accidental and to add a footnote about the experimental migratory population.
8. Change Black-necked Stilt breeding code from “b” to “B”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
9. Change Ruff status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain Ruff on the Review List.
10. Change Purple Sandpiper status from “Regular” to “Casual”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
11. Change Pomarine Jaeger status from “Accidental” to “Casual” and delete the footnote reference (if footnote reference is retained, it needs correction on the web site)
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
12. For Parasitic Jaeger, delete the footnote reference (if footnote reference is retained, it needs correction on the web site)
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
13. Change Long-tailed Jaeger status from “Accidental” to “Casual” and delete the footnote reference (if footnote reference is retained, it needs correction on the web site)
The change from “Accidental” to “Casual” was accepted by unanimous consent, but the Committee desires to retain the footnote, properly amended if needed.
14. Change Little Gull status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain Little Gull on the Review List.
15. Change Neotropic Cormorant status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain Neotropic Cormorant on the Review List.
16. Change Anhinga status and breeding code from “Accidental” to “Regular / b”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain Anhinga on the Review List.
17. Change Brown Pelican status from “Accidental” to “Casual”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
18. Change White Ibis status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain White Ibis on the Review List.

19. Make change to Black Vulture status and breeding code?
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
20. Change Osprey breeding code from “b (local)” to “B”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
21. Make change to footnote for Peregrine Falcon?
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
22. Make change to footnote for White-crested/Small-billed Elaenia?
This change will be addressed after conclusion of the pending review of record 2012-007.
23. Change Western Kingbird breeding status from “b (local)” to “B (local)”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
24. Change Fork-tailed Flycatcher status from “Casual” to “Accidental”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
25. Change Least Flycatcher breeding status from “B” to “B (N)”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
26. Make change to Fish Crow breeding status?
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
27. Change Common Raven status from “Extirpated” to “Accidental”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
28. Change Violet-green Swallow breeding code from “b (cross-breeding)” to “b (cross-breeding, one record)”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
29. Change Brown Creeper breeding code from “B” to “b”
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
30. Change Rock Wren status from “Casual” to “Accidental”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
31. Change Bewick’s Wren breeding code from “B” to “b (local) (WC)”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
32. Change Mountain Bluebird status from “Accidental” to “Casual”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
33. Change Townsend’s Solitaire status from “Casual” to “Regular”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent. The Committee determined to retain Townsend’s Solitaire on the Review List.
34. Change Veery breeding code from “B” to “B (N)”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
35. Change Sprague’s Pipit status from “Casual” to “Accidental”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
36. Change Evening Grosbeak status from “Regular” to “Casual”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
37. Change Pine Grosbeak status from “Casual” to “Accidental”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
38. Change White-winged Crossbill status from “Regular” to “Casual”
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.

39. Change Bachman's Sparrow status from "Accidental" to "Extirpated"
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
40. Change Clay-colored Sparrow breeding code from "b (N, local)" to "B (local, N)"
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
41. Change Golden-crowned Sparrow status from "Accidental" to "Casual"
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
42. Change Kirtland's Warbler status from "Casual" to "Accidental"
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.
43. Remove breeding code from Grace's Warbler
This change was accepted by unanimous consent.
44. Change Townsend's Warbler status from "Casual" to "Accidental"
This change was rejected by unanimous consent.

The changes above in status codes, plus the recent addition of new species to the State List, cause the following changes to the Review List.

- Add Barnacle Goose.
- Add Gray Partridge.
- Add Limpkin.
- Remove "[except from Lake Michigan]" from the listing for Purple Sandpiper.
- Add Little Stint.
- Add Lewis's Woodpecker.
- Add Cassin's Kingbird.
- Add Evening Grosbeak.
- Add White-winged Crossbill.

Despite their status change to Regular, the following species are retained on the Review List.

- Ruff
- Little Gull
- Neotropic Cormorant
- Anhinga
- White Ibis
- Townsend's Solitaire

The Committee discussed that 1998-067 and 2013-004 represent previous Barnacle Goose records that were not accepted. For these records to be resubmitted for evaluation following the recent examination of other Barnacle Goose records, a Member or other interested party must provide IORC with an argument to do so.

The Secretary reminded Doug Stotz that making available the original documentation for 2001-063 (Dusky Flycatcher), which is in his possession, is important for proper consideration of the record.

Following recent Mottled Duck records that have proved difficult to accept due to the problems with identification of members of the Mallard/Mexican Duck/Mottled Duck/American Black Duck complex and its hybrids, the Secretary listed for the Committee's information the set of accepted Mottled Duck records that have been accepted. These are 2004-016*, 2005-???* , 2009-036* , 2011-020, 2012-017, 2013-016, 2014-015, 2015-060, and 2016-087. The record numbers marked by * represent records for which the documentary evidence is not available online at this time.

Record 2013-016 (Mottled Duck, accepted) was discussed by the Committee, and features useful in assessment of possible hybrid origin were examined. This record will be resubmitted for evaluation and voting by the Committee members present for the discussion.

Doug Stotz presented his commentary regarding specific identification of 2012-007 (Small-billed Elaenia). These comments were discussed, and museum skins in the Field Museum's collection of Large Elaenia, Small-billed Elaenia, and the migratory *chilensis* subspecies of White-crested Elaenia were examined. The record will be resubmitted for evaluation and voting by the Committee members present for the discussion.

Record 2013-065 (Mottled Duck), which is awaiting its 4th circulation, was discussed by the Committee. The Committee reviewed factors important for the identification of forms in North America among the Mallard complex, including their hybrids. This record will be circulated for evaluation and voting (4th circulation) among the Committee members present for the discussion.

Motivated by the recent decision and voting on 2018-050, the Committee examined the Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged) specimens in the Field Museum collection in comparison to a selection of the museum's Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) specimens. The examination enabled study of the amount of white in the tail feathers and at the tips of wing coverts.

The Committee examined the Field Museum specimen #511426, a Swainson's Warbler that was a building collision fatality at Northwestern University in Evanston, Cook County and is the evidence for record 2018-069 (Swainson's Warbler). This record will be circulated for evaluation and voting among the Committee members present for the examination of the specimen.

Record 2019-002 (Barnacle Goose), which is awaiting its 4th circulation, was discussed by the Committee. The Committee reviewed factors for assessing wild or natural origin in waterfowl and how Members use these in evaluating records. This record will be circulated for evaluation and voting (4th circulation) among the Committee members present for the discussion.

The Committee discussed whether 2019-046 (Fulvous Whistling-Duck) constituted evidence of breeding by the species in Illinois. Geoff Williamson moved and Paul Sweet seconded that the evidence was insufficient for a first state breeding record. The motion passed by a vote of seven in favor and none against.

The Committee was informed of records added to the Suspense File during 2019 and the early part of 2020.

The Committee discussed whether the record evaluation process would improve were the Documentation Form to include a question regarding issues of origin. The sense of the Committee was to review, update, and make consistent both the paper version and the web version of the Documentation Form.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.