

Minutes of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee: Annual Meeting on 19 March 2022

Present: Geoff Williamson (Secretary), Matt Fraker, Davida Kalina, Walter Marcisz, Adam Sell, Paul Sweet (Vice Secretary), Terry Walsh

Absent: none

This meeting of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 1:00 PM via Zoom videoconference. There being six voting members present, quorum was met to transact business. Matt Fraker joined the meeting at 1:20 PM so that thereafter seven voting members were present.

Adam Sell moved and Paul Sweet seconded to approve the minutes of the 20 February 2020 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

Members whose terms were expiring were Matt Fraker and Davida Kalina. Davida Kalina was eligible to serve a second term. Walter Marcisz nominated Davida Kalina and Davida Kalina nominated Kyle Wiktor as candidates to fill the vacant positions. These two candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

Walter Marcisz nominated Geoff Williamson to serve as Secretary for 2022, and Williamson was elected by unanimous vote.

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.

Geoff Williamson indicated that his Secretary's Report for 2021 had been distributed to the Committee.

The consensus of the Committee was to hold a meeting at the Field Museum during July 2022 for the purpose of reviewing specimens in preparation to vote on a variety of records, including Small-billed Elaenia (2021-060), Townsend's Warbler (2020-117), Red-naped Sapsucker (2018-078), and Lazuli Bunting (2017-087).

The next Annual Meeting was scheduled for 14 January 2023, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The Committee considered changes to the Review List.

1. Walter Marcisz moved and Adam Sell seconded to remove Little Gull from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
2. Walter Marcisz moved and Adam Sell seconded to remove Anhinga records from southern Illinois from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six in favor and one opposed.
3. The Committee discussed the situation with White Ibis and the two *Plegadis* ibis species. No action was taken with respect to White Ibis being on the Review List. Regarding the *Plegadis* species, the sense of the Committee was that any discussion of changes to their presence on the

Review List would be aided by a study of the present distribution and occurrence of the two species within the state. Adam Sell indicated that he would conduct such a study and share its results with the Committee.

4. Adam Sell moved and Terry Walsh seconded to remove Black Vulture from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. Paul Sweet moved and Walter Marcisz seconded to remove Swallow-tailed Kite from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
6. Terry Walsh moved and Adam Sell seconded to remove Barn Owl from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
7. Geoff Williamson moved to remove Prairie Falcon from the Review List. The motion was not seconded, and no vote was taken.
8. Adam Sell moved and Paul Sweet seconded to remove Townsend's Solitaire from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
9. Terry Walsh moved and Matt Fraker seconded to remove Hoary Redpoll from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote. The discussion included commentary that the collection of accepted records for this species over the last 10 years established Hoary Redpoll as occurring regularly in the state. Members noted that the difficulty in separating Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll has meant that accepted records skew toward adult male Hoary Redpolls, so that a greater regularity of occurrence of Hoary Redpoll than indicated by the collection of accepted records is likely. The Committee also expressed an expectation that Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll will be lumped together as one species by the American Ornithologists' Society at some point in the relatively near future.
10. Adam Sell moved and Walter Marcisz seconded to remove White-winged Crossbill from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
11. Walter Marcisz moved and Paul Sweet seconded to remove Western Tanager from the Review List. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.
12. Walter Marcisz moved and Davida Kalina seconded to exclude from the Review List all Painted Bunting records from the established breeding location in East St. Louis, St. Clair County. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Committee requested that the partition of Illinois into northern, central, and southern tiers be made accessible to the Committee and the birding public by IORC.

The Committee was informed of records added to the Suspense File during 2021.

The Committee discussed whether to solicit expert opinion regarding record 2018-077 (Eurasian Hobby) before review. The conclusion of the discussion was to post relevant portions of the record to the ID-Frontiers listserv and to a raptor group on Facebook for feedback on this bird's identity and for suggestions of individuals who are appropriate to provide expert opinion.

Geoff Williamson asked the Committee whether the blue morph Ross's Goose records 2017-088 and 2018-079 warranted formal review. The sense of the Committee was to circulate these records for formal evaluation.

The split of Mew Gull into Short-billed Gull and Common Gull was discussed in relation to the existing 17 accepted records of Mew Gull. The Committee suggested to proceed immediately with review of any records for which the full set of documentary evidence is available, rather than to handle all the records simultaneously.

Paul Sweet suggested that the audio recording that is part of the Illinois Beach State Park record of Brown-headed Nuthatch (2001-022) be reviewed to see if it provides definitiveness evidence for excluding the possibility that the record pertains to Bahama Nuthatch (*Sitta insularis*), which was recently split from Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*).

Geoff Williamson moved and Paul Sweet seconded that the IORC Bylaws be amended by removing the phrase "out of season Christmas Bird Count rarities," from section VII.A(5). After discussion, the proposal was passed by unanimous vote.

A proposal to amend sections VII(G) and (H) of the IORC Bylaws, provided to the Committee in advance of the meeting by Geoff Williamson, was considered and adopted by unanimous vote. The proposal was intended to clarify the changes to the voting classes and record classes adopted by the Committee at its 18 February 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Committee discussed its experiences over the last year in handling records "harvested" from eBird checklists. Several Members expressed concern about records for which the information in the eBird checklists was inadequate for determining the specific identity of the bird(s) involved and wondered if there were a way that IORC review of such records could be avoided. Several recent records of White-winged Crossbill were cited as examples.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.